

TODAY'S **WORLD**

JULY 1995



HOLY WEDDING CEREMONY



Congratulatory Address

Reverend Chung Hwan Kwak

*Beloved Kwon Jin Nim and Hwa Yun Nim,
Beloved Sun Jin Nim and In Sup Nim,*

I *t is my deep honor to extend our heartfelt congratulations and best wishes, on behalf of the worldwide membership of the Unification Church, and on behalf of our friends and leaders from various nations and religions of the world.*

Your Holy Wedding gives us hope and joy because we behold the expansion of God's kingdom and the blossoming of His original ideal in your holy union.

We congratulate you in this moment because you are glorifying True Parents and showing the precious way of filial love and obedience to all of us.

In your Holy Wedding, we witness the global expansion of the royal family. Many of us who are gathered here remember the humble beginning in the tiny, two-room church in Seoul. At that time, none of us could ever have believed that we would witness the Holy Wedding of True Children who are natural-born American citizens.

Now, we see this amazing record of true love and your beautiful humility, which brings America to the threshold of a bright new dawn. True Parents' first American-born son and daughter are receiving the blessing of Heavenly Father in this holy place.

In this glorious moment may we once again offer our congratulations, with joy and gratitude. May God's eternal love fill your lives and your families ever more abundantly together, in the fathomless love of our True Parents.

April 16, 1995

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PHOTO: KEN OWENS/NFP

Front Cover: True Parents pose with the two couples blessed in marriage on April 16, 1995, Easter Sunday. Left to right (foreground): Kwon Jin Nim, Hwa Yun Nim, In Sup Nim, Sun Jin Nim. (Photo: Ken Owens/New Future Photo)

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TODAY'S WORLD is a publication of the World Mission Department of the Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christians. Founded in 1980 by Rev. Sun Myung Moon, it is written for the foreign missionaries and the members of the Unification Church. The purpose of this journal is to be a source of information and inspiration for its readers, a forum for their exchange of news and testimonies, and a sharing of heart among the brothers and sisters of the Unification Church's worldwide movement. Members of the Unification movement generally address or refer to Rev. and Mrs. Moon as "Father" and "Mother."

TODAY'S WORLD, 4 W 43rd St., New York, NY 10036.
Tel. (212) 869-9431. SUBSCRIPTIONS: United States: \$67 per year, \$35 for six months. Annual to Canada, Mexico: \$80 per year, \$42 for six months; to Central, South America and Caribbean: \$90 per year, \$47 for six months; to Europe: \$100 per year, \$52 for six months; to the Middle East, Africa, Asia, and the South Pacific: \$110 per year, \$57 for six months. Surface mail to any country: \$81 per year. Make check payable and direct all inquiries to: Accord Bookstore, 481 Eighth Avenue, New York, NY 10001. Tel. (212) 967-4371.

Benediction

REVEREND SUN MYUNG MOON
 APRIL 16, 1995
 MANHATTAN CENTER GRAND BALLROOM
 NEW YORK, NEW YORK

BELOVED FATHER, You raised sanctified children growing under the name of True Parents. Heaven and earth are watching attentively and waiting in anxious suspense for the day of blessing centered on those children.

Adam and Eve, our ancestors as the progenitors of the human race, fell. They were not able to uphold the Father's mind centering on the original nature of the creation. Thus, they could not form the relationship of the true husband and wife as the true man and true woman for the sake of the realization of the will. Therefore, they were expelled from the Garden of Eden. They did not realize the original ideal of creation through which you wished to establish the true life and the true lineage centered on God's love. This would have been the ultimate fruit accomplished by the object partner through the creation course following the original creation.

We know very well that the history of the manifold human courses after the expulsion has been one of war woven by the

tears of sorrow, bloodstains of grief and the cries of lamentation. We also know that to restore the creation which was lost, Heavenly Father has made a tremendous amount of effort through the providence of salvation in the form of the providence of restoration and through the providence of re-creation.

This hour, during which we can solemnize the holy wedding of the fourth son and fourth daughter of the True Family, who represent the future generations, together with all the members of the House of Unification and the blessed family members under the name of True Parents, is most holy. We know that, while humankind is not aware of this, God takes great delight in this moment. Knowing this, the House of Unification has devotedly upheld the will for which heaven wishes. It has stood on the foundation of the transcendent family which has arisen from God's love, going over all historical traditions including those of the tribe, the society and the nation, as well as all national and religious boundaries.

The House of Unification is thus setting the name of the International Shared Wedding Ceremony and has gone forth offering many contributions in the course of history.

Things such as this have not been done for the sake of some individual. These were to establish the True Family of Your original ideal of creation centered on God's love, in which God can live happily forever together with kinfolk of Adam's family, having settled in the position where the Creator, who is the vertical center of the family of Adam and Eve, is rightly established. There has been absolutely no one who knew what penetrating, grievous resentment filled the mind of God as He watched Adam and Eve, whom He had to



PHOTO: KEN OWENS/NFP

The House of Unification has resolutely carried forward the path of the blessing in the hope of forming the family that can represent peaceful unification and the unification of all love.

expel, fail to set up the pivotal point of happiness in which they could live with the Father.

To clear away this history of bitter resentment and to establish the history of liberation, God raised up the realm of religion. He has endured until the time of the Completed Testament Age and the Second Coming via the Old Testament Age and the New Testament Age. Therefore, Father has the unfulfilled desire to establish on this earth the family, tribe, race and nation in which God's life and God's blood relatives can remain centered on God's love.

The only way to comfort the Father, who has come through this history of hardships and privations, is to realize Your desire. For this purpose, the Unification Church has fought on, surmounting the course of ordeals and the course of persecution to this day.

Today's world has fully manifested the age of distended individualism where we see the entire reality of the last days of the satanic realm. In these final stages it is in the turmoil of forming a corrupt, hell-like phenomenon, in which men, in the position of archangels, center on men and women center on women, casting aside words such as love, marriage and conjugal life.

The House of Unification has resolutely carried forward the path of the blessing, such as this one, in the hope of forming the family that can represent the heavenly kingdom on earth. This is the world of peaceful unification and the unification of all love, centering upon a true man and wife who have sought out Father's original ideal of creation and are equipped with God's eternal love, God's eternal life, and God's eternal blood relatives. They attend the Vertical Parent, the Eternal Creator, and the horizontal parents, the perfected Adam and Eve, and have a foundation of heartistic standard as their starting point.

While coming through the forty years carrying out this path of blessing, we went over the familial limitations and the domain of the tribe, race, nation and the world. We also went over all things of cosmic origin. We reached the time when we could announce the Completed Testament Age with the presence of God on this earth, and when the True Parents and the Completed Testament Age could be safely settled.

On this day, having hailed the True Parents' realm of victory before all families of humankind and having ushered in the providential realm of victory for the sake of unfolding on earth the ideal by which families can stand in the object position, with the True Parents' family in the subject position, we have come to celebrate the wedding centered on the fourth daughter and the fourth son. The possibility for us celebrating this ceremony is based on Father's having won the victory in the forty-year historical course of indemnity.

This re-indemnified the 4,000 years, Father has gone over the number representing the earth. Heavenly Father, please consider holy this place of blessing for these sons and daughters who can be the light and the pride in the new transitional period of heaven. I pray and wish earnestly that You receive this ceremony with solemnity, while heaven and earth are carefully watching this ceremony for restoring heaven to its original state.

Through its repetition, please let these events be the aim

for the youth growing up in this world. Let it enable them to tread through and stand up to the bankruptcy and moral decline and proceed forward toward the ideal world of peace and the unified world of love. Let it direct them toward the new heavenly kingdom of the future. By doing so, O Heaven, please bless this to be the celebration ceremony of transition which can be set up as the aim for the youth scattered around the world, to enable them to be embraced in the bosom of Your love.

All things that pass by while You experience them are assured a victorious result. Only the things that go well in the process, where all matters make progress with a definite direction, give hope to heaven. Therefore, I pray and wish with utmost sincerity that You allow these sons and daughters who receive the blessing today to have the appearance of the true children of heaven.

Please bless this moment to be the victorious starting point from which these children can proceed forward toward the course of eternity, eternal life, and happiness—attending the whole of heaven and God, fulfilling the duty of attending heaven with sincerity as filial sons and daughters, and as loyal subjects, as virtuous women, as saints and as the holy sons having tread the sorrowful state of things that Adam and Eve created, and standing up victoriously. Please bestow blessings upon Your honored guests gathered this hour to offer their best wishes.

In addition, I pray from the bottom of my heart that You will let the string of love reach over people in various places, where family members of the House of Unification make an effort, being equipped with unified mind and body, concentrating their minds. When they do so, I earnestly pray that You will bless them to be the lubrication for the mighty work of the cosmos. Let them offer the best wishes in the Father's shrine of happiness, in the midst of unified grace, with their minds and bodies together in unity.

Since I now grant these couples, Kwon Jin Moon and Hwa Yun Moon's couple and Sun Jin Moon and In Sup Moon's couple, the conjugal relationship for the start of the family of direct-line children of the new house of heaven, I sincerely wish and desire that You will please accept this. Please do not ever withdraw the gifts with which You are going to bless them.

With the grace of blessing, please set up the shield of blessing victory until the time when public men, all of humankind, are liberated—going over the family, the nation and the world. By doing so, I solicit ardently that You bless all of humankind to be able to partake in the place which brings the grace of liberation. Wishing that You have dominion over all aspects of this holy ceremony and that heaven will receive with joy the people who offer best wishes along with all humanity, along with the families of the House of Unification, along with the people gathered here, and along with the minds of all those just mentioned and the Parents, I pray all these words in the name of True Parents. Amen. Amen. Amen. ■■

[Translated by Ilhyon Kim.]

Perfection of the True Self and Safe Settlement of the Family

REVEREND SUN MYUNG MOON
MARCH 5, 1995
BELVEDERE INTERNATIONAL TRAINING CENTER
TARRYTOWN, NEW YORK

Translator: Ilhyon Kim

THE THINGS I DO are quite different from what religious workers in general perform. You must know that I go forth in step with the providential program. What is the providential program? Do you know? Until now, no one has known the providential program. You must know that what the Unification Church is doing is not just something temporary that will pass away. Rather, we are establishing a standard by which history can be measured for eternity.

We all have to go through the eight stages of perfection: individual perfection, family perfection, tribal perfection, racial perfection, national perfection, worldwide perfection, cosmic perfection and godly perfection. Since we all have to make such progress, we must not get comfortably fixed, adhering to old customs. This may be likened to a tree. A tree must grow.

Living things do not stand still for a moment. When you joined the Unification Church, you were touched by the Word and shocked by the new revelation, and thus you renewed your mind and changed the direction of your life. Now it is twenty years later, and something must have been accomplished over that span of time. However, I question how big a change you have brought about.

You may have rejoiced individually when you joined, and looked forward to your own resurrection; but you must know for a fact that you achieve the resurrection by going through the levels of individual, family, tribe, race, nation, world, cosmos and God, down and up. Within your heart, you need to perfect the individual, family, nation, world, heaven and earth, and God.

That being the case, can God enter your hearts and stay there? If your family, your spouse and your children cannot enter your heart, God cannot enter and dwell there. Ask yourselves whether the eternal God, who created and directs the universe and who guides and governs the world, can enter your heart.

Established American habits, manners and customs have absolutely nothing to do with God's dispensation. Traditions centered on any nation and foundations based upon familiar old ways of thinking that Koreans, Japanese or any people in the world have today, have absolutely nothing to do with

God's dispensation.

You may come to Sunday Service here out of habit, without skipping any Sunday, thinking that next year will be the same as this year. It is not so. To a growing tree, this year is different from last year, and next year will be different from this year. There has to be a difference between last year and this year. Living things must grow.

Is this line going up or down? [Pointing at the bottom of a diagonal.] This is hell. You must know very well that you can have a connection with me only when you reach heaven. Only when you enter into the realm of direct dominion, can you establish a connection with me. Unless you penetrate the realm of perfection, all your endeavors will be to no avail. The one who risks his life to reach perfection will live, as the Bible says.

All of you who are confident about your chances of living, raise your hands. There is no one. What kind of person you are becomes an issue when you go over the hill of death. Just knowing me will not help you at all. Even if you are a king, you must live by the formula. Even if you are the person who created that formula, you will fail if you do not practice it.

JUDGMENT BY THE WORD

When you go to the spirit world, you will see all that I have said to you like a clear glass. What I say to you here at Belvedere is not the same word every time. What I promulgate here is for the sake of heaven and earth. If you reject the Word here on earth, the spirit world will remember all your actions, and you will be judged against the Word when you go to the spirit world. Everyone, including the leaders here, will be subjected to that judgment.

How much progress have you achieved for the sake of America? How many new members have you gathered throughout the United States? America is a huge country. How do you develop this huge country except through members? How many new members do you increase per day, per month and per year? That is the question.

You do not care whether America meets with destruction. Even though I say that the well-being of the world depends on America, you sit around and let America go to the dogs. You must realize that I will not be here forever. I am 76 years

If your family, your spouse and your children cannot enter your heart, God cannot enter and dwell there. Ask yourselves whether the eternal God, who created and directs the universe and who guides and governs the world, can enter your heart.



PHOTO: KEN OWENS/NFP

True Parents and the newlyweds join together, with the audience and the second generation choir behind, in a mansei to close the events of the day. Left to right: Father, Kwon Jin Nim, Hwa Yun Nim, In Sup Nim, Sun Jin Nim, Mother.

old, by Korean counting.

I have already worked here for more than twenty years. You have listened to me for over twenty years, as representatives of the world. You must try to make the Word take root and become something which can benefit the world. America must become the country that can move the world. In spite of this, you have incurred a debt.

You only wish to live in comfort. This is not the Kingdom of Heaven but hell. If you seek to live in comfort here, you must know that you will fall into a deeper hell. Which way are you headed: toward the Kingdom of Heaven or toward hell? This is not playing games. You are in a different school. You are enrolled in an everlasting program. I move forward, adding one step at a time every day, and that is my life.

If you do not have momentum, you go down, and that means death. You do not need an explanation for that; you know it very well already. I have sown the Word here for a few decades, but where am I going to harvest fruits of that word?

JESUS AND THE FIG TREE

You must know that the more diligently you work, the quicker you will restore America. I have worked hard for the sake of America because it has the power to awaken the world. If you only represent yourselves and do not work to represent the world, this country will not escape falling.

If this is all the people who gather when I am here at Belvedere, then how many come when I am not around? Do you expect the spirit world to protect and love America when it is like this? Do you think the spirit world will leave those people who gathered here alone without calling them to account? They will have to be punished.

When Jesus was on his way back to Jerusalem he became hungry, and seeing a fig tree by the road he went up to it. However, he found nothing on it except leaves, and Jesus cursed it for not bearing fruit, and immediately the tree withered.

What is the fruit? The Unification Church does not exist for the good of yourselves. It exists for the sake of the whole world, and you must get that into your heads, you lowly brood!

You utter things like, "Oh, we have to liberate God." You are going to liberate God? What do you think I am doing? Everything I do is for the purpose of liberating God.

We talk about Godism and headwing thought in our church. What is Godism? The Chinese characters for "ism" are *chu eui*. *Eui* is formed by the Chinese character for sheep placed above the "I." Since a sheep symbolizes a sacrificial offering, *eui* means self-sacrifice. The *chu* of *chu eui* indicates the supreme king, or God. Is it easy to reach the position of a king? To reach there you must go over numerous stages, the eight stages of individual, family, tribe, race, nation, world, cosmos and God. You cannot reach any level by aggrandizing yourselves.

America has become the kingdom of individualism, and its

Privacy means that Satan wants to protect himself. By asking for privacy, Satan wants to safeguard the satanic world. Satan wants to prolong the history of the satanic world, but it is over.

PHOTO: KEN OWENS/NFP



The Unification Church Youth Choir, under the direction of Mrs. Moon Sook Choi Yoon and consisting of second generation brothers and sisters, sang several selections during the entertainment at the banquet celebration of the Holy Wedding, April 16, 1995.

people are individualists. You must realize that America has become the kingdom of Satan. You want privacy? What the hell do you mean by asking for privacy for fallen junkies?

Privacy means that Satan wants to protect himself. By asking for privacy, Satan wants to safeguard the satanic world. America belongs to the satanic realm, not God's realm. Satan wants to prolong the history of the satanic world, but it is over. It is all over for him. Do you understand that?

Godism means the way to go forward centered on God by tuning into Him. God will not tune into you; you must tune into Him. Why is that? Because you are fallen. You have lost your hometown. Being fallen is like having lost one's hometown.

THE FOUR POINTS OF GODISM

Without having unification between mind and body, and without unification within the family, you cannot unite the race, nation and world. You cannot attain the liberation of the universe by sitting around only listening to the word, even for 10,000 years. You need action.

Godism is, first of all, absolute "love-ism"; second, it is absolute eternal "life-ism"; third, it is absolute "lineage-ism"; and fourth, it is absolute "conscience-ism." Godism is what God originally wished to realize. Only after the age of "isms" is passed will the safe settlement take place.

"Ism" means direction. When we say things like nationalism, communism, atheism and theism, we are referring to direction. To perfect our true self, we must attain all the above-mentioned aspects of Godism.

Headwing thought means, simply, "true parentism." The term came about after the fall. In the original world, we do

not need this terminology. True parentism includes eight stages: individual true parentism, family true parentism, tribal true parentism, racial true parentism, national true parentism, worldwide true parentism, cosmic true parentism, and godly true parentism.

Only after going through all these stages will the safe settlement take place. All these terminologies are not just passing words. They are linked together and they affect you.

Because God could not attain absolute "love-ism," absolute eternal "life-ism," absolute "lineage-ism," and absolute "conscience-ism" due to the fall, God wants to use true parentism to achieve His ideal.

For the safe settlement of the family, you need the perfection of the true self and the perfection of the family, but you have not reached that level yet. The family settles safely on the basis of individual perfection. Have your families reached such a position? If not, all of you will end up in hell. I cannot pay indemnity for you. If you want a Ph.D., you have to go through the Ph.D. course and earn it. That is not my mission. It is your mission.

My job is to show you how to reach the perfection level. Throughout my life I have worked to go over all the different levels, and finally I declared "True Parents and the Safe Settlement of the Completed Testament Age." All the steps I have taken have been upward, not down.

Is your family going up or down? Or have you stopped somewhere in between? You stopped somewhere! At this level you are not even above creation. Do you care about your country? Your tribe? All humanity? No! You only care for yourselves. You must admit that. Is it clear?

THE DOOR OF TRUE PARENTS

Our desire is to learn how to go up to the level of safe settlement. Only when we reach that level can we liberate God from His burden. This is the problem awaiting a solution by fallen humanity.

Godism means not leaving behind even a trace of fallen lineage for tens of thousands of years. How the hell could you ever have engaged in acts of free sex, you fornicators!

How many Adams and Eves did God create? One Adam and one Eve, one absolute man and one absolute woman. Had they united with God they would have produced an ideal absolute family. Without God, they could not produce an ideal

I always think about heaven and earth before I even give a thought to my family and my country. I never thought the other way around. Only after we save the world and destroy the satanic world can we think about our own families.

family. There were no True Parents after the fall, and that is why the struggle between Cain and Abel took place. That is why we need True Parents, absolutely.

The purpose of True Parents is to introduce and restore absolute love, absolute eternal life, absolute lineage, and absolute conscience. To enter the Kingdom of Heaven you must go through the door of True Parents. Have you become True Parents? Have you attained absolute love? Humankind lost true love. You aren't even aware that you lost true love. Have you obtained eternal life? Without absolute love you cannot have eternal life.

God created people to be His love partner. To love, you need an object. When there is a reciprocal relationship through absolute love between the subject and the object, there will be absolute eternal life. You do not have eternal life now. Your mind and body fight against each other, don't they? You have only a theoretical knowledge of these things; you have done nothing in practice.

People might have some concept about what it takes to study at a university, go through graduate school, and obtain a Ph.D. However, if one does not have the contents and the documentation, what is the use of imagining it?

So now, do you understand the meaning of Godism? (Yes.) Repeat after me: *Choldae Sahrang chu eui, Choldae Saengmyong chu eui, Choldae Hyoltong chu eui, and Choldae Yangshim chu eui.*

The conscience of fallen people is zig-zag, while originally it is supposed to be straight. Once you come into the Unification Church, your conscience must be straight. I have taught you the standard for the individual and the family. The whole, including the individual, family, tribe, race, nation, world, cosmos and God, have to be connected.

What is the difference between "ism" and "thought"? "Ism" indicates the direction, while "thought" indicates the method, the means. Thought explains how the individual, the family and all other levels in society are to live. All nations have their own respective national thought, like American national thought, Japanese national thought and so on. In contrast, Unification Thought and headwing thought explains how to unite centered on True Parents.

You all must become True Parents. That being the case, do you want to become a tribal messiah, a racial messiah or a national messiah? To be the national messiah you have to become the president of that country.

"SAFE SETTLEMENT" IS AWE-INSPIRING

You take whatever you achieve here on earth with you to the Kingdom of Heaven. There are many individual True Parents, and the best of them will rise to the level of the tribal True Parents. Which level do you expect to reach when you go to the spirit world? Unless you have become a true parent and have created a true family, you cannot go into the Kingdom of Heaven.

The family is the basic unit required to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. When the heavenly kingdom is organized, families become the basic units that fit the formula. A formulated configuration takes place, which can serve as a bridge between

families and other units.

Therefore, unless you, the members of the Unification Church, realize the perfection of your family, you cannot go into the Kingdom of Heaven. This is the path of true parentism that True Parents walk.

Have you established yourself on the basis of true parentism? Has your family been united with you at the center? Have you and your family been of one accord with Godism? Since you are the representatives of America, you must shed tears and blood by becoming the sacrifice for all American families. A sacrificial offering does not have its own idea. You should discard notions such as, "Since I am an American..." or "Since I am a man..." or, "Since I am so and so..." If you think about your family before you think about the world, you will fall into the meshes of punishment. If a sacrifice has its own ideas, it will get its head crushed. A national leader must always think about the national cause.

I always think about heaven and earth before I even give a thought to my family and my country. I never thought the other way around. Only after we save the world and destroy the satanic world can we think about our own families.

Terms such as "safe settlement," "True Parents" and "Completed Testament Age" all have awe-inspiring meanings. It is even fearsome to think about their meaning. Think about the phrase, "Safe Settlement of True Parents and the Completed Testament!" It was impossible even to imagine that it could happen, but it is reality. It means that the family won the fight in the satanic world. It means that the war has been won on the levels of tribe, nation, world and cosmos. It means that the promises have been fulfilled and the age of the Completed Testament has safely settled. Satan no longer can make connections with me, saying that I am still a descendant of fallen man.

THREE LEVELS OF HEART

The fall was the reversal of Adam's dominion over the archangel. Do you ever think about how difficult it is to subjugate all the Satans in the spirit world and on the earth and then advance forward? It is even more difficult to become safely settled after that. If you unite with me completely in faith, you will be able to do whatever I do. This is not just empty talk. You wait and see: the satanic world will constantly meet with destruction.

The secular world has lost all its relative centers and directions for the family, tribe, race, nation and the world. However, the Unification Church is equipping itself with everything. It is a reversal of positions. The Unification Church was under the control of Satan, but now the situation is opposite.

The safe settlement of the Completed Testament means the coming of a big plus family centered on the True Parents' family, into which five billion people of the world are to enter as small minus families. Once they become completely united, they will move up to the same place.

When that happens, you fulfill the condition that allows you to declare, "I have converted from Satan's lineage to God's lineage, I have converted from Satan's ownership to God's ownership, and I have converted from Satan's realm of heart to God's realm of heart."

To inherit the realm of True Parents' victory, you need the Family Pledge. You need absolute love, absolute life, absolute lineage, absolute conscience, absolute faith and absolute unity.

Within the realm of heart, there are three levels: individual, family and tribal. Those three different levels of heart are in a single category; they cannot be separated. That is why we use the term "tribal messiah." Using tribal messiahship as a stepping stone, you can move up to the national level and worldwide level. You cannot do it any other way. Therefore, we can call tribal messiahship the formula for the basic foundation.

Because all these levels have been safely settled, we have this year's motto, "Let us inherit True Parents' realm of victory." This did not happen for a mere song. It was possible only because I could put everything in order and accomplish True Parents' realm of victory. Therefore, as the direct lineal children of the True Parents, who have converted your lineage, ownership and heart to that of True Parents, you can inherit what True Parents have accomplished.

To be able to do that, you need to have both absolute faith and absolute unity. Adam and Eve did not have absolute faith, and thus they did not unite heartistically with God. Because of that, they lost everything. What was lost on the family level has to be restored through making conditions of indemnity on the family level. If you blessed families do just as you please, you will all end up in hell.

True Parents' family is the subject, and all the rest of humanity is the object. Subject and object must unite, according to the original ideal of creation. Through this, all will be restored. Now, do you understand the meaning of this year's motto?

To inherit the realm of True Parents' victory, you need the Family Pledge. You need absolute love, absolute life, absolute lineage, absolute conscience, absolute faith and absolute unity. That is the reason each part of the Family Pledge begins with the phrase, "centering on true love." To practice true love you need to have union between mind and body, between husband and wife, and between you and your children. Have you achieved that?

CREATING THE SAFE SETTLEMENT

The first step is to unite mind and body, the second is to unite husband and wife, and the third is to unite parents and children. Both Adam and Eve experienced fighting within their mind and body and between themselves. Cain then killed Abel. How can you expect union when mind and body fight against each other? You need mind and body unity, conjugal union and parent and child unity to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. This is the formula.

The family was lost in Eden. The restoration course is the course of re-creation. To re-create you must create the union between your mind and body. Most problems arise from the conflict between mind and body. Therefore, if that conflict is solved, all problems will be solved. People filled with internal conflicts cannot appear in heaven. The Messiah cannot engraft himself on that kind of person, because that engrafting is done to create and expand a new kind of a tree.

Therefore, unless you have achieved union between your mind and body, you cannot recite the Family Pledge. If you fight with your spouse and your children, you cannot recite the Pledge either. The family is that important. The family was lost

in Eden. Therefore, only a family which has attained union between mind and body, between husband and wife, and between parents and children will be able to enter the Kingdom of Heaven automatically.

I proclaimed "True Parents and the Completed Testament Age" throughout forty nations—including America, Japan and Korea—and at the United Nations. So now, when people hear "True Parents and the Completed Testament Age," they recognize it as referring to Reverend Moon's couple. Safe settlement takes place only because the proclamation has been made. If it had not been made, there would not be any safe settlement.

The whole world could not overcome True Parents. The United States, Capitol Hill, the United Nations, forty nations and the university campuses as well, could not expel True Parents. Even Kim Il Sung of North Korea, and former President Mikhail Gorbachev of the former Soviet Union welcomed and established the ties of blood brotherhood with me. Now they are following me. That is why the world could not expel me.

The Christian culture in America and Europe, the Islamic culture, the Confucian culture and the Indian culture welcomed True Parents. The four great religious and cultural spheres that have been in conflict all welcomed and embraced True Parents. That was how the Safe Settlement of the True Parents and the Completed Testament Age came into being.

"The Safe Settlement of the True Parents" means that you become united with the True Parents and God, and the "Safe Settlement of the Completed Testament Age" means that all of this fallen world moves into the age of promises fulfilled. Now, even upon hearing me speak about the upcoming 360,000 Couples' Blessing, no one opposes it. The whole world seems eager to receive the blessing.

THE FOUNDATION TO LIBERATE GOD

The family system of the secular world has been broken down; it has no foundation whatsoever. However, the Unification Church has all the foundations—the individual foundation, family foundation, tribal foundation, racial foundation, national foundation, worldwide foundation, cosmic foundation and God's foundation—including the foundation to liberate God from His suffering and the foundation to make a new world of freedom. The world of freedom represents the Kingdom of Heaven on earth.

The generations coming after us will freely inherit all of this. That is why the term "inheritance" is being used. All these things have to be put in order.

Our topic today is the "Perfection of the True Self and the Safe Settlement of the Family." Perfection is attained through Godism, which embraces absolute "love-ism," absolute "life-ism," absolute "lineage-ism" and absolute "conscience-ism." The safe settlement of the family is attained through true parentism. Safe settlement on earth is possible because True Parents have already established the subjective family, to which all of humanity are to be respondents. The requirement to enter the Kingdom of Heaven is absolute faith and absolute unity in heart with True Parents. Isn't that logical? (Yes.)

Can you achieve the safe settlement of your family? (Yes.)

*Because of the fall, God stays away from the fallen realm.
By making the connection between your 160 families and the
160 nations of the world you can inherit this foundation and
invite God into your tribe, family and individual self.*



PHOTO: CHRIS GARCIA/NFP

Father and Mother sing at the celebration of their wedding anniversary, April 15, 1995, at East Garden.

To do so, you have to lead the life of a tribal messiah. I am responsible for the 160 nations in which blessed couples are living. As tribal messiahs, you must establish your own 160-family foundation and link it to my worldwide foundation. In other words, you have to create the foundation onto which the True Parents can engraft their victorious foundation. That is the process by which the True Parents hand their victory over to you; through the true parent and child relationship, the children can inherit everything that the parents have.

Because of the fall, God stays out of this world, away from the fallen realm. Only when 160 nations of the world serve and worship God will He be able to return to this world. By making the connection between your 160 families and the 160 nations of the world you can inherit this foundation and invite God into your tribe, family and individual self. When that happens, God can finally attain the original ideal and have dominion over all creation.

ADMISSION INTO THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

Do you absolutely need 160 families to inherit all that the True Parents and God have victoriously accomplished? Now

you understand the importance of tribal messiahship. Without it you cannot follow me or enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Without it you cannot liberate yourselves from the satanic world. Regardless of the difficulties involved, you must overcome them and accomplish tribal messiahship.

Only when you fulfill the tribal messiahship of 160 families are you qualified to register for admission into the Kingdom of Heaven. Even in this world you need a passport and visa to enter other countries, don't you? Likewise, you absolutely need a passport, visa and registration to enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

Once you obtain that passport, you can travel east, west, north and south, for a thousand years or even for 10,000 years. With it you can go anywhere, anytime, freely. Without it, no matter how many sons and daughters and descendants you procreate, you will still be people without a nation. Can you imagine how great a curse your descendants would receive?

This scenario comes from my visualization of restoration based upon the theory of re-creation through conditions of indemnity. This is reality. You must strengthen your tribal messiahship. If you complete your foundation, the spirit world can assist you in everything you do. Your ancestors can come

Just understanding will not connect you to heaven. You need to take action and produce results. This is not God's mission or True Parents' mission, but your mission. God and True Parents taught you everything very clearly.

PHOTO: KEN OWENS/NFP



means that you will be standing at the tail of the whole race in a few years. By not fulfilling your responsibility, you will have to leave the head section and fall back to the tail section. There are seven different stages from the tail section, where you will be, to the head section. The distance can be compared to the distance from hell to heaven. It is up to you to determine where you want to be! Do you understand?

Just understanding will not connect you to heaven. You need to take action and produce results. There is no other way around it. This is not God's mission or True Parents' mission, but your mission. God and

down to earth and help you. When our foundation extends to include many families throughout the world, the spirit world can connect to the physical world.

Without a passport and visa, you cannot get through the twelve pearly gates. With a passport, you can pass through any gate, enter heaven, go back to earth and visit people's homes without any problem. You will be totally free to travel anywhere in the created world. That indicates how important it is to accomplish the foundation of 160-family tribal messiahship. Without this foundation, you do not have a nation. You will be like the Vietnamese boat people.

In the future it will become easier to secure that number of families. There will be a worldwide education campaign using mass media, including television and radio. When that happens, however, you will lose in the competition. My name will be resurrected in the memory of the secular world, rising above the levels of family, tribe, nation, and world, reaching the whole of humanity across the globe. The whole of humanity will then say they have understood the teachings of Reverend Moon. That will take a mere week's campaign using mass media. You will be outpaced.

JUST UNDERSTANDING IS NOT ENOUGH

Christians will look at you and say, "What in the world have the Unification members been doing? Reverend Moon has been teaching about tribal messiahship for the past five years, but what has happened? Maybe Reverend Moon has been working with the wrong kind of people, foolish people." They will outpace you easily. Since they are all over, in villages, towns and cities, they will not have difficulty reaching families horizontally. Now all the nations belong to the Christian world. That

True Parents taught you everything very clearly. You have no excuse. You are Unification Church students. How are you going to pass the exam?

Today I have given you a complete and detailed explanation about how to perfect your true self through absolute "love-ism," absolute "life-ism," absolute "lineage-ism" and absolute "conscience-ism." Through the safe settlement of the family and True Parents, which compensates for what was lost in the fall of the first family, we can connect 160 families through tribal messiahship to True Parents, and thus take possession of 160 nations. This will enable you to travel back and forth anywhere freely, throughout the Kingdom of Heaven, the entire spirit world and earth. The inheritance is inevitable, and it is fate rather than mere destiny.

The Kingdom of Heaven in heaven and on earth will belong to you only after you are able to register for admission. After registration, you can call it your country, your nation and your kingdom. The king of that kingdom is our True Parent and true God, and by uniting with them you can become true children. The true children can inherit the parents' property, based on the Principle.

Do you need to fulfill your tribal messiahship? (Yes.) No! (Yes.) Return to your own neighborhood and go through forty years of indemnification and suffering, receiving persecution as a true parent to restore God's 4,000-year history. I am sure you can resurrect 160 families within a year.

If the Emperor of Japan happens to learn the Divine Principle and decides to receive the blessing, then all 120 million Japanese would be ready to receive the blessing from True Parents within a week. All at one time! A whole nation will then be registered. Once that happens, many hundred levels of tribal messiahships will be created, each one with 160 families. Each level repre-

You may have to migrate to build God's nation, into which all humanity can enter. To build this kind of godly nation is the hope and the objective of this fallen world.

sents a different degree of ancestry, and many thousands of levels of ancestors will appear.

If the Emperor unites with True Parents and becomes the second generation ancestor, the rest of the people will be registered as part of the third generation and below. Many thousand of years of difference in terms of generations will be created. How miserable the bottom generation people will feel, since all were once at the same level! If you are able to register first, you can become your neighbor's ancestor from thousands of generations back. That is the supreme importance of tribal messiahship!

SAVING YOUR ANCESTORS

Since I have told you everything, it is up to you. From now on, I will go up to a mountain and set up a tent and live in it. I will sleep there for forty years. (Laughter.) I mean it! Will you also take a rest, because I do? (No.) Since God toiled to stop people from drinking the beer and liquor Satan created, I might connect myself through a hose to one of Satan's beer and liquor plants and sleep for ten years, constantly drinking and relieving myself, just to dissolve God's bitter resentment! I can do that, but you cannot, because you have not fulfilled the condition of tribal messiahship. Once you have done it, you can follow me. (Laughter and applause.)

While you are sitting here laughing and enjoying the moment sitting together, there will be several thousands of years of generations created. Depending on the date of registration, the ancestral order will be determined, and the later generations will have to bow to the ancestors from the earlier generations.

Because of the fall, various languages and cultures developed throughout the world. Now through the blessing and registration, a mass migration, as when people gather into a nation, will take place for the first time. Since Caucasian people are to take the lead, they have this arrogance, being proud of themselves and taking a zig-zag course, while African people with a humble and head-bowing attitude take a straight direction. When Caucasian people go to Africa, your zig-zag movement will slow you down and cause you to lag behind the people who are going straight.

A mass migration will take place. On the satanic side, Stalin forcefully sent Koreans under guard to a central Asian desert. There they were dumped and left to die. Satan showed the world an apocalyptic example of what mass migration is like, using Korean people. A mass migration will definitely take place, but this time in the heavenly way.

It will be interesting to see enemies becoming relatives as their children get married. The people you used to laugh at will become your ancestors.

For the sake of the world, I am trying to save America, the country that played the enemy to me. You should play the same game. Any one who does not wish to save his ancestors will have to go to hell.

Godism represents absolute true "love-ism," absolute true "life-ism," absolute true "lineage-ism" and absolute true "conscience-ism." Headwing thought means true parentism; you should become True Parents and fulfill your tribal messiahship. Tribal messiahs must restore family messiahs. When the nation

is established in the future, national messiahs will restore tribal messiahs and family messiahs.

I am the center of 160 nations. Since the messiahship is centered on the family, the family messiah, the tribal messiah and the national messiahs will make up one category. They are like the formation, growth and perfection stages of the growth period. Through this process, all nations will be restored, and this will make up the world. If all Christians were restored, they could establish their tribal messiahship, which would not leave enough people for you to restore.

The satanic world will be completely conquered, and there will be no place for Satan to stand. True Parents are the center of all 160 nations that will make up the Kingdom of Heaven. True Parents are the king of kings. So now you clearly understand about perfection of the true self and the safe settlement of the family.

UNIFICATION OF CATHOLICS AND PROTESTANTS

The declaration of True Parents was made in 1992, the safe settlement of the True Parents and the Completed Testament Age in 1993, and the right of possession of the realm of True Parents' victory this year. This completes the preparation.

From now, we will go to South America. When we unite South and North America, the whole world will become unified. South America is mostly Catholic and represents Cain's position, while North America is mainly Protestant and represents Abel's position. Cain and Abel are still fighting, but they must unite with each other centered on God and True Parents. They cannot achieve this unification on their own. God and True Parents can and will do it. This will bring the contents of the Old Testament, the New Testament and the Completed Testament onto a horizontal grounding, enabling the God-centered vertical axis to be formed. This unification of North and South America, will lead to the unification of the world.

Even though Europe still remains the battleground between Catholics, representing the Old Testament or Cain position, and the Protestants, representing the New Testament or Abel position, through True Parents' teaching, they also can unite. This will complete the unification of the whole world. To prepare this, I have to go to South America, which is eagerly waiting for me. This is the providential viewpoint.

Since I have fulfilled perfection of the true self and the safe settlement of the family and am letting you inherit it all, you will no longer have difficulty achieving the Kingdom of Heaven in your family. Adam and Eve lost their family in Eden. You must restore the family.

Do you need "perfection of the true self and the safe settlement of the family"? (Yes.) You then must get ready to pack up and move. You may have to migrate to build God's nation, into which all humanity can enter. To build this kind of godly nation is the hope and the objective of this fallen world.

Who would like to work to achieve this? Raise your hands. I always see you raising both of your hands. However, even raising both hands will not bring victory. You need action to bring results! ■■

[Edited by Today's World.]

A Day to Remember

Kathryn Coman

THROUGHOUT the Christian world, all were celebrating Easter Sunday. Throughout Judaism, all were celebrating Passover. It was spring and even the creation was preparing for a momentous day—the beginning of a new providence for the world. Heaven and earth had prepared for this moment in the providence. Nothing was to be spared in prep-

plan every detail. Everyone was so excited. Father had decided that the wedding would take place in New York. This meant that this would be the first wedding of True Children to be held in the US since Hyun Jin Nim and Jun Sook Nim's in 1987. It was also of momentous importance because Kwon Jin Nim and Sun Jin Nim are the first True Children born in the US, making it doubly an honor for the American Unification Church to host the ceremonies.

Many questions were put to Rev. Pak by the members of the planning committee. Would there be two separate ceremonies or one joint ceremony? How many people could come? Could

include many members who had not previously attended a wedding ceremony of True Family and also non-Unificationist VIPs." Wonder of wonders, we were informed that the flower girls and boys would be from True Family. Mother had selected which of the younger generation would perform that duty.

Everything swung into high gear: set design, program selection for the entertainment, banquet planning, flowers, selection of the attendants (brides' maids and grooms' men), invitations and programs to be printed, public relations, planning for the *peh baek* ceremony. Subcommittees went into action. We were "lucky" in that we had six weeks' notice, but that only meant that it had to be that much better than previous wedding ceremonies given only a few weeks' notice.

Wedding rehearsal

Saturday, April 15, was the wedding rehearsal. It was the first chance to put together all the pieces of the wedding ceremony, gather the individuals who would be working in various areas throughout the following day and make any final alterations needed.

It was also the 35th anniversary of True Parents' blessing. Following a celebration in honor of True Parents' blessing at East
CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

PHOTO: KEN OWENS/NFP



Rev. and Mrs. Joong Hyun Pak

aration for this final day, in which Kwon Jin Nim and Sun Jin Nim would join in marriage with their fiancés. It was truly a day of great blessing, for them and for the world.

As they prayed and prepared themselves to attend this day, many Unificationists would remember the occasions on which Kwon Jin Nim and Sun Jin Nim had sung together at church celebrations, and the photos which just happened to be of the two of them. Born a year apart, there seemed to be an affinity which naturally put them together. Many had watched them grow up from very little children into beautiful and handsome young adults, an inspiration to all.

Preparation

When True Parents announced the engagements of Kwon Jin Nim to Hwa Yun Chun, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. In Seung Chun, and Sun Jin Nim to In Sup Pak, son of Rev. and Mrs. Joong Hyun Pak, and the plans to hold a wedding for them on Easter Sunday, April 16, 1995, Rev. Joong Hyun Pak, continental director for North America, created a committee to

non-Unificationists be invited? Where would we hold the events—wedding ceremony, *peh baek* ceremony and banquet? Many of the answers had to come from True Parents directly. To facilitate the process, the committee made proposals and included number counts of how many people could be seated in the Grand Ballroom of the World Mission Center versus the Grand Ballroom of the Manhattan Center, for either the wedding ceremony or the banquet. Everyone waited anxiously for the decisions. Several days later the answers came, "A double wedding in the Manhattan Center's Grand Ballroom with the banquet to follow later that evening in the same location. Invitations were to in-



Mr. and Mrs. In Seung Chun

PHOTO: KEN OWENS/NFP

CONGRATULATIONS TO KWON JIN NIM & HWA YUN NIM SUN JIN NIM & IN SUP NIM



Father and Mother pose for an official portrait.



Father reads the official declaration of the blessing, as Mother listens.



The soon-to-be married couples begin their walk down the center aisle. Left to right: In Sup Nim, Sun Jin Nim, Kwon Jin Nim, Hwa Yun Nim.



Mother (in the background) observes Sun Jin Nim place the ring on In Sup Nim's finger, as her attendant holds the ring tray for them.

HOLY WEDDING DAY

APRIL 16, 1995



Father and Mother pose with Kwon Jin Nim and Hwa Yun Nim.



Father and Mother pose with Sun Jin Nim and In Sup Nim.

PHOTO: KEN OWENS/NFP

PHOTO: KEN OWENS/NFP



True Family pose with the Pak family and the Chun family. Back row (left to right): Mr. In Seung Chun, Mrs. Ok Kee Kim Chun, Yeon Jin Nim, Young Jin Nim, Father, Mother, Hyung Jin Nim, Jeung Jin Nim, Mrs. Hyun Sook Choi Pak, Rev. Joong Hyun Pak. Middle row (left to right): Hyun Jin Nim, Jun Sook Nim holding Shin Joong Nim, Hoon Sook Nim, Hyo Jin Nim, Nan Sook Nim, Kwon Jin Nim, Hwa Yun Nim, In Sup Nim, Sun Jin Nim, Jin Sung Nim holding Shin Yul Nim, In Jin Nim, Shin Jung Nim, Jin Hun Nim holding Shin Ji Nim, Un Jin Nim, Kook Jin Nim, Soon Ju Nim. Front row (left to right): Kyong Ho Chun, Gee Hyun Chun, In Ho Pak, So Young Pak, Shin Chul Nim, Shin Gil Nim, Shin Young Nim, Shin Myung Nim, Shin Sun Nim, Shin Won Nim, Shin Yeon Nim, Shin Ok Nim, Shin Kwon Nim, Shin Eh Nim, So Jung Pak, Mrs. Un Jin Moon Pak, Soon Hwa Pak.

PHOTO: KEN OWENS/NFP

PEH BAEK CEREMONY



The newlywed couples (left to right: In Sup Nim, Sun Jin Nim, Kwon Jin Nim, Hwa Yun Nim) bow together at the close of the peh baek ceremony.



Father and Mother lead the gathering in prayer before the peh baek ceremony begins.



Kwon Jin Nim and Hwa Yun Nim.



Sun Jin Nim and In Sup Nim.

PHOTO: KEN OWENS/NFP

PHOTO: KEN OWENS/NFP

PHOTO: KEN OWENS/NFP

PHOTO: KEN OWENS/NFP

BANQUET & ENTERTAINMENT

PHOTO: KEN OWENS/NFP



Sun Jin Nim and In Sup Nim sing "The Rose."



Kwon Jin Nim and Hwa Yun Nim sing "Amazing Grace."

PHOTO: KEN OWENS/NFP



True Parents' grandsons perform at the banquet. Left to right: Shin Won Nim, Shin Myung Nim, Shin Kwon Nim.



True Parents' granddaughters perform at the banquet. Left to right: Shin Eh Nim, Shin Sun Nim, Shin Yeon Nim, Shin Ok Nim.

A Day to Remember

Garden, the members of True Family who were involved in the wedding ceremony arrived for the wedding rehearsal. The engaged couples came and walked through the ceremony—making sure they knew their parts well. Every moment of the ceremony was rehearsed under the direction of Dr. Bo Hi Pak, master of ceremonies for the wedding ceremony. The most minute details were worked out, even which direction the couples should turn when brides and grooms faced each other to exchange rings. It was important that they not get the trains on the brides' dresses tangled.

Wedding ceremony

The Grand Ballroom was decorated with flowers. On entering the room, one felt as though a garden had been recreated inside. The large, black speakers on either side of the stage were draped in white cloth, with large bouquets of flowers forming a four position foundation. White chiffon was draped around the room. The backdrop proclaiming the holy wedding and date was framed with columns.

Dr. Bo Hi Pak approached the podium and the musicians, under the direction of David Eaton, played "Song of the Banquet" which was sung by the congregation. Dr. James A. Baughman, president of the Unification Church of America, gave the invocation to begin the ceremony.

As the musicians continued to play varied selections of music, the second generation attendants processed down the aisle and assumed their places, lining

the center aisle, down which the officiators and couples would later process. The women were all dressed in beautiful peach dresses, wearing a single strand of pearls. The men were all dressed in black suits. All wore white gloves.

Following Dr. Pak's announcement to the congregation, the officiators, Father and Mother, entered the room, followed by their attendants, and made their way slowly down the center aisle to the altar. Hyo Jin Nim presented Father with the long candle lighter, which Father then used to light the seven candles on one side of the stage. He surprised Mother by handing it to her, so she could light the seven candles on the other side of the stage. Upon completion of this step, the altar was fully prepared.

True Parents then turned to face the congregation and received the couples. The strains of Lohengrin's "Wedding March" wafted through the air, as the wedding procession began. First, the flower girls (Shin Sun Nim and Shin Yeon Nim) and boys (Shin Myung Nim and Shin Won Nim) sprinkled flowers as they preceded the rest of the wedding party down the center aisle. The brides and grooms followed immediately behind them. The brides were stunning in their white wedding dresses, the grooms handsome in their white tuxedos. The two couples walked side by side down the center aisle, pausing three times to bow, with seven steps between bows. These steps and bows symbolized the couples



PHOTO: KEN OWENS/NFP

moving through the three stages of growth—formation, growth and perfection, seven steps for each stage. Following these 21 steps, the couples took one additional step, symbolizing human perfection and union with God.

True Parents sprinkled the couples with holy water. The couples recited the wedding vows and Father gave the benediction. [See page 4 in this issue.] The couples exchanged beautiful wedding rings, which symbolized everlasting love under the reign of God. Father then issued a proclamation, declaring the marriage to heaven and earth. While the congregation applauded, Father shook hands with the couples.

The couples had received many telegrams from all over the world. Dr. Pak chose a telegram from Jerry Falwell as representative of them all. Rev. Falwell wrote, "I wish to blend my voice with many others as I wish you God's richest blessings on this very important day in your life." This congratulatory telegram was followed by congratulatory addresses from Rev. Chung Hwan Kwak, president of the Unification Church in Korea, and Dr. Richard L. Rubenstein, president of the University of Bridgeport. [Rev. Kwak's



Dr. James A. Baughman, president of the Unification Church of America, offers the invocation for the wedding ceremony.

PHOTO: KEN OWENS/NFP

Presenting the Bridegroom and Bride

Kwon Jin Moon

March 2, 1975 Born in Tarrytown, New York, USA
June 1985 Graduated from Hackley Grade School
June 1990 Graduated from Hackley Junior High School
June 1993 Graduated from Lawrence Academy, Boston
Currently Attending Boston University

Kwon Jin Nim played high school football and loves country and western music.

Hwa Yun Chun

October 8, 1977 Born in Seoul, Korea
February 1989 Emigrated to the United States
June 1989 Graduated from P.S. 33, New York City
June 1991 Graduated from Clinton Middle School
June 1995 Will graduate from Irvington High School

Hwa Yun Nim loves reading and painting. She is a student counselor at her school.

address can be found on page 2.] Dr. Rubenstein offered the following comments in his address, "We rejoice on this occasion and we rejoice in your blessing. You are of a noble and sanctified lineage. Your union has meaning for the lives and destinies of people throughout the entire world. It is not a privilege, but an opportunity and a responsibility. We are assured that you will discharge that responsibility by taking, as you already have, your parents as the model for your lives together and for the sanctified families which you undertake to bring forth as a result of your blessed union. Your parents have taught of the overwhelming need and decisive importance for all of humanity of the sanctified blessed family life."

Dr. Rubenstein concluded his address in a manner most fitting his being a well-known theologian. "On this occasion, auspicious, happy and fortunate, we all pray that you will be blessed in all your endeavors. Given the fact that it represents

the continuity of Judaism, Christianity and the tradition which your parents have founded, I hope that you will accept from me a blessing. In ancient Israel when the priest wanted to bless the people he offered a three-fold benediction. As the spiritual heir of that priesthood, I hope that you will accept their blessing from me as if they themselves were standing in the holy temple and at the same time standing here in the presence of your parents and bestowing it upon you. 'May the Lord bless you and keep you! May the Lord light his countenance upon you and be gracious unto you! May the Lord lift his countenance on to thee and to all of yours and give you peace.' Amen!" These remarks lent a sense of history to the ceremony. One could almost feel the Israelite priests speaking through him as he uttered these words of blessing.

Seiko Lee honored the newlyweds with a solo rendition of "The Lord's Prayer."

True Parents then led all in the traditional three manseis in honor of the couples. Again Father surprised Mother. After he led the first mansei, he turned to Mother for the second mansei. He caught her unprepared, but she recovered quickly with a beautiful smile and did so. Father completed the trio of manseis.

The newlyweds, followed by the flower girls and boys, turned and processed down the center aisle to much acclaim and celebration. Streamers were floating through the air toward them. True Parents then followed, closing the ceremony.

After the wedding ceremony was completed, the couples and wedding party returned to the Grand Ballroom for official photos. Most of the congregation had remained in the room, anticipating this moment. Ken Owens, official photographer for True Family and the Unification Church of America, officiated with a great sense of humor and humility. It was clear that his many years of taking photos of True Family aided him in coaxing the best smiles from everyone. There were many moments of levity as Korean and Western members of the congregation laughed at his comments made in Korean and English. All of which succeeded in creating a light moment in the most serious, yet joyous, long day.

Peh baek ceremony

The *peh baek* ceremony is a special ceremony to welcome newlyweds into the new family and clan and to bestow blessings of lineage and prosperity to the new couple. The ceremony was held in the dining room of the World Mission Center, so a relatively small number of individuals were able to attend. Rev. Joong Hyun Pak had arranged for this ceremony (as were the whole day's events) to be viewed on closed circuit television. Rev. Pak wanted blessed couples to become familiar with this ceremony. He explained to the planning committee that this ceremony, though Korean in origin, is one of our heavenly traditions, which should take place following the second generation wedding ceremonies.

This ceremony was held following lunch, allowing everyone time to change. All in attendance wore traditional Korean clothing. The newlyweds wore special clothing, designed for this ceremony. Rev. Chung Hwan Kwak was the master of ceremonies, announcing each step of the ceremony in Korean. True Parents officiated, as they were the head of the family



Dr. Richard L. Rubenstein, president of the University of Bridgeport, offers his congratulatory address.

PHOTO: KEN OWENS/NFP

Presenting the Bride and Bridegroom

Sun Jin Moon

- July 11, 1976** Born in Tarrytown, New York, USA
June 1986 Graduated from Hackley Grade School
June 1989 Graduated from Hackley Junior High School
June 1992 Graduated from Buckingham, Brown & Nichols High School, Boston
Currently Attending New York University

Sun Jin Nim plays the cello and loves all aspects of the performing arts.

In Sup Pak

- October 17, 1972** Born in Seoul, Korea
June 1985 Graduated from St. Joseph's Primary School
June 1987 Graduated from St. Joseph's Junior High School
June 1991 Graduated from Northern Valley Regional High School
Currently Attending Cornell University

In Sup Nim plans to enter medical school and is also a singer and composer.

receiving new members (Hwa Yun Nim and In Sup Nim) opening the ceremony with prayer. The newly married couple entered the room and bowed to the officiating parents, True Parents. True Parents and the couple then participated in a wine ceremony.

Husband and wife bowed to each other. The wife was helped by two women during all of her bows, because she must make her bow keeping her legs crossed at the ankles. This assistance thus allows her bow to be sedate and stately. The wife then sat with a cloth, assisted by the women, to catch the fruit tossed into the cloth by True Parents, over the offering table. The more fruit caught, the better. The fruit symbolized many blessings for the couple. This is cause for great joviality, as fruit is caught and some misses the cloth.

The elder siblings and their spouses received a bow of respect from the couple. The younger siblings bowed to the couple, followed by the smallest children bowing to the couple. The couple and the in-laws then bowed simultaneously to each other.

Following all this bowing, the couple then shares a bowl of noodles. The noodles represent long life, so each tried to feed the other as many noodles as possible, stuffing them in their spouse's mouth if necessary, to ensure as long a life as possible. This is also cause for much laughter on the part of the observers.

The ceremony is closed with the cutting of the celebration cake, prayers and official photographs. Kwon Jin Nim and Hwa Yun Nim performed the ceremony first, followed by Sun Jin Nim and In Sup

Nim. At the closing, both couples joined for a final bow to True Parents.

Banquet

That evening a banquet was held in honor of the newlyweds. All in attendance were amazed at the transformation of the Manhattan Center's Grand Ballroom. The Manhattan Center staff had created a minor miracle and made it seem a totally different room. Again there were many flowers, but the stage had a backdrop of the world with doves trailing streamers. Throughout the performances that evening, the scrims on the side of the stage were lit with various lights, including white doves and red roses.

The evening began with the wedding cakes being cut simultaneously by each of the newlywed couples. Mr. Farley Jones,



Larry Moffitt, secretary-general of the World Media Association, was master of ceremonies for the banquet entertainment.



Torhild Nigar sings a song, entitled "The Greatest of These is Love," composed by In Sup Nim for Sun Jin Nim.

president of the Family Federation for Unification and World Peace in America, gave the invocation. Peter Kim, master of ceremonies for the evening, after reminding everyone of True Parents' own wedding anniversary the previous day, asked everyone to join him in a toast of "heartfelt wishes to True Parents and newly wedded Kwon Jin Nim's couple and Sun Jin Nim's couple. Long live True Parents. Congratulations to Kwon Jin Nim's couple. Congratulations to Sun Jin Nim's couple. To the happy couples."

As dinner wound down, Larry Moffitt, secretary-general of the World Media Association, officiated as master of ceremonies for the entertainment that evening. There was a beautiful Viennese waltz performed by dancers from the Kirov Academy. A Unification Church Youth Choir, consisting of second generation men and women, performed several selections in both Korean and English. They were directed by Mrs. Moon Sook Choi Yoon.

Sun Jin Nim was surprised by the appearance of her cello teacher, Mr. Misha Quint. He played several selections on the cello, accompanied by Gilya Hodos on the piano. Sheila Vaughn, backed up by a band in cowboy hats, shared several selections. The cowboy theme was prompted by knowledge of Kwon Jin Nim's love of country and western music.

Sun Jin Nim was serenaded, as a song entitled "The Greatest of These is Love," composed by In Sup Nim in her honor, was sung by Torhild Nigar. Everyone was moved by the heartistic expression of In Sup Nim's heart toward Sun Jin Nim.

This was followed by a joyous (and hilarious) rendition of "The Glory of Love" by In Sup Nim's classmates at Cornell University. This interracial group of classmates sang: "I am the man who will fight for your honor, I'll be the hero you're dreaming of, We'll live forever Knowing together That we did it all for the Glory of Love." They had choreographed motions to the words which were price-

less and a true highlight of the evening.

At this point, Peter Kim returned to the podium and officiated as master of ceremonies for the rest of the evening. Mr. and Mrs. Chun spoke a few words of thanks and dedication, singing a song in honor of the occasion. Rev. and Mrs. Pak did the same.

True Family then began to take the stage in honor of the newlyweds. First up was a trio of Shin Won Nim, Shin Myung Nim and Shin Kwon Nim—nephews of the newlyweds, representing the third generation of True Family. They sang a selection of songs which included "Totoro," composed by In Jin Nim, and "Do Re Mi." All selections were sung with great vigor, with many repetitions. They were followed by a quartet of Shin Eh Nim, Shin Sun Nim, Shin Yeon Nim and Shin Ok Nim—nieces of the newlyweds. They sang a trio of songs—one each in Korean, English and Japanese. They were so enthusiastic that Mr. Kim had to coax them from the stage.

It was then time for True Children, the second generation of True Family. First came Jeung Jin Nim on the violin. She played beautifully, accompanied by Mary Jane Y. Tashiro on the piano. The elder True Children gathered for a rendition of "Love Me Tender," with which I am sure many in the audience hummed along.

The moment had come for the newlyweds to share a few words and songs with everyone. First to do so were Sun Jin Nim and In Sup Nim. In Sup Nim spoke a few words pledging "to become a dutiful son, loving husband and loving father." They



Jeung Jin Nim plays the violin at the banquet.

then sang "The Rose." Their voices blended beautifully in harmony.

They were succeeded by Kwon Jin Nim and Hwa Yun Nim. Kwon Jin Nim spoke a few words pledging "I live my life for [True Parents].... My ultimate goal in life is for the glorification of God and my beloved True Parents." They then sang "Amazing Grace" together in beautiful harmony. After much discussion between them because they did not know the same songs, Kwon Jin Nim sang a Latin song, "Na Nobis Domine."

At this point, Peter Kim and the audience invited True Parents to the stage. They were presented with leis and began to sing several selections in Korean. They and all in attendance were in high spirits and hearts were truly joyous at the events of the day. At one point, as Mother sang the final notes of a Korean song, Father unexpectedly kissed her on the cheek. Mother caught unaware, dissolved in giggles. They concluded their selection of songs by singing "Umayá." Father invited the audience to join in, as he conducted the performance and set the tempo. At the end, Father sang "Good-bye" to everyone. The evening was closed with three manseis for True Parents, Kwon Jin Nim's family and Sun Jin Nim's family.

It was truly a day to remember. No matter what the future holds, there will never be another one like it. There were many firsts established and many highlights to remember. We wish these two couples the best for the future. ■■

Kathryn Coman is executive editor of Today's World. She and her husband, Hugues, participated in the 2075 Couples' Blessing in 1982. They have three children.



In Sup Nim's classmates from Cornell sing "The Glory of Love."

The "Ideal Family Blessing Ceremony"

Ker-Shung Lee

SINCE there was a workshop for VIPs in the Philippines in September 1994, we decided that the major participants of the blessing ceremony would be previously married couples, according to the instruction of Mrs. Chung Hae Pak Kim, continental director of Asia. We began to invite previously married couples to attend the upcoming blessing ceremony. Since the conditions for previously married couples to receive the blessing were clarified, after coming back from the Cheju Island leaders' workshop on True God's Day, we prepared to offer the blessing ceremony by satellite in Taiwan as a social activity, rather than a religious activity. Therefore, we changed the sponsoring organization from HSA-USA to ICF (International Cultural Foundation), and the blessing ceremony became a social, educational program which is supervised by the Ministry of Education, instead of the Ministry of Interior Affairs.

Organization for the blessing

The Board of Directors of ICF-ROC agreed to our proposal, and signed a "Recommendation Letter for the Ideal Family Blessing Ceremony." [See page 24 in this issue.] This is a letter stating the social values of the blessing ceremony and will be used publicly to encourage people to participate in the blessing ceremony on a national level. The members of the ICF-ROC board of directors agreed to sign this letter on True Parents' Day, March 31, 1995.

Next, we sent letters to all our VIP contacts who had participated in our various international conferences, which were initiated by True Parents in the past twenty years, to join as members of the Taiwan Branch of the Organization Committee of the World Culture and Sports Festival (WCSF). More than one hundred social leaders agreed to join, and their basic responsibility is to sign a recommendation of the blessing ceremony. They are government officials, scholars, congressmen and congresswomen, former deputy cabinet ministers, former ambassadors

and media leaders.

The chairman of the board of directors of ICF, H.E. Shih-Cheng Hwang, is a cabinet minister. Minister Hwang, accompanied by two former deputy cabinet ministers, Vice Admiral (ret.) Tun-Hwa Ko and Dr. Chin-Chi Chao, held a press conference to announce that the project of "The Ideal Family Blessing Ceremony" will be sponsored by the ICF, and encouraged people to participate. The news appeared in the main newspapers the

Teng-Hui Lee to give the congratulatory message at the August 25 blessing ceremony in Tao-Yuan Gymnasium, which seats 15,000. We announced to the media, that we will hold a 10,000-couple blessing ceremony here in Taiwan. We also requested, through Minister Hwang, that President Lee give all the participating couples a memorial document, issued by the President, for joining the blessing ceremony. This document would mean that the couples will not only receive the



Mr. and Mrs. Liu, an international couple who participated in the 1275 Couples' Blessing in 1989, being interviewed by a journalist.

next day. It changed the impressions of people toward the blessing ceremony and the Unification Church. Minister Hwang praised True Family and testified to the journalists that he respects True Family very much. The press conference was held on May 13, 1995.

Minister Hwang promised to invite the Prime Minister, Dr. Len, to be the honorary chairman of the organizing Committee for WCSF—Taiwan Branch, and also promised to try to invite President

blessing from Heavenly Father and True Parents, but also from the President. If the President agrees, people will be very eager to apply and participate in this activity. We have not yet gotten a confirmation from the President or Prime Minister about this point.

Relationship with other organizations

We have had successful experiences inviting religious groups and women's

PHOTO: COURTESY OF KER-SHUNG LEE

organizations to co-sponsor our Mother's Day celebration and award ceremonies for couples celebrating their gold and silver anniversaries. Now we are trying to invite the women's organizations and religious groups to co-sponsor the "Ideal Family Blessing Ceremony." Each organization, which can recommend more than thirty couples to join the blessing, can be identified as a co-sponsoring organization. Since this activity emphasizes "no divorce and no adultery," it is very appealing to religious groups and women's groups. Hopefully we can catch their heart so that they will be willing to co-sponsor this activity and contribute to the moral and ethical recovery movement in our society.

Liberation from ban

Twenty years ago, satanic rumors about the Unification Church were circulated through media propaganda with the purpose of burying the Unification Church in Taiwan. A sixteen-year government ban resulted. Since 1990, the Unification community has been liberated by democratization in Taiwan. From 1989-1990, during the appeal for lifting the ban on the Unification Church, the media has stood on God's side to support us. Now we will recreate people's impression of the church through the media, centered on the 1995 blessing. We will invest manpower and money in the media to announce the blessing and invite blessing candidates through newspapers, magazines, radio broadcasts and cable TV. Asian Star TV covers 54 countries. We will use it to invite blessing candidates by showing the contact telephone numbers in different Asian countries.

We have to achieve the goal of inviting 20,000 blessing candidates from Taiwan, by all means. May God guide and bless us to fulfill this sacred mission. Amen! ■■

Mr. Ker-Shung Lee is national leader for the Unification Church in Taiwan.

Miss Tasi, recipient of the third prize in the Mr. and Miss Taiwan University Pageant in 1994, is interviewed by TV journalists.



PHOTO: COURTESY OF KER-SHUNG LEE

Ideal Family Blessing Ceremony Press Conference

Ker-Shung Lee

IN ORDER to achieve the goal of the Blessing Ceremony, we want to change the religious activity into the social activity. According to our experiences, a press conference is a good method to announce the news to the public. Before the conference, we had to persuade some VIPs to become members of the Taiwan organizing committee of WCSF and to sign the "Recommendation Letter for the Ideal Family Blessing Ceremony." With their agreement, we can encourage everyone to attend the ceremony publicly.

There was much information that needed to be sent to the journalists before the press conference. Through the mass media, our message can reach many people in our country. We announced the names of the chairperson and VIPs to the press conference, and we also let them know that we invited several blessed members and blessing candidates to be available for interviews. We sent these news releases to all newspapers, magazines, TV stations and radio stations by fax. After finishing the fax transmissions, we confirmed their

receipt by the editors and asked them to attend the press conference. In the news release, we published the name list of the Taiwan Organizing Committee; a total of 107 members, most of them government officials, congressmen, congresswomen, and scholars. We mentioned that several famous media leaders had also joined our committee.

Reasons to attend the blessing

We gave them four reasons why everyone should attend this activity. First, we emphasized the sacred and eternal marriage in a society where divorce is so frequent and common. It will be a great contribution to the stability of the family and it will cause the rate of divorce to decline. Second, we offer an educational course of morality and ethics to those that take part in the activity. In this time of confusion, it can instruct people in the right way to the recovery of morality and ethics. Third, the concept of the blessing is that an ideal personality centered on God extends to an ideal family centered on God and to an ideal society, country and world. This thought is consistent with our traditional Confucian thought. Fourth, all participants promise never to commit adultery or divorce. It is a radical solution to prevent the spread of AIDS. On the basis of these four reasons, we can explain publicly why everyone should participate in the blessing.

Press conference

On May 13, we invited six VIPs that had attended the conference together. One is H.E. Shih-Cheng Hwang, who is the Minister without Portfolio of Executive Yuan, and the chairman of the Board of Directors of ICF-ROC. In the conference, he recommended the "Ideal Family Blessing Ceremony" to all those present and invited them to participate. He also held Father in high esteem for his contributions to the world. The other five VIPs were Vice Admiral Tun-Hwa Ko, Dr. Chin-Chi Chao, Dr. Zham Lee, Madam Gin-Lan



第二屆世界文化暨體育大慶典 中華民國籌備記者會

主辦單位 漢宇國際文化基金會 1995-5-13 台北 國賓飯店



H.E. Shih-Cheng Hwang encourages people to join the "Ideal Family Blessing Ceremony" at the press conference. Left to right: Madam Gin-Lan Wen, Dr. Chin-Chi Chao, H.E. Shih-Cheng Hwang, Vice Admiral Tun-hwa Ko, Dr. Zham Lee.

Wen and Mr. Ker-Shung Lee. They are the former Deputy Minister of Education Administration, professor of the National Cheng-Chi University, the congresswoman and our national leader of the Unification Church respectively. After H.E. Shih-Cheng Hwang's address, we played a video recording of the Blessing Ceremony in 1992. We also announced that the congresswoman, Madam Wen, would attend this year's blessing ceremony with her husband. We had intended to invite more VIPs to witness the "Ideal Family Blessing Ceremony," but they are so modest that none of VIPs were willing to speak. This was a shortfall of this press conference. Because the journalists did not read the information we had provided for them, they just recorded what they heard, and therefore not so much was reported in the newspapers. We had arranged for some members to be there. They had either already received the blessing or were willing to receive the blessing this year. They were professors, businessmen, full-time members and students. Many journalists were interested in Miss Tsai who had won the

third prize in last year's Taiwan Miss University competition. She is a church member and a blessing candidate this year. This interview of the Miss University runner-up regarding the blessing was shown on the morning news of a local TV station. The international blessings are another point of interest. There were forty journalists, including twenty representing the mass media, in attendance at our press conference. Most of them were print journalists. Only one

TV station and one magazine were represented.

Media coverage

On the next day, six major newspapers carried reports about our blessing ceremony. The biggest newspaper, the *United Daily News*, put our story on the news focus, on the third page. The article spanned a third of a page. Many readers called us after they had read the articles in the newspapers. Many expressed a desire to attend the blessing ceremony. We received at least 400 inquiring telephone calls. Even after seven days had passed, we still received many phone calls. We asked, and obtained, the name, address and telephone number of most callers and then referred them to the nearest video center. Those who are genuinely interested need to understand the details of this activity and they need to submit a formal application to participate. In the video centers, we have prepared a series of educational programs and speeches. They can come here to study during their free time.

We hope that this is the beginning of a new era. In order to get more people to attend the blessing ceremony, we hope that we can spread the concepts of the blessing all over the country by using the mass media as much as possible. We are planning to stage such a publicity campaign. May God's blessings come to every family. ■



The participants of the press conference watch the video of the 30,000 Couples' Blessing in 1992.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF KER-SHUNG LEE

PHOTO: COURTESY OF KER-SHUNG LEE

LETTER OF REC

THE World Culture and Sports Festival, initiated by the Reverend Sun Myung Moon, is a splendid and spectacular festival, which includes a plurality of international conferences, such as the Assembly of World Religions, International Conference on the Unity of the Sciences, Professors World Peace Academy Congress, Federation for World Peace, Summit Council for World Peace, World Media Conference, Convention of World Students, World Youth Sports Competition, Arts Festival and Blessing Ceremony for Ideal Families. All of these events have a lofty goal—a peaceful world which transcends the barriers of religion, race, language, cultures and nations. In this ideal world, people love and respect each other in one global family. We hereby recognize the lofty goals, efforts and achievements of the World Culture and Sports Festival (WCSF).

One of the most spectacular and amazing events of the World Culture and Sports Festival is the Blessing Ceremony for Ideal Families. Why are there thousands and thousands of young people, including married couples, in wedding apparel, receiving the blessing from Reverend and Mrs. Sun Myung Moon? Many distinguished civic leaders, including religious leaders, prominent professors and prominent decision-makers, are also receiving the blessing. This is because the blessing has its own value, an immense contributing factor toward the religious, social, ethical, as well as moral transformation of society.

Primarily, we recognize the contribution of the blessing toward social stability in society. The blessing emphasizes the dignity and everlasting aspect of marriage as its primary requirement. Accordingly, those who hope to receive the blessing pledge that they will never divorce under any circumstances. In light of this, the blessing plays a great role in stabilizing the family. A new vehicle to diminish the high divorce rate incurred in our present modern-day culture has been discovered. Without a doubt, the blessing is a positive and vigorous contribution to our society.

Second, the blessing acknowledges that each and every human being inherits the potential to perfect his/her personality, as well as their family. Thus, before a blessing candidate can be qualified to receive the blessing, the candidate shall undergo education concerning ethical

and moral values. Furthermore, the candidate shall also fulfill a plurality of disciplines which will develop his/her personal character towards maturity. No doubt, this is a great contribution towards the recreation of ethical standards. Despite the fact that our society and world enjoy prosperity due to democracy and economic development, the landslide of morality and ethics is the critical issue we are facing today. In light of this, the blessing is positively a necessity in present-day society.

Third, the original philosophy which motivates this blessing is that each and every person can eventually cultivate an ideal personality, as well as establish an ideal family centered on God. After this ideal is extended to the family, eventually, an ideal nation and world centered on God can be accomplished. Realizing an ideal nation and world centered on God also harmonizes with the traditional, Oriental concept of individual self-perfection, creating harmony in the family, governing the nation and building a perfected world. Consequently, this event also has the possibility of pioneering a new world culture. Therefore, from this historical viewpoint, we support and acknowledge this event.

Lastly, those who hope to receive the blessing pledge that he/she will never perform immoral actions. In other words, he/she pledges to maintain chastity and purity before and after his/her marriage. This is vital to eradicate the prevalence of AIDS, the plague of the twentieth century. It is a well-known fact that the spread of AIDS occurs due to sexual immorality. Therefore, the blessing is an effective weapon to stop this twentieth century plague.

Based on the above-mentioned reasons, the blessing has multifaceted benefits, which include stabilizing the family, re-establishing the family ethics, which have almost been lost, improving moral and ethical education, revitalizing traditional Oriental culture, developing a new world culture and eradicating the prevalence of AIDS. Without a doubt, this event is worthy of our recognition and support. We fervently hope that many people receive this "Blessing Ceremony for Ideal Families," initiated by Rev. Sun Myung Moon, with a positive and optimistic heart. We hope that all of you can take a leap forward to join this event and bring vig-

orous improvement to society with this renewal of social education and re-establishment of family ethics. ■■

Branch of the Republic of China
2nd World Culture and Sports Festival
Signed by the following Organizing
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Mr. Hwang Shi-Cheng, Minister Without
Portfolio of Executive Yuan

Admiral Ko Tun-Hwa, Former Deputy
Minister of Defense Administration
Madam Wang Yueh-Ching, Counselor
of Taipei City

Dr. Chao Chin-Chi, Former Deputy Min-
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Dr. Yang Chung-Sen, Delegate, National
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Dr. Peter Kun-Yu Woo, Professor of
Physics, National Taiwan University
Dr. Chu Chi-Hung, Professor of Political
Science, National Taiwan University
Dr. Chang Yih-Fong, Director of Night
Sector, Chung-Yuan University

Prof. Cheng Jin-Ming, Professor of Jour-
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Mr. Lee Ker-Shung, National Leader,
HSA-UWC—Taiwan

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of Three People, Chen-Chi University
Dr. Yang Fen-Tai, Chief, Institute of Princi-
ple of Three People, Chinese Cultural
University

Prof. Liu Chen-Chou, Professor of Geog-
raphy, Chinese Cultural University

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Mr. Kou Chou-Wu, Municipal Assemblyman, Tainan City
Mr. Chen Chin-Rang, Secretary-General, National Assembly
Mr. Kuan Chung, Minister of Personnel Examination, Yuan
Mr. Hu Chi-Chyang, General Director, Government Information Office

World Peace Through Religious Service

John Gehring

ON April 7-17, 1995, in a region torn by bitter and often violent racial and religious strife, fifty staff members and participants from 22 nations joined a Religious Youth Service (RYS) project in an effort to serve families of refugees and displaced persons. Thus, Croatia became the seventeenth nation to host an RYS project. This latest project was the 43rd since the inauguration of RYS in 1985.

The RYS has proven to be an effective way to model religious cooperation by extracting a commitment from the youth of all faiths and cultures to offer unconditional service to those in need. RYS has visibly demonstrated its model of building "world peace through religious service," and in so doing has been a great force for goodness and transformation.

The prolonged conflict, ethnic cleansing and eruptive instability that resulted from the breakup of the former Yugoslavia has resulted in nine percent of the people in Croatia becoming either refugees or displaced persons. This situation has placed heavy burdens on both the national government and international relief organizations serving the population.

Fully aware of the region's political instability and its potential for violence, RYS participants arrived in the Croatian capital of Zagreb at a time when the nation was on the brink of a renewal of the war. The participants came with the hopes that they would take the responsibility to offer what they could, rather than wait and lament at home.

Personal reflections on the Croatian project

Participants who arrived at the airport in Zagreb were quickly exposed to the effects of the region's on-going conflict as they saw fleets of United Nations trucks lined up and waiting for their release to depart. These goodwill deliveries were often delayed, while drivers patiently waited for favorable negotiations which would increase the likelihood of a safe delivery of critically needed supplies

to Sarajevo and other conflict zones.

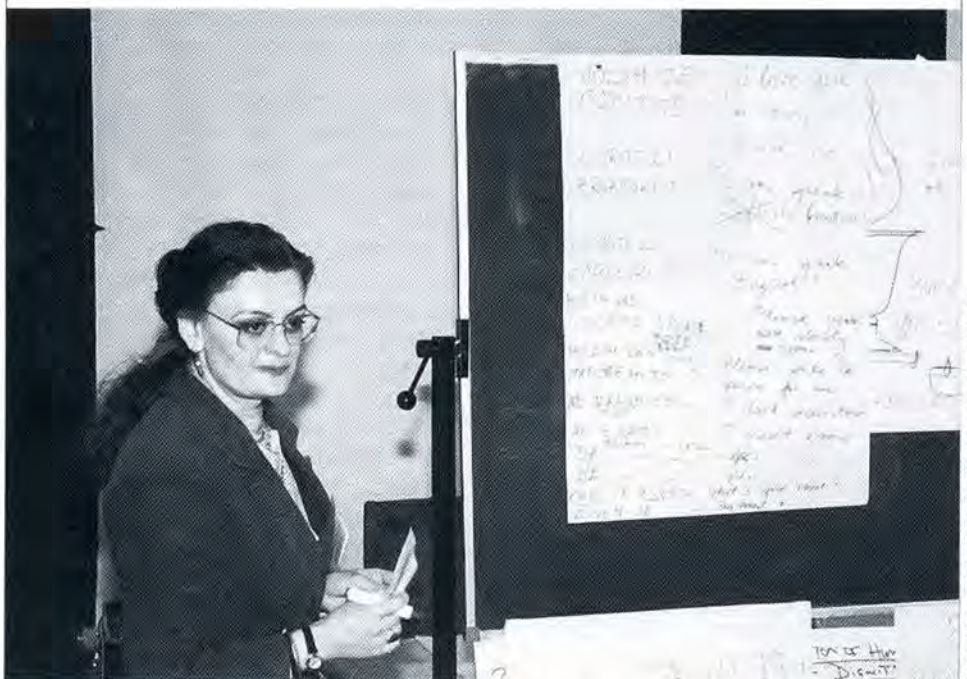
While waiting to be picked up at the rather small but clean international airport, I traced back the chain of events that led to the RYS coming to Croatia. This particular project emerged largely out of the efforts of RYS alumni who came to know of the war through the eyes of one of its victims, Mirta Spear, and the support she received from a key advisor, Dr. Vera Mehta.

Though accustomed to the images of pain and suffering being flashed into our living room through the passive medium of television, many of us harbor an unfulfilled desire to do something for the innocent victims of war. The images and faces of war all have their stories; yet, for the stories to move us to action, they need to be grounded in a reality to which we can relate. In the summer of 1994, during the RYS project in Turkey, we learned first-hand the story of one of the war's victims, a fellow participant and friend, Mirta Spear.

Mirta's story was shared during the closing days of our work together in Turkey. She had lost her home, her livelihood, suffered physically and had seen many close to her die or become damaged by the wanton violence of exploding mines. Many of the participants decided that RYS should respond to the needs of those refugees in Croatia, and soon after began to make concrete plans on how to carry out a successful project.

A key link in the chain of events that led to the reality of an RYS project in Croatia is the personal initiative and responsibility taken by people who had a vision of what could be done and their ability to cooperate and compromise with other like-minded people. This spirit of strong cooperation existed between the International Relief Friendship Foundation (IRFF), the Inter-Religious Federation for World Peace (IRFWP) and the RYS alumni of North London University.

The people in these organizations were able to solicit and secure the support and



Mirta Spear teaches preparatory sessions at the RYS. The story of the loss of her home inspired RYS to come to Croatia.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF JOHN GEHRING

cooperation of key officials in the government of Croatia, as well as active leaders in United Nations relief efforts.

The IRFF has, in the past five years, laid a foundation for the work of the Croatian RYS project through the efforts of its chapters in Austria and Italy. Mr. Eckhart Riehl of Austria and Mr. Massimo Trombin of Italy have, over the years, been bringing goods to Croatia, earning the respect of key officials and those receiving aid. When the RYS requested to work with refugees in Croatia, the IRFF had already been actively supplying a refugee camp in the city of Varazdin with fish powder and other material goods. The IRFF had also supplied a local hospital in Varazdin with nearly one million dollars of equipment and supplies.

From England, IRFWP representatives Mr. Marshall D'Souza and Rev. B. Ananda Mangala, a Buddhist monk and student union vice president, shared responsibilities with the highly motivated RYS alumni from North London University in creating an RYS-Croatia project planning team. These students and recent graduates raised funds, goods, and interest for the project through a series of fundraising activities. Their efforts were rewarded by the Vice Chancellor of the university whose office donated 1,000 pounds and also lent a university-owned, seventeen-passenger bus to drive to the project.

RYS education program

How do you prepare young, idealistic people to enter the lives of refugees who



PHOTO: COURTESY OF JOHN GEHRING

A gathering of the RYS participants for morning service.

have gone through experiences that are often beyond our imagination? The human dimension of the refugees' situation and possible responses were an added educational element at this RYS program. Because of this factor, RYS invited a wide variety of speakers who were deeply involved in working with displaced people and refugees, including staff from the camp in which we would do service.

Guests from several non-government organizations (NGO's) shared the realistic situation of both refugees and volunteer workers. Possible ways to build a

relationship with those we were to work with was discussed in lectures and in teams while pointers of things to avoid were also outlined.

As part of the two and a half day orientation, United Nations representatives shared what their role has been in Croatia, with a special focus on the efforts they have been making with regard to displaced persons and refugees. From these presentations there also came much practical advice concerning some of the typical situations we could expect to encounter at the camp.

A key figure in the Croatian government, Dr. Adalbert Rebic, Minister of Refugees and Displaced Persons, gave us the view of the government on the current situation of refugees in the country. National television and radio covered this meeting, and other developments of our stay in Croatia, on the evening news. Dr. Rebic's participation was especially valuable since, as a Roman Catholic priest, he could take part in the public IRFWP forum in Zagreb and share his personal and religious perspectives.

As part of the participants' introduction to religious issues, we were invited to take part in an IRFWP panel presentation at a Jewish community center in Zagreb. During this meeting, representatives of several faiths shared what they felt was the best aspect that their faith contributed to the creation of a peaceful world. Religious awareness was also enhanced through the daily morning prayer and meditation services given by participants of each faith. An educational session on the issue "What is my spiritual motivation for service" provided an op-



Dr. Vera Mehta lectures to the students to prepare them to work with the refugees.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF JOHN GEHRING



Sony Ndu of Nigeria holds a refugee from the camp.

portunity for participants to reflect on their inner motives for giving service.

Educational programs were enriched by the active role taken by the advisors. Seasoned veterans of many international programs, their character and experience was able to create a wide range of programs capable of enriching participants in multiple ways. Dr. Vera Mehta, who has worked with the UN in Sarajevo, helped organize programs that dealt with refugees. Dr. Sherry Hartman-Burr, of the University of Southern Mississippi, led four sessions which were focused on leadership training, while Dr. Frank Kaufmann, IRFWP director, moderated the IRFWP panels in Zagreb and later in Varazdin. Dr. Darrol Bryant, IRFWP secretary-general, led the RYS in a "Pilgrimage of Life" during the program's closing days.

As part of the schedule, participants were given time, during the orientation, to sightsee in Zagreb where they toured cultural and religious places of interest.

Reflections on working at the Varazdin camp

After the orientation concluded on April 10, the RYS participants traveled through the green countryside to reach the striking, historic city of Varazdin.

Housing at Varazdin was donated by a school which offered us its clean, newly refurbished facility. The school, which serves learning-disabled children, was kept far better than most schools in the United States. This was where we were to stay for the upcoming week's work while the children were on Easter vacation.

After unpacking, we left the school by bus to attend a welcoming program at the camp where we were to work. This camp of 750 occupants was just one of many in the city. On entering the camp, our bus was spotted and tracked by anxious children, racing on foot or on bicycle, following and leading the bus at what seemed to be a dangerously close distance.

To enter the auditorium, we needed to pass through a smoke-filled hall that was mostly filled with men too familiar with waiting. Our eyes met the faces of men

for whom enthusiasm had become a distant memory and whose hopes had often shrunk to receiving an extra portion of cigarettes. Yet, we could sense that we were a relief to them, representing a newness to what had become the stale routine of a monotonous daily existence.

The auditorium filled with men and women of all ages although there were few men of fighting age. The little children were dressed simply and were warmly embraced by their mothers.

As newcomers, we could sense the weight of despair which was often left unspoken. We saw the unsettling realization that there is no home to go back to, nor a vision of the future for which to strive.

Older children, spirited, with a more than average streak of independence, waited noisily. The program began with the normal fair of speakers from the camp joined by speakers from RYS.

The atmosphere in the auditorium changed when the RYS representatives were asked to stand. Twenty-two nations were called one by one. As words such as India, Nigeria, Mongolia, Kenya, France and Malta came out of the speaker's mouth, it became more and more clear

to those in the auditorium that many corners of the world were sending their young people to be with them. For the young, there was a new intensity in the excitement while the older people could feel more deeply that they were not yet forgotten.

Entertainment followed the speeches. RYS participants contributed various acts, but the highlight performance came from the team of Cathy from Austria and Bil from Mongolia. They performed an up-tempo dance drama in three acts that had everyone clapping. The Croatian entertainment came from an incredible, professional dance troupe which, in thirty minutes, conveyed a sense of the richness of history and culture of the area as well as its awareness of the contemporary. The musicians played Elvis Presley tunes, as well as traditional court-ning songs. A good time was surely had by all.

The following damp, chilly morning, participants were divided into four work teams and began the physical labor for which they had been preparing. One team scrapped, plastered and painted the halls and apartment interiors of a large building. Each apartment had one very large room that was used to house three or four families. A second team worked alongside, painting these apartments, but also fixing the public laundry rooms and toilets. A third team painted rooms that were to be used as children's nurseries and repaired toilet fixtures. The fourth team scrapped and painted the large dining room where camp residents took their common meals.

The work in the Varazdin camp, with its population largely composed of Bosnian Muslims, provided us with an opportunity to transcend our daily routines and enter into a realm of profound

sharing. Each of us has a personal memory of the faces and stories of the children with fathers and brothers on the front, the widows and grieving mothers, the infants. We can all recall the silent, sullen atmosphere prevalent in the camp when we arrived.

As newcomers, we could sense the weight of despair which was often left unspoken. We could see the reality of war: destroyed homes, shattered communities, divided families, bitter questions. We saw

the unsettling realization that there is no home to go back to, nor a vision of the future for which to strive. We all asked ourselves the question, "What could we possibly do to help?"

RYS is an experience full of images. Often these images are drawn from the mouths of the innocent. We heard the story of an older woman who has been waiting for three years to be reunited with her husband and two sons on the front. She befriended us and took some of us in as if we were her own children. She shared with us some simple words describing reality more profoundly than the pens of great philosophers. "While you from the RYS are here I can, for the first time, forget about the war."

This temporary respite, that the RYS offered to the inhabitants of the Varazdin camp, seemed to parallel the respite that the country received from the war. Soon after we left Croatia, Zagreb was struck by a rocket attack and the fighting raged once again.

Closing days

Upon finishing our work portion of the project, the RYS participants concluded with a more reflective time. The organizers discovered a fishing resort area called Trakoscan which was, in many



Croatian dancers at the entertainment.

ways, an idyllic location for our closing days. On approaching the hotel, the participants were greeted with the sight of a large castle on a wooded hill and a lively stream that cut through the fields and woods.

If one ventured into the woods, one could notice the swaying of the multi-color patches of fresh flowers while being serenaded by the various melodies of a wide variety of songbirds. Nature seemed to reflect a happiness over the fresh breath of spring and the fact that this was a most holy and special Easter.

Programming during the closing days was less frequent and more informal. It was designed to give participants a chance to review some of the things they had learned during this project, plan what they wished to do on returning home and make written commitments.

One of the highlights of this period was a long walk through the countryside made by all the participants. Under the guidance of Dr. Darrol Bryant, we paused at various stations and were given spiritual themes to reflect on. This "Pilgrimage of Life" helped the participants to examine their lives and sharpen

their vertical commitment to become the kind of person they hope to become.

Our closing dinner was a time to award graduation certificates to the participants, staff members and a handful of officials who had played an important role in making the RYS feel so welcomed in Croatia. The atmosphere of an extended family prevailed. Soon thereafter we needed to say our goodbyes. There was an air of unreality when we said our farewells, because for many of us it seemed more like the "until we meet again" you say to a favorite cousin.

Some have said that the RYS is like a prayer answered. Our prayers today are that the spirit of this project, a spirit of reconciliation and forgiveness, can take root in the hearts and minds of the people. We hope that by planting the RYS model into the soil of this land the many good people that live there can choose it as a guide rather than repeat the failed habits of the past. It is becoming ever clearer that world peace can be attained only when the religions of the world commit themselves to the service of others.

Those who have worked on an RYS project have tasted the beauty of selfless service. They are also keenly aware of the power and potential for goodness that religious cooperation holds out to the world. RYS models the mindset and behavior that are required for true peace to become a living reality. Those that take part in this experiment are truly pioneering the way to a hopeful future. ■■

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RYS participants painting the halls—part of the restoration work done on the residents' apartments.

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Do you absolutely need 160 families to inherit all that the True Parents and God have victoriously accomplished? Now you understand the importance of tribal messiahship. Without it you cannot follow me or enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Without it you cannot liberate yourselves from the satanic world. Regardless of the difficulties involved, you must overcome them and accomplish tribal messiahship. Only when you fulfill the tribal messiahship of 160 families are you qualified to register for admission into the Kingdom of Heaven.

Reverend Sun Myung Moon

March 5, 1995