

TODAY'S

WORLD

DECEMBER 1997



**38TH TRUE CHILDREN'S DAY SPEECH
BLESSING '97 COLOR PHOTOS**



Message from the Publisher

Reverend Chung Hwan Kwak

Blessing '97 Ceremony Address

November 29, 1997
RFK Stadium
Washington, DC.

Brides, bridegrooms, and couples from 185 nations around the world, parents, friends and honored guests participating in this Holy Blessing Ceremony. I greet you here in Washington, DC and in all nations through satellite video.

The Blessing, a festival that seeks to build a world of true love and culture of heart centering on God and True Parents, is the central event of the World Culture and Sports Festival.

Reverend and Mrs. Sun Myung Moon first announced the World Culture and Sports Festival during the Seoul Olympics in 1988. Since then the World Culture and Sports Festival was held in 1992 and 1995 as the comprehensive festival for humanity. This marks the third time this remarkable event is taking place. This event is hosted and welcomed by the city government of Washington DC. As chairman of the Organizing Committee for this Festival, I would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Honorable Mayor Marion Barry and the citizens of Washington, DC.

As we enter the new millennium, humanity is facing a serious turning point. Technology and science have enabled human life to become ever more convenient and comfortable externally. Internally, however, never have we confronted such a serious challenge in human history. The degradation of morality and ethics, especially with regard to sexual conduct; the breakdown of family; violence and drugs; the decadence of youth; the spread of AIDS; and other problems threaten the very existence of humankind.

All approaches, such as legislative, educational, and even religious efforts to solve these threats confronting humanity have fallen short. They fail to provide fundamental solutions.

The very basis for our personality and character are formed in the family. Immorality and decadence cannot take root in a society firmly grounded in the presence of spiritually mature parents and ideal families. The central teaching of Reverend Moon is that the fundamental solution to bring about a world of happiness

and peace is found quite simply in true families.

Family is the starting point and foundation of love, personality and life. The Principle of Creation teaches us that we are born from the cradle of our family through the love of our parents. We come to perfect ourselves as beings of love beginning as children who gradually grow to the positions of spouse, parent and grandparent. Ultimately, we pass to the spiritual world in the midst of love from our descendants. Family, therefore, is the most precious hearth of the human love and life. It is more important than all value systems and ideologies as well as of all policies and social systems.

Human sin and misfortune began when the original ancestors committed an illicit act of love centering on Satan's false love. They did so without God's blessing, and therefore, failed to become true persons, true spouses and true parents centering on God's love. Instead they became a false couple and false parents bearing children of sin. The original human ancestors can not spawn a good humanity because of the fall. We are all descendants of these false parents.

Restoring all this back to the original ideal is God's dispensation of salvation. This is why humanity ultimately welcomes True Parents because they represent the origin and standard of true love. They are the source of the Blessing, and thus, the source of ideal families.

The Blessing which began with three couples in 1960 has grown and grown. There were thirty thousand couples blessed in 1992 and 360 thousand couples in 1995. Immediately after the 1995 event, Reverend Sun Myung Moon announced the 1997 goal of 3.6 million couples.

When hearing that, people simply could not believe their ears. That goal, however, was accomplished by July 15 (this year) and an additional ten fold. Thirty six million couples are now participating together with us at this very Blessing event. These nearly 80 million people are the leading force in this festival. They transcend national, religious and cultural barriers and strike a light before a human history scarred with innumerable conflicts and wars caused by

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Front Cover: True Parents sprinkle holy water upon representative couples during the main Blessing ceremony of the 39. 6 Million Couples at RFK Stadium in Washington DC, November 29, 1997. (Photo: Korean Cultural Foundation, courtesy Julian Gray)

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38TH TRUE CHILDREN'S DAY

Let Us Fulfill the Victorious Realm of True Children

REV. SUN MYUNG MOON
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1997
BELVEDERE INTERNATIONAL TRAINING CENTER

Translator: Peter Hyo Yul Kim

Is there any non-Korean volunteer to read the topic this morning? "*Cham Janyuh-e Seungni-gwon-eul Wansung-haja.*" In English, *cham ja-nyuh-e* means: of true children; *seung-ni-gwon* means: victorious realm, or realm of victory; *wan-sung-haja* means: let's complete or fulfill. Thus, the title in English is: "Let Us Fulfill the Victorious Realm of True Children." What does this mean?

There are billions of people in the world. Whose children are they? [Satan's.] That's correct. Have you seen Satan? If you say you have not seen Satan, how can you claim to be his children? Christians may claim they are children of God. Let's ask those Christians who claim to be children of God if they see God. Do they? They cannot. The same principle applies in both cases.

We have to know one thing clearly: the relationship between parent and child is through blood lineage. We all have a father and mother, don't we? We are all born through our physical father and mother. At the moment of birth our blood lineage is established. Without that we cannot claim to be the children of our parents.

We all know that the spirit world exists, but have you seen it? Let's say there are two pairs of parents, the physical parents in this physical world, and spiritual parents in the spirit world. We live in

this physical world, but when at the end of our physical life we are elevated into the invisible spirit world, there we will meet our invisible parents. How do you like it?

We all have parents, but do you only want to receive love from your parents, or do you want to return love back to them? This is the parent and child relationship. We all want to have a give and take relationship of love with our parents, but the problem is, we do not see God or Satan. Then how can we establish this give and take of love with God or even with Satan, both of whom are invisible? So we can conclude that we have two sets of parents. However among us as we pass into the spirit world, those who belong to God will go to the Kingdom of God, while those who belong to Satan will go to hell. That is the difference.

Do we all know the existence of heaven and hell? So again there is a problem. From where do these concepts of heaven and hell originate? Where were they originally divided; between the invisible beings, God and Satan, or between the physical parents in this physical world?

THE ORIGIN OF LOVE

How do you think love started? Was it between human beings or was it between human beings and God? It is true that love did not

originate only among people but in relation to either of one of the two spiritual parents, God or Satan. So again the question is, with whom was humankind's love relationship established to begin with: God or Satan? Both are invisible and claim to be the parent of humankind. You shout Satan, but have you seen Satan? This is a fundamental question which Christianity has to face and solve. Do you think there is some logic behind the fact that there was an illicit love relationship between the spiritual self-proclaimed father, Satan, and human beings, through eating the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil? We know that humankind took a wrong turn to begin with. Originally people were supposed to build a love relationship only with God, but the spiritual being Satan started the relationship of love with human beings by giving them the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Do you think love started with a literal fruit, or with something else? Because Satan built a love relationship with humankind, we became the



Photo: Ken Owens/NFP

Father addresses leaders at East Garden following the True Children's Day Pledge Service

*The seed of the problems of youth and the family was
sown in the Garden of Eden. Therefore in order to
restore that original position we have to go the
reverse course in these Last Days.*

children of Satan.

Did you witness this? Suppose mankind had originally built a love relationship with God alone; would there still have been a satanic father figure? Then what is the meaning of the human fall? It can be described as the loss of the love relationship which humankind was supposed to establish.

THE CORRECT UNDERSTANDING OF THE FALL

What is the reality? Were Adam and Eve chased out from the Garden of Eden after or before they had children? If you say before, then after they were expelled from the Garden of Eden do you think God was involved in their having children, or was Satan involved? [Satan.] Therefore we can easily conclude that the fall took place because of an illicit love relationship. Furthermore, we have to know that all people as descendants of Adam and Eve received a satanic blood lineage. Still, most Christians believe that the human fall actually occurred because of eating a physical fruit of the knowledge of good and evil.

No matter how many fruits you consume throughout your life, is there any logic indicating that lineage can be involved in the eating of fruit? The descendants of Adam and Eve all have original sin. This original sin has been passed all the way down to our generation without any exception through lineage. Without considering this problem of lineage, can we claim that the human fall took place through eating an acutal fruit? Was the first president of your country, George Washington, connected to God's lineage or satanic lineage? If because he was the first president we all respect him who was connected to satanic lineage, who will be happy, God or Satan?

What about the 240 million people of America: are they all connected to God's lineage or to Satan's lineage? Then whose country is it? [Satan's.] You say America belongs to Satan because of this lineage problem, yet America became the strongest superpower in the world, and many times it uses all kinds of tactics, including sometimes weapons and threats, in order to try to dominate the world. Whose tactics are these? Who do you think controls America in that direction, God or Satan?

American people are in that situation, as well as the rest of the people in the world, but what about you?

SOLVING FAMILY PROBLEMS

What kind of people are gathered here? [Unification members.] What is the purpose of Unification Church members? Does unification mean separation or unity? What kind of unity are you talking about: unity between the black race and the white race, unity only among white people, unity between the yellow and white races? What kind of unification are you talking about? [Among all races.]

But not all Americans want to see the unity of all people, so this connects them to Satan's side. Satan hates to see unification taking place. American people want to see the collapse of unifying activity. That is why Unification Church members receive persecution. Why? Satan's side is different from the Unification Church, which connects with God's side. Satan's side is continually beating God's side from the individual to the cosmic level in order to tear it down. These two sides are standing in completely different places, one in the ideal world and the other in hell. The purpose of God's side is

to clean up hell on this earth, then to clean up the spiritual hell. The Unification Church is that kind of ideal, central place. Is this Unification Church good or bad? Why is it good? Because it is connected with God eternally, cleansing individuals, families, tribes, nations, all humankind, centered on the blessed family, from Satan's blood lineage.

Because of the invasion of Satan beginning with Adam and Eve, all the young people of the world are eventually falling, causing the destruction of the family system. The outside world cannot solve this most important and most difficult problem relating to youth and the family. Why? The seed of this problem of family breakdown and the immorality of youth was sown in the Garden of Eden, and now is the harvest time when all over the world these problems are re-appearing. No other power can solve this; only by connecting with true, God-centered love can we return to the original place. So you have to do this as God's true children. Without true children Satan's world cannot be saved. Do you understand? Without true children the world formed by Satan's children cannot be broken down.

At this end time Satan's world is losing all power to lead, resulting in family breakdown and youth problems. America cannot stand as a strong nation in the future if it is beset with these kinds of problems. Is there any occurrence of homosexuality in the animal world? Absolutely not. Satan caused this result in the human world. You must clearly understand this. What kind of armaments does Satan use? Hatred, fighting, world wars, alcohol, drugs, free sex are Satan's strong armament against God's ideal world. The people of the world are unaware of this, but Unification Church members understand this clearly, don't you? This understanding is the source of unification power which no force of Satan can break down.

The seed of the problems of youth and the family was sown in the Garden of Eden. Therefore in order to restore that original position we have to go the reverse course in these Last Days. That is why we have to work with the family unit and the youth. Our catch phrase is absolute sex, which is pure love. We campaign for absolute sex for the sake of absolute love, which is unique, eternal and unchanging love.

Love is the key. The human fall took place and human history became the history of fallen human beings because of false love. Therefore we have to find absolute, true love. Catholics and Protestants may still link the fall to the consumption of a literal fruit, but this does not explain the lineage problem, the problem of original sin. The essence of the original sin is that of the worst lineage. All fallen humankind is connected to this worst lineage; your blood is connected to Satan's blood, your body and your bones are connected to Satan's blood.

CORRECTING THE PROBLEM OF THE FALL

How can we correct this situation? The process of engrafting must take place. For this reason Jesus Christ came as the True Parent of humankind with a pure lineage from God. All humanity was supposed to cut off their lineage from Satan and be engrafted to Jesus' lineage, which is God's lineage. Is this clear?

The people of the fallen world like to go after things that excite the body, for example, drinking and dancing all night. This is due to belonging to Satan's lineage. This kind of pursuit of bodily pleasure

Every person will be able to feel proud of their home, sweet home which even God will visit...

is like kissing Satan all the time. That is why people even go to such extremes as the practice of free sex. Is this the kind of love God likes to see? God will spit at it. Because God did not want to see this kind of fallen world, through religion He has encouraged people to leave their homes and live a life of celibacy, so that they could stay away from fallen activity. Leaving home means to cut off from Satan's lineage and world.

God has worked continuously throughout the history of restoration progressing from the individual to the worldwide level. We have witnessed the division between the atheistic side represented by the Communist world, and the theistic side represented by the free world; but once God sees that more than half of humanity belongs to God's world, God can clean up this world at once.

Then what is the borderline? The theistic world is one side and the atheistic world the other. At what point, conceptually speaking, did these two worlds divide? Between man and woman, plus and minus. What is the essence of the family? To begin with the family is two people, husband and wife. The relationship between man and woman is the key. Because that relationship was not set up properly, this world became the fallen world. The answer is clear. If there is pure, absolute, eternal unity in the relationship between husband and wife you are guaranteed to experience eternal peace. But once that relationship is broken, your peace is taken away too.

How many people were there in the Garden of Eden? [Two.] Were they two men, two women or a man and a woman? The problem is always in the relationship between man and woman. The world became like a broken machine because of the broken relationship between the male and female human beings. They became the worst kind of animals. God feared those two animals and also Satan feared them. How can we convert these worst kind of animals into beings who are ideal from God's viewpoint? Do you think it will be easier to convert these worst animals into the most ideal beings than it was to create the original Adam and Eve, or more difficult? How much more difficult?

Scientists say that human history goes back about 25 million years. But throughout these 25 million years God could not find even one single male, Adam figure whom God could completely trust and love, who was related to God alone. Can we conclude then that there is no possibility even for God to find such an original, restored Adam? It is logically a prerequisite for an Adam figure to be restored first so that an Eve figure may then be restored.

THE IDEAL OF MARRIAGE

What do you think "the marriage of the lamb" means? It means finding such original Adam and Eve figures, bringing them up to the level of perfection and having them go through this marriage. Christians must understand this. Suppose because God could not find the perfect Adam and Eve figures He set fire to this world and burnt it to ash so that no life remained. This would mean God had failed because of Satan. Do you think this is what God wants? Absolutely no forever; never, never.

You ladies, if you were to find such a perfect Adam figure, would you want him to become your husband? [Yes.] Even just



True Parents pose at the Armory Exhibition Hall In Washington, DC, 11/97

Photo: Korean Cultural Foundation

thinking about it you feel so much joy and excitement. If you truly find that kind of ideal, God-loving husband or God-loving wife, would the sound of your joining be louder than thunder and lightning or quieter? What is the actual meaning of lightning and thunder? It is the marriage of different parts of nature. That is true!

That kind of power of love will reflect all over the world at once, making everything clear and lighting the world. With this kind of love power we can see and completely understand everything. Once we are eternally connected with this kind of power of love we can feel, my home, how wonderful it is. God will dwell in this core place, with the husband and wife who are completely connected through love. This is the atmosphere of the ideal of creation. Do you understand? Do you want this? Once having stood on Satan's side and having broken away from it, how wonderful that kind of home will be which will never fall down, no matter what comes against it. Every person will be able to feel proud of their home sweet home which even God will visit, and also the angels. At that time all humankind will feel proud. This is the authority and power which God has given humanity.

DEVELOPING MIND/BODY UNITY

Because of the mistake of the first man and woman the entire world was divided in two. Plus represents man, and minus woman, or Adam and Eve. This is the very place where Satan sewed the seed of evil. To eliminate this evil we have to return to the original place and clean it up. Do you agree? Even within ourselves we have the elements of plus and minus, within both man and woman. The mind is plus and the body minus. Do you think that God originally created human beings in such a way that the mind and body would unite automatically or not? If God is the cause then humankind as the result should resemble God. Do you think God has mind and body? Have you seen Him? Since we who are children of God have mind and body we can say therefore God must have mind and body also. Do you think God, who is a being of absolute unity between mind and body, and who created humankind with mind and body will be happy when He sees that they have mind and body absolutely united together centered on a lineage of true love, or not? Yes, naturally and automatically, forever. However there is evidence that we did not receive God's lineage. That evidence is that we all struggle within ourselves between mind and body.

Those who can claim they have absolutely no struggle between mind and body, raise your hands. No one? Can you still claim to be children of God, or do you have nothing to do with God? This is a serious matter. We must understand this battle between mind and

True children are those who in the Last Days completely cut off from the lineage of Satan and also completely stay away from the problem of immorality. These are the ones who reveal the structure of the original family desired by God.

body has been going on for millions of years, ever since the time of Adam and Eve, and there is the potential that this battle could continue for generation after generation into the future. It is a war for which human beings have never found a truce throughout history. Thus every person is doomed to hell. The secular world is a world of desperation. It is hell. There is no construction; only destruction. We must be able to find those people who will raise both hands and make an absolute pledge to follow for eternity the person who will save humanity from this destruction.

God sent the Messiah to stop this battle between mind and body. By what means? With weapons and threats? With truth, the truth of true love: *Cham sarang-e jinli*. Because human history deviated as a result of false love, true love is the only power which can correct this route.

We have to put the body through a course of indemnity in order to eventually find the right course. Those who do not want to follow that course show your hands. Those who want to go this course, raise your hands. You are all greedy! When you were in the secular world, not knowing what Rev. Moon was teaching, you were all laughing and pointing your finger at me, and maybe in some cases even cursing me to die. But once you came and understood the truth you are really inspired when you hear this kind of teaching, aren't you?

HOW GOD SEES THE WORLD

Then whose side do you want to be on? Rev. Moon's side or God's side? [Laughter.] Don't laugh. This is a very important question for which you need to know the answer. In the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve fell, did God embrace them or kick them out? In the Bible it says God chased Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden. God is the same God now as then, and humankind today are the descendants of Adam and Eve. Do you think God has the courage to embrace these children of the fallen Adam and Eve? What do you think God would do? Even though Adam fell, he still had his conscience. Also since God created Adam, there was some remnant of his original blood lineage within him. But after millions of years, there is no longer any trace within us which connects us to God or belongs to Him. God chased Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden right after their fall, so do you think God will embrace you at this point, or will He kick you away even further?

As we reach the end of the world, the Last Days, God looks at this world and finds nothing but misery; there is no hope. At the same time, Satan looks around and sees no way ahead for him, no way to the right, the left or behind. He sees that through the Blessing, Rev. Moon has built a fortress family by family, so that he cannot retreat. Satan is also facing the end of the world. He has only two choices; either to fly upward, or to go down into a bottomless hell of total darkness.

Satan is having such a problem too, now. Originally as you know Satan was not supposed to seduce Adam and Eve to fall. He was supposed to support Adam and Eve and educate them so that they could grow up and finally marry. However, although through the mistake he made as the archangel he became Satan, he still has this original desire. So now because Satan is faced with no hope, God punches Satan and says, "Satan, you became a miserable being, too; what would you do now?" Then Satan would also punch God

and say, "You too"! So who is going to save whom?

The human race contracted a terminal disease. What is it? First of all the fallen blood lineage, second the problem of illicit love among young people, and third the destruction of the family system. So God will say to Satan, "Look, we are facing all of these problems together. Who can solve these problems? It is Rev. Moon, who is still in the physical world." These diseases were caused by the false parents, therefore Rev. Moon came as the True Parent who can change everything and turn it right side up, 180 degrees opposite to Satan's direction. Once you turn 180 degrees from your present position that is the direction of heaven. The same principle applies to all the problems of young people and the family. Amen

ENDING THE SATANIC LINEAGE

Amen means number one man, not woman. Why? The fallen world was made by woman, therefore recreation and restoration is by man, the number one man. When women all over the world follow this number one man, we can absolutely find the family which is the essence of the ideal world. God and the true family appear there. We want to make that kind of true family atmosphere. Those who want to reach this ideal are Unification members. Aren't they? [Yes!]

We must terminate the satanic lineage. In your own life, at what age do you think you need to terminate this satanic lineage: as a teenager, or at age forty, or eighty, or after you die? [As a teenager.] Satan has sewn seeds all over the world to break down human beings in their teenage years through free sexual activity. This is the problem.

Because of this problem which took place when Adam and Eve were teenagers, Adam's family was destroyed. What is the meaning of true children? True children are those who in the Last Days completely cut off from the lineage of Satan and also completely stay away from the problem of immorality. These are the ones who reveal the structure of the original family desired by God. But again, these true children cannot be produced unless they go through the True Parents. They have to be absolutely, 100 percent united with True Parents. That way they can inherit True Parents lineage, which is God's lineage. This is the true meaning of the Blessing of the Unification Church. In order to become a family of true children united with True Parents, through the blessing we have to cut off the satanic blood. We must absolutely stay away from the problem of youthful immorality and we must reconstruct the ideal, heavenly family system. Once you receive the blessing, your descendants do not need to practice any religion whatsoever. They will have a superhighway to heaven with no obstacles.

Do you have children? Those who are blessed couples, raise your hands. Do you have such children who can go to heaven directly? [To a brother who responded "Yes":] Do you ever think of yourself as an American citizen? [No.] Have you forgotten all of your college education? [Yes.] Even your elementary education? [Yes.] Have you forgotten all of your friends and relatives, even your parents? [Laughter; the brother was silent.] It takes absolute denial and negation. Even if there is one thread of evidence that you are connected to the satanic world you cannot claim to be absolute children.

In conclusion, the division between heaven and hell takes place within ourselves. The mind belongs to the public and the body to the individual. We may say that Satan is the king of extreme individualism and privacy.

RESTORING THE VERTICAL CONCEPT

Do you think English is the language God originally intended to give Adam and Eve to speak? Or did this language emerge after the fall of man somewhere along the course of history out of convenience? English is a dirty, complicated language. There is no vertical hierarchy in English. "You" is used to address everyone—your father, your king, even your dog. What kind of vertical concept is there?

Absolute love is connected with this kind of vertical concept which the western world does not have. It is a big problem. In many instances the cultural traditions and habits of the western world can be described as animal-like in comparison with Oriental traditions. For example shaking hands in greeting compared with bowing; writing left to right and horizontally vs. right to left and vertically; sleeping face down instead of face-up. In the western world the hand signal calling someone to come to you is a taking sort of gesture, while the Oriental gesture reflects a posture of giving.

All of the thoughts which have appeared to save humankind have come out of the Orient. All of the four major religious leaders—Jesus, Buddha, Mohammed and Confucius—came from the Oriental world. Thinking and action in the western world are based on analysis of the physical world, but it is the world of the mind which connects with God's vertical world. No matter how famous western culture is now and how proud, expecting all of the world to follow it, it is the end of this period. No one knew this, but then Rev. Moon came, connecting these two sides, lifting up both and making unification all over the globe.

Many western brothers have asked me to give them Oriental wives, maybe because of those reasons. That leaves western women no choice but to receive Oriental husbands. Originally, your husband was supposed to be like your king; but because you somehow lost your king-like husband you have to receive a servant-like husband.

Because of the division between mind and body the history of humanity has been tragic. Unless you learn from Rev. Moon how to deal with your struggle between mind and body you do not have any way to overcome it. Only because you have studied Divine Principle and been convinced by it, and because you keep learning from me, you are improving yourself step by step to overcome this struggle.

Do you think Rev. Moon is an interesting person? Would you be happy with Rev. Moon even if you met him in the dark night, in daylight, even in a 100 degree tropical area, or in a place where you have to carry out a prayer vigil every day even skipping breakfast, like the Korean leaders did this morning? [Yes!] Why? In your mind, in your conscience you all know, regardless of your sex, race or age, that the only way you can be saved is by believing in Rev. Moon and receiving the marriage blessing from him.

GAINING DOMINION OVER THE BODY

The plus figure Adam and the minus figure Eve became divided within themselves between plus and minus, or mind and body, which then fought within them. Originally human beings were supposed to become one centering on God, however, it is as if two peo-

ple are fighting against each other within every individual. Originally the mind was to be the temple of God and was not to carry out any kind of evil whatsoever, but because of bodily desire we are always getting trapped. In the struggle between mind and body, the body usually wins. This is because while the mind was growing up through Adam and Eve to reach perfection, just before the level of perfection the power of satanic love intervened through bodily desire and overcame the power of the mind. That is why Satan remains in a position of greater power.

When we look at the secular world, once man and woman fall in love, even though they believe if they go this way they may die, they still go even though their mind is resisting. The only way to put a brake on bodily desire has been through religion, which usually encouraged and emphasized sacrifice of the body through service and negation of self. Religions have taught people to sacrifice even to the degree of becoming martyrs. Based on absolute faith in God, such people sacrificed their very lives for God. Therefore, Jesus Christ gave us the paradoxical teaching that those who seek to live will die, while those who are willing to give their life will find it. Jesus also said that the members of our own family would become the enemy who would stop us from entering heaven. That is why Jesus taught his followers to love him more than anyone else.

Jesus showed us clearly that we have to somehow push our body all the way down and follow the heavenly way. This is because the body is like a military bastion which is secured by Satan. Do you understand? Originally, our mind was in the position of plus, but because Satan came in as a second plus there is trouble. That is why we have to erase this second plus and replace it with the original minus. It is a continual process that has to be carried out from the individual level plus and minus all the way to the final stage.

In conclusion, the division between heaven and hell takes place within ourselves. The mind belongs to the public and the body to the individual. We may say that Satan is the king of extreme individualism and privacy. Looking at the nation of America, is it a public-minded nation or is it full of selfish individualism? Is America hell or heaven?

CORRECTING INDIVIDUALISM

What is meant by individualism? Individualistic people are totally focused on their own situation no matter what happens around them. Such people lose their family, nation and world and are left alone, still claiming individualism. What is the public way of life? In the public life, the husband gives love to his wife, the wife gives love to their children, the children to the neighbors in the community, the community to the nation and the nation to the world, so that all humanity is like one family. But through an individualistic way of life everyone becomes like an enemy to all others. People are divided and there is no relationship of true love. If this is the present situation in America, do you think America is doomed to perish or to prosper? It will automatically perish. Without the intervention of some "third" power America will automatically fall down into the dungeons of hell. America has caused the spread of AIDS and free sex throughout the world. Everything which has been influenced by America in this way, all of those families,

*Since the declaration of the Realm of Cosmic Sabbath for the
Parents of Heaven and Earth, God can come down to the family
level all over the world... Through this we will eliminate the
satanic lineage and build the Kingdom of God on earth.*

nations, and creatures, will go to hell. We see many American young people going around the world, spreading AIDS and free sex. That is why they are greeted sometimes with "Yankee, go home."

America used to say, "Rev. Moon, go home." but many top leaders are now saying, "Rev. Moon, please stay." Only those who practice free sex tell me to leave and not bother them any more.

What is our body? It is the base of hell, like a military site of hell. God wants to take over that base. God, True Parents and you yourself want to completely chase out Satan's word and understanding.

What would you do if I were to visit your home? Would you prepare a banquet? How much would you spend? If you have the genuine, pure heart to serve True Parents 100 times more than you would serve the highest king from the secular world, even though you do not have the financial foundation with which to do that, if with your heart and tears of love you kneel down and serve at least a glass of cold water, you will still pass. It is a matter of heart. If you have the kind of prayerful heart that together with your tears God's tears will be mixed, I will be happy. Those who do not want to prepare a banquet in your home for True Parents, show your hands. Everyone wants to do that? If you truly want to do that, facing God show your hands.

This 38th True Children's Day is a special one because probably you will not be able to see me here next True Children's Day. There are plenty of Americans who would like it if I would not be here.

You have to remember that your body is the prey of Satan and your mind is the temple of God. Our task is for our mind to have complete control over this prey of Satan. How can your mind digest the power of your body? By expanding every day the areas of your physical body which you mind controls, until your body is completely occupied by your mind, following God's plus base centering on true love. In there you can find true love. Without reaching that kind of level you cannot have true love. No matter how difficult it may be, we have to live according to that purpose for the rest of our lives. This is your homework. Do you understand clearly? Will you do it?

ACCOMPLISH THE BLESSING

What is today's title? *Cham Janyuh-e Seungni-gwon-eul Wansung-haja*. We have to resemble True Parents. Since the declaration Realm of the Cosmic Sabbath for Parents of Heaven and Earth, now is the time that God can come down to the family level all over the world. Our task now is to achieve the blessing of 3.6 million and 36 million couples, and eventually 360 million couples. Through this we will eliminate satanic lineage and build the Kingdom of God on earth. There should not be even one single person who still has the satanic lineage. In this time true children connecting with True Parents can eliminate Satan's lineage throughout the world.

Once together with True Parents we reach this goal, no one in the world will be able to escape from receiving the Blessing, because God's power will dominate the world. The time will come when within one day all 5 billion people of the world will be able to receive the Blessing. We have

only a little more than two years to go to reach that goal by the year 2000.

Even if we have to have sleepless nights and days we must find a way to bring the members of family, all of our relatives and our in-laws, to this Blessing. How many days remain until the next blessing? [28.] Our goal until November 29 is to bless 500,000 couples a day worldwide. This is our training in order to be able to reach the goal of 360 million by the year 2000. If we have the determination to reach more than a million couples a day we can probably bless over 500,000. These 21 days are a testing period to see if we can reach the goal of a half million couples a day.

Have confidence. As of now we have blessed 25 million couples worldwide, so we have 11 million couples yet to bless. November 29 will be the day of declaration of not only 3.6 million couples but also of 36 million couples. The entire world will be engulfed in this hurricane. The time is coming when even young people in their early teens, who are sometimes thinking about their future marriage, will be asking, "I just heard about the worldwide wedding of Rev. Moon. Which way is better, should I just find a spouse on my own in the future, or should I become one of the couples in Rev. Moon's wedding?" What do you think the answer will be?

In the future the young people of all nations of the world will automatically follow this course. Otherwise there will be no solution for the present youth problems and family breakdown. I am like a doctor who can cure all diseases of the family and young people, through one injection of truth lifting up everywhere and making freedom everywhere. All teachers will want to encourage their students to follow this way in order to realize a peaceful, unified world. Without this there is no way to achieve peace in the world.

God has suffered because of this satanic lineage. If there are still



True Parents pose after the ceremony at RFK is over. 11/29/97. Washington, DC

Photo: Korean Cultural Foundation

ministers who teach that the human fall originated through the eating of an actual fruit of the knowledge of good and evil, don't listen to them. That is crazy. They are like robbers. Do you understand?

We have to launch a campaign to protect the original love organs. American women, what do you think? We have to protect the purity of the love organ which God created for absolute, eternal love. No one has realized the true nature of the original sexual organs. They are the palace of love, the palace of life, the palace of lineage and the palace of conscience; four palaces in one most flat, most high plus place. For eternity you have to protect the purity of that organ. We need absolute love. Absolute, eternal life is connected to that original base. God wanted this place to be the foundation of original love, life, lineage and conscience.

THE FAMILY AS A TRAINING GROUND

Referring to the title of the sermon, true children means the family, which is where true children can be found; fulfilling the realm of victory refers to worldwide victory, meaning completely unifying the world into one.

The family is the training ground in which we can be trained to love people. Originally within every family you should be able to find grandparents, parents, husband and wife, and children. By learning how to love all these different levels of people, when you go out to the world and meet people you will be able to offer your heart and relate with them as you relate with the members of your own family. When we can offer more love to people on all levels than we do to our own family members, this world will become the Kingdom of Heaven on earth. This is the meaning of completion of the victorious realm.

It will not be easy. You may even have to give your life three times. At the time of Adam and Eve because of the human fall the father figure, Adam was destroyed. At the time of Jesus Christ because of the disbelief of the people the father figure was again eliminated. The same thing happened once again at the time of the Lord of the Second Advent. It is as if our parents were killed three times. Thus we have to be determined to go through even that kind of difficulty by paying indemnity and going through the completely opposite way. In the same kind of place of death we have to bring about rebirth or resurrection with a lifting up power.

LOVING THE CREATION

I myself have walked such a path. But now there is no one who can persecute me. What remains to be done is the work of construction. I have loved God throughout my life, offering my love to humankind by teaching them how to be restored. Now there is one more area which I have to touch upon before passing into the spirit world, and that is offering my love to the creation. That is why I recently visited the Amazon and Paraguay River regions in South America, where all kinds of untouched animals, insects and plants can be found.

We have to know that when God first created this world, He did not just do it out of a feeling of responsibility or duty. He really enjoyed creating the fish, insects, animals, human beings and all of the different elements of the creation.

In those areas in South America there are 36 million different species of insects living. When God created each one of these 36 million kinds of insects, it was really enjoyable and interesting for Him. Do you think when God was involved in the process of creating these 36 million couples that he took breaks and came back after having lunch, or did He just spend days, months and years without sleeping or eating, just continuously carrying out the work of creation? Think about it; during the time those 36 million types of insect were being created they received such an intensive amount of

love from God, but then because of the fall of man, for all these millions of years they have been abandoned without a true owner, a true master. How lonely and sad they have been.

Even these 36 million kinds of insects exist according to the pair system too. Because they have to multiply, don't you think each species has both male and female? Even the tiniest insects which cannot be seen by human eyes have some way of reproducing, just as the higher species do. Why are there plus and minus, male and female figures all the way down to the level of insects? Because of love. As you know, in the mineral world there are plus and minus elements, because these also exist centered on love. Scientists testify that using microscopes which enlarge objects 3 million times, they can see that even germs and bacteria have plus and minus elements. Don't you think those small germs and bacteria have certain organs with which they perceive and identify things?

In the universe, there is matter extending more than 100 billion times the size of our solar system. So think about how vast it is, with all its components existing within relationships of plus and minus centered on love.

ACTIVATING LOVE, LIFE AND LINEAGE

The center of this universe is man, human beings. God alone cannot achieve the goal of love, therefore God needs human beings as the object with which to achieve this goal. Women have life, love and lineage, but by themselves they cannot activate or feel these. The same is true for man. If a man claims that he has love, life and lineage, and enjoys it jumping around by himself, people will say he is crazy. Once man and woman appear in front of one another their love, life and lineage are immediately activated. They do not have to be told about it. It is working automatically like electricity. The purpose is for them to become one through it.

What is the organ through which man and woman become united? [The sexual organs.] These organs are shaped as concave and convex so that when they are put together they become perfect. It is like crazy glue. No one, not even God, can separate them. The power of the unity between man and woman is so strong and so good that God even wants to taste it, so he puts His head in and tries. At that moment you should feel you do not need anything else in the world; that this is the only thing in the world you want to hold onto for eternity.

I have fulfilled his responsibility to love God and humanity, so now I want to go back to relate with all the different aspects of the creation and teach humanity how to preserve them. I want to love them with the same love as God loved them when He created them.

Because the proclamation of the Realm of the Cosmic Sabbath of the Parents of Heaven and Earth has been made, the time for this has come. It is time to pursue the life of chiumi, or hobby, so that our labor is a part of the process of the work of creation. Throughout our lives, whatever our work or activity, we should be seeking the way to reach God, to reach the degree of God's enjoyment when He created the world. Just as God enjoyed creating, we are to try to enjoy our lives by devoting ourselves to following God's footsteps, and setting our own record in doing so. That is the way we will become the owners and masters of the creation.

If we want to seek such a life, reaching God through loving the creation, offering it to God, studying it and teaching humanity how to preserve it, where should we go? To cities or to places like the Amazon jungle? There is a problem with urban life because of pollution and other environmental problems, and because of the immorality and youth problems. Once we learn how to relate with and to love the world of nature, we can develop this love further into loving our children, our spouse, our parents and all of humanity.

Why don't you pull out a strand of your hair and ask it if it wants to belong to a person who offers this kind of love to nature

and humanity, or to a person who only thinks individualistically and selfishly about himself or herself. Every one of the 40 billion cells of our bodies wants to belong to such a public person.

Which way do you want to follow? The way of going back to the original natural world of rivers, mountains, jungles, swamps, oceans, studying all of the various aspects of nature and then eventually bringing an even greater level of love and compassion to humanity? Or do you want to remain in cities in the midst of the jungle of buildings, caring only about your own life and not about your children's education and future? In the future villages will compete to see which one has more kinds of insects in their insect museum, more animals in their zoo, more fish in their fish farm, or the most kinds of trees, grasses or plants. The village which has more than any other will become the most attractive tourist site in the world. Eventually you should have your own family farm where you can raise at least twelve different kinds of insects, and some animals and some fish.

Rev. Kwak should raise at least twelve kinds of insects and some fish at his home so that he can really pour his love into them by feeding and looking after them. Even if he has to be at a public meeting within ten minutes, he has to feed those insects before he leaves. Even if in the middle of the meeting he remembers he forgot to feed them he will have to be excused for a while to go take care of them. That is the kind of life Father wants to see.

Through this kind of lifestyle you will be able to develop your potential to offer more genuine love to your children, and your children will feel that genuine love. If you set up such an environment in your home, even if you try to send your children away to the city, they will eventually return.

Children today usually play with man-made animal and insect shaped toys, but we are talking about the real ones being raised by our children at home. Think about the kind of relationships they can build there. That is the way they can develop their emotional capacity. The ideal which the families of the Unification Church are all seeking is the life of love with all of the beings created by God.

LEARNING FROM NATURE

This picture drawn on the board is of the South American continent. The vertical river is the Paraguay River, which runs from north to south dividing the entire continent into east and west, while the Amazon River extends from the Atlantic Ocean in the east towards the Pacific Ocean in the west. On my last trip to South America we drove stakes topped with signboards into the ground every 50 kilometers (about 30 miles) along both banks of the Paraguay River. The total was about 63 signboards. I am planning to do the same along the Amazon River which will require about 70 signboards. A total of around 150 stakes with signs will be set up. In the future these locations will become strategic points around which we can develop ways to work to preserve the untouched nature there. Once we have established these positions along the two rivers and people become aware of it, this will become a vast resource.

We will build an insect museum which will contain at least 30 million insect species. Scientists who specialize in the study of insects will want to come there. There will be a fish farm which will have 3,600 different species of fish, a bird sanctuary, and a plantation on which can be found all kinds of plants. There will even be a human zoo. The entire continent will be this human zoo! Because if in that environment everyone lives really happily and well, people will come from other areas to observe it.

All of the conferences and other activities and projects which have been initiated thus far have been carried out in order to make the continent of South America into a place of

exhibition.

To carry out all of our plans a facility where people can be educated is needed. This is the New Hope Farm in Jardim which now has the capacity to accommodate 10,000 people at a time for study and education. This is only the first facility; others are being set up as well. I am planning to re-educate all Unification Church blessed couples, because you have not yet been properly educated.

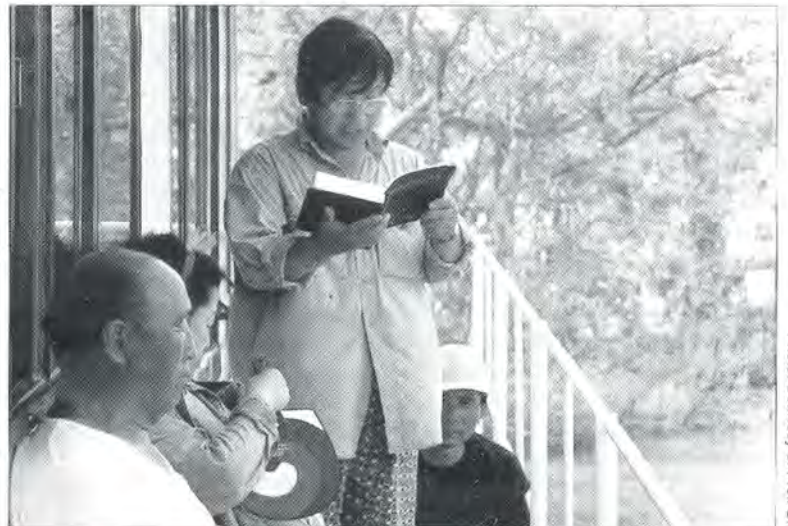
There are 3,600 species of fish living in those two South American rivers, but among them there are four main species: dorado, bacu, bindado and bogua. Since it isn't possible to catch all 3,600 types of fish, Unification Church leaders should be able to catch at least 160 of each of these four major species. The purpose is not to just kill them. The first of each species which is caught has to be released with a heart of love towards these fish.

It is not easy to catch these fish. Since I have caught many of them I have become a champion at it. Would you just like to go out and do it without any advice, or would you like me to teach you how to catch them. Then where do you want to be taught? You have to go there. Through this you will learn from Father how to build the Kingdom of Heaven on earth with nature welcoming you. I can teach you the different character of each kind of fish, what kind of bait each likes and so forth. Once you complete this training, wherever you go you will be able to utilize it and build your own kingdom. People have the tendency in fishing, for example, to pursue it just to catch the fish without concern about their preservation. That is why I want to preserve each of the 3,600 species in a farm so there will always be some reserve of each species.

I am considering stopping the passage of the many boats that come in and out so that the fish will be left alone. In order to avoid air pollution, electricity can be used to light the area instead of oil. In the Ukraine there is a project under way dealing with a special type of electric car which does not cause air pollution. To do this kind of project effectively a good system of transportation is needed, so I am thinking about constructing a monorail system there because I do not want to see the natural environment destroyed. It does not mean people cannot go in and enjoy the beauty of nature that is there, but they will not be allowed to pollute the environment. There will be no cigarette butts or empty beer cans lying around here and there. There will be strict regulation for the protection of the entire environment.

One Brazilian brother, a brother from one of the 33 nations of Central and South America, and one Japanese missionary will be stationed at each of those 150 positions which have been marked

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Father listens to the "Blessing and Ideal Families" speeches. Paraguay River. 9/24/97

Photo: Courtesy of Prof. Oh

Hoon Dok Hoi

A New Tradition from True Parents

Prof. Taek Yong Oh

November 5, 1997

Unification Theological Seminary

ON September 1, 1997, Father announced a new tradition. This new tradition has already been put into practice at East Garden. Formerly there existed what was called morning service. However, last October 13, 1997, in a city called Horacio Quiroga in Uruguay, Father gave a new title for the service. This new title is *Hoon Dok Hoi*. Father said that in North Korea there existed a daily reading session called *Dok Bo Hoi*. However, during this session, all people did was just read and then forget. They forgot because they were forced to read.

On the other hand, Father said that *Hoon Dok Hoi* has the meaning of reading and learning the meaning of Father's words. The word *hoon*, when written in Chinese characters, has the meaning of 'word' and 'river.' Father said the river signifies life and eternity and has no boundary. Likewise, Father said there is life and eternity in Father's words. There is no boundary in Father's words. The word *dok* has the meaning of 'selling the word.' Similar to the words

the Principle of the Providential History of Salvation, In Search of the Origin of the Universe, and True Family and True Universe Centering on True Love. This book also contains the contents of three earlier publications: *The Way of God's Will, Blessing and Ideal Family, and God's Will and the World*. The book, *Blessed Family and the Ideal Kingdom* has already been published in Korea. On October 30, 1997, Father signed a copy of this book at East Garden. Father says this book combines the ideal of both the physical kingdom and the spiritual kingdom.

Father sees the goal of the providence as including two objectives. One objective is to establish blessed families and the ideal kingdom. The second objective is the total cutting off from Satan's blood lineage. On November 4, Father wrote out a calligraphy in Chinese characters of the words "Blessed Families and the Ideal Kingdom" and "Cutting Off From Satan's Blood Lineage" and signed it for the Japanese church. Father stated that the Completed Testament Age is the age of the

troubling problem in this connection is the existence of Satan's blood lineage. Therefore, the complete cutting off from Satan's lineage will be the most pressing issue for the next two years. We all know that the only way of cutting off the blood lineage of Satan is by drinking the holy wine.

Traditionally, October is the month of liberation for Unificationists. October 4, 1955, was the day when Father was released from the Suh Dae Mun prison in Korea after a three-month imprisonment. October 14, 1950, was the day when Father was liberated from Heung Nam Concentration Camp. Therefore, in Uruguay on October 1, 1997, Father mentioned several times that we should remember October as the month of liberation.

Then what is the true meaning of liberation? Liberation means being liberated from the prison of Satan and becoming one with the True Parents. By participating in the *Hoon Dok Hoi*, Father desires every blessed family to become totally one with True Parents. At the time when Father gave this new title, *Hoon Dok Hoi*, on October 13, 1997, Father explained the meaning of the number 13. He said the number 13 signifies Jesus and his 12 disciples. He also said that because these 12 people did not become one centering on Jesus, he was crucified. To indemnify this, Father wants every blessed couple to become absolutely one with the True Parents through their participation in the *Hoon Dok Hoi*.

Then, in what specific way does Father want us to spend this time of *Hoon Dok Hoi*? Father wants us to read his speeches in Korean, especially during the time of *Hoon Dok Hoi*. Father emphasized that we should read his speeches in their original language. At the leaders' meeting on June 6, 1997, on True Day of All Things, Father emphasized for about thirty minutes that every non-Korean member must learn Korean. Father will allow an international marriage for True Parents' grandchildren

Father sees the goal of the providence as including two objectives. One objective is to establish blessed families and the ideal kingdom. The second objective is the total cutting off from Satan's blood lineage.

of Jesus, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. He who believes in me, as the scripture has said, out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water" (John 7:38). Through *Hoon Dok Hoi*, Father encourages us to "come and read Father's words" which give life, eternal life, and in which there are no boundaries. Take as much as you want because everything is free.

Then which words do we read? Father said we should read the book entitled, *Blessed Family and the Ideal Kingdom*. In this book are contained the Family Pledge, the most current public speeches—True Family and I, View of

blessed families. Father sees the kingdom as the place where the blessed families live. The completion of the ideal family is the goal of Father's providence. Although the translation may seem somewhat strange, nevertheless Father interprets the words "ideal kingdom" as the Kingdom of Heaven in both the spiritual world and the physical world.

We must realize that the most fundamental mission of the True Parents is not the restoration of the world, but rather it is to build the ideal kingdom. Creation of the new world is the responsibility of the True Parents. The most



Father and members listen as Father's words are read during Hoon Dok Hoi morning service aboard ship on the Paraguay River.

from the third generation, but Father will give permission to become candidates for such marriage only to those who speak Korean. Father also said that those who do not speak Korean will not be allowed to enter Korea after it becomes restored.

On August 10, 1997, Father strongly emphasized that those who do not speak Korean will not be qualified to attend the leaders' meetings. Those leaders who do not speak Korean should receive directions only through their Abel-type leader, the Korean national messiah. Father also mentioned that Koreans are the blood lineage of True Parents and spoke strongly about the importance of Korean tradition and culture. This is because most of the Korean traditions and culture are rooted in heavenly tradition and culture. Last September 2 at Belvedere, Father warned that any academic research not referring to the text in its original language, Korean, will not be valued at all. Furthermore, on November 1, 1997, Father said that the Korean-Japanese church is the central church in Japan.

In accordance with Father's direction, we must read his speeches in Korean. Then, when is the apposite time? We should read at 6:00 to 7:00 in the morning. Excluding prayer, comments, and other activities, the hour from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. should be spent exclusively for reading. Father pointed out that the reason for starting at 6:00 o'clock a.m. is because it was on the 6th day that mankind was created. Moreover, the reason for reading until 7:00 a.m. is because the number 7 originally has the meaning of Sabbath. But because of the fall, God could never have a Sabbath. Inasmuch as humankind was created as the sub-

stantial body of God, we must read Father's words from 6:00 o'clock a.m. to 7:00 a.m. to indemnify that mistake.

How long is this reading condition supposed to last? Father said that we should continue to read a speech until it becomes completely "mine." That is, until we actually become the substantial embodiment of a speech, just like True Parents, we must read the speech. Father said that until our physical body automatically and naturally moves without any hesitation, in accordance with the words, we should continue the reading condition. Therefore, to become like that, we should read a speech thousands of times, and even millions of times.

How many times each week should we read? We should read seven times in one week. We should read Father's speeches every single day, without missing a single day. If, for any reason, you happen to miss the appointed time, then before midnight of that day, you should read a speech. This is what Father stipulated at the main Pledge Service on True Children's Day, 1997. That same day, right after the Pledge Service, Father gave a one-hour speech and then Father spent another hour with us while one of his speeches was read. Father directed that even though we may miss a mealtime, we should never miss the reading time.

Why is it that Father so strongly emphasizes the *Hoon Dok Hoi*? It is because Father wants to bequeath the True Parents' tradition to the blessed families. If Father has any hope, it is first and foremost not to lose any single aspect of the True Parents' tradition on earth. We must seek to maintain every aspect of True Parents' tradition on

earth. Secondly, Father is concerned as to how to ensure that each and every blessed family follows and maintains the tradition of the True Parents which is instituted on earth.

Then what is the True Parents' tradition? True Parents' tradition is the True Parents' daily life. It is simple. Father wants every blessed family to follow True Parents' tradition. How is it that we can understand True Parents' tradition? Through participation in the *Hoon Dok Hoi*, we will come to realize that Father's speeches given both in the early days and those given now are one and the same. After reading the speech entitled "God's Hope for America" given on October 20, 1973, in Washington DC, Father said that he had already taught everything to America twenty-three years ago. Therefore, that speech will be the standard of judgment for America. For this reason, even if Father judges America based on that speech, America will not have any excuse.

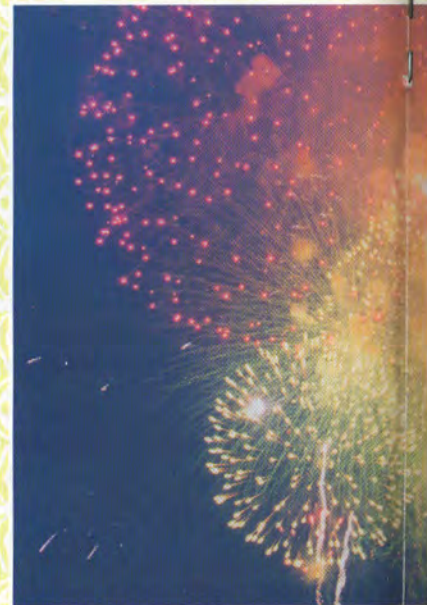
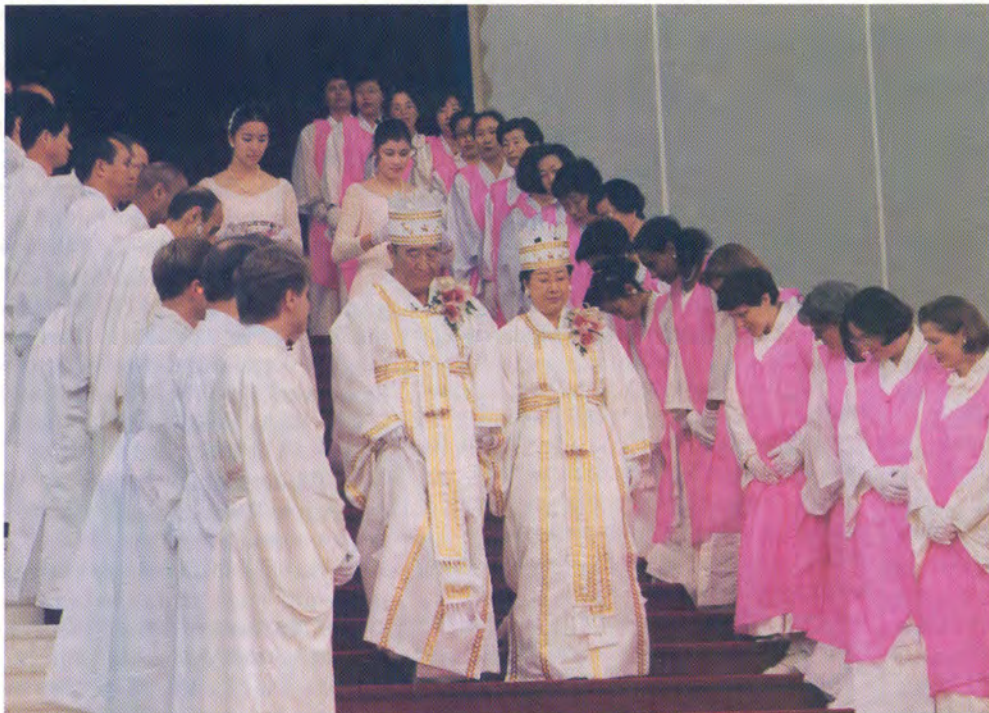
I know that many members serving under Korean leaders have struggled and complained about the fact that the Korean leaders are forcing them to move according to Father's direction. But now, how lucky we are that we can read and discover Father's directions directly through our participation in the *Hoon Dok Hoi*.

In two years time, after the accomplishment of the 360 Million Couples Blessing, witnessing will no longer be needed. Then, what else will be left to do? When the time comes, debating doctrines will not be necessary. Instead, our daily life will become very important. For this reason, on September 1, 1997, Father emphasized that the coming age will be an age of centering on daily life rather than centering on the Principle. The standard of this new daily lifestyle is the *Hoon Dok Hoi*. Father pointed out that it is not necessary to teach the Divine Principle to those who are pre-blessed, but rather we should direct them to read Father's speeches and to live their daily life accordingly.

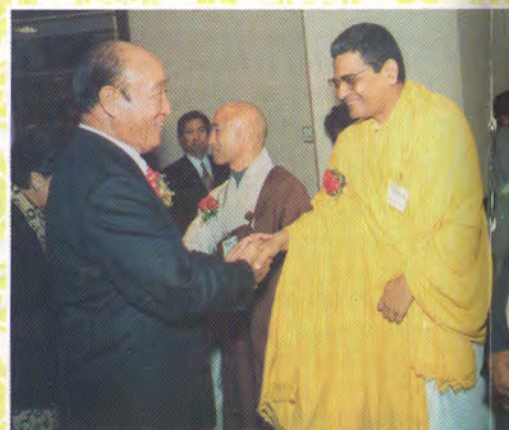
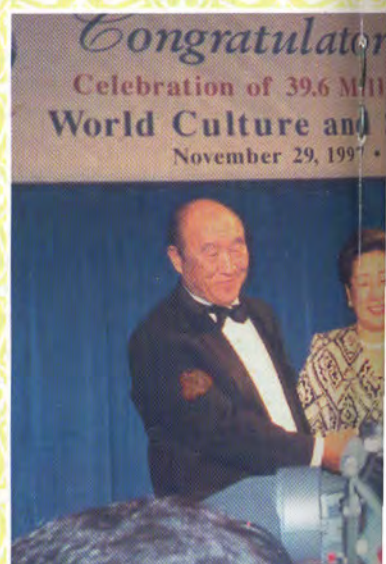
I know that those who do not speak Korean well will definitely complain about having to take part in the *Hoon Dok Hoi* and reading Korean. One may complain that we cannot comprehend the meaning if we do the *Hoon Dok Hoi* in Korean. However, Father has clearly stated that even if we do not know the meaning, there will derive two benefits from doing the *Hoon Dok Hoi* in Korean.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

World Culture and



(Top l) True Parents enter RFK Stadium in Washington DC to officiate the main Blessing Ceremony of the 39.6 Million Couples; (top c) Fireworks display; (bottom l) 7,000 international Unification Church couples matched by Father receive the Blessing; (bottom c) True Parents greet world religious leaders during the IRFWP Conference.



Sports Festival III



(Top r) True Parents lead the final cheer of *mansej*; (center) True Parents with Archbishop Ioann; (center r) view of the ceremony at RFK Stadium; (bottom r) Mother and Mrs. Nora Spurgin following Mother's address to the WFWP conference participants.



African Blessings

Photo: Courtesy of Mr. Bismarck Bamilo



The Blessing at African Folk Tabernacle Church, Ghana

*Michael Kiely
New York*

Femi Martins is a twenty-year Nigerian member witnessed to by one of the original missionaries to the country. Darcy (Turner) Howard approached him as he was preaching in a crowded city bus in Lagos. He joined in 1977 and has himself given birth to numerous spiritual children since that time. During the 1995 Blessing he was one of the first to pioneer community Blessings. He traveled from village to village introducing the Blessing to the chief and elders of each village and having them call their people together to be blessed. Now his main responsibility is to supervise all the Blessing activities in and around Lagos in an area within a radius of about 300 miles. It is a densely populated region where most people belong to the Yoruba tribe, one of the four main tribes in Nigeria and the tribe with the most blessed couples in Africa.

Rev. Kevin Winter, the assistant to Continental Director Rev. Kathy Rigney, related the following testimonies by Femi. More will follow for a future update when we hear them directly from Femi in person. Reportedly he has many such stories to share.

New life for a witch doctor

In one Nigerian village there was an herbalist, more commonly known as a witch doctor, who was well-known and feared by the population. People were afraid that if he simply looked at them or pointed his staff at them, something terrible might happen to them. He was feared even more than the Oba, or King. But his strong point of character was that he was a true traditionalist. He respected African traditions, hierarchy

and rites. Particularly, he was absolutely obedient to the Oba. Also, he was unusual among witch doctors in that he had only one wife. Most witch doctors were polygamists with several wives.

One day Femi came to see the Oba and made a presentation to him about the Blessing. The Oba thought the Blessing

was a good idea for his village and decided to call together all of his people. He sent out the town crier, or "gong gong," to hit a large cowbell and call his people to gather. When the witch doctor heard the gong gong, he had a premonition that something sinister was about to happen. He looked at the sky and saw dark clouds even though those around him said the sky was clear. So he hesitated to go, but his sense of duty to the Oba told him he had to attend because he had been called. He reasoned with himself, "After all, I am a very powerful witch doctor. People fear me. I don't think any evil force could possibly disturb me." Nevertheless, he took many beads, amulets and other sacred objects which he wore like a sash over his shoulder outside his clothing. He also took his staff which he employed in his rituals as well. Then he went off to the meeting together with his wife ready for spiritual battle.

At the meeting the villagers, including the witch doctor, listened to Femi's presentation about the Blessing, then with the Oba's encouragement, they all participated, receiving the holy wine, the holy water and True Father's prayer. The witch doctor and his wife also drank the holy wine and participated in the Blessing. The villagers received the blessing joyfully, then when the festivities were over, they all returned to their homes.

When the witch doctor arrived home, he decided to consult the oracles at his shrine, where certain spirits usually gave him guidance. The moment he bowed down before his shrine, however, he was startled to hear a loud voice from the shrine speaking to him as if someone were standing in front of him. The voice said in anger, "You are no

longer my son because you now have different blood flowing in your veins! From this moment forward I will never speak to you again or answer your questions. Go away!"

The witch doctor was shocked and dismayed. His practice, which depended on this spiritual guidance and support, was his whole life and his source of power and respect. That guidance and support, and consequently his profession and position of respect, had all quite suddenly been taken away from him. With growing anger he concluded that the young Femi Martins had come to him with the holy wine in order to steal his powers from him. He wished out loud that there was some way he could purge himself of the holy wine so that he could recover his powers. Perhaps the only way to do that, he reasoned, was to kill Femi. Then perhaps his powers would return.

In a rage, he picked up his machete and returned to the Oba's courtyard in search of the young man who had robbed him of all that was important to him. The Oba, seeing his witch doctor beside himself with rage, told him to sit down and asked him what was going on. Out of a sense of obedience to his Oba, the former witch doctor explained all that had just happened to him and declared that he intended to kill Femi in order to regain his former powers. The Oba empathized with him but told him that Femi had gone home and would not return till later that week. The Oba promised, however, to send Femi to him upon Femi's return.

After the encounter with the Oba, the former witch doctor returned home frustrated that he had failed to accomplish his plan and, as a consequence he presumed, had not been able to regain his powers that day. That evening in his sleep he had a vivid dream in which all the powerful ancestors of his lineage lined up over him looking down at him. They told him sternly, "You have been a powerful witch doctor until this day. But from today you must become a new person and start a new life." Then they left him. When he awoke the next morning, he realized that what had happened to him was much larger than the plan of some young man to steal his powers. It was nothing less than the manifestation

of the will of his ancestors, of heaven itself, that he create a new life for himself from that time on. So he quickly forgot his anger against Femi and felt, instead, grateful to have been called in that way. He returned again to the palace of the Oba to report his experience with his ancestors and his new realization.

Later that week, Femi returned to the palace and met with the Oba. The Oba told him everything that had transpired with the former witch doctor and sent him to meet him. When they met each other, the former witch doctor told Femi all that had happened. Then the former witch doctor smiled and said, "You are a lucky man that I did not find you right after the Blessing, otherwise you would be dead now! But I have come to understand that these events were the manifestation of heaven's will and not just the fruit of your machinations, as I had at first imagined." Word of these happenings spread quickly throughout the region.

After their meeting, Femi worked in the area with a local pastor who had a small church in a nearby village. Femi suggested to the pastor that he set up a branch church in the former witch doctor's village because there was no church there, and that he make the former witch doctor the head pastor. The pastor followed his advice, and everyone was amazed at the results. Because of the former witch doctor's fame and because of his dramatic and widely publicized conversion through the Blessing, in the first week over 500 people assembled in his new church. Virtually overnight he had gathered a large congregation. How many church founders would be delighted to find 500 members in their first week! This new congregation was the direct fruit of the Blessing.

Miraculous homecoming

On another occasion, Femi was performing Blessings house to house. For a person whose spouse is absent to receive the Blessing, his or her marriage must be intact and the absent spouse must accept the Blessing. In rare cases when the spouse who is present is considered trustworthy and is absolutely confident that his or her spouse will accept the Blessing, then he or she may receive the Blessing. In one home, a man presented his wife's picture for the ceremony, claiming that she was simply away. He was able to convince Femi of his story, and Femi blessed him. After the ceremony a neighbor revealed to Femi that the man's wife had abandoned him and his two children and had not been seen at all for two years.

She had simply disappeared. So their marriage was not at all intact.

Femi was angry with the man for having deceived him about his wife's status. But the man begged Femi to forgive him saying that until the present he had always prayed for his wife's return. He felt strongly when he heard Femi's presentation that this could be the event that would answer his prayers and bring his wife home. When Femi heard the man's words, his anger left him and he admired the man's faith. All he could do was to wish him well and go on to the next home.

About ten days later Femi came back to check on that household. The man's attitude had changed completely. While before he had been depressed, now he was beaming. He told Femi he had good news to share. Exactly a week to the day after his Blessing he had returned home from work quite tired and had sat down in the sitting room. Suddenly he heard a quiet knock on the door. He got up, casually opened the door, and without even looking up, turned to sit down again. When he did look up, he was shocked to see his wife whom he had not seen in two years.

She was fearful that he would be angry at her for abandoning him and their children for so long and that he might even want to kill her. As a result, her first words to him were a challenge. "Don't I have the right to visit my own children?" she asked with nervous defiance. The man was startled by her tone and said, "Oh, of course. You can see your children. Please go on in." She rushed into the bedroom to see her children. Shortly

afterwards she came out, but instead of leaving, she went straight to the kitchen. There she prepared the man's favorite meal and set it on the table for him to eat. The man was so astonished by the whole scene taking place in front of his eyes that he had no appetite and told his wife when she called him to eat, "No thank you. I'm not hungry."

The wife, once again, mistook the man's refusal to eat and his silence after her long absence as anger and decided she should leave. As is customary when a guest wants to leave, she asked her husband, "Won't you see me to the door?" The husband felt deep disappointment that she was going. He did not realize that she also felt disappointment that she had to leave. So, he sadly escorted her to the door and opened it for her. After she had gone out, he closed the door, went back to his seat and began thinking about what had happened, wishing he had said something to stop her. At that moment the door slowly opened again. His wife poked her head inside and said timidly, "It is very dark outside. If you would allow me to spend the night here, I will go first thing in the morning."

The husband happily assented. That night the wife spent the first night at home after more than two years and did not leave the next morning as she had proposed. The two of them have been together ever since. Because of the Blessing, their long separation ended and their marriage was healed.

The Blessing alters destiny

When Femi gives his testimonies, he



Church leaders participate in 3-day Blessing seminar in Ghana

Photo: Courtesy of Mr. Bismark Bamilo

always asks brothers and sisters, "Where would these people be if someone had not knocked on their door to offer them the Blessing? The witch doctor would still be bewitching people. The man would still be lonely without his wife, waiting with his children for her return. Because we get out and offer this grace of the Blessing to people, their lives really do change. The Blessing is so powerful in the way it can alter people's destiny.

From street vendor to national president

Femi was sent from Nigeria to another country to give guidance to the members in that nation on how to do house-to-house Blessings. He toured the country giving testimony after testimony to members. As is his habit, he always kept his eyes open for someone to witness to in order to bless them. At one center where he was staying he went outside and found a woman on a street corner selling "alloca," a sweet delicacy made from over-ripe plantain fried in oil. He was impressed by the woman's poise and sincerity, so he decided to talk to her about the Blessing. She was enthusiastic about the idea and invited him to her home to bless her husband and her together. Femi always had his Blessing materials with him, so he went to her home to meet her husband. Her husband had many questions and apparently thoroughly enjoyed hearing Femi talk about the Blessing. He then received the Blessing with his wife.

Afterwards he explained why he had asked Femi so many questions. He said he always carefully checks out the people his wife has contact with because he

with Femi and the Blessing, he resolved that he would convince the president to receive the Blessing as well. To this he attached one condition, however: he insisted that it had to be Femi who would give the Blessing to the president.

"But I am traveling back to Nigeria tomorrow," Femi protested.

"I'm sorry," the aid replied. "You will need to be ready to fly back from Nigeria to give the president the Blessing."

Femi had no choice but to agree to return.

In musing about this experience afterwards, Femi said that one can see from this incident how, if you allow yourself to be guided by God's holy spirit, God can guide you into the most amazing circumstances.

Unity restored

A couple who had been separated for years continued to attend the same church. Because men and women sat separately in the congregation during church services, the couple managed to maintain their membership in the same church together without having any give and take with each other at all.

At the time of the Blessing, the husband stood up to receive the holy wine. He apparently had not understood that only those whose marriage was intact could participate in the ceremony and that the ushers had been instructed only to allow such couples to participate. Before any usher could speak to the man, however, his wife noticed him standing and said to herself, "Well, if he is going to go to the Blessing, I'm certainly not going to let him go on his own and be left out of this myself." So she stood up, too, and got in line beside

They then participated in the rest of the Blessing ceremony together.

From that time on they no longer lived separate lives and have been together as husband and wife ever since. It was through the power of the Blessing that their years of separation finally ended and their marriage was healed and renewed.

Pre-Blessing expansion

Rev. Winter said Femi has twenty or more personal testimonies like these which he shares regularly with brothers and sisters as he visits centers to give guidance in offering the Blessing.

To Westerners, the numbers of couples being blessed here may be mind boggling. A team of two will go out door to door and bless twenty to one hundred couples, sometimes more, in a day. Last Sunday there was a Blessing of 200 couples at the national headquarters of the Christian Apostolic Church, just one of dozens of Blessings that were occurring all over the nation on that day. One bicycle team of three members working in the city of Oyo, one hour north of Lagos by car, recently blessed 3,000 couples in one week. They had to stop working, however, because they ran out of holy wine and other Blessing materials and were unable to get more. Keeping teams supplied with Blessing materials is an ongoing challenge because of a lack of funds. One printer, for example, refused to print any more Blessing forms and certificates because we owed him too much money, so we had to find another printer. Now we owe this second printer an increasing amount as well. In fact, there are numerous situations every day in which brothers and sisters are unable to work to their capacity because of lack of funds.

Many brothers and sisters live quite simply—austerely by Western standards. Quite a few of them have no refrigerator, no stove, no television. They may have to go outside to use the toilet and have no shower (they take sponge baths). There is often no running water and no electricity. In fact, entire towns may be blacked out for a day or more. This lack of amenities—what we in the West would call necessities—translates into a ridiculously low cost of living. So low, in fact, that the cost of blessing one couple is approximately a dollar and a half, all expenses included. Now that there is an increasing emphasis on door-to-door Blessings, that figure is actually decreasing still further. In fact, as the mobilization effort gathers momentum, it may fall under one dollar

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works in a sensitive position in the government in terms of national security. He said that he was a presidential aid in the office of the president of the nation. Because he saw the president every day, he was ideally positioned to speak to him about the Blessing. As a result of his and his wife's moving experience

her husband. This was the first time they had stood next to each other in years. Seeing that the couple was participating together, no one said anything to them. When it was their turn, they received the holy wine together. She drank and then gave him the cup and he drank and returned the cup to her.

per couple. That means that your donation has provided or may provide the funds necessary to bless 650 to 1,000 couples! Your support has made or may make it possible for hundreds of couples to have a new destiny, and new blood flowing in their veins that the voice in the shrine may not appreciate but that their Abel-like ancestors will.

If you have already given, thank you! In fact, there are hundreds of Nigerian members whom your support has allowed to return to work for the Blessing providence; they say a resounding "Thank you!" in chorus. Just a few short months ago before your donations began to flow in, their work was paralyzed. There were zero funds so members could not survive in the field. Bicycle teams had to return home, hungry. Centers closed and Blessings slowed to a trickle. The Blessing providence here lost momentum.

But in the past few months, thanks to you all that has changed. Centers reopened and bicycle teams began rolling again. Now more and more couples are being blessed every week, every day. Holy wine is again flowing in the land, so to speak. If there were just enough funds to keep all the teams supplied with Blessing materials, transportation money to keep teams rolling from village to village, media funds necessary to inform the whole nation of the incredible work of the FFWPU, and seed support money to keep key ministers networking to other ministers, the Blessing provi-



Photo: Courtesy of Mr. Bismarck Bamfo

Mr. Bismarck Bamfo leads three cheers of Mansei after a sexual purity rally

dence here would come to a rolling boil! Then that intense heat would transform these people and ignite this continent.

Michael and Maria Kiely, are the Abel National Messiah couple of Nigeria. They were blessed in the 1800 Couples Blessing in 1975 and have three children.

[Edited for Today's World]

Your support has made or may make it possible for hundreds of couples to have a new destiny, and new blood flowing in their veins that the voice in the shrine may not appreciate but that their Abel-like ancestors will.

The publisher and staff of the Today's World offer all the newly-Blessed couples around the world their congratulations and wish one and all a Happy God's Day and a victorious New Year

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

Hoon Dok Hoi

One benefit is that you will nurture the motivation for learning Korean. The second benefit is that you will come to feel Father's spirit.

Why do we come to the Unification Theological Seminary? The reason is very simple. We come to learn about True Parents' tradition, to know True Parents' thought and to know True Parents' life. Furthermore, do you not want

to share their knowledge with others after your graduation? True Father wants every blessed family to know True Parents' tradition, True Parents' thought and True Parents' life through *Hoon Dok Hoi*. On that basis, Father wants every blessed family to live according to these teachings. Father also emphasized that our teaching and educational support to the pre-blessed couples is needed only based on the book entitled, *Blessed Family and the Ideal Kingdom*. This is because that textbook will become the standard for daily life in the

Kingdom of Heaven in heaven and on earth. The teachings of this book will also become the standard for the cosmic law.■■■

Professor Taek Yong Oh teaches Korean language and "Life and Thought of Sun Myung Moon" at the Unification Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Yong Pil Lee, participated in the 6000 Couples Blessing in 1982 in Korea. They have three daughters.

ICUS Comes of Age at ICUS XXI

Gregory Breland
Kentucky

THE International Conference on the Unity of the Sciences (ICUS XXI) marked 25 years of support from its Founder, the Reverend Sun Myung Moon, by meeting in the capitol of the United States, Washington, DC, on the theme, "Science for the Benefit of Humanity" as part of the Third World Culture and Sports Festival from November 24-29, 1997. Conference Chair Tor Ragnar Gerholm, Professor of Physics, Stockholm University, and a member of the Nobel Prize Nominating Committee of the Nobel Foundation, helped assemble a vast array of notables for this ICUS on topics ranging from "Information Technology" to "Life, Death and Eternal Hope." The 159 participants from forty countries were truly rewarded for their efforts in which over 100 papers were presented and discussed in a three-day period. In fact, the discussions were so intense that many a coffee break was missed, however, no one seemed to mind.

ICUS and PWPA held several joint activities together, such as the opening reception, opening plenary and three evening plenary sessions. Just being in the receiving line and shaking the hands of over 500 people from 121 countries was an exhilarating, if exhausting, experience.

The joint opening plenary was set in the International Ballroom of the Washington Hilton and Towers and was adorned with flags from each of the 121 countries represented. Dr. Gerholm gave welcoming remarks noting that science was, at least in part, responsible for making Washington, DC and America, in particular, the world's focal point for military and political power. He opined that with this power comes great responsibility. He was followed by the conference vice-chair, Norge Jerome, Professor Emeritus of Preventive Medicine and Associate Dean of Minority Affairs at the University of Kansas, who introduced the Founder. She observed that in having a woman introduce the Founder for the first time, ICUS had come of age at twenty-one! After noting some of the endeavors she had been

involved in such as ICUS, PWPA and the University of Bridgeport, she said that the best way to know and understand a man like Reverend Moon is to come to know the fruits of his labors. "I have learned that his morality and integrity have no bounds and are manifest in the executives who administer his organizations. If you really want to know the man, look at his fruits. They say more about him than I can."

Several of the participants commented that Reverend Moon's Founder's Address was "great." In it, Reverend Moon said that every parent wants their son or daughter to be better than them, that every parent wants their children to be children of filial piety, loyal citizens, and saints. And following the logic that God is the parent of humankind, God wants this for each of his children, too. Also, in clarifying who the true owner is of one's sexual organ, one's spouse, Reverend Moon gave the solution to the sexual misconduct that is plaguing many of the world's societies. If this simple idea were to take root, the confusion that surrounds male and female sexuality and appropriateness would end.

Following the opening plenary, ICUS went into another plenary session in which Alvin Weinberg spoke on the title of "Scientific Millenarianism." Dr. Weinberg is a famous nuclear physicist who has chaired the conference on three previous occasions and has been instrumental in crafting nuclear energy policy for the United States government. He was one of the core members of the Manhattan Project during World War II in which the atomic bomb was created. Dr. Weinberg addressed, as we are about to enter the third millennium, certain long-reaching catastrophes such as comet collision with the earth, global warming, and disposal of nuclear waste, along with possible solutions. True, these problems may not affect our generation or even those in the near future, but their magnitude demand our attention even now. Focusing on the disposal of nuclear waste, which will take 10,000 years to become inactive, he observed that we have four possible alternatives. Interestingly, beyond do nothing, more education and a technical fix, he concluded that the possibility of religion

playing an important role may be the final answer. He suggested that Hiroshima and Nagasaki ought to acquire "religious" significance similar to the Holocaust and the State of Israel in Judaism. He expressed hope that the tradition on non-use of nuclear weapons will be incorporated into the world's religious doctrines, and thereby become a permanent human tradition. As is the ICUS tradition, we had six committees discussing various topics and, in addition, helped sponsor a festival-wide committee on Unification Thought.

Committee One was chaired by Dr. Marcelo Alonso, Principal Research

Scientist, Retired, Florida Institute of Technology. The topic was entitled, "Information Technology, Higher Education and Research." Dr. Alonso was able to bring a wide international representation of experts in this field from America, Europe, South America, Africa and Asia. Through the presentations, it became clear that higher education must adapt to the increasing age of its students, and that the traditional methods of teaching are becoming more and more out of date. Professionals are realizing that they need life-long educational opportunities. This is where the field of information technology can be very helpful. Many examples of what is being done in various parts of the world to serve students from all over the world were discussed, such as the Open University in England, the largest such university in the world.

Committee Two was chaired by Bulent Atalay, Professor of Physics, Mary Washington College and the University of Virginia, and the theme was entitled, "Symmetry in its Various Aspects: Search for Order in the Universe." This committee's honorary chair was the noted scientist, Yuval Ne'eman, Distinguished Professor of Theoretical Physics, Tel Aviv University, Israel. The papers dealt with symmetry in mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, art, music, financial markets, and anthropology. Upon realizing the various types of symmetry in so many different fields, one is struck with the concept of a guiding force behind nature which is quite compelling.

Committee Three was a continuation from the last ICUS. It was chaired by

Brett Cooke, Associate Professor of Russian, Texas A&M University. This committee's topic was entitled, "Human Universals and the Biological Foundations of Art." One of the foremost scholars in the humanities served as honorary chair, Frederick Turner, Founder's Professor of Arts and Humanities, University of Texas at Dallas. Looking at various examples of art and literature, this committee attempted to analyze the effect of Darwinian evolution on these various art forms. Some of the questions addressed included: Does art benefit humanity? Is aesthetic appreciation an inborn trait that we all have, that is only slightly modified by the culture we grow up in? This is a field that is only now beginning and ICUS was happy to provide a forum for this discussion to continue.

Committee Four was chaired by noted academician, Eugene Velikhov, the former vice-president of the Russian Academy of Sciences and the president of the Kurchatov Institute in Moscow. This is one of the foremost research institutes in Russia today. The committee theme was entitled, "Treatment of Non-Linear Systems in Physics and Economics." Especially in Russia and other newly-emerging democracies, the old system of economics tends not to be very accurate in predicting future developments. By looking at new advances in particles, waves, astronomical structures, fluid dynamics, and plasma physics, and applying these non-linear

developments to the economy, more accurate predictions can be made.

Committee Five, which discussed the topic entitled, "Wholeness Through the Pathways of Wisdom" was chaired by W. Andrew Achenbaum, Deputy Director, Institute of Gerontology, Professor of History, University of Michigan. His committee was balanced between representatives from the East and West as well as from the humanities and the medical field. One of the basic questions addressed was the effect one's faith has on healing and overcoming illness. By looking at various faith traditions, it could be derived that this attribute is present in many religions but often relies on the individual to activate it.

Committee Six was chaired by Paul Badham, Head of the Theology and Religious Studies Department, University of Wales. This committee theme was entitled, "Life, Death, and Eternal Hope." Carl Becker, Professor of Comparative Thought, Kyoto University, served as honorary chair. This committee admittedly was dealing with areas not frequented by your usual scientist, that area of "life" that begins when one's physical life ends. Looking at near-death experiences, comparable memories of those who have gone to death's door and returned, and supposed communication between the living and the dead, made this committee one of the more interesting. Of course, if one believes in an after-life, this has an affect on how one leads one's life in the

here and now. Also addressed is how we care for those who are terminally ill and begs the philosophical question: If we believe it is better on the other side, why do we delay the elderly or infirm from going to that better place, especially if they are in extreme pain?

As mentioned before, there was a festival-wide committee on Unification Thought entitled, "Constructing Theories for a Coming Age of Global Family." This committee was chaired by Ronald Burr, Professor of Philosophy, University of Southern Mississippi, and whose honorary chair was Sung-Bae Jin, President, Unification Thought Institute, Seoul, Korea. Some of the topics addressed included: "Religion vs. Science," "Theories of Evolution and Creation," "Re-construction of the Concept of the Family," "Theoretical Heirs to Socialism and Capitalism," "Equalization of Technology" and "Harmony of Humans in Nature." Dr. Sang Hun Lee, who passed away last year, was instrumental in designing this committee and many felt his presence during the sessions.

As the sessions concluded, many noted how intense the time together had been. On Friday, November 28, many participants took advantage of a complementary tour of Washington, DC that included the Jefferson, Lincoln, Roosevelt, Korean War and Vietnam War Memorials. There were also stops at the White House, the World Culture and Sports Festival Exhibit at the Armory, and at various museums on the mall.

We were asked to invite some of our participants to sit in the VIP area at RFK Stadium to observe the Blessing ceremony on Saturday. One prominent participant whom we invited hesitated at first, saying she had planned to go shopping. We pointed out to her that the Reverend and Mrs. Moon had prepared a magnificent gift for her and everyone else at the stadium and we did not want her to miss it. After thinking about it overnight, she decided to go. Upon seeing her later that day, she said it was a tremendous event and she was so happy she went.

Greg Breland is the executive director of the International Conference on the Unity of the Sciences. He and his wife, Keiko, participated in the 2075 Couples Blessing in 1982. They have three children.



True Parents greet the VIP ICUS participants after the banquet. Mr. Peter Kim and Mr. Salonen accompany them. 11/28/97. Washington, DC.

[Edited for Today's World]

38th True Children's Day

along the Amazon and Paraguay Rivers, and we will see who remains until the last. Who do you think will remain the longest? [The Japanese missionary.] Father has the same feeling. The Brazilian brothers and the brothers from the other South and Central American nations will try to be patient and remain as long as they can, but eventually they will disappear. However the Japanese brother will remain there until he dies. This means the continent of South America may come to belong to Asian people. How would you like it? Father has a plan to gather probably millions of Japanese and also Chinese people there for an international blessing.

If South American leaders hear this kind of talk they may say Rev. Moon is trying to rob their continent. But that is not true. My plan is that once this beautiful, ideal continent is set up, which would be a perfect place for anyone to live, who is it that is going to benefit? It will be the children of the people of South America. Most of the continent has in fact been abandoned or ignored by humanity. There is plenty of space and land there. If we put those meadows and ranches together it would probably be bigger than the land of America. That is where I want to build the original, ideal kingdom. That is why the university association has been organized. Professors and scholars from those universities will be able to share their studies in their various specialized fields.

Do you think Father can carry out such a project? Is this an easy task or a hard one? You say difficult and hard, but I am close to 80 years of age now. So how many years do you think I will be able to devote to this project before passing into the spirit world? Ten years? Does that mean you want to see me working on the front line until I reach 90? Do you think I should continue by myself to complete this project, or should young people like you go in my place? Only the Oriental people answered yes. If this trend continues in the world, eventually the white race will be dominated by the Oriental race.

The Oriental people are like a race of ants. Which one will be the victor, the white race or the ant race? In the fable of the ants and the grasshopper what is the characteristic of the grasshopper? It enjoys summertime and dancing around and does not make any preparation for the wintertime. When winter comes the grasshopper has nothing to eat and has to go to the ants to beg for food. Do we Unificationists want to become like the ants and continually work to prepare for the future, or like the grasshopper who enjoys only temporarily the good times? We should be able to say that hard work day after day, night after night is what we enjoy, so no one can stop us.

Our Unification ideal concept is a recreation concept, isn't it? Recreation. We have to make and protect those more beautiful and more valuable re-created things, by our own hands. How proud a field of work is waiting for us in the Amazon and Paraguay River zones! Isn't it wonderful? Do you want to go there? I don't like to go there, because I am too old. God wants that kind of field of work, and our ancestors wanted that kind of hard work. Now True

Parents have appeared as the central figures, clearly teaching the value of that kind of work which is connecting with the Kingdom of Heaven on earth and the spiritual Kingdom of Heaven, centering on God. How wonderful human life is! After having made this kind of foundation on earth we can pass into the spirit world, kingship centering on God's world, automatically inheriting my world. How proud we can be of such ownership! Don't you want that? [Yes!] It is not an such an easy way.

You have been trained how to work hard and how to make money. A strong foundation has been established in every area for you to build upon. If you cannot do it you are not worthy of living.

There is no more persecution. You will be greeted and praised everywhere. How wonderful it is that such a place to work freely has appeared, based on Father's foundation. Every different direction is welcoming me. I have made a high level foundation all over the world. Using that kind of power, invest your hard work. The Japanese members are standing in the central position. They are physically small, but the western members are following behind them. How beautiful a phenomenon appeared there. I want to look at that kind of phenomenon. Large western people are against me.

In this time I developed a proud atmosphere for much praise to God. This is Father's main stream of thought. Do you want to follow that? Do you follow? Those who have decided they want to follow, raise up both hands up, jumping! Thank you. God Bless you!

MR. PETER KIM'S PRAYER:

Our most beloved Heavenly Father. What a day! What a blessing we have received today! We are celebrating the 38th True Children's Day here at Belvedere in New York, in America. Father please let us be able to fully understand the kind of blessing and privilege we have here with True Parents today. Father, we have been taught clearly again that the key question we have to answer today is how to solve the struggle battle our mind and body. Father, only when we win the victory in this struggle can we go forward on the family level, tribal level, national level and world level. Finally we can reach You, Father, so that we can invite You into ourselves and be the temple of God as You intended at the time of creation. We have a great future, Father. We have our immediate goal of blessing 3.6 million couples here in America in only 28 days. Upon that victorious foundation we will go forward for 36 million couples and 360 million couples. This is the pinnacle of our victory. True Parents taught us today that through this victory all humanity can be fully restored. For that goal we are making a redetermination

and pledging again in front of You that we will do our absolute best. No matter what kind of mistake we have made in the past we will let go of it, Father, and we will keep marching forward following True Parents' footsteps so that we can complete our responsibility as Your true children, Heavenly Father. Father, for that please give us Your strength and Your wisdom, and please let us be able to inherit Your love and Your heart so that we can practice them in our daily life every day. Father, thank You again for giving us such a beautiful day and beautiful blessing on this special day.

We pray all of these things in the names of our True Parents. Amen.■

Now True Parents have appeared as the central figures, clearly teaching the value of that kind of work which is connecting with the Kingdom of Heaven on earth and the spiritual Kingdom of Heaven, centering on God. How wonderful human life is! After having made this kind of foundation on earth we can pass into the spirit world, kingship centering on God's world, automatically inheriting my world.

"Spirit Talk" is on the Air!

Greg Davis
Long Island, New York

If you were to tune in to WCNJ 89.3 FM on your radio at 10:00 o'clock p.m. on Saturdays, you would hear "Good evening and welcome to the 'Quiet Revolution' with your host and fellow traveler, Greg Davis."

I am happy to announce that I have joined the ranks of radio talk/disc jockeys currently hosting talk format shows. I am halfway through my contract for the radio program and I hope to renew it if I can find some sponsorship.

My show features contemporary upbeat music-with-a-message, interspersed with talk segments dealing with contemporary news issues and stories reported and commented on, with a decidedly spiritual, Divine Principle point of view. I intend to "tell it like it is" without preaching and let the listeners decide if the message is right.

Many times I feel like a voice "crying in the wilderness." The news that we hear on most major media stations almost always dwells on negative stories that are sensationalized. They make a story and beat it and beat it—sometimes monopolizing the headlines for days. They pretend to be concerned about moral values and family values, but when a real potential solution appears in a real story, very little is reported about it. Americans do not know about the good things that are happening all over the world especially with regards to Family Federation activities. I want to be a messenger bearing "good news" to folks and that is why I am excited and am determined to stay "on the air."

The spirit world is sending many messages not only to people of faith, but also to those of a sincere conscience, about important events taking place at this time in history. Witness the phenomena of the funerals of both Mother Theresa and Princess Diana, the Promise Keepers rally and, of course, Blessing '97. These were spiritual events. In many cases people may not be aware of the providential significance of these events but nonetheless they are being led to participate. I am reminded of the movie "Field of Dreams" in which the

main characters were inspired to go all over the place without realizing why they were doing it, but at the same time were firmly convinced that it was important to do so.

I received the inspiration and determination to go "on the air" with issues relating to what I feel is the greatest story of the decade, if not the century—Blessing '97. My first programs were dedicated to making a moral and spiritual foundation by letting my audience know the precept and focus of the program which includes talking about spir-



itual concepts and realities. I wanted to encourage my listeners to move on to a higher plane—a quiet revolution—the revolution of heart.

The show is broadcast live from the WCNJ New Jersey studio and is picked up throughout parts of New Jersey, Long Island, New York, and the outlying Philadelphia area. It is also carried by several satellite networks throughout the country. Listeners can call an 800 number nationwide (800) 900-0191, or locally by calling (732) 888-7775 to comment or have a discussion on the air. There are guest appearances both in the studio and via telephone from time to time, discussing many different subjects and issues.

During the November 15 show, I interviewed the New Jersey Blessing coordinator, Brian Sabourin. We discussed, at great length, the important

questions such as: What is Blessing '97? What is Family Federation for World Peace and Unification? Of course, the big question was, Why is Rev. Moon doing this at this time? Brian was very thoughtful and informative in his usual way. I was very grateful to have had him on the program. It was certainly information that was not on any other radio program on the mainstream media.

The following week after the Blessing, my show was devoted to asking the question, Why? Why was there not more mainstream media coverage of Blessing '97? Why was there no "focus" on the real importance of the event—that of standing for true family values and marriage rededication? Why were the retractors of the event given so much exposure when they had no support, and why were the real joy and spirit of the event ignored. I proclaimed on my "little corner of airspace" that the reasons were that I did not really believe that "those" programs were interested in the truth. They were only interested in symbolism, not substance, not solutions, nor conclusion, just "lip service" to the truth. I told my listeners that the mainstream media was lying to them, that they were not telling them the good stuff in America, nor the truth. My show was a very strong show that evening.

I hope to be able to encourage "new quiet revolutionaries" all over the planet to inspire and support others in creative expression to build the true family culture. My conclusion is: "They" are not going to tell the story; we must do it with all our passion and conviction, thru music, writing, video and every other means of expression available to us today. My thanks to all my supporters and friends for allowing me to be "on the air." I am interested to hear from anyone interested in what I am doing. Let's work together.

[Edited for Today's World]

Greg Davis is a Unification Theological Seminary graduate. He and his wife, Sumiko, participated in the 2075 Couples Blessing in 1982. They have two daughters.

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Ceremony Address

national, racial and religious barriers. This is truly a modern day miracle. It is possible only because of God's presence.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the religious leaders of major faiths and denominations as well as the leaders of many nations who have enthusiastically supported this precious true family movement centering on true love.

The Blessing Ceremony seeks to resolve the remnants of false love and to restore the sacred content of marriage imbuing it with absolute true love. It is a ceremony for the restoration of true conjugal love and true parental love. Thus, all participants of the Blessing pledge to treasure and protect purity and fidelity. Each person pledges to keep unchanging conjugal love. They also pledge to form a true family and to nurture their children to become true children who contribute wholeheartedly for the realization of a peaceful world.

Peaceful nations and a peaceful world cannot become a reality without the perfection of ideal families. This means that marriage is not a simple physical coming together of a man and a woman. It is nothing less than the making of a basic foundation for the peace and happiness of humanity. Today is indeed a Day of Hope. It testifies to the possibility that humanity is capable of realizing a truly peaceful world, transcending all barriers with true love. It is a great celebration for all of humankind, a celebration in which we can experience with our own eyes the realization of 'One World Family', and 'The Brotherhood of All Humankind.'

Dear 39.6 million Blessing couples:

The ideal of true love will be everlasting even beyond this earthly life on into the spiritual world. The Holy Blessing which you are about to receive includes the dispensational right eventually to Tribal Messiahship. Your exemplary life of love centering on the ideal of the Blessing will become a new hope and a milestone for a world sick from the disintegration of the family. I sincerely hope that you will treasure the precious content of this Blessing you are about to receive, cultivate a true family, and transmit this highest and most noble Blessing to your posterity to come.

Thank you, and God Bless your families.■

Prayer of Agony

"For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin which dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?" (Rom: 7:22-24)

Oh Father,
You are really great.
You are really omniscient.
You are omnipotent.
You are absolute.
You are eternal.
You are unchangeable.
You are unique.
You are the King of Divine Principle.
You are originally the King of joy.
You are the King of True Love.
You are the King of patience.
You are the King of heart,
the life for others.
You are living centering
on the mind.
You have planned only the Kingdom
of Heaven.
You are the True Parent.
Oh Father, You are such a wonderful
Parent!

By the way, You, my Father,
You have become the most pitiful
Being.
You have become the most
anguished Being.
You have become the most
sorrowful Being.
You have become the most over-
anxious Being.
You have become the King of blood,
sweat and tears.

Because of the really unexpected
fall of man,
I have become a man of inability.
I have become a thoughtless
person.
I have become an expert of excuse.
I have become a man who finds
better other's faults rather than
mine.
I have become a man who lies well.
I have become a man who is
cunning.

I have become a man who is
arrogant.

I have become a man who boasts
well of himself.
I have become a man of self-
contradiction from the disunity
between mind and body.
I have become a man who thinks
always of self-survival first.
I have become a man to be
valueless.
I have become a man to live in hell.
I have become a man of sorrow.

It is really a bitterly lamentable
situation.
The really great True Parent and His
terrible false children!
You, my Father, who has to take
care of such problem children with
smiling face.
You, my Father, who is always
serious, whenever You are alone.
Foolish me, who likes to see Your
smiling face without understanding
Your seriousness.
You, my Father, being annoyed
because you should always have
the smiling face, but cannot.
You, my Father, being over-anxious
how to discuss Your will with such
children.
You, my Father, wanting to hear the
victorious triumph from such
children sent into the satanic den.
You, my Father, wishing to be proud
of the merits of such children of
Yours in front of Satan.
You, my Father, who can't throw
away such children, because of the
heartistic parent-child karma of True
Love.
You, my Father, pitiful—who is
working until today with such
children with blood, sweat and tears!

Oh Father,
I sincerely pray, kneeling down, that
You not let me get out of Your way of
the filial piety of children with Your
strict and severe lash! Amen.

*by Rev. Paul Zin Moon Kim, Deputy Director,
WMD. Continental Director, Latin & Caribbean
Americas.*

JANUARY

- 1 TRUE GOD'S DAY '68
Hyo Jin Nim's 36th Birthday
- 2 Day of Victory of Love '84
- 7 Hyo Jin Nim & Nan Sook Nim's Blessing '82
- 9 Ye Jin Nim's 37th Birthday
- 10 Kook Jin Nim & Soon Ju Nim's Blessing '89
- 11 72 Couples of the 2nd Generation Blessing '89
- 12 1275 Couples' Blessing '89
- 17 Shin Yul Nim's 5th Birthday
- 22 Jun Sook Nim's 30th Birthday
- 24 Shin Gil Nim's 10th Birthday
- 28 Hoon Sook Nim's 35th Birthday
- 30 Yeon Jin Nim's 17th Birthday

FEBRUARY

- TRUE PARENTS' BIRTHDAY
- 2 Father's 78th Birthday
- 2 Mother's 55th Birthday
- 3 Choongmo-Nim's Ascension
- 8 1800 Couples' Blessing '75
- 11 16 Couples' Blessing '78
- 12 Shin Jung Nim's 15th Birthday
- 16 Kwon Jin Nim's 23rd Birthday
- 20 In Jin Nim & Jin Sung Nim's Blessing '84
- 20 Heung Jin Nim & Hoon Sook Nim's Blessing '84
- 21 74 Couples' Blessing '77
- 22 430 Couples' Blessing '68

MARCH

- 3 Shin Won Nim's 10th Birthday
- 16 Jin Sung Nim's 36th Birthday
- 25 Shin Chul Nim's 6th Birthday
- 28 TRUE PARENTS' DAY
- 28 Sung Jin Nim's Birthday
- 31 Hyun Jin Nim & Jun Sook Nim's Blessing '87

APRIL

- 7 42 Couples' Blessing '89
- 7 138 Previously Married Couples' Blessing '89
- 7 57 Single Blessing '89
- 10 1265 Couples' Blessing '92
- 11 Un Jin Nim & Jin Hun Nim's Blessing '86
- 7 Shin Hwa Nim's 10th Birthday
- 12 True Parents' Blessing
- 12 36 Couples of the 2nd Generation Blessing '86
- 16 Kwon Jin Nim & Hwa Yun Nim's Blessing '95
- 16 Sun Jin Nim & In Sup Nim's Blessing '95
- 17 Nan Sook Nim's 32nd Birthday
- 21 Jin Hun Nim's 35th Birthday
- 28 Shin Bok Nim's 16th Birthday

MAY

- 1 43 Couples' Blessing '69
- 1 HSA-UWC Established '54
- 5 Hyun Jin Nim's 29th Birthday
- 15 36 Couples' Blessing '61
- 16 Day of the Love of God '84
- 8 Shin Yeon Nim's 8th Birthday
- 16 Ye Jin Nim & Jin Whi Nim's Blessing '81
- 21 118 Couples' Blessing '78
- 26 TRUE DAY OF ALL THINGS

JUNE

- 4 72 Couples' Blessing '62
- 11 Young Jin Nim's 20th Birthday

- 13 39 Couples' Blessing '81
- 14 Jeung Jin Nim's 16th Birthday '82
- 23 Day of One Heart '89

JULY

- 1 2075 Couples' Blessing '82
- 1 DECLARATION DAY OF GOD'S ETERNAL BLESSING '91
- 24 124 Couples' Blessing '63

AUGUST

- 1 Day of Returning to the Home Country '93
- 5 Kook Jin Nim's 28th Birthday '70
- 6 Sun Jin Nim's 22nd Birthday '76
- 16 Total Victory Day '85
- 20 Declaration of the Providential Age of Salvation by Love '89
- 25 30,000 Couples' Blessing '92
- 25 360,000 Couples' Blessing '95
- 28 DECLARATION OF THE REALM OF THE COSMIC SABBATH FOR PARENTS OF HEAVEN AND EARTH
- 31 Day of the Settlement of 8 Stages '89

SEPTEMBER

- 1 Declaration Day of Heavenly Parentism '89
- 2 Shin Goon Nim's 15th Birthday
- 2 Shin Kwon Nim's 9th Birthday
- 6 Young Jin Nim & Hwa Jun Nim's Blessing '97
- 6 Hyung Jin Nim & Yun Ah Nim's Blessing '97
- 8 In Jin Nim's 33rd Birthday
- 9 Hwa Jung Nim's 21st Birthday
- 18 Foundation Day '76
- 20 Shin Ji Nim's 4th Birthday
- 22 Shin Joong Nim's 5th Birthday
- 26 Hyung Jin Nim's 19th Birthday
- 27 Day of Dispensational Reversal Toward Unification '88

OCTOBER

- 3 FOUNDATION DAY FOR THE NATION OF THE UNIFIED WORLD '88
- 4 Day of Victory of Heaven '76
- 5 Soon Ju Nim's 26th Birthday
- 14 6000 Couples' Blessing '82
- 21 777 Couples' Blessing '70
- 27 Shin Myung Nim's 12th Birthday
- 30 In Sup Nim's 26th Birthday
- 30 6500 Couples' Blessing '88

NOVEMBER

- 3 Daemo-nim's Ascension '89
- 4 Shin Eh Nim's 9th Birthday
- 6 Shin Ok Nim's 9th Birthday
- 8 Hwa Yun Nim's 21st Birthday
- 19 TRUE CHILDREN'S DAY
- 22 Shin Sun Nim's 8th Birthday
- 24 Shin Hoon Nim's 4th Birthday
- 24 Yun Ah Nim's 20th Birthday
- 29 3.6 Million & 36 Million Couples' Blessing

DECEMBER

- 6 Jin Whi Nim's 35th Birthday
Shin Young Nim's 12th Birthday
- 11 Heung Jin Nim's 32nd Birthday
- 22 35 Couples' Blessing

Due to the way the lunar calendar corresponds with the solar calendar, Un Jin Nim, Shin Choon Nim and Shin Pyung Nim's birthdays are not celebrated in 1998.

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TODAY'S WORLD



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MOTHER—GIVEN TO MARRIAGE IN LATE AMERICA

TODAY'S WORLD



TRUE GOD'S DAY 1997
MIDNIGHT PRAYER

TODAY'S WORLD



FATHER—IN SEARCH OF OUR ORIGINAL HOMELAND
REV. KWAK'S TRUE GOD'S DAY MORNING SPEECH

TODAY'S WORLD



TRUE PARENTS' BIRTHDAY
PLEDGE SERVICE SPEECH

TODAY'S WORLD



THE MEANING OF THE DAY OF
VICTORY OF LOVE

TODAY'S WORLD



FATHER—DAY OF VICTORY OF LOVE

TODAY'S WORLD



FATHER—TRUE FAMILY AND TRUE
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TODAY'S WORLD



TRUE PARENTS' BIRTHDAY SPEECH
20th Year Day of All Things-to-be-fulfilled

TODAY'S WORLD



1. HSA-UWC 43RD ANNIVERSARY
2. THE COSMIC ERA OF BLESSED FAMILIES

TODAY'S WORLD



1. True Man or His, Tongue and Business of Honesty
2. True Woman's Holy Woman

TODAY'S WORLD



The War of the MISTAKE AIDS PROTECTION FOR WEDNESDAY
WCSF 30-FAMILY, BLESSED ADDRESS AND DEDICATION

"Originally within every family you should be able to find grandparents, parents, husband and wife, and children. By learning how to love all these different levels of people, when you go out to the world and meet people you will be able to offer your heart and relate with them as you relate with the members of your own family."

Reverend Sun Myung Moon
October 31, 1997