

TRUE PEACE

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The Ideal Partner

Part II

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Even a married person might die before his or her time. Don't Unificationists die? Hence, matching people so that they can avoid this misfortune and others (as much as possible) is in reality a serious matter to me. This is a truly serious matter because I have taken charge over matters regarding your life and your eternal life and am about to decide the direction you should take. That is why I am advancing with such deep heart.

A couple that can be ideal partners

Then who is a man? It is a person that represents God. From the perspective of the original nature of God's creation, we find an internal nature and external form and find male and female nature there. A man born with these traits is God's other self. A woman is also God's other self. A man is God's right alter ego and a woman God's left alter ego. When both a man and woman appear as substantial selves on earth, the man is set on earth as the embodiment of True Father and the woman is set on earth as the embodiment of True Mother from the point of view of the coming True Parents.

That is why this place is called the kingdom of heaven. A man cannot ignore a woman nor can a woman ignore a man here. Only when the two become one, can they become individuals that advance under one purpose with their own view. No one is higher or lower here. It is a place that is beyond the male-dominated view.

From this perspective, problems become serious after receiving the blessing because there is no way to forgive mistakes committed after that. I do not talk about details such as how God will resolve this in the future. I do not talk about there being an exhausting and tedious way of resolving it.

I have the biggest headache because of that now. Though it is I that gives the blessing, I do not have any responsibility over anything. What is the first vow? When I ask, "Will you take all responsibility over the mistakes you commit in your life of faith?" Brides and grooms reply, yes. In other words, they take full responsibility. Hence, I do not have any responsibility in regard to whether they live well or not.... Based on a principled standard, I can be held responsible, but I am not responsible over any problem regarding your resultant lives.

Among all those families that hid such

True Father gave this sermon at what was then the headquarters church in Korea on October 16, 1967. It was a Monday. He was speaking to matching candidates.

problems, there are a few things.... I have deliberately not held any general meetings for families even though the first seven-year course is almost coming to an end. It could have been different if I had taken care of those families, led them and settled everything to a certain level. I knew this; however, because the Fall occurred within the indirect dominion, they cannot be qualified to stand in front of God if they do not pass through that process. That is why such people automatically end up falling away and getting tangled.

From this perspective, who is a man? He is one who has been raised in utmost zealotry. A woman is one raised in utmost zealotry as a man's partner. No matter how many men and women there are in the world, imagine this man and woman finally become a true man and true woman in history and that they become a re-created man and woman in history. How great that is!

When this happens and God sees it and officially recognizes it by saying, "Yes, you are my son; you are my daughter. What you like is what I like. You and I liking each other is what the universe delights in," then the man and woman can form a family centered on God's love and the couple within that family can be called ideal partners. Do you understand? [Yes]

You, thief-like men, is there anyone among you that came here with such thoughts? The problem is a serious one indeed. It may not seem such a big deal because there are many men and women here. However, imagine that an earthquake takes place on earth or in the universe and everything collapses as a result; the only male survivors are those without an eye or arms, while there is only one female survivor who is the most beautiful among all women on earth, a beauty that you see in posters, a matchless beauty, one that is truly beautiful regardless of what light you look at her in. What will you do? Will the beauty complain, What

kind of man is that? She will certainly find her partner and say, You are my husband and I need you.

Will she do that or not? Think about it. Should she do that or not? If she doesn't, this woman will become an unpardonable woman in front of humanity and in front of the world made through the principle of creation. Should she be called a wicked spirit or a witch that is worse than the devil? Or should she just be called a wicked spirit?

All the women here, what would you do? Would you still want to marry despite that? Even if your husband rejected you and ran away, you must follow him and hold on to him saying, We started our lives together as a match made by Heaven. We are bound to each other as a match made by Heaven. Hold on to his legs; since he doesn't have arms, hold on to his legs. [Laughter] Shouldn't you be able to live together even if it means locking him up so that he won't go? Yes or no? [Yes!]

Men, do you have to marry or not? Do you have to or not? Please answer. Do you have to marry or not? Yes? [We must marry.] What is there to question here? Of course you all have to marry. Please try to consider that. Restoration. I also often think, If only there were a woman that could relate to God's will...

Absolute obedience, serve the nation

Wait and see what becomes of the Unification Church. Rumors regarding all the persecution I received to this point and everything I have done have started around the world. This time, a rumor about me started circulating in Japan but returned to Korea. Do you think I did not anticipate all these problems? My plan is well set up, both inside and outside, but needs to be pushed ahead; however, because of the mistakes of women, in the end....

Eve's mistake in the Garden of Eden disgraced Adam; not only did she disgrace Adam, she also handcuffed him and made all their posterity into slaves of the enemy for eternity. The nature of that woman left a huge thorny path in front of Unification Church members in this age. Women did that.

As long as women desire to, they can chat many times a day.... If three women meet, only fights will occur. That is why in the era of restoration women must be able to have the mind-set, Please catch and eat me.



▶ These photographs are of Father and Mother in Japan sometime in the 1960s.





▶ Father speaking to Japanese members in Tokyo in 1967

Didn't Jesus do that? Jesus said to God, I am a young sheep. If you tell me to die, I will. In other words, he said, please catch and eat me. Did Jesus do that or not?

He probably said, I, with disheveled hair, failed; I am a sinner for causing eternal embarrassment to God by failing to fulfill my responsibility. Please catch and have me; realize the liberation of your sorrowful and bitter heart. Just as a young sheep that cannot protest against being sheared, Jesus probably said, Please catch and have me.

In order to save face for Adam, before Jesus died on the cross, Jesus said, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt." How miserable is that? It is like saying, Please catch and have me; I cannot raise my head.

Why is that? He could not raise his head because he did not fulfill the central cosmic responsibility as a man. Even if he were to die thousands or tens of thousands of times, there was no way to apologize for this circumstance. Even though blood was flowing from his hands and feet, he said, May God's compassion be

here in greater depths. May God's abiding love dwell here in accordance with the more blood I shed and the more my life deteriorates. It was as if he prayed in this manner, even though he was shedding blood and following the fateful path of death. Because, before leaving, Jesus left the following prayer, "The way to God's love, his mercy and his compassion is in me, within all the blood I have shed; even though I leave in this manner, please do not leave behind such an environment for the man coming to future descendants. May you be able to give the love you couldn't give," the day of hope for the Lord at his Second Advent, the way to the day when we can sing about a peaceful kingdom beyond any suffering became connected.

Hence, Jesus is a young sheep. Right? Is the young sheep a big sheep or a small one? [A small one] How can a small sheep.... Whether you hit it or tie it upside down, the young sheep has no way to protest. However, a big sheep can make use of its horns. Right?

Let us say that this man inherits heavenly authority and appears on earth. How

should a woman react in front of such a man? What should a woman do? Women, should you do that or not? [We should] You must absolutely obey and submit to this man, who is like a young sheep. When a man that can represent and fulfill the duty of the Messiah, who came on earth with victorious authority, appears on earth, how should a woman react in front of this man? You must become young sheep in front of this man. You must become like him. Only by becoming such people can you be restored. Without going through this process and completing it, indemnity won't take place.

Why do you think I have sent you all to provinces? What kind of son or daughter is God looking for? God is looking for sons and daughters that are obedient but that can also proclaim him to the world. Do you understand what that means? In other words, he wants us to look for sons and daughters that are obedient but have the caliber through which they can receive official approval in front of the people and world for having obeyed.

That is why the Unification Church's method of teaching is that of serving and sacrificing for the people. When genuine sons and daughters are found, let us bless those who sympathize with these sons and daughters, let us share our blessings with those that are compassionate toward these sons and daughters with a happy heart.

What, then, is that place where one can have compassion to a degree that is great and deep? The more an environment weighs on the lives of those sons and daughters, the greater compassion they can receive. That is why when one risks one's life for the people, if there is a person that shows compassion; in other words even if the people are against you, but there is still one person amidst them that shows sympathy, the sin committed by the entire people can be forgiven through this one person that showed sympathy. Do you understand?

Even though this people and other churches have opposed the Unification Church, if there are those among this people that show sympathy and express support for our fight, the people will receive blessings thanks to them. Since they're part of this people and have loved us from this people's standpoint, let us love and show sympathy to this people. This is restoration. I'm saying that when we are established, let us bless those that showed us sympathy. That is why you are going

down to the provinces and working so hard.

Desiring a partner

What is an ideal partner? Satan cannot make false charges against you if you advance after having surrendered to the people and received sympathy and official approval from them. When you come forward representing the people, saying, "Ah, the path these people are taking is the truth; they are amazing indeed," with flags and banners, you can truly become qualified to be in a world-level position of glory as sons and daughters. I am asking you to go out and welcome suffering in order to set up such an environment and condition. I am saying that we raise people as qualified people. Do you understand what I am trying to say?

Concerning most of you leading more than three years of public life for the will....

Such a man and woman will finally represent history, settle everything until now, and finally appear in front of a new heaven and earth in history in a state that God likes, one saying, "I will love the man God likes as much as God does," and the other saying, "I will love the woman God likes as much as God does." Thus, they will be matched, out of their desire to do so through engagement and living together in married life. Do you understand?

So I will ask women, Can you love a man that God likes as much as God does? Will you love the man as much or not? [We will] This is principled. Will you love him as much as God loves him or not? [We will love him.] If you won't, you are on Satan's side. Now, what about you men? Will you love the woman as much as God does? [Yes] Your answers were vibrant. You were tempted by Eve because you can so easily answer. [Laughter]

If you loved a woman that God can love more than you loved God, God would not be jealous. This would be something novel to those in the world. Isn't that correct? If you are sons that God loves, you won't say to your wife, who loves God, Hmm, you love God more than me? Stop loving God and love me more.

Men that say so are thieves. You must be able to say, I am truly happy that you love God more than you love me.

We start from that point. We came all the way here starting from this circumstance of the heart. The two of you should be able to hang on to God to the point that



▶ Father in Japan in the 1960s. The calligraphic message in the background reads, "Let's do everything with joy."

you cannot let go of him and God tells you, That's enough.

Isn't that right? Shouldn't God bless you? God likes that. Children coming from such a couple would receive incredible blessings. They would be endowed with blessings in the future.

Even though you are in a position desiring the decision of such an ideal partner, the male candidates here have been sitting, holding up their heads like bulls and looking around to find someone like quails, not being aware of how God sees it. [Father imitates the men and the audience laughs.]

You are seeing everything that is there to see. You see everything that is there to see at any time. However, I do not desire that. When it comes to the principle.... From now on, you will have to prepare under this determination. Do you understand?

You still have some time left until that moment, so please offer conditions. You should be able to pray, "What kind of man would True Father connect me to? What I want is a family. I want to live for the family." You should be able to pray, "I want to live for the world. Where is that person who can sympathize with my wish to live for the world? Father, as you well know, I want to live for the people. Where is the partner that can feel compassion and easily follow this path?"

You should be able to pray, "Even if I follow this path, I will not go alone. I have to follow this path representing this people, representing this religious order.

When it comes to a devoted son, I desire to advance as a representative of devoted sons; when it comes to a patriot, I desire to advance as a representative of patriots; when it comes to virtuous women, I desire to advance as a representative of virtuous women; when it comes to devoted daughters, I desire to advance as a representative of devoted daughters. Hence, Father, please give me a partner in following this path. I want to follow this path to raise your glory, to raise the status of the people, to make our way clean for future descendants and to overcome the taints of history. I am ready to render true gratitude to Father for eternity for allowing me this woman, whether ugly or pretty, to sing in joy and to follow this path praising you. So, please do not worry."

Pledge to resolve resentment

Then, where have all the families that received the blessing headed to? Those focusing on the family end up flowing away. The purpose I married wasn't to save the family. Even now, I am still educating Mother; I am not following this path for the family. I am doing it for the nation and in order to complete the mission of restoring the cosmos. We should be able to pledge ourselves to this task whenever we open our eyes. We should be able to shed tears for it. When it comes to the indemnity course, I believe this is the gift that I can leave to history as a parent. This is the life philosophy that is held within Teacher's family. We need such a tradition. **TP**



True Mother Announces Changes as the Month Begins



▶ True Mother speaking in the hoondokhae room in Cheon Jeong Gung on March

Even though you heard only a part of *Champumo Gyeong*, how do you feel about it? Once *Champumo Gyeong* is released, you will have to study a lot. The three volumes of the Cheon Il Guk scripture that I promised True Father would be completed have been concluded a few months ahead of the second anniversary of True Father's ascension. The only task left is translating the scriptures into other languages. In addition, I have enacted and promulgated the Cheon Il Guk Constitution on the first anniversary of Foundation Day. I have now prepared everything that will guide and become the center of the future of the Unification family. From now on, what remains is for you to fulfill your responsibilities. A few days ago, I resigned from my post as the chairwoman of the Sun Moon Foundation. I also resigned from the post of chairwoman of the Mission Foundation. I have appointed Dr. Seuk Jun-ho in my place. The Mission Foundation will mainly work on grasping the state of mission fields and nations and will provide textbooks that everyone can relate to and thereby bring about great development to mission work. Please pay attention to it, closely observe it and fulfill your respon-

True Mother gave this message on the first day of March (2.1 on the heavenly calendar) at Cheon Jeong Gung following hoondokhae at which passages from the recently completed Champumo Gyeong were read.

sibility to ensure mission work develops.

As for the financial aspect, Kim Hyoyul, the vice-chairman, has not been in good health and is resting now. This won't become a problem. Furthermore, a nation or small group needs an owner, right? You are aware that you were born as blessed members thanks to True Parents through *Champumo Gyeong* and through your faith and have heard of it in what was read today for hoondokhae, right? The blessed families around the world are the hope of Heaven. You welcomed True Parents, who are the hope of humanity, and have received the blessing; yet, there are still seven billion people

whom we must embrace and educate. We cannot just ignore this situation. We must fulfill our responsibilities.

That is why I resigned from all the posts I had held, to strengthen all the organizations that have been established and to help you fulfill your responsibilities. This is not the standard originally desired by Heaven, but from a secular point of view, just as Father was mentioned in the message given just now as Chairman Moon, I was inaugurated as Chairwoman Han. From a secular point of view, I need to have the chairman's office, right? In order to have such an office, one needs secretaries. I have been raising some for a long time. I have appointed Kim Min-ho as the chief secretary, my assistant Jeong Won-ju, who has always been with me, as the senior secretary and Mr. Noguchi, a Japanese member, as my special assistant. This is a very simple office compared to other presidential offices in nations or in the world. Is that correct? Everything depends on what you do. Raising True Parents' status and attending them at the head of a nation and world is your responsibility. Do you understand? Will you do your best? **JP**



Have Great Hopes

Thanks to the internet and applications such as KakaoTalk, the entire world can connect within a second, a second! If you have set your antennas to face where the True Parents are, wouldn't you know everything that True Parents are doing?

One thousand two hundred students from around the world were presented scholarships through the Wonmo Pyeongae Foundation during the first anniversary

of Foundation Day. They are our future and within three to four years, they will become talented people in our church. Political circles, financial circles, academic circles and NGOs in Korea that heard the news, all expressed their surprise. Secular broadcasting companies aired the news continually. The world has changed. Hence, you must also change. I am asking you to have great hopes. Happiness grows the more you share it.

How to become a true owner

When True Father was alive, he used the title Chairman Moon. I have resigned from the post of chairwoman of the Mission Foundation and of the Sun Moon Foundation. When Father was still here, we were called Chairman Moon and Chairwoman Han. That is how my title changed to Chairwoman Han.

In the future, when an official memo is sent, it will be done under the name of the

head of the Mission Foundation, but the chairwoman¹ is above the head of the Mission Foundation.

I have established a system through which you can be educated and one through which all materials and results can be shared with the whole world to help you fulfill your responsibilities. You became blessed families through True Parents and hold responsibility as blessed families. No longer can anyone say that he could not fulfill his responsibilities because he did not know. I am saying that I have opened the way for you, so that you can fulfill more than a hundred percent of your responsibility. How much effort you make and the results you gain will decide whether you establish a tradition as a noble family.

I hope you have kept in mind the motto I have set as our goal until 2020. Let us become true owners. What does that mean? We must be able to pass on the tradition of our Heavenly Parent and the True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind with a parental heart. That is how we can become true owners. You have repeatedly heard that we must fulfill our tribal messiah mission. What would you do if that tribe were your children? Will you let your children go to hell while you go to Heaven?

You are truly happy people; the problem is that you are unaware of it. You have met True Parents. You have received True Parents' teachings and have been established as blessed families. Doesn't that by itself make us happy people? However, when you consider what you have

After True Mother conducted the commemorative events of the first anniversary of Foundation Day in Korea February 7–16, she left for the United States on March 7 with the United States providence in mind. She spoke on several occasions in Las Vegas and encouraged members there. The following is an edited version of True Mother's speeches, combined, on March 7 and 12.

done for True Parents in return, we conclude that it was quite inadequate.

You do not know the spiritual world very well, but it is a place that manifests the results of how you led your lives on earth. If you come to think that you could have fulfilled your responsibility while True Parents were on earth and dedicated it to Heaven but did not, you will deeply lament when you go to the eternal world.

Learn Korean

Those who understand Korean, raise your hands. After the Holy Wedding in 1960, I studied Japanese using a language textbook that Japanese elementary schools used. That was a time when I barely knew hiragana. However, that was a time when

the providence was sharply advancing and I had many children; I could not continue studying. Dozens of years passed in this manner. When was the rally at the Tokyo Dome? That was after the Women's Federation global speaking tour. It was in September 1993. I had forgotten about Japanese as a language for thirty years, but Father told me to speak in Japanese.

The problem, however, was that the manuscript had not yet been completed and how could I speak in Japanese with the little I knew? Father was in Kodiak² at that time; he would go out to the sea at five in the morning and return late in the evening. When we told him that the manuscript was finished and showed it to him, he corrected it, saying, "Ah, fix this. Fix that!" Then we sent it to Japan and then we did more editing after receiving it back from Japan by fax. This is how we prepared the message, but I was quite worried because I only had one week left.

Luckily, knowing some hiragana came in handy. I could barely read the manuscript but had to put emotion into the words. However, these were words of life. So I did it. The results were good. Aren't there many famous Japanese professors in the Professor World Peace Academy? According to them, I spoke advanced Japanese and that it was standard.

This was the first time I spoke to such a large audience. Around fifty thousand people came. Imagine how surprised they were. How did it feel after I concluded the speech? You know how a sponge absorbs water. A seahorse! It felt as though water



▶ True Mother with a group that visited the Ocean Peace construction site; To Mother's right are Kwon-jin nim and his wife Hwa-yun nim to Mother's left is Kim Ki-hoon, regional president of North America.

¹ Most Korean titles can be translated into a variety of English terms. Though the English rendering of the term for the head of the Mission Foundation may be "chairman," True Mother is stating that regardless of the title, she is above the head of the Mission Foundation.

² An American island off the coast of Alaska where we had an ocean fishing operation



▶ From left: Rev. Kim Ki-hoon, regional president, North America; Jeong Won-ju, True Mother's personal assistant and True Mother (among others) tour the Peace Palace construction site.

had been completely drawn from the sponge. You, however, should be able to understand Korean since you have studied it for forty years.

Father's final work—ocean peace

I came here to make some decisions only I can make regarding the building Father last wanted to establish. I am very tired. My lips are all chapped. Not a day has passed when I could rest. But I have come here. This was possible because of True Parents' blood, sweat and tears. I am trying to tell you that you should not live as you did in the past and that you must change now.

Internally, coming here will be a pilgrimage; externally, Japanese or other people that have money in Asia will want to come here at least once. People like that can visit our training center and listen to the Divine Principle. We are thinking of setting up a video center that introduces True Father within the building.

People here should be able to say, "We can do it!" If we shout that we can do it, the spiritual world will support you. Attention will end up leaning toward us. Plus, we do not know failure. We only know victory. You should live with confidence in that. Think of how hard Heaven worked to prepare for this one era. At this time, would Heaven cooperate with those who remain until the very end or not? Heaven will cooperate with them. The

problem lies within us.

That building is True Parents' final project. It means that it has a connection with True Parents. Those who go through workshops there or those visiting the building will be able to continuously form a strong bond in their hearts with True Parents. In other words, it is different from other buildings.

After True Father's ascension, do you know what the first thing was that I ordered from our church? I asked that we become a living church through the Holy Spirit and the truth. What does that mean? We are living beings. We must move. Our churches should not become dead. The same applies to businesses. Our businesses should not become dead businesses. Don't we have to live? In order to do that, you should rack your brains to your fullest to think of possibilities. Only by doing that can we develop and succeed.

Maritime Ocean Peace opening ceremony in Las Vegas

For a living being to remain in good health, it must have good food. Yet, when we look at the world today, the pure creation originally made by our Heavenly Parent has been largely destroyed because of people. Not knowing the providence, fallen people continued to live self-centered lives. This is why so many problems are arising around the world today. The

reckless flow of polluted materials into the ocean is threatening living beings in many countries, particularly those living in the ocean.

True Father started the ocean providence in the 1960s for the sake of humanity, to benefit their good health and as a way to resolve the food crisis. That is why he set up many ocean providence bases around the world. You can find these ocean bases starting from Alaska to the South America Pantanal, the Amazon River Valley and the Paraguay River. Everything that True Parents planned and providentially conducted was for humanity's sake, for the future, and for the maintenance of humanity's health and life; in a word, it was his love. At the processing plant in Alaska, fish powder was produced in an effort to prove a source of nutrients to famished people in Africa.

Japanese missionaries are working hard in diverse fields around the world. I sincerely congratulate the dedication of Las Vegas Ocean Peace, the last providential work that Father conducted, which was made possible through such hard work.

I sincerely hope that our company can develop into a company that can save the United States, take responsibility for humanity's health problems and produce healthy food. I give it my blessings. **JP**

Greetings from the Chairman

By Seuk Joon-ho



Dr. Seuk Joon-ho is chairman of the Mission Foundation for the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification.

Beloved blessed families and members who are working hard to fulfill God's will,

In accordance with True Parents' directions, I have taken office as the chairman of the Mission Foundation for the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification, and have been given responsibility to oversee the operations of world missions. True Father went to the heavenly nation after having perfected, completed and concluded Heaven's providence and after having accomplished everything that he was meant to do. True Mother is spending sleepless nights, shedding tears as she carries on, advances and places the final touches on True Father's cosmic legacy. With the heart of a pioneer and with firm resolve, sparing not even a single second, she relentlessly moves forward without stopping. I call upon all members to become one with her tearful heart.

As the person who was responsible to oversee True Father's universal Seonghwa Ceremony, I should have followed True Father into the spirit world. I was not even near to fulfilling the way of filial piety and loyalty to him. Since then, I had quietly led my life in repentance while focusing on advancing the martial arts providence and fulfilling my mission as a tribal messiah. It was during this time that True Parents unexpectedly called me. Unworthy as I am, I was given a new mission, through which I shall now do my best to fulfill the way of filial piety and loyalty to True Parents through offering devotions with my entire being for the remaining days of my life.

Let us all truly unite with True Mother, who proclaimed Vision 2020 and is leading the Unification Movement. Cheon Il Guk is a nation where two people become one.¹ It is a world where we live as one family under the Heavenly Parent. It is a world based on the culture of heart. Now in this era of Cheon Il Guk, all the brothers and sisters of the Unification Movement should do their best in substantiating Cheon Il Guk within each of their surroundings and lives. We should share a common heart and form a community based in the culture of heart.

True Parents have given us great blessings and love. They gave us blessed marriages, the grace of being registered into the heavenly nation and even the Seonghwa Festivals.² True Father showered his love and blessings on us up until the moment he departed for the spiritual world. True Parents gave us the hoondok materials and also *Cheon Seong Gyeong*, *Pyeonghwa Gyeong*, and *Chambumo Gyeong* as the holy scriptures of Cheon Il Guk, guiding us to live as righteous people, citizens of Cheon Il Guk.

Let us express our gratitude for True Parents' amazing grace and love and complete our respective responsibilities and missions. We should offer to heaven our victorious lives as tribal messiahs. We should restore and offer to heaven both our close relatives, the Abel-realm tribe, and our neighbors and acquaintances, the Cain-realm tribe.

Blessed members should become true tribal messiahs, each a true parent, true teacher and true owner in front of the tribe. For this purpose, let us emulate True Parents, who lead by example, by establishing the hoondok tradition within our families and guiding the people around us with true love and sincere devotion toward our Heavenly Parent. Let us witness to these people, educate them, raise them as heaven's true children and guide them to the Blessing Ceremony.

I sincerely pray that our brothers and sisters in the Unification Movement can rise to the cause of the new era, shoulder the heavy burden that our True Mother bears alone and join her in taking the lead in the providence as owners of Cheon Il Guk of whom God can be proud.

May the blessings and love of the Heavenly Parent be with you and your families. **TP**

¹ This was Father's literal interpretation of the Chinese characters, Cheon Il Guk, which he indicated expressed the essence of the name.

² Sometimes called "Legacy of Peace Festivals," these allowed the blessing to be given to deceased prominent members of society.

The Nitty-Gritty in a Spiritual Life Part II

By Kim Won-jong

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

Later, I was dispatched to the town of Hwengseong. I visited members throughout the town and found that members completely ignored me and were even hostile toward me for being their local pastor. Previous pastors had caused nothing but trouble and local members considered those pastors to be people that would only accumulate huge debts for the local church and run away. The last pastor had left a debt of ₩300,000.

First of all, I did not want to cause further trouble, so for purposes of self-sufficiency, I sold three patches of rice paddy from home, opened a small shop and even raised two pigs. Later, when I circulated the area, talking of God's heart, the community leaders and members responded unconditionally. Even those who previously disregarded me and did not let me enter their homes, brought radishes and rice to our district headquarters.

The first time I attended the Gangwon Province local district pastors' meeting, the provincial head scolded me for bringing back little result. I suddenly flew into a rage and snapped at him saying, "You let the debt accumulate to ₩300,000 and did nothing about it. Are you telling me to pay back the debt? You pay it." I refused to show him the business book when he asked to inspect it. Receiving a monthly financial audit just as in the secular world by the so-called provincial district pastor, an executive in the Unification Church that did not trust me was not only embarrassing but something my dignity could not stand. Hence, I did not obey his instructions. I placed all responsibility over the financial problems of air gun sales into the hands of the provincial district headquarters.

Nevertheless, I felt sorry in front of Heaven because of the ₩300,000 debt the

local district headquarters carried. Being fully aware that the debt would not be resolved without countermeasures, I instructed the local district headquarters not to buy even one grain of rice until this ₩300,000 was paid off.

My oldest daughter Eunja had been recently weaned and we tried to feed her noodles, barley and corn, but she could not digest them and discharged the food in its intact form. Whenever we tried to give her some noodles or barley, she would refuse and start crying. Members pleaded with me that Eunja alone be allowed to eat rice, but I could not let my child be the source hindering a decision that had been made and becoming the basis of accusations. I flatly dismissed their pleas saying, "Even if she has to die as a result, that is fine. She will die a martyr." Fortunately, the child no longer had any difficulties digesting any food and grew well. Then members of the church in Goshi took her under their care. When I would travel around the Goshi area, I could have easily visited and stayed the night in members' homes if it were not for Eun-ja. However, because people might accuse me of sleeping in nice home using the baby as an excuse, I would secretly avoid those places and travel the distance back to our family's home.

My wife lived at the local headquarters and took a hundred bars of soap out to sell each day. Yet, even our austere lifestyle to reduce expenses and the small shop we ran to make money did not make paying off the ₩300,000 debt possible. We could barely make ends meet.

With the goal of paying off this debt within the year, I set up a strategy to sell eighty air guns and mobilized all the members to take part in a special forty-day prayer vigil during which we sold one air gun per day, forty air guns in forty

days. After these forty days, we could not sell a single air gun anymore. Without a doubt, Heaven had helped us sell these forty guns. I distributed the remaining forty guns among members who diligently offered conditions and actively tried to sell them. Finally, we sold everything, paid off the ₩300,000 debt and even made more than ₩200,000 in surplus.

In 1969, I was dispatched to Cheonan. That was a time when the Korean church was rearranged into thirty-four districts and Cheonan was promoted as one of those districts. However, Cheonan did not have the appearance of a district headquarters in all respects. Members were lukewarm about church development. Securing a church building, however, was the most urgent matter. As part of the plan to resolve the problem of securing funds for a church building, I sold the house we were living in and rented a place for six months until we could finally buy a 140-pyeong plot with the donations made by all the members. We had planned to build a forty-five-pyeong church but first had to resolve the immediate lack of living quarters. We decided to build a house. We had difficulties making ends meet, so my wife had to sell a snack, flat round bread filled with hot brown sugar, from a vending cart. We had to move in before the place had doors and even before the cement had dried; a sheet of veneer covered the doorway. Despite such living conditions, we could not the garner money needed to build the church.

My neighbors before my family

Sleeping in the house, albeit without a door, while the church remained unfinished went against my conscience. I told Heavenly Father that I would not sleep at home until the church was built. I began



▶ Rev. Kim, (second row, third man from the left) in front of the Guri church built while he was the leader there.

staying up overnight at the holy ground.¹ Once, the police took me in, having mistaken me for a North Korean spy. After twenty-one days staying up all night at the holy ground, word spread throughout the provincial district that the pastor was staying up nights because of the church construction problem. Members at all the churches—students, young adults and others—rose up to build the Cheonan headquarters. They took the lead in conducting special projects. One member even offered to sell her engagement ring for the building and a member I had never seen before made a huge donation. Thanks to all these efforts, we completed a twenty-four pyeong church.

A woman that was working at a textile factory remembered the church from her youth and returned. I offered conditions for that member and encouraged her to take up the mission of evangelist in her workplace. She was very active and even brought in fifty to sixty people on one occasion. About twenty of those people took part in the 1,800-Couple Blessing Ceremony.

I also taught school subjects at the church. Seonghwa students increased to about forty and we had sixty or seventy regular members. With over a hundred members coming for Sunday service, the church in Cheonan now had the prestige

of a provincial district church both in name and reality.

My eldest son Myeong-won entered sixth grade that year. He could no longer study at the church, so we sent him to a relative's house in Subi. Soon, I was on my way to my hometown, Subi, in order to transfer my son to Subi Elementary School. Even though it had been four years since I last visited my hometown, I went there at night and left early in the morning. During the beginning days of the Unification Church, it seemed as though we were on the cusp of something happening, but now even the church in my hometown had closed down and out of embarrassment I could not hold my head up high.

Myeong-won had changed public schools five times and even though his clothes grew ragged, his shoes wore out and he did not have a notebook, I did not buy him anything. It was all up to his mother. Still, she never complained or blamed me but endured suffering. Later, the church marshalled women, including my wife, to go out witnessing. Just before she set off, one of our four children was experiencing bloody stools and was not eating. My wife asked if she could go after the child got better. I firmly said, "If he dies, he'll be a martyr," and forced her out.² My wife cried all the way to her mis-

sion area. Her eyes were so swollen from crying on the train that she said she could not see straight. This was how my wife left and our three children fell into my care for some time. This experience helped me realize just how difficult it is for mothers to raise their children. I felt sorry for scolding my wife in the past when she slept first, holding one of our children or when she tried to skip prayer sessions at the holy ground early in the morning.

Serving the needs of the people

We decided that a good way the church could make a deep connection with the local residents was to run a preschool. I went around asking parents to send their children. Soon, it was overcrowded with more than a hundred children. We provided free education while supplying snacks once or twice a week. Later, the mothers realized how wrong it was not to pay and started collecting a monthly fee of ₩500 per child. Whenever a birthday came, the mothers would collect rice and we would have a party. They would also give the church some kind of compensation. Since many of us then were surviving on ₩700 per person, it became a source of great strength. The mothers became members; they took part in rallies and were very cooperative.

¹ The Korean terms literally is "all night" but in practice this extended from midnight until 4:00 AM.

² Rev. Kim expanded on this recently. He told his wife that she could not provide the medical attention the child needed and she might bring a curse down on him by delaying her departure. The boy recovered quickly and had no blood stools once she had left.

We strengthened our bond with local administrators and community leaders through lectures on anticommunism. We attracted people that had participated in Victory Over Communism workshops and organized the Victory Over Communism Friendship Association. The police station would provide a venue and lunch once a month. Once everyone convened, I would only lecture. Every year, the International Victory Over Communism Federation hosted the September 28 Reclamation³ of Seoul Speech Contest on Victory Over Communism for students, office workers and soldiers. Once the members of the V.O.C. Friendship Association became dedicated to the organization and its education, we could connect them to the church and provide religious education. The police station would bring chairs and other necessities in their vehicles. The church did not provide even a single bowl of noodles. The police chief would give lectures, provide lunch and even bring many gifts. Particular circumstances had led the police to become this helpful. Once, an officer saw our members eating boiled barley and beans with soup made from dried radish greens on the floor; this made a deep impression on him. He might have then spoken about our circumstances at the police station and other institutions because whenever I offered to buy lunch, they would decline my offer and tell me, "Please buy one more radish with that money for your members."

In 1972, Father gave me ₩15,000 to buy some new clothes. That was a time when we were building a church in Byeongcheon and were short on funds. I felt it went against my conscience to buy clothes and donated the money instead. Afterward, I somehow received three sets of clothes all at once.

God understands public figures

In March 1970, I was put in charge of the church in Mapo, Seoul. Members with strong faith that lived in Mapo provided much support to the church. We had rented the building with a deposit of ₩650,000, but the landlord sold the building and disappeared without a trace. We could not reclaim the deposit and were in dire circumstances, likely to be kicked out.



▶ Rev. Kim in Japan

We needed at least ₩1.9 million to acquire a new church. The headquarters agreed to provide us with ₩1.2 million and the church itself was to provide 1 million. We planned to divide that amount and collect it from among the members, but when I first visited members' homes with this in mind, I saw that they all were living in poverty. Five or six people would live in a little room and spend their days peddling on the street to make ends meet. When I saw that, I felt I had to offer conditions for our members. Before the early morning service started, I would light a holy candle around 4:00 am, reminisce about and pray for members from a list I had. Around 5:00, members would come and we would have a prayer session together.

Each night, I would go to bed around 11:30 pm,⁴ so a rumor spread among the members that I did not sleep much because I was offering conditions for members. Afterward, all the members could donate some portion toward securing a church building. We received more than we had expected in donations and were able to get things we had not planned on, such as an organ, new linoleum for the floor and curtains.

We visited the local police station in order to see about conducting the Victory Over Communism lecture series. When

we entered the police chief's office, sitting there was none other than Lee Se-young, the Cheonan police chief, who was now the Mapo police chief. I was so glad to see him. He instructed all employees in the district office, district office chiefs, association presidents and New Village Movement⁵ leaders to attend a meeting to hear the lectures. Following this, we went from company to company and from school to school giving lectures. It was so difficult at the time that I lost my appetite.

I worked at the church in Mapo for a year and six months before heading to the church in Guri on July 20, 1975, for the summer witnessing period. I mentioned in my inaugural address that I was not there to teach about faith but to learn about faith.

The Guri church had more than 1,500 members coming from the Tongil Heavy Industries Corporation, Il Hwa and other businesses and organizations. It was certainly a large congregation. I spoke every day during the forty-day witnessing period. The service on Sunday had the atmosphere of a Christian church, so much so that it was hard to distinguish between long time members and new members.⁶ In the beginning, we had services in the main hall of the training center, but the headquarters often held workshops there, so we had to hold services elsewhere—at

3 During the Korean War, when UN Forces first entered the fight, they initially pushed the North Koreans back and reclaimed Seoul on this date in 1950, only to lose and regain it later.

4 In those days, before televisions were common among Korean members, people went to bed earlier than they do today.

5 The New Village (*Sae Maul*) Movement began in 1970 as a national movement for social development, mainly to modernize rural Korea and its inhabitants.



▶ Rev. Kim and his wife with Keith Mitchell, the prime minister of Grenada, where the Kims are national messiahs.

times in a tent, a school auditorium or even in a grassy area around the front gate of a school. The continuously changing venue, however, added confusion to the atmosphere. To understand the underlying causes of the situation, I tried holding special assemblies of families and associations, but these drew only a quarter of the anticipated turnout.

I sought out those in charge of the companies. I asked for their cooperation regarding the faith of members, only to hear them explain, “Church is church and business is business. The two can’t be done at the same time.” I sought various ways to bring members to church based on their faith, doing everything I could. However, it was difficult to effect changes among the members and too many incidents happened that exacerbated everything to the point that no other measures worked out. When I was in the countryside, I had heard from members that those working in companies did not often come to church. I thought that was strange and did not believe it. This, however, was true. Some young members would go fishing or hiking on Sunday and others spread downright scandalous rumors. It was so surprising that I hesitated about whether I should frankly report this to God or not. I thought that I should not just bottle this up inside, so I

reported it to True Father, who at first said nothing for a long time and then lamented over it.

I felt that I should pursue a resolution to these problems one after the other after erecting a church building. With this in mind, I decided to go ahead with plans to build the church. So we bought a 256-pyeong plot of land where the current church is located for ₩33,000 per pyeong, for a total of ₩9 million including other expenses such as commissions. We used all the funds that we had saved to that point for the construction of the church building just to purchase this land.

Next, at an administrative and financial meeting I raised the issue of constructing the building. Opinions clashed between the elderly members that were against the construction and young members that were for it. The elderly ones asked, “What are you going to do if the building funds dry up?” They suggested that I did not have to build a proper, formalized church. While young members said, “A congregation of a thousand members being unable to build one church is a problem of faith. Let us have faith and construct a proper church building.” Many members conceded to the plan in an evening meeting but the following day, members that were against the construction came to me, protesting

and even seriously rebuking me.

Up until this point in my ministry, I had sheep-like young congregants, and it was quite excruciating to feel the lack of control—being pulled here and there and completely overwhelmed. I felt as if I were not capable of moving ahead; consequently, after some pondering, I prayed for more than twelve hours one night, asking God to transfer me to another place because I could no longer continue my ministry there.

Then I heard the voice of God rebuking me, “You! I went through hell and high water, having suffered slander, criticism and persecution, yet I lived without keeping score. Now you feel wronged just because members do not recognize you...” I thought, Oh Lord! I have not passed the test again.

After solving several problems, I finally requested that architect Aum Deok-moon⁷ draw up a master plan for the church and construction began. Members took full charge of the labor. We met our donation goals and were able to complete the long-awaited church. With the church building built, the faith of members began to stabilize and we could organize administrative and financial committees and other departments. We established a kindergarten and the New Love Senior’s Course;⁸ we even opened a New Village Credit Cooperative.

To bring solidarity and unity among the members, I planned a consumer’s cooperative like the one we used to operate in Yeongyang. I started a store called Lucky Retail through the New Village Credit Cooperative. I trusted and assigned a few members to operate the store, but they ended up being in the red by a few million won within five to six months. After the first failed attempt, the church started a New Village Credit Cooperative, which turned out to be an asset worth ₩3.4 million. Thanks to this, we could erect churches in three local districts. Again, changes in personnel and the failure to engage talented people forced us to return the principal and close it down.

Despite the challengers, I will continue to live for God’s eternal nation and his will in the future. **TP**

⁶ This is meant to describe his disorientation, because all earlier congregations had been much smaller.

⁷ Aum Duk-moon went to Waseda Technical High School in Tokyo with Father beginning in 1941. Father taught him the Divine Principle when they reconnected in Busan during the Korean War. Mr. Aum, an acclaimed pioneer of architecture in Korea, maintained ties with the church.

⁸ At the time, the church packaged anti-communist lectures and family life lectures for senior citizens under this name.

Second-Generation, Intercontinental Synergy

By Matthias Wiesner and Soonhwa Wiesner

For one week we felt the GPA-Power in Santiago, Dominican Republic

With the arrival on January 29 of twenty-six motivated second-generation Unificationists from the Generation Peace program who had come to invest their effort and talent in serving our school project in Santiago, Dominican Republic, the heavenly calendar year 2014 started on a strong note.¹ This was the second time that the school, *Colegio la Union*, has received support from second-generation members from the United States.

They came as part of their one-year training, which focuses on inculcating spiritual values and doing community service projects. Most of the older second-generation Dominican members wanted to join the volunteers' activities, because this was a great opportunity to meet young people of our church from the U.S. Unfortunately not all of them could do the service projects, but after Sunday service everyone above thirteen years of age was invited to go out for an excursion equipped with their swim suits.

While various parts of America were experiencing heavy snowstorms at that time, we could enjoy the beautiful weather and visit our famous twenty-seven waterfalls. The waterfalls are special because they are just high enough to slide down, making them a natural, long waterslide.

Keeping several dozen determined young people continually involved in meaningful activities while the normal school schedule had to be carried out challenged our school staff.

We had prepared a number of service projects—building a basketball court on an empty plot of land that we recently purchased, painting and repairing 150



▶ Above: Felix Gaye, Masaaki Saito, and Kolya Moyer moving a truckload of sand
▶ Below: Mira Brady and Sayana Hallal creating a mural for the basketball court

desks for the school, painting a long mural near the basketball court, painting another mural by the school's main gate and on the front wall and conducting art classes for students in the first through twelfth grades. We had also planned a sports day for students from the fifth grade up. On top of this, we had plenty of

extra work to do in our school library, erecting six book shelves, stamping books and putting them into order.

To our surprise we found that each of the GPA students had carried toys for our kindergarten in their luggage. Even a big dollhouse arrived, donated by one mother. At the handover ceremony it felt

¹ February 1 was True Heavenly Parent's Day 2014.

better than Christmas. What a joy and surprise for our small ones!

Most of our school children come from the poorer sector of our city and very few foreigners come to this part of town. On the third day we asked the older students from our school if they wanted to join the

prised all of us. She was watching one of the big brothers who was breaking down a wall, hit by hit with a big hammer. At one point she asked if she also could have try. Everybody found this was funny, but Okay, why not let her have a try. She put on protective glasses, put on gloves and

and dedication of GPA students.

Thanks to all the dedicated staffers and participants. A special thank you to GPA project coordinator Elisa Allen, and her two assistants, Mira Brady and Rob Garwood. Thank you to our local coordinator change within a week, through the power



▶ The proud art class teachers Kana Suzuki and Regina Castillo



▶ The final group photo after accomplishing the mission

GPA group in painting school desks. To our surprise everybody wanted to come. We had to choose ten students by lottery.

Painting and working together became a natural way for them to communicate and get to know each other. Interestingly, most of the GPA participants are half Japanese and for some both their parents are Japanese. That was a new aspect for our students, a new type of American. Naturally they wanted to know also more about Japan and the Japanese Language. One student got so excited having learned one Japanese word, "Konichiwa." He started jumping around and greeting everybody he saw, "Konichiwa, Konichiwa, Konichiwa... Art classes were another great way to meet the students and communicate, making crowns, necklaces, braces, little animals and playing games.

The tough brothers and quite a few tough sisters demonstrated their power when creating the basketball court. They leveled the ground, building a new wall and breaking down an old wall. During this activity one of the smallest sisters sur-

with both hands grabbed the hammer and started hitting the wall as if she had been doing it all her life. She stopped a few times, but then continued until she had removed a big chunk of the wall. That was a lesson to us—never underestimate a small person.

We all were very much moved by their hard-working spirit and positive attitudes. It wasn't easy to work for four straight hours under the burning sun without a single source of shade, but despite the very difficult circumstances they never complained.

Looking at all the young people giving their best, creating beautiful murals, leveling the ground, painting the desks, giving art classes, building walls, putting up bookshelves, stamping books in the library—everybody tried to invest in improving something. I was wondering, Isn't that how the heavenly kingdom should be? If all the young people had this attitude and commitment, our community would change within a week, in the same way that our school actually did change within a week, through the power

and the dedication of the GPA students. Thank you for choosing the Dominican Republic and bringing so many blessings to our school.

The whole school and community were very excited at seeing so many young foreigners working as volunteers at our school. The students were excited to speak in English with the volunteers and seeing white people was unusual. A week of interaction concluded with a day where the students could play sport with the GPA members and everyone could get to know one another. GPA brought back the spirit of excitement, energy, youth, and the hope that our school will prosper. We are very grateful to have gotten to know each one of them. We wish to thank them from the bottom of our hearts for their great work and the sacrifices made in coming to the Dominican Republic.

Thank you so much for choosing Dominican Republic. We love you and hope to see you next year again! **JP**

Matthias Wiesner is the administrator of Colegio La Unión; Soonhwa is his daughter.



By Ganesh Kumar Shrestha

The following testimony was written in 2011 by a Nepalese public figure whose life was transformed through his own efforts, God's intervention and the inspiration he received through his faith in True Parents.

From Village to Kingdom

I am from the country of Mt. Everest. I think of myself as True Father's oldest son. I was born in the eastern part of Nepal on the lap of Mt. Gaurishankar in 1952, just two years after independence from autocratic Rana Regime,¹ under the revolutionary leadership of the Nepali Congress Party. My birthplace is a remote mountain village, inaccessible to

motorized vehicles and lacking modern amenities. I started my childhood by grazing cows and goats in nearby pastureland and sometimes in the forest, where the grass was available for our animals, which provided us with the fresh taste of milk from both cows and goats. Every year in the dry season, people of the village bring all their domestic ani-

mals far from the village to graze in the forests for three months. I went as a "cowboy," and sustained myself on corn and millet grain mixed into boiling water to make a gruel we call *dhido*, which I washed down with cow's milk as all the cowboys did. I lived this life until the age of eleven.

¹ A feudalistic hereditary government that ruled Nepal from 1846 until it was toppled in late 1951 by the Nepali Congress, an opposition group that formed while in exile in India.



► The author's home village, which was unreachable by cars when he was a boy



► Mr. Shrestha was honored in his home village at the school that his father founded and that he developed further to the middle school level.

My father

Being an ex-army man, my father had been a freedom fighter before 1950. He had lived a difficult life of toil from 1948 to 1950 as a soldier opposing Nepal's autocratic leadership. Soldiers loyal to the Rana Regime had tortured him. His first wife was killed, shot by members of the national army of that time. He was freed when freedom was declared in February 1950. Then he married my mother and I physically was born on February 12, 1952. There was not any kind of school in my village at that time.

From goatherd to student

After thirteen years of independence, my father established a primary school in my village in 1963. I started my formal education at the age of eleven. My father had

taught me basic letters at home; thus I was enrolled in third grade in the same primary school. My scores were of the first rank and I should therefore have been promoted beyond the fifth grade, but that primary school had only five grades.

I had no choice, if I were to study further, other than to go far from my native village. One difficulty was having to go so far away from home; another was that my father could not afford the expenses for my further study. I seemed to have no option but to return to caring for goats and cows.

A second round of learning

In this way a few months passed. One evening, a man, accompanied by his family, came to my house on the way to take up his post as a middle school principal,

one full day's walk from my village. He was more or less familiar with my father. I understood the situation and I gave my best service to him to the extent that I was able as a boy of that age. He became very happy. The next morning, he asked my father to send me with him for further study. After I had bowed my head to my father's feet, he was ready to send me with the middle school principal.

Middle school

I was delighted to go with him. When I reached his school, I was enrolled in seventh grade, on the strength of my having passed the fifth grade in the first rank. From that time, I had to wake up early in the morning, wash the cooking pots, clean the rooms and prepare the tea and breakfast for the principal and all his family



► Kathmandu, Nepal's capital city, lies in a valley of the Himalaya Range at 1,400 meters (4,600 feet) and is home to nearly a million people.

members. Then I used to arrive at his school before he did, clean his office and go to my classroom to study. In the evening I had to return to his house, clean the floor and make everything ready for dinner. All these things I had to do because he covered all my expenses as a student.

My homecoming

Even in seventh grade, I remained in the first rank of students. I could not however be promoted to ninth grade because this middle school finished with eighth grade. Returning to my village was the only route open to me at that point. After returning home, I not only started to teach in our village primary school as a teacher but I had to take the principal's position, because nobody else was available to manage the school.

My next step

My father was happy because I was working as the principal, but I was not happy. I was in a continual state of questioning for the right time to further my education. In a similar manner to how I was able to seize the opportunity to attend a middle school, after nine months there, one day my father's close friend came from the capital city, Kathmandu, to visit our farmhouse, see our farmland and our village. He was from a landlord's family. His family was rich and powerful at that time. He was there for his personal enjoyment with another friend. He went hunting for deer and tiger, spent time sightseeing and eating and dancing with the people of our village. During his stay

in our village, I provided my utmost service to him and I made him happy. My father was also happy with me at that time. When I put my request to my father's friend, he was ready to carry me with him to Kathmandu for further study. For the first time, I saw happiness and satisfaction in my father's face. Eventually, my father's friend brought me with him to Kathmandu.

This was a kind of victory for me. I was excited to do anything in order to study. The landlord's son brought me to Kathmandu and enrolled me in ninth grade. He provided me with a room, food and clothes, but I had to do almost all the work in his house. Even in ninth grade I scored in the first rank. The next year, I had to take the examination necessary to graduate high school.

A time of heartache and grief

After two years in Kathmandu, I was taking the series of tests necessary for the High School Graduation Examination. I had done the eighth paper out of nine, when one of my relatives brought me a letter tied with red thread. It was a bad message, my father had died. I wept all night, and the next day I had to appear for the last paper amidst my tears and shock.

The most shocking and anguishing event of my life was not being able to see my father's face at the end of his life. I went to my village. I could not recognize my mother in her condition; she was weeping, weeping and weeping. After thirteen days of homage, my brothers and I came out as if from a den. These brothers were from my father's first wife, from be-

fore independence. I have four younger brothers and two younger sisters from my mother. My father was gone and all the older brothers took most of the properties with them. I was the oldest child on my mother's side and I had to care for my mother, brothers and sisters. I had no choice; again I took responsibility for my father's primary school as the principal. I scored only in the second rank on the High School Graduation Examination owing to my father's demise. I gave my best service to my father's school. It was already registered as a public school and with my effort it developed into a middle school.

I worked a year and a half there. In the meantime, I continued my college level study, privately, bringing all the course books from Kathmandu. After nearly two years, I went to Kathmandu and appeared for the college level examination. I tried for any kind of educated job with the help of my father's friend, whom I mentioned before. Luckily I found a temporary job in Kathmandu.

Working in the capital city

Then, immediately I went to my village. I handed over all the school responsibilities to the assistant principal, and I consoled my beloved mother. At first she did not agree; later she gave me her permission to leave. I went back to Kathmandu and took up my work duties. I worked from 4–9 PM and continued my university studies in the daytime. On the one hand, it was a great opportunity for me; on the other, my income was insufficient, but I had no other way out. I had to survive. Though suffering and sorrowful, my mother took care of my small brothers and sisters. Sometimes, I sent small amounts of money to her that I had saved out of my meager salary.

After four years of this laborious life, I passed the university examination and obtained a degree with honors in Economics. It was a great day for me; I prayed to my father in heaven with tears all that night.

The next morning, I felt that a new day had begun. I went through the national newspaper, *Gorkhapatra*. I came across new vacancies for government officers, sixteen posts. Two days later, I went to the Public Service Commission (PSC) to apply.

I applied and after three months, the PSC held an open competition examination in all five of Nepal's regional centers. Nine thousand university graduates com-



▶ Three generations of Mr. Shreshta's family



▶ Mr. Shreshta graduating from a 120-day Special Education Workshop for Asian Leaders

peted. We did a four-page written examination. Eleven months later, the PSC published the results. Only twenty-five candidate had been chosen. I was one of them. Thank you Heavenly God!

Yet, further cuts would take place since only sixteen posts were open. I had to pass three additional examinations; that is, an intelligence quotient (IQ) test, a test of group discussion capacity and finally an extensive interview, all to be done within a month. When the PSC published the final results, I came in eleventh.

A public servant finds love

Now, I had a permanent gazetted post in the government of Nepal. That day I prayed to Heavenly God, Heavenly Father, and Mother Nepal and pledged to give my best service and my lifetime effort to my nation. I was appointed to the Ministry of Finance as a section officer. Before starting the new job, I went to my village and bowed my head to my mother, who gave me her heartfelt blessings. Her face brightened and she was extremely happy.

I went back to Kathmandu and I took up my post. After six months, they posted me to the Department of Commerce, under which there were two consulate general's offices, one in Calcutta, India, and other in Lhasa, Tibet, in China. I was sent to the Calcutta consulate general's office.

Many Nepalese families live in Calcutta. A friendly Nepalese colleague in the

office took me to the home of a relative of his living in Calcutta on the eve of *Dashain*, a major Nepalese festival day. I took notice there of a young woman who served food to us. She was the relative's daughter. From then on, we often went there. Later, I went by myself on holidays. Slowly she and I began to like each other. After nearly six months, I came back to Kathmandu and I brought her with me with her parents' tacit approval. I married her in a Goddess Temple according to Hindu culture. It was a kind of love marriage.²

A turning point in my life

One day, I do not remember the exact date, some members of the Unification Movement came to my office for fund raising purposes. They gave me a brochure, in which I found words of peace, true love and an introduction to the Family Federation. True Father's name appeared in one corner of the brochure. When I read it, I became excited, because our country was in the midst of the peace process with Maoist rebels. This was in 2006. I helped the members with what they had come for; they collected quite a handsome amount that day and they invited me to a program. One of them, Binod Paudel, I consider my spiritual father.

Since then I have been in this movement through the inspiration of True Father's true love, true lineage, individual peace, family peace, interracial peace, in-

ternational peace, intercontinental peace, world peace, universal peace and Unificationism. I have been appointed as an ambassador for peace by the Universal Peace Federation, which True Father founded on September 12, 2005, in New York City in the United State of America.

Aiming high

One day, in the first week of April 2011, I was in the FFWPU headquarters in Kathmandu and our national leader and then Nepalese parliamentarian Ek Nath Dhakal asked me to participate in a 120-day Special Education Workshop for Asian Leaders, in the Philippines. Going through the schedule amazed me. Each day began at 3:30 AM and finished at 10:30 PM. Despite that, I agreed to take part in the seminar. I went to Manila with three brothers via Bangkok.

The 120-day seminar was truly tough for the first few days. I was near to giving up, but I did not leave. I tried my best to overcome mind-body issues. I had to complete the seminar because True Father was ninety-one years old and was still doing his best. The seminar provided me with deep knowledge of history and caused me to feel that I must make a U-turn in my life. I am determined to achieve individual peace, family peace, societal and national peace and world peace. True Father has embraced Nepal. I will establish the kingdom of heaven on earth according to the True Father's will!

TP

² The term "love marriage" is used in cultures where arranged marriages is more common than marriages formed of couples that met each other independent of their parents.

A Young Man's Quest and His Craft

An interview of Matthew Hill

Matthew Hill sang in front of audiences that included True Mother twice during Foundation Day celebrations. He is a second-generation member that is still finding his way internally. He is a reminder of how precious the men and women of our second-generation are and how much we still need to do to convince them of the value of the Unificationist faith.



► Mr. Hill sang three songs at the Foundation Day Banquet, in front of True Mother other True Family members and many members of the South Korean National Assembly.

Could you tell me something about your family, parents and siblings?

My dad is David Hill. My mom's name is Kathy; her maiden name is Corrigan. I have three siblings. I am number three. There's Jennifer who's about to turn thirty and my older brother Justin, who's about to turn twenty-seven. I'm going to turn twenty-four in couple of months—six months, three months, five months—I don't know, some months—and my little brother is twenty-one.

We're a motley crew. The kids are all musical. My parents are not musical at all. They had us listening to Simon and Garfunkel¹ and the Beatles when we were young; that's probably good, but they don't play any instruments. My dad was in choir in high school but aside from that, they are not very musical. My dad says he can play the radio.

What drew you to music?

My parents wanted us to all play instruments. We didn't have the usual piano lessons like everybody else. My oldest sister played the violin for a little while, but then she had a weird music teacher and she dropped it. She sang in high school. She thought about going to college for it but didn't want to do it as a profession. My older brother plays the bass. My mom wanted him to play guitar but he wanted to play the bass. My mom was like, "Why do you want to play the bass?" I guess that's his anti-conformist side. Everyone plays guitar; nobody plays the bass. The bass is cool.

My parents bought me a trumpet—a trumpet, not a strumpet. That would have been really bad. They bought me a trum-

¹ Musicians and composers, Paul Simon and Art Garfield first recorded a song together in 1957, when the two were fifteen years old. Their formal collaboration ended in 1969.

pet when I was in third grade. Third grade? Fourth grade. I don't know—some of those grades. I guess that's where I started with music.

I remember a particular day when I was in the middle school choir. We sounded terrible. We sounded like a bad middle school choir, because everyone was just whisper-singing to themselves, not wanting to be heard by others, in fear that they would be embarrassed if the person next to them heard them sing—God forbid!

I was either in sixth or seventh grade and I had this realization that if I just sing loud, or if everyone were to sing loud, we would sound way better. So I remember that I sang really loudly this one time when the choir teacher asked us to sing something. And the guy next to me was like, "Matt's singing too loudly!" The teacher said, "Matt's singing at an appropriate volume. Maybe if everyone else sang a little louder, we would have a choir that sounds okay."

After that (I don't want to say it was because I did it...) but people were not as afraid to be heard, and we sounded way better than we had.

I guess that was a pretty big defining moment in my music life. And then in middle school I did musicals. I really loved being onstage. I loved performing. In high school, I was in every music ensemble I could be in. I was in everything—jazz band, symphonic band, orchestra, men's chorus, concert chorus, the Magical Singers, I even joined an indoor drum line for some reason, I don't even know why. I can't play the drums.

Were you still playing the trumpet?

No. In high school, I switched. I wasn't very good at the trumpet. In order to play the trumpet you have to have really good lips, and then I had braces. It was painful even without braces. I don't know if you've ever played a brass instrument....

No.

The mouthpiece on a trumpet is very small. My band teacher switched me to playing the baritone or the euphonium.² The mouthpiece is bigger. It's so much more comfortable to play. You do not feel as if your head is about to explode the whole time you're playing, and that's kind of how I felt when I was playing the

trumpet. I don't think I was ever great at the trumpet, so I switched to the euphonium. But the euphonium... "What is the euphonium?" People would say to me, I don't even know what that instrument is. I really enjoyed singing.

Opera seems an odd choice for a young person.

Yeah, doesn't it. If someone had said ten years ago, "Matt in ten years, you are going to be very interested in opera," I would have said, "Well, that sounds very strange. I doubt that."

I think it is a different art form than most people experience today. It is something that can be accessible if it is presented in the right way. Because for a long time, opera was just about the singing, just about sounding good. Wagner had this idea that opera was the highest art form that could be because it involved the theater, it involved drama, it involved music, it could have dancing, it could have lighting... It was this total art that involved, like, everything. I think it can be accessible; it just depends on in which way it is presented, because for a long time, opera was like... People just stood onstage. I don't know if you've heard this expression, "park and bark." They get up there; they stand and they bark at you, and then they leave. That's why everyone thinks, opera singers—they are just these big, fat people. They can't move around; all they can do is stand and sing. Even if a person were to go see an opera at the Metropolitan Opera today, they wouldn't be fifty huge fat people standing onstage singing at each another. I think there is an element that hasn't really come into opera yet of performing and the importance being in the drama, but I think it is a beautiful art form and there are a lot of... but then again there is a lot of boring opera.

That's true; there is stuff that is like... And then you also have to remember when opera was written. It was written hundreds of years ago for people who didn't have YouTube, people who didn't have radios or TVs. Going to see something that is three and a half hours or four hours long was really cool and for a long time it was the only entertainment you got. There were books but you couldn't see people doing something. That's another thing to think about, but I think opera is really cool and it can be really

beautiful. It can be a great art form but I think sometimes... I mean, it's good that it is taken seriously, but sometimes it takes itself a little too seriously.

I don't know how to reform opera to make it the most accessible thing in the world, but there are many strides being made in that direction, going on currently and that will happen in the future. I think there is a lot of good that can come out of it.

I'm not saying there needs to be, but was there a religious aspect to your desire to sing here?

The Unification Church will forever be part of my life and identity. It's not something I want to erase or anything like that. I feel like there are many things in the teachings and theology and doctrine that I don't necessarily agree with or understand. I feel that I have some friends that are in the church that have not done enough soul searching. I mean even things that I will ask them about... Okay, here's an example: I remember that I was talking to some guy whom I'm friends with, whose name I will not mention, about how I was going to this Christian group. I was just telling him that Christians believe in the deity of Christ. And he was like, "That's so stupid. Why would anyone ever believe that Jesus was God?"

I was so angry with him. I was just furious. I was like, "If you have ever read any scripture or have ever spent any time around Christians and actually tried to listen to them, and tried to listen to what they believe and if you take into consideration that the Unification Church is technically Christian or a branch of Christianity, you'd better understand why they say that." He was sort of chastising me for kind of being on their side, but there are lots of things about Christianity that I am hesitant about and many things that I think are not thoroughly consistent about Christianity in the same way that I have doubts about Unification Church. I mean, just for someone to make that blanket statement toward me while I have been trying and searching and questing, as if he knew everything, made me so angry.

The Unification Church... Yeah, I was honored to be asked to sing here. My parents have been in this church for forty years and I was brought up in the church.

² These are essentially the same instrument. The baritone horn has four valves; the euphonium, three.

The community is something that I cherish. I have so many friends in the church. I don't think it's something I want to get rid of or cast off. If people were to ask me if I am in the Unification Church, I don't even know what I'd say. I'd probably say, Ahhh, yes-ish. I don't know if that's the answer you're looking for or the answer you want.

Well, it's real.

I feel as if I've really tried to seek and quest and read and study and waited for God to answer me and not gotten a whole lot of answers. I've always found it hard to believe when people say, "This is the way it is. I know."

I mean, how can you know? Did God tell you? Did he sit down with you over a cup of coffee and say, "Well, you see, David... You see, John... This is the way it's supposed to be because I'm God and that's right."

Someone in the last interview asked me if I had been to Cheongpyeong. I told him, "Yeah, I was here ten years ago when I was fourteen." But even then, I had lots of questions. I thought it didn't make much sense to me, but I really put forth my whole effort and heart and did everything with all my heart. I went to all the *ansus* and did bowing conditions and then I was just waiting for God to answer me. When the forty days was over and I had put forth this effort, I felt as confused as before.... Oh, I guess I'm not going to get an answer. I guess that's how life is. It's not like I can tell God, God, hey! You've got to answer me or else. Faith, living a life of faith, is a struggle and it's something I'm still pursuing. I certainly don't have all the answers; nor do I think I ever will.

Are you blessed?

Well, the short answer is no.

Growing up you hear, absolute love, absolute faith, absolute obedience and I know it doesn't encompass the actual heart of it, but when you hear that so much, over and over again...

No one wants to disappoint their parents. No one wakes up in the morning and says, "You know what I want to do today? I really want to piss off mom and dad. I really want to make them unhappy and mad at me." To make a long answer longer, I don't want to disappoint my par-



ents, but I also will not get blessed just because that is what they want me to do. That would be a terrible choice because ultimately, I am the person who has to marry, live, and have a family with that other person, not my parents. I still have so many doubts, concerns, and questions that I wouldn't want to join myself eternally to another person eternally in a faith that I am so unsure of.

Let's talk about your opera career.

My opera career. My music career. I'm interested in many different types of music. Even if you look at my music resume, it's a hodge-podge of musical theater, oratorio and a couple of roles in opera, a couple of musical theater roles and some awards I won a long time ago in school.

There are a lot of different things I would like to do. I would like to do a lot of musical theater stuff because it's very accessible, it's easy for people to get. It's not like some high art that you don't understand if you don't pick up on the motifs or something in the music. It's something where you just go and you watch and you feel it or it makes you laugh or whatever. It makes you cry. I mean, not to say that it can't happen with opera but...

I think musical theater would be great because I think it's really accessible. I also really like Bach and oratorio and sacred music. I just think it's beautiful and cool.

Cool not in the sense of pop music cool but it's a very intricate and beautiful art. Singing Bach or singing Steven Sondheim or singing Mozart opera, they are all appealing to me. I don't know what I want to do yet, but I should focus on something. That would probably help. As opposed to right now, I'm like, Oh, I'll do whatever. Some people say, "You should stay broad. In that way, you'll be hired to do a lot of different things." Some people are like, "You should focus so that you can get hired for only one thing and do it very well." I don't know, but if people pay me to sing, that would be great.

How is your voice categorized?

I am a tenor. It depends, but in classifying male voice there is bass, bass-baritone, baritone and tenor. Or you could just say there is a bass, a baritone and a tenor. Bass is the lowest. Then there is baritone, which is sort of in-between, and tenor, which is the highest. Some men also sing counter-tenor, which means they sing in a falsetto. Falsetto is....

Female-ish

Yeah. So, sometimes men will sing counter-tenor. I don't want to say it's rare, but it is less usual. Those are the male classifications of voice.

You seem to have a wide range.

It's an okay range.

Could you tell me the warmest experience you've had in the church?

Yeah, I was on NGA³ for a year. Yeah, that's church. The guy who's in charge, his name is Jeff Adshead. His favorite expression is: "It's not about the thing; it's all about the heart." He says it doesn't really matter where you are in your life or what you are doing. What's really important is the heart that you do something with. He always gave us the example of washing dishes. If somebody asks if you can wash the dishes and you're like, "Argh this sucks. I hate washing the dishes. It's the worst thing. Why do I always have to do things for other people? This is terrible."

It's not really important if you wash the dishes. It's how you do it. He says that applies to everything in your life. The way you do anything is the way you do everything. He's just a really smart guy.

He just set this environment that was so open, so warm. You could ask any question. You could just be yourself. Uncle Jeff really tried not to say, "You're wrong. I'm right. We're going to do it my way because that's the way it is."

He would always try to listen. He would always try to understand. He would really do his best to make you feel understood and make you feel as though it wasn't wrong that you were asking the questions you were asking or it wasn't wrong that you were feeling what you were feeling. I remember telling Uncle Jeff that I had a crush on this girl. And he was like, "Okay. Yeah. That happens. That's part of life." I just thought, "Yeah. I guess you're right. It does happen."

He never was forceful, like "Oh, that's wrong. You shouldn't do that." He usually tried to have you learn things by having you come up with the answer. I don't know what form of teaching that is. It was liking having the students teach themselves or drawing the answer from out of the student. He was very good about that. Even when he gave lectures, he would ask questions to make sure you understood or he asked questions to see what you thought. So it wasn't like—"I know; and you're going to learn what I know."

I really enjoyed that. It just created an environment where people could be honest, where people could be open and people could be themselves. It was the sort of environment where I felt like I could just let myself be loved and I could love the people around me with all my heart. It was a beautiful experience.

Poets used to speak about afflatus, mystical experiences through poetry. Do you get that with music?

Yeah, but it doesn't always happen. I mean music for me is something I do all the time, like every day. Poets may have had their muse when they would make love and then sit down and write their poems or something. A lot of times music is like—I have to do this, I have to follow this, I have to read these notes. It can get mechanical but there are some times when the music is just so profoundly beautiful. I recently started singing at the Washington National Cathedral. We are performing this piece, the Requiem Tomas Luis de Victoria, the Victoria Re-

quiem, and just to be in that space—when you sing a note it just echoes for so long, the life of a note goes on way after you have stopped sounding the note. The piece was written to be performed in a place like that. I remember performing it and thinking, "Oh, my gosh, this is just so beautiful. It is just so amazing to just be part of making this music." There were some points where... I was on tour with a choir when I was in college. We were singing pieces by the composer Francis Poulenc, Lenten motets; there are four motets "for a time of penitence," I think the translation is. This was about the same time I started investigating the Bible. I had been involved with a Christian group. I think it was the first time I was starting to get Jesus in my life or (I don't know) starting to understand more, a lot more, about Jesus. I remember singing these pieces about the crucifixion, about how Jesus died or how... Even the crowds screaming for Barabbas.

The text was in French but I had translated the text and I just remember when we performed it that it just weighed on me. I could really feel it. Music isn't just about making you feel joyful or making you feel good. It can do so much more; it totally can change your state. Music has the power to move you to a different place. Nobody needs to tell you that this music is sad. You just hear it and you know. No one has to tell you that this music is happy. You just hear it and you know. I think that is something beautiful and profound about music and it is something that is so international and transcendent. It doesn't necessarily need to be explained. It can just be and people understand. They get it. Whatever that something is. That power, I think is really beautiful. That power is beautiful and that power is cool.

You sang in Italian and Korean. Do you know either language?

I studied Italian a little. I don't know Korean, so I had someone coach me and tell me what all the words meant. I tried to sound as if I knew a little bit. Knowing how to speak the words was important because I didn't want to just go up there and sound horrible. Especially, because I would be singing in these people's native tongue, though I don't know the language.

How long does take?

I think it depends on the person and how well you want to do it. For someone that has never done anything before with French and is working from English, I think it might be much more difficult to go from English to French than from English to Italian because in Italian there are only seven vowel sounds. I don't know off the top of my head how many vowel sounds there are in French but there are definitely more than seven. In French there are all the vowels sounds and then there are nasal vowel sounds. I think it depends on the language. You have to put in time and effort. I thought, "I guess I'll just pray that this Korean goes decently well." Some things seemed so minute to a non-native speaker. There is this... (I don't remember the whole phrase). There is this word *메일*;⁴ the English transcription is *meol*, but you wouldn't say mail; you wouldn't say may-all. I remember asking the person that was helping me and she said *메일*. She had the Korean in front of her and she was just like *메일, 메일*. Even the difference between *p* and *b*. I would ask, wait was that a *p* or a *b*? She said something like *pbe*. That was both a *p* and a *b* and neither *p* nor a *b*. And she was like, yeah *pbe*.

How long did you spend on singing the one Korean song?

Just on working on the language? I don't know... I guess I got it a couple of weeks ago. Maybe like an hour or so, maybe not an hour, every day. It wasn't like every day I would walk around with the lyrics and practice singing it. But I was listening to a recording of the girl helping me say it. I would listen to it was I walked around.... I don't know, maybe ten or fifteen hours.

Did you listen to it as a song?

Yeah, I listened to it as a song and as the spoken word. It's always better if you know the language. In college I sang a lot of German music and I studied German. There are so many nuances to language. You can only know from experience. The more experience you have with the language, the more you understand the nuances and can express yourself like a native speaker. It takes work. It takes effort. It takes time. **JP**

4 In Korean he sang "4월의 노래" (Song of April). The line was 아 멀리 떠나와 이름 없는 항구에서.

John the Baptist Movement in Czechoslovakia

A fantastic foundation lost

By Barbara Grabner

The Divine Principle teaches us about the failure of John the Baptist who did not join the controversial Jesus, but rather pursued his mission separately on the other side of the Jordan River. Little known are similar phenomena related to the Second Coming that occurred outside of Korea. In Communist ruled Czechoslovakia¹ a John the Baptist movement could have paved the road for hundreds, even thousands of truth-seeking people.

There the central figure was the prophetess Božena Cibulková who was born on July 6, 1914, a few weeks before the outbreak of World War I. She spent her youth in the village of Svěbohov, Moravia; her parents raised her in the Catholic faith. First signs of her extraordinary capacity to communicate with angels became obvious during World War II. On February 2, 1950, Jesus Christ appeared to her. The vision showed Jesus putting his foot on the planet Earth. She understood that the Savior had returned. This experience made such an impact on her that she could neither eat nor sleep for seven days. At that time the nation was frozen by Stalinist terror. Later Božena claimed that the Czech land is the new chosen nation and that “the Czech language is the language of the angels” since they spoke to her in her mother tongue.

The messages from the spirit world which she received focused largely on “the universal salvation for all humankind.” Her prayers dictated by the spirit world inspired many searching people; collections of the prayers are available as books. Frequently they speak about the “coming new age of mankind” as well as the revival of the mission of Christ as it was outlined in her poem “in his new



▶ National leader Igor Koromház and Eva Veselá had been disciples of Božena Cibulková. Eva today actively witnesses and continually brings people to workshops, seminars and the Blessing Ceremony.

name.” Friends helped to spread the revelations by samizdat (non-official publications during Communist times). The collected messages of forty years cover three thousand pages. Slowly the number of friends and helpers increased. Božena Cibulková moved to the Moravian village of Mohelnice, where her home became a meeting place for her disciples and numerous truth seekers from all corners of Czechoslovakia. She was famed for her ability to foretell people’s future.

In September 1973, the Communist authorities started to arrest the first Unification Church members. The secret police interrogated approximately 200 people; finally around 30 core members were sentenced to prison terms of up to 5 years. Though the secret police was observing also Božena’s group they continued to hold prayer meetings in small groups, and started to hold nationwide events called “Days of Service” seven times a year. Note: such unofficial meetings were

strictly prohibited by the Communist authorities! During the “Days of Service” fifty to hundred persons gathered at some place while others did some conditions at home. Though the secret police investigated several times they found no charges for prosecution. In spring 1989 the spirit world informed Božena about the coming changes—the end of Communism is at hand! Her disciples see that as a proof that the fall of Communism was not the result of human efforts but happened by heavenly intervention.

In the sign of the white cross

Igor Koromház, since 1996 national leader of Slovakia, met Božena Cibulková through the Czech poet and psychic Zdenek Fryč who had gathered around hundred disciples mainly during the 1980ies. Zdenek approved a person as a disciple when the sign of a white cross appeared. The white cross signaled that this person is qualified to undergo mystical transformation and is qualified to receive Christ at his Second Coming. Igor was qualified by the appearance of the white cross. When Zdenek Fryč died in March 1990, Igor and other followers in Bratislava received a message that they should visit Božena in Mohelnice. The spirit world had told her that their two groups should merge, which did happen after their meeting.

Božena Cibulková had founded the “Society of Angelic and Human Works” with many hundreds of supporters; she

¹ Czechoslovakia after 1990 was called Czecho-Slovakia; in 1993 it was divided in two independent states—the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic.

also established a festivity called "God's Day" which was celebrated with prayer service and banners. In June 1991 she asked Igor to arrange a meeting in Bratislava which was so successful that she trusted him to manage activities in Slovakia. Around this time Igor considered to join some monastic order. Božena warned him to do so since the Catholic Church was "not the main tool of God anymore". Igor spent months searching how to continue his life until in summer 1992 he was witnessed at a library in Bratislava. "Short time before during a meeting in Prague Božena had looked intently at me. Suddenly she grabbed my hand and after minutes of silence she revealed my future to all persons gathered: She saw many young people who belonged to some spiritual group centering on a man and a woman. After the vision ended, Božena foretold me that I shall meet this group where people bow to a couple as if they were God. She warned me to be careful and not become their follower. Her words were so heavy on my heart."

When Igor Koromház joined the Unification Church in October 1992, he recalled her prediction and went to visit her. Božena admonished him to stop contacts with the Unification Church which she called "a tool of the evil". But since the inner voice told him to have faith, he did not quit. Some months later Igor attended a meeting with Božena and her closest disciples, the so called Council of the Twenty-four. She asked him to explain to them his new affiliation. The council members were highly prepared persons, among them were two priests, several school principals, the publisher of an esoteric magazine and many intellectuals. They questioned him sharply why he considers the Reverend Moon to be the Second Coming of Christ? Igor tried to answer their questions but again and again was stopped by their angry and loud heckling. The heated debate seemed to escalate; Božena asked all to quiet down and someone to pray "that God will show us the way."

Members tried to persuade her

Igor was not the first member to testify about True Parents. Independently from each other, some early members told Božena Cibulková that Sun Myung Moon is the messiah. Our sister Danka Mamicova had an aunt who was interested in Hinduism and a close friend of Božena; she told her young niece about that re-

markable woman. Danka visited her the first time in 1969: "I liked to read her scriptures, especially those about restoration and purification of our minds." In 1971 Danka joined our movement and worked as a missionary in the Slovak town of Martin until she was arrested for her faith. In 1974 she was prosecuted and received a three-year prison term on parole. Years later Danka started to visit Božena again with her husband and two daughters but their testimony fell on death ears. "In her opinion the messiah was the incarnation of the Word, despite her revelations it was for her unacceptable that a real living person should be the Second Coming," recalls Danka their heated debates, "When we mentioned that Sun Myung Moon continues the messianic mission on earth she became quite furious. Therefore I was very surprised when one day she said that she saw my deceased grandmother and my father who had vehemently tried to stop my study of the Divine Principle and church affiliation. They told her that they were sorry for that and wanted to apologize to me."

Danka visited Božena a last time in 1992 after her couple had received the Blessing in Korea. "We spoke openly about the mission of our True Parents. She respected their activities to create good families but could not perceive them as the messiah of the new age. During that meeting she expressed her sadness that Igor, one of her best disciples, had joined our church." After rejecting True Parents Božena quickly lost her spiritual abilities and could not say much since her vocal cords malfunctioned. Shortly before she died Igor brought her a calendar with pictures of True Parents. She accepted the gift and called True Father a "good man." Years before she had labelled him a "false messiah."

Missionary dreamed about meeting her. There was another trial to win her during the Communist era: Our brother Michal Glonda who was a missionary to a Czech town dreamed that the next day he will "meet a very important person in the train." And really, Michal sat in the same train compartment like Božena Cibulková whom he did not recognize until she talked with the other passengers about spiritual phenomena. He approached her and they exchanged their address and promised to meet again. He informed our brother Anton Uhnak about the remarkable meeting. Anton was well aware how great her influence was and tried to

win Božena for our movement. After the fall of the Communist regime Anton Uhnak, who at that time was the national leader of Czechoslovakia met her during events in Prague; one day he invite her to the center and after a short introduction to the Divine Principle they showed her a video about True Parents. She was not impressed at all and said only cool "Sure, he might be some type of John the Baptist."

Božena Cibulková died on December 2, 1995. Since then her fellowship became dispersed lacking a clear focus. Only three persons of her fellowship joined our movement: Igor Koromház and Eva Vesela from Slovakia who are faithful members until today. This looks much like the two disciples of John the Baptist who crossed the Jordan River to follow Jesus Christ.

In her book, *Inspirations received from Christ*, which was published in 1962, there is a hymn where the verses start with the words "In my new name..." For example, "Recognize me with my new name, nations of the world" or "Love my new name so that you may reach your destinations," etc. Reading these verses it is hard to imagine that Božena was unaware that the Savior indeed has another name than Jesus. Why not Sun Myung Moon?

These persons make an offering on the global level. Before joining our church, Igor Koromház was the co-founder of a spiritual group counting eight to twelve people. All of them attended some Divine Principle lecture or seminar but all except one man, Ivan Becani, rejected the True Parents. He also witnessed to many followers of Zdenek Fryč and Božena Cibulková. On some days he visited a couple who were followers of Zdenek Fryč. They introduced him to a medical doctor who was able to paint her visions in a trance. When Igor showed her a picture of True Parents and asked about her impression, she painted the planet Earth crossed-over by a cross. Igor asked her about the meaning; she explained, "These people make an offering on the global level." She did not recognize or know anything about True Parents! She just expressed what the spirit world told her about who they were. Later, Igor taught this couple the Divine Principle. When the lectures finished the husband wept profusely saying, "For this moment I have waited my whole lifelong." The couple participated in the 360,000 Couple Blessing Ceremony in 1995 in Seoul. **JP**

Pages from a Remarkable Life

True Parents' Oldest Son Takes Leadership of World CARP

On June 18, 1984, True Father met with international leaders of CARP at East Garden and explained that the organization was now entering a new phase, the era of the second generation. Present at the meeting were Mr. Ohta of Japan, Rev. Kim Bong-tae of Korea, Dr. Seuk Joon-ho and Mr. Dieter Schmidt of Germany. Father announced that his oldest son Hyo-jin nim would now assume the position of World CARP president. Until that time, World CARP had existed only in theory, it was not a formal organization and no one other than Father himself had been the leader of World CARP. It was not therefore a clearly defined role but it represented a major responsibility.

Hyo-jin Moon took this challenge seriously. From January 12 to June 11, 1985, he completed a 120-day prayer condition at the Belvedere holy ground. Hyo-jin nim explained that the purpose behind his prayer was "to achieve a heartistic union or oneness with Father, where I would begin to understand his suffering as his eldest son." Later, Dr. Seuk stated that Hyo-jin nim had restored the heavenly older son's position through his prayer vigil and that by uniting with him, the blessed children and CARP had restored the original heavenly order of older child and younger child.

Hyo-jin Moon's first official address as the leader of World CARP was delivered on March 30, 1985, at the Columbia Center in New York City, where a hundred East Coast CARP members met with Dr. Seuk and his wife Yoon Moon-hye. Hyo-jin nim cut the ribbon to officially open the newly refurbished center. The following is the address he gave on that occasion before leaving to visit his father in Danbury, Connecticut.¹

First of all, I would like to thank everybody and to celebrate this occasion. I want to thank all of you for standing strong against Satan. Often, if I am at home, I get many letters from brothers and sisters telling me the story of how they first joined the church, what their missions are and what their experiences have been like in the Unification Church. Many times those letters are really heartaches; they move me a lot. Often the members are really struggling, struggling to relate with their leaders, struggling to fight off many temptations. They are struggling to adapt to their environment. They frequently struggle with their leaders and with themselves. Sometimes this hurts me. For whatever we do and whatever we feel about each other, nothing must belong to Satan. Nothing can be claimed by Satan. When we ourselves are separated and we admit to ourselves that something is wrong with each other, we are admitting to ourselves and to Satan that he has won that course and that part of our lives. Yesterday, I was at Holy Rock² thinking about each one of you, what I can say to you and how I can bring you more closely together and closer to True Parents. How can we understand the value of what Father and God are preparing for us to do?

I often ask myself: When do I repent?

When is the ideal time to repent? Do I repent because I am weak or because I am ashamed of the external mistakes that I have made? Is that the only time I repent? Then I felt inside that when we repent we are coming closer to God, because God is eternal. God is endless. When you set yourself up, confident as one being, you are limiting your growth.

I am only so much as one man. Even God is seeking out and Father is seeking to find the ideal vessel for the perfect man. When we are over-confident in ourselves we stop growing. We are here to unite, but not just to unite but to truly understand God and to be with God; to understand what God is trying to prepare for us, what his love is all about. How can we not try to reach for that which is endless and eternal? So our lives should depend on repentance. I don't think this is something we should be ashamed of. I think it is the greatest thing. It is the way we can be with God.

I was so much into martial arts, physical activities and going out—just doing whatever I was drawn to. I was always trying to accomplish something. When I accomplished it, I felt satisfied, but still I always wanted more. I wanted to reach out to every part of you and every part of the world, but I would say to myself that that is not the greatest thing. God is not

just one thing. He is the creator of the universe. I don't want to put myself just in the position of a guitar player or a martial artist. I would rather be just Father's son speaking to you. I want to touch more. I want to be more, not for myself, but for all of you. Do you think living for my own satisfaction will be welcomed in God's dominion? God is always giving, preparing, always the provider, and always loving. With that kind of heart, in that kind of world, how can I survive when I only seek my best interest, my gratification? That is when I stop to think and realize that it is wrong.

Many young people get inspiration in times of struggle through things. They rejoice and feel closer to things, but I want to give you more than just a moment of satisfaction. Sometimes fighting off disease is a painful course but I cannot give you some kind of drug that can cure you moment by moment. If I care about you, even though it hurts, both Father and I will say to you strongly that you must do this. Why? Because that is our work. That is how much we must work for God.

Why are we here? Are we here because we ourselves are great? No, we are here to give. We are here to receive God's love and give it to our children. That is the greatest thing we can accomplish. What more can we do? What greater task can

¹ He was visiting True Father at the Danbury Correctional Facility, where Father endured imprisonment from July 20, 1984 to August 20, 1985.

² A large rock on the East Garden grounds where Father and others would pray.

you think of where you can proudly stand in the world of eternity and in the sight of God? Physical fame or greatness? I don't think there is any greatness that can top the suffering that you want to offer to God.

What is filial piety? It is wanting to take my father's suffering, my brother's suffering. I want to do that because I love my family; I love my God. Many people live in the fallen world and they just take love—such an endless and precious thing. Yet they make love into a little thing, into just physical love.

When we are young and growing up, we should learn the right things but there is nothing out there providing true guidance or the true meaning of love. There is nothing out there for us to learn but we pick up fallen things because we are desperate and we need to dwell on love. So we make ourselves believe that that is love. Without a model of a true man and a true woman, there is nothing. That is what Father said. Father said, "Why didn't Jesus give the ideal image of a human being? Why didn't he say this person is the ideal man and you should follow this person? Why did he say he was going to come back?"

America is truly a God-prepared nation. Why? Because it is said here that all men are created equal. That was to prepare for the coming of the Messiah. If that had not happened, many people would stand up and proclaim a false Messiah. They would claim themselves as the Messiah. The founding fathers² may not have understood why they were enforcing this so strongly, but it is what God wanted. That is what I feel.

When I was young, going to school was the hardest thing to do. The accusations they threw at me I could take, but when they accused my parents, that I could not bear. I go to school now and I see many young people. They are still struggling to find the truth. Sometimes I get angry. I get so angry that I hate what they are doing. How can someone let themselves believe that they are not a child of God? They believe that they are the son of a monkey. How can they see their own value in that kind of society? That is why when you can change hatred into love it can become the greatest power. In the darkest place the light burns brighter.

I believe that when Father sent me to



▶ Hyo-jin nim on July 2, 1987, a month after Father appointed him leader of World CARP

school he wanted me to learn how to change things. He wanted me to gain confidence, not my own confidence, but confidence that with God we can do it. I can do it.

I am learning about the people. I learn about what they believe and their ideology. I learn about their lifestyle and what their weaknesses are.

Even in CARP, with martial arts, we are telling young people to have a strong internal image. When you fight, you must know your opponent. How can you become a good fighter? You must fight many, many times and fight with many different types of people because each person has a different technique. The more you fight the more you know. The more you know, the stronger you become.

When you go out to the street and you meet the people, do not become discouraged. This is the training ground where we grow our spirits. It is not for ourselves. Don't take success as your greatness. You should feel more burdened because the more you know the more you have to give. The person who loses their humbleness and preciousness is a small person. We must be a winner in God's eyes. The more we know the more we have to give. When you know that your own fragrance is beautiful and good, you don't need to shout it out to the world. You don't have to talk about it or show it to other people. They will realize it. That kind of tradition

and foundation are what we have to set in this American church and for the rest of the world. That is what we have to do. We are young and we are strongly determined.

When I was young I often thought that I could help by being impartial but that was wrong. First I have to understand the truth and God's holistic view in order for me to go in one direction and toward one goal. That was given to me as my responsibility or else it would not have been a full passageway directly coming from God. It would have been only partial, getting caught up in the physical world. That is why we must now strongly build a foundation through repentance and tears.

What is the most precious thing that we can give to God and True Parents? It is our tears, crying from our hearts. The physical substance coming from you is your tears, crying from your hearts. How can we cry? How can we shed tears from our deepest heart? When you love something or someone, you are able to act naturally around them. When you love your wife, when you love people around you, do you love those people because it is your duty or your responsibility? I don't think so. That is not the way I treat my brothers. Because I love them, I want to do it naturally, automatically; without feeling burdened, without gratification for myself. That is why we truly have to cry. I often cry. That is the only time I can find

³ This is the traditional term used to describe the men that were delegates to the Constitutional Convention including those that signed the U. S. Constitution itself.



▶ Whatever Hyo-jin nim did, in the area of music or mission, he invested his whole heart.

peace, and I become stronger and stronger. I am saying this emphatically because it is crucial. If we love our Father and our God how can we not cry? How can we not take it seriously? This is very important.

What can you provide to the Blessed Children, your own children? Your original heart. It is that kind of heart and understanding and true foundation of endless love that you can give. It is the only thing you can show Father's children and the world. Many people through history tried to prove their goodness to the world but none of that was sustainable.

Of course many people are smarter than I, have a higher IQ than I and are stronger than I, but I do not care; I want to love God the most. When I love God the most, I can love you the most. When I love God, I love everything about God. What is God? God is everything. How can I say that I love God, but I don't love you, I don't love this? Nothing belongs to Satan. Satan should not be able to claim anything. That is my determination.

On this occasion, even if I helped you a little bit, that brings me the greatest joy. I do not just want happiness at this moment. I want you to be happy forever. I want God to be happy forever. That is im-

portant, important for us. We are the voices of Father and God so we must truly be prepared and understand. Then we can smile. I am sure that your smile will travel a hundred times farther and be that much stronger.

I know and have confidence that we can accomplish this because I see Blessed Children around me. I am always with them, spending time with them. I have hope because they try hard to find value in themselves. That is the greatest thing. Only in that desire can God dwell in their hearts. They are always sacrificing themselves, denying the physical world. That is why we must deny ourselves; that is the only way we can grow.

You must understand that many of you have been in the church ten years and you have grown that much. You have grown spiritually, but from now, you should start over again. You should cling to that spark that you had when you first joined the church. How can you lose it? Many people I see have lost it. They are struggling and have lost their vision, lost meaning. How can you blame someone else for something that you had but then you lost? Of course, Satan is always out there; trying to take and claim you through the mistakes of others, sometimes through mistakes of our leaders. Does that give you the right to deny and isolate yourself from them? If Father were like that, how could he love you and the world? If God were like that, how could we exist in the first place?

I truly thank you for sticking it out this long. In a way, we are the most selfish people in the world, because we want to be the greatest people in eternity. We are willing to risk death, for eternity. If we are true men and women, we want to touch the greatest thing. Don't lose that, ever. We may be selfish but that is okay. I don't think God is going to hate you for that, but we must be worthy. That is our responsibility.

With that determination, I don't think anything is impossible; we can break through any barrier. The tip of an arrow is the hardest part. Let that be CARP—close together and united. This CARP movement is crucial. We are guiding the future. When we think of this, we must thank God. He provided for us to be here. We are building the future. That is a greatness we can be proud of. I know that if we unite, we can make Father very happy. Let us make Father happy! He has suffered enough. *STW*



▶ Hyo-jin nim ascended at 9:43 on the morning of March 17, 2008.

October 1986: Hyo-jin nim leads CARP to the Berlin Wall

By Dr. Seuk Joon-ho

Last August, I was in Korea when Father called me to come to America to accompany Hyo-jin nim to Berlin for the fourth CARP Convention of World Students. That convention, in Berlin, was very dangerous. We faced a lot of opposition from communists. There were bombing threats and many negative newspaper articles. The beautiful facility that had been reserved for the main convention cancelled the event. When CARP then reserved the International Congress Hall, they too cancelled. We sued them in court and won.

There was so much opposition that Father advised Hyo-jin nim not to attend the rally but to attend only the main convention and quickly return to America. CARP leaders urged him to do that, but he not only wanted to attend the rally, he insisted on leading the march.

I deeply feared for his safety, leading so many people in a march of almost two hours duration but he was so courageous. CARP is now more academic, but we used to have many in the United States. We were more demonstrative

then and were frequently misunderstood. Sometimes, we got into fights. We had forty-nine different rallies in a month during the KAL 007 incident protests.⁴ We made a national and international impression. But in Berlin for the first time, I was very scared for Hyo-jin nim's life. There were many bomb threats.

On the day of the march, heavily armed German police and twenty vans escorted and protected CARP members on both sides. This was not just a CARP event; all the European church members were mobilized, led by Rev. Kim Won-pil. I questioned myself internally: In case something happened to Hyo-jin nim, if a bullet comes, am I ready to protect him at the cost of my life? I was determined to walk with him side by side. People were throwing eggs and paint at us. Hyo-jin nim said, "My life is in God's hands." He didn't care; he didn't worry; he just courageously marched forward. I was so inspired and I learned so much from him during this time about courage, strength and boldness. When we arrived at the Berlin Wall, he deliv-

ered a beautiful, inspiring speech.

East German territory is six or seven meters from the Wall and the West German police can do nothing in that area. So the communists tried to disrupt us with a counter-rally there. We had to confront them and push them away from blocking the Wall. The next day, the newspapers said that the Unification Church pushed the Leftists into East German territory. At the end, Hyo-jin nim went to the Berlin Wall and prayed so fervently that his face became thoroughly wet with tears. I did not pray; not because I did not want to, but because I wanted to watch. Therefore, I could see his face as he prayed and I could feel his deep commitment.

Father and Mother were so happy to hear of the experience at the Wall. It was a major victory because for the first time, international students came together to demand the destruction of the Berlin Wall. It made an impression globally. Father and Mother called us to go to Alaska directly from Germany and when we got there, Father came back early to hear our report. **SP**

⁴ These were public demonstrations denouncing the Soviet Union for shooting down a Korean Air passenger jet (Flight 007) that had strayed over Soviet territory killing 269 people in August 1983.

Rally beneath the Providential Flags

A memorial service for ascended True Children



▶ Hyo-jin nim



▶ Choi Yeon-ah nim speaking on the day of the memorial service

A memorial service for the True Children who have ascended over the years was held at the church residence in the Hanam District of Seoul on 2.10 (March 10) beginning at 7 PM. The memorial service commenced amidst around 120 participants including Choi Yeon-ah nim, Hyo-jin nim's widow, who is the vice-president of WFWP International; Rev. Ryu Kyeong-seuk, president of FFWPU-Korea, Mr. Jo Jeong-soon, chairman of the Tongil Group, Yu Gyeong-deuk, chairman of YFWP, Dr. Son Dae-o, director of the Sun Myung Moon Research Center at Sun Moon University, executives and employees of the Korean FFWPU headquarters and of providential organizations, Seoul district leaders and other key members.

Rev. Ok Yun-ho, the district leader for southern Seoul, earnestly prayed to begin this time of showing respect to and reflecting on the lives of those True Children who now reside in the spiritual world. He prayed, "Whenever those in the Cain-realm, who were the first to be set up in the providence, failed to fulfill their responsibilities, you our Heavenly Parent, had to make the True Children follow a path of sacrifice. Enable this time to become an opportunity for us to once more understand the sorrowful heart you felt as you had to allow this to happen."

The main ceremonial aspect of the service involved individuals solemnly approaching an altar that had been erected, placing an offering drink on the altar and bowing respectfully. The offer-



ing was done in the following order: Choi Yeon-ah nim, True Grandchildren, Rev. Ryu, Chairman Cho, Chairman Yu, a representative of district leaders, a representative of second-generation ministers and all other participating members.

Eulogies for True Children

Choi Yeon-ah nim, recollected, "True Parents experienced indescribable pain whenever a True Child ascended. The sacrifices of the True Children became providential flags that enabled us to move beyond perilous hills on our way toward the victory of Foundation Day and the restoration of God's homeland. They became bridges towards God's will that have enabled us to cross wide rivers."



▶ Hyo-jin nim's son Shin-chul nim and his daughter Shin-whul nim preparing a drink to place on the altar during a memorial service for all ascended True Children.

She placed providential meaning and value on these transitions, conveying her heart of gratitude by saying, "They have illuminated the course of seonghwa." Following this, she expressed that it is a blessed thing that the True Children could fulfill their mission of shielding True Parents. She encouraged everyone, asking us to continue practicing the tradition of filial piety that the True Children exemplified and that we all fulfill our given missions and responsibilities.

Rev. Ryu Kyeong-seuk also gave a message. He explained the providential background to the ascension of the True Children and how True Parents had to endure, entirely alone, the most agonizing pain and suffering with the determination with which they had given their lives for

God's will. He then taught how the True Children, who better aware of this than any other person, gave all of their hearts and strength to protect True Parents. He added that the path of those True Children that had passed away while living in that way is seonghwa.

Following this, Rev. Ryu said, "Hyo-jin nim's life was a series of intense fights to protect True Parents from Satan and expedite the providence." He added, "He led a life that followed God's voice, which came from his heart, and he never compromised with the world. He had a devoted heart toward True Parents alone and did not hesitate to sacrifice his physical body for them."

Toward the end of his message, president Ryu clarified that the passing of the

True Children were not incidents on the individual or family level, but providential incidents. He went on to say that the True Children are always with us, even though they are in the spiritual world. He asked that we inherit the True Children's noble hearts and traditions of faith and become Cheon Il Guk citizens that fulfill all of our given responsibilities. He urged the Unification community to be determined and live a life of practice.

In his benediction prayer, Rev. Ryu sincerely prayed, "Until the day the ideal of Cheon Il Guk is realized on earth and in heaven, may all Cheon Il Guk citizens remember the noble sacrifices of the True Children that have ascended and lead lives contributing to God's will." **JP**

In Front of the Ascended, Members Solidify their Determination



▶ Rev. Ryu Kyeong-seuk, president of FFWPU Korea prayed at Heung-jin nim's grave



▶ Rev. Lee Ki-song, vice-president of FFWPU Korea, prayed at Hyo-jin nim's grave



▶ Rev. Im Jeong-yeop, director of the FFWPU Korea Family Department was the master of ceremonies

On 2.10 (March 10), around a hundred people including Rev. Ryu Kyeong-seuk, president of FFWPU-Korea, Rev. Lee Gi-seong, vice-president of FFWPU-Korea, executives and employees of the Korean headquarters, Seoul district leaders and other key members paid their respects at Paju Wonjeon. There, they renewed their determination to fulfill all responsibilities associated with filial piety and loyalty to Heaven and to make Vision 2020 a success.

On a clear day, under a cloudless sky, participants assembled around Heung-jin nim's grave and held a ceremony. Im Jong-yeop, director of the Family Department and the master of ceremonies welcomed everyone. Rev. Ryu Kyeong-seuk placed flowers and bowed and then everyone bowed as a group. Together they sang the Cheon Il Guk anthem and recited the Family Pledge. Representing all those assembled that day, Rev. Ryu reported through prayer, in a manner that reflected the group's unity and deep determination. Finally, together they made a joint proclamation.

In his report prayer, Rev. Ryu avowed, "The True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind, who came as the substantial selves of true love on earth, have opened the new era of Cheon Il Guk through the achievements they made by successfully overcoming all the different hardships on their painful course." He pledged, "We will conduct our lives, carving every single footstep that True Parents took as they shed tears



and blood to awaken the world, in our hearts."

Rev. Ryu continued in prayer, expressing his longing for members of True Parents' family that have ascended, "Hyo-jin nim, the lord who will open the gate into the heavenly kingdom, as a son of loyalty and filial piety in the garden that opens the way to the deep, wide and high realms of heaven, Heung-jin nim, the commander-in-chief in heaven, Young-jin nim, Hye-jin nim and Hwi-jin nim are more keenly aware than anyone else of our True Parents' noble lives and struggled with all their might to inherit



▶ Korean members express their reverent respect at the holy burial ground in Paju, about an hour's drive from Seoul.

from them, standing at the forefront in the fight against Satan." He concluded his prayer with fortitude, saying, "The lives of the True Children, who have ascended, will be seen in a new light by looking at them with spiritual eyes instead of physical eyes. We will inherit their noble spirit and become blessed families and members who fulfill all our responsibilities associated with filial piety and loyalty to our Heavenly Parent and the True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind."

As is traditionally done, all participants went to Hyo-jin nim's grave site, presenting their floral wreathes and paying their

respects after visiting Heung-jin nim's grave. Rev. Lee Gi-seong, vice-president of FFWPU-Korea offered the report prayer in memory of Hyo-jin nim's life.

Rev. Lee prayed, "If Hyo-jin nim were here with us at this time, he would tell us to fulfill the course of filial piety in front of True Parents, that all blessed families should love one another with one heart as brothers and sisters and that we must realize God's will." He sincerely went on praying, "As 2014 begins, enable us to resonate with Hyo-jin nim's deep heart and enable the spiritual world to guide us in fulfilling all responsibilities associated

with filial piety in front of our True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind."

Participants paid their respects at Hye-jin nim, Young-jin nim, Shin-gil nim, grandmother Cho Won-mo, grand-uncle Moon Yun-guk, Shin-ye nim, Hwi-jin nim and Daemo nim's grave sites, which are located in Wonjeon I. After this, everyone went to Wonjeon II, where church leaders are buried, to pay their respects at the grave of Eu Hyo-won, the first president of the church that now more commonly goes by FFWPU Korea. With this, the entire program came to a conclusion. **JP**

True Father's Life Story Makes a Deep Impression

By Toni Spari

When True Father told us to hand out 430 of his autobiographies to fellow citizens, I felt challenged to believe that this goal could be possible. Because no German version was available in the beginning, my wife and I started to distribute the Korean version to Korean friends and acquaintances. Right at the beginning we had wonderful experiences. Many of our friends were deeply moved and cried about what Father had written. Our goal was to reach number 430 by Foundation Day.

Once the German version was published, we resumed the work at an accelerated pace, using every opportunity. Many of our clients accepted the autobiography, as did friends, relatives, strangers that we met at cafés or in restaurants and even employees at hotels. In this way, we reached our goal of 430 earlier than planned. Hence, we redefined our goals to prepare for Foundation Day. We felt that we would like to bring presents to God on that extraordinary day.

After Foundation Day, we kept going and by the end of 2013, we thought about what we wished to present to Jesus on the day that we celebrate his birth. We decided to reach a thousand. By December 31, 2013, we had distributed 1,013 copies of *As a Peace-Loving Global Citizen*.

Where is God in our world?

What have we experienced in this time from 2010 to 2013? We had many wonderful encounters with God, our fellow human beings and those in the spiritual world. I would like to share some of these experiences with you.

God (our Heavenly Parent) still does not have much ground and space in which to reside in the world? wherever you look, in magazines, on television, in

the political or economic realms or in the art world. Where is God welcomed and able to freely participate in all that occurs?

Who honors God publicly? Our Heavenly Parent is not given a home, and this makes me quite sad. Because of this, my goal is always to expand the realm of our Heavenly Parent on earth, no matter where I am, whether through prayer before eating in a public restaurant, through specific words in a conversation, a gesture toward someone or the passing on of father's biographies.

Hope among the young

A few weeks ago I watched the finale of the football world championship of U17 national teams,¹ Nigeria versus Mexico. The young men from Nigeria praised God. Every single player prayed with great devotion and joy before and after each game.

Viewing this on television, I felt that for these young people, God is the most important part of their lives. He is number one. It was completely public and millions of viewers watched the Nigerian youth football players testify to God's love. This was seen in the way they played—a heavenly sensation. It was football from a different galaxy, from heaven!

I felt as if this were indeed a sign from heaven to show how the future might look in all areas of human life. When we learn to put our Heavenly Parent first, this vision becomes reality. To me, passing out True Father's biographies means working toward this vision.

Whom can God depend on?

As blessed couples, we should be an extension of True Parents. Who is to solve all problems, for instance the problem of world hunger? We, as blessed couples,

working together toward the vision of putting God first in every area of life.

What True Father says in his autobiography has immense power, especially in regards to the future. Even if people do not read it right away, it is important to bring this book into their homes. This is how God's realm is expanded spiritually.

Some people got goose bumps when I handed them the book; others started to pray or told me that they felt it was not just any book, it is an extraordinary book. I was determined to distribute the book with a respectful and loving attitude. I prayed before and after each encounter.

Readers transformed

One encounter with a woman was particularly interesting. When I visited her, she immediately told me she had no time. I replied, "Today, I only want to bring you a little present and give you a very special book." She said, all right. I opened the autobiography and read aloud a sentence from "What I learned about peace on the shoulders of my father." All of a sudden, the woman called her colleague and said to her, "Look! My hands are shaking. This is not a regular book; it must be extraordinary." She clasped her hands as if in prayer and bowed her head once and then bowed again. Even though she had said that she did not have time, we sat together for an hour. She wanted to speak to me about peace and other topics.

Another beautiful encounter took place with an elderly woman. She is a very spiritual, religious woman who belongs to a new apostolic church. She has an open heart and is not stubborn or closed-minded. I brought her the autobiography and read the same sentence about peace. She closed her eyes and said, "Heaven told me this book is good for me." She accepted the present with joy and respect.

¹ The players are seventeen years of age or younger.



▶ Mr. Spari distributed more than a thousand copies of True Father's autobiography.

After about a week she called to tell me that she had immediately read the whole book and was astonished about what it contained.

She told me that words were inadequate to describe her enthusiasm. Also, she asked for more copies to pass out to her own friends.

At another encounter, I called one of my clients, who is a healer and is interested in spiritual healing. I had planned to make an appointment in order to give her the autobiography. She told me on the phone that she had been having very bad luck recently. Her office had burned down in a fire and she was in shock about it. She asked me to call again three weeks later. Thus, three weeks later, we met. She served me coffee and asked me to go out to the front yard. She wanted to show me something. "Here," she said, "are some wooden figures. Jesus, holy Mary with the child, here is Buddha" (and so on). Even though these figures had been standing in my office, which burned to the ground, none of them has even the slightest scratch. Of course, I was quite impressed.

We went back inside and talked over some more coffee. She was wondering why all this had happened to her. Maybe, so she thought, she had loved her practice too much and this was why she had to let go of it. At the end of our conversation, I read out some sentences from *As a Peace-Loving Global Citizen*. She looked at True Father's picture on the cover and began to cry. "Now I know," she said, "why my

practice burned down. It happened so I could receive this book.... This man [she pointed at True Father's face] looks like Jesus. These eyes are Jesus' eyes." I asked if I might give the book to her and she accepted the gift respectfully and held it close to her heart.

She asked me to become her friend and told me that I could always count on her help. At many encounters I noticed how people clasped the autobiography close to their chests, like mothers holding their babies.

Another experience was with an elderly man, a long-time customer of ours. After I had not heard anything from him in a long time, I visited him, keeping in mind that I wanted to give him the book. I rang the doorbell. He opened the door immediately. I was shocked because I hardly recognized him—he had lost a lot of weight and needed the assistance of a walking frame. He told me that he had cancer. "During the last weeks I have been to many hospitals. I have gone through a lot," he said.

After I had listened to him for about an hour, I suggested that he start drinking ginseng tea again. He ordered two small bottles of ginseng, one for him and one for his neighbor, who was under a great deal of stress, being the manager of a big company. Before leaving, I gave him the autobiography. He saw True Father's picture and asked, "Is this Moon?" I said that it was and started to tell him about True Father. He accepted the book and we said goodbye. About six weeks later, he called

to tell me that he needed more ginseng. He said he felt much better and did not need a walking frame anymore.

To the doctors, he said, this was unbelievable. He now intended to start working again. He deals with artwork and knows many people from different fields. He told them his story and now they all wanted ginseng, too. His neighbor, he said, felt much better as well, since she began drinking ginseng. Her stress has disappeared. "What is this? Either a magic drink or something from heaven," she had told him.

"And about your book," he said to me, "I read it three times while in the hospital. It is unbelievable, amazing! I am over seventy years old and have my own library, but never in my life have I read a book like this. I handed the book to an American manager and he read a hundred pages right away; he could not stop reading it. He, as well, was completely amazed and had never read a book like it before, a book so inspiring."

These are just a few experiences, which I am incredibly grateful for. They gave me hope and energy. Reading the autobiography, I was able to understand why it belongs to the eight great textbooks that True Parents have given us. Not only for us as blessed couples but for all humanity. This is what I often feel while reading the book. The words are God's, our Heavenly Parent's, who has the power and love to heal everything with his eternal warm heart. **JP**

Facing Harsh Realities

The FFWPU International Headquarters' World National Leaders Assembly 2014 held last month in Korea featured breakout sessions in which topics of particular concern in the regions were discussed in depth. The following is an interview of Rev. Ursula McLackland, director of the Asia regions' Blessed Family Department, who coordinated the breakout session on family issues.



What went into your decision to cover such serious issues?

Actually, when this session was designed, it came to me that Cheon Il Guk building is really family building. There is no way we can accomplish Cheon Il Guk without having Cheon Il Guk families—happy, loving families; and perhaps we are often so busy witnessing, so busy with our activities, that even though in theory we support this statement, in practice, we perhaps do not put enough resources, time or thought into what we can do to help our families solve their problems. That was the rationale for setting up this session.

In detail, some of our resource persons, in this case it was Rev. Yong,¹ started

brainstorming on how we might use the time effectively and not just present a lecture, which would just make people sleepy. We wanted to wake them up, shake them up a bit and say, Wow! This is important. So he started brainstorming different issues.

I think many of us were surprised by the outcome, that violence... Honestly, as a moderator, a facilitator, I hadn't automatically connected violence to sexual problems but somehow I felt pushed that among the many problems that could be dealt with, I thought first we should discuss the issue of sex and then the issue of violence.

Somehow it came out how closely they are connected together. Actually, I started

cutting out many of the other topics we had had in mind—financial issues, this or that—because I felt these seem to be the key issues and they are related to the Fall and reversing the effects of the Fall. So, rather than rushing through a host of problems and not being able to deal with this in detail, I thought, okay, let's cut it down to what is the essence.

Were you aware of family violence as a significant topic for our blessed families?

Yes. In one of the recent BFD meetings, one of the counselors in Europe had said to me (in a way, it's a shocking statement), that all the problems they have in the fallen world, we have in our first generation and even in our second-generation families—rape, abuse, addiction.

She said that everything—even suicide—is there. That woke me up. I thought, Wow, we have serious issues to deal with. Murder was also mentioned. Anything they have in the fallen world, we do have it—hopefully not to the same level or with the same frequency, but it's there. Even for me, it was shocking that it's even in second-generation families. This means we have a lot of ground to cover and a lot of work to do if we are talking about Cheon Il Guk as a reality.

Is there a system for dealing with family problem of so serious a nature?

I am very encouraged by Rev. Yong, who came to Asia and started this kind of couple communication workshop, which I heard from countries where he did it, really helped couples with serious problems. I hope we can expand it. We can learn from it so that in the future, we can conduct it ourselves. We can't ask Rev. Yong to conduct every workshop. We hope he can set a model or an example,

¹ Yong Jin-hun is the director of the Education Department in the FFWPU International Headquarters.

which we can inherit.

Could our second-generation couples getting blessed without having spent much time together be a factor?

That is where I feel the element of faith comes in. I really liked the way the Japanese leader broke it down—that the blessing starts with faith and then you have to develop in stages, coming to the point of love. Couples need to realize that it's a process. You can't jump from faith to love.

He said many second-generation couples may put love first, but the danger is that if the element of faith is not there in the beginning, when they don't feel love at a given moment, they can easily give up. I think faith is what will help us to go through rough times and to go through the stages of getting to know each other, dealing with everything, including the shortcomings, coming to understand each other, have compassion and then trusting each other that we can work through it, so that we can then come to the ideal, which actually is to deeply love each other and appreciate each other.

Each country seems to have its own approach. Is there any proposal that we will develop a more unified way of addressing issues?

So far, we have developed international standards for the process of matching, but of course the parents' matching is very much in the parents' dominion, under the parents' authority, so the BFD cannot say that this is what you can and cannot do. Rather they have recommended guidelines, and these have proven helpful. Ultimately, though, it's up to the parents to decide.

I think we still need to learn how the BFD can operate on a global level, learn from each other, help each other and support each other to come up with more guidelines.

My impression is that many second-generation members get together on their own in Korea and then go to their parents.

That could be. I don't know enough about Korea, but that falls under parents' matching, not Cheon Il Guk matching. Officially we have two standards—Cheon Il Guk matching and parents' matching.

I don't know much about how parents handle it in Korea, but I was very happy to learn about the Parents Matching Con-

vocations. America sent their resource persons to Asia to model it, to teach us, so that we can inherit it. I loved it. It was really an eye-opener that it starts with educating the parents before the children even enter the matching process; we must educate the parents. Europe is doing that. Japan is doing that. They have been trying to pass this tradition on to South America—maybe even Africa, Oceania, Asia and I think the Northeast region. We are trying to learn and I think it is a wonderful resource.

Do you use a matching web site in the Asia region?

So far, not so much. Of course, parents can connect to the web site bcmatching.org and some parents do use it. We still have a rather small number in the second generation in Asia that are ready for matching. But I would say that at least fifty or more percent have used other resources trying to find a suitable spouse.

Is it universally done that, to avoid complications, parents meet about a possible match before the children even had knowledge of it?

It's a basic guideline that parents first communicate and discuss a possible match and once they agree, they can introduce the children to each other. I think it's an ideal if the children have the necessary level of faith and the parents have the level of communication and understanding of what the child wants. But through the parents matching convocation and my own experience I think we also have to be able to respond to the child's own faith and in some cases the child wants to be involved in some level and that this is part of the matching. I like the family matching worksheet and plan that the family discusses the process with the child. How do we want to go about it? At which level does the child want to be involved? Who are the matching advisors or the people we want to involve in the matching process with our child. Even in one family it may not be the same for each child. I feel with have to respond to the child's maturity, level of faith and input.

You mentioned the child's faith. What might be done for children whose faith is mainly absent but are willing to be blessed?

My own experience is that when children do not want to disappoint the parents the child may not say anything about what he

or she has in mind or may not even think about getting blessed.

The parents select someone and the child realizes the person is almost the opposite of what he or she might like. The child cannot handle it. That is when many faith issues, many communication issues between parents and child come up.

At some point, it may even hurt the child's level of faith that the parent doesn't understand what the child needs or wants. That's why I find the family matching handbook and worksheet useful. The parents and children think about it earlier and don't only think, "I'm a good child when I say nothing. Parents, you do it completely for me."

In that case, the outcome is complete miscommunication and misunderstanding—different concepts. I feel it is much more helpful for parents and children—before they begin looking for the spouse—to communicate what we expect, what we hope for. They need to build a consensus. Then the parents can look for a person that is not only what would be their ideal but what would be the child's ideal.

In some respects, I think it might be unfair to bless a child that hasn't much faith at all with someone that is an active church member.

In those cases, I would think that the child's input is very important because for them to make it work, the horizontal attraction and their commitment to the person is more important than their commitment to God or the feeling that I will make it work no matter what.

For them, the motivation to go ahead and make a commitment to the other person would come out of respect for the person to the point where the child says, I am ready I believe I can love this person.

In that case, I believe they would need a much longer communication period, maybe much more communication with the parents first, about who I could see myself committing myself to. I think that if it's a personal commitment, and the child says and really feels, "I am ready to give my life to this person," I think it could work even if the vertical aspect is not strong. I have seen some cases, where both sides look more for someone who has a personal commitment rather than absolute faith. Some people would rather look for someone with whom they could have companionship and compassion.

JP

A New Chapter Begins

“Thanks to the internet and applications such as KakaoTalk, the entire world can connect within a second, a second! If you have set your antennas to face where the True Parents are, wouldn’t you know everything that True Parents are doing?”

— True Mother, March 7, 2014, Cheon Hwa Gung, United States

Thank you for your hard work on the front line of the providence. From the southern part of Korea, the good tidings of spring are slowly finding their way north. Through the years, True Parents have spoken of their love for this season, which symbolizes the start of new life. True Mother expressed her desire for news of good developments under Heaven’s will to be conveyed accurately and with speed to the providential field worldwide.

Recently, True Mother asked us to set up a translation center within the FFWPU History Compilation Committee and for the committee to oversee the publication of the *Today’s World* magazine for the purpose of creating an environment supportive of your efforts to achieve victory in Vision 2020. Accordingly, the committee is working closely with the FFWPU International Headquarters to reorganize related operations and is prepared to open a new chapter in our support for world missions in the following ways:

1. Opening an English PeaceTv site and providing support for the production of material in Spanish and French

We regretfully acknowledge that much of True Parents’ speeches and videos of major events presided over by them were not adequately made available to the more than sixty English-speaking nations throughout the world.

The English PeaceTv site is scheduled to open on May 29 (5.1 by the heavenly calendar). We will make it available to you free of charge. For the time being, Spanish material will also be posted on this web site. In the future, when it becomes possible, we plan to create additional web sites to provide content in Spanish, French, Russian, Arabic and other languages.

PeaceTv will produce and provide material that can assist your efforts to expand and convey True Parents’ realm of heart to the world’s Cain-type realm. Videos of True Parents’ speeches, of related news and of best



practices in the field will be produced along with educational videos (for example, Divine Principle lectures, lectures on True Parents’ life courses and on providential history) to raise members’ awareness and to support your witnessing endeavors.

We are aware that there are some areas that do not have adequate internet connectivity and that experience delays in accessing web sites or playing videos posted on the internet. Thus, the English site will be revamped to enable quicker access from any location, and for people in the field to easily upload material or to post articles from your region.

2. Today’s World, e-book service

Today’s World magazine will be provided as an e-book to better adapt to the trends and media environment in the IT Age. The name of the e-book will be *True Peace* (TP magazine for short). In its new form, any part that is useful to the field can be copied and printed for distribution. The e-book will also be provided via e-mail to PeaceTv’s twenty thousand current subscribers. Mobile services will be provided for smart phones. Smart phone

users can take advantage of this by downloading and installing the app, KakaoTalk, on your smart phone, saving the official PeaceTv cell phone number (+82-10-4895-5123) in your contacts, adding this number as a KakaoTalk friend, and sending a text message through KakaoTalk with your full name and cell phone number. Once this process is complete you will be able to receive updates and other content (for example, videos of True Parents’ speeches, *Today’s World* and *Tongil Segyee-books*) from PeaceTv.

With one click, you can view videos of True Parents’ speeches, allowing you to vividly experience True Parents’ heart at the time the speech was given.

3. Translation center

We are planning to revamp the existing translation team to provide language services for English and Spanish, and later gradually to expand this to French, Russian and other languages.

Currently, we are operating a translation center with a staff of six. There are four members of our English team, Julian Gray, David Beard, Kunduk Koh and Kayoung Kim and

two members of our Spanish team, Alejandro de Souza and Luis Chavez. With the cooperation of each region, we hope to augment our movement's overall translation capacity by creating a network of translators. We also plan to create a database of professional human resources to pool our translation capacity.

We were also assigned the responsibility of translating the Cheon Il Guk Holy Scriptures. We are currently speeding up the translations with a goal of publishing the English versions of *Cheon Seong Gyeong*, *Pyeong Hwa Gyeong*, and *Chambumo Gyeong* this August. We plan to support the publication of English materials in Korea and offer language support at our main events in Korea.

We hope that the regional headquarters can identify areas in which they might specialize and a language focus and work together with us in building a system to provide support to the other mission nations. For example, Korea can produce material from and about True Parents while Japan might create animation for second-generation education. The U.S. headquarters could produce and distribute educational material for the English speaking nations, the regional headquarters of South America, located in Brazil, can do the same for the twenty Spanish-speaking nations, while the French headquarters might provide material for the twenty-two French-

speaking nations.

The FFWPU History Compilation Committee will publish a glossary (comprising more than three thousand entries, such as key terms from True Parents' speeches, the official titles of events and proclamations and names of providential organizations and companies) in seven languages to ensure the consistency of translations and enhance the efficiency and accuracy of translated work.

4. Regional reporters

We would also like to work with the regional headquarters and central nations in selecting reporters that can contribute articles and other useful material. The reporters will be expected to utilize the materials on the PeaceTv site in disseminating relevant material for the mission to members in their regions, and from the region upload relevant news, best practices, a selection of sermons and other educational material to PeaceTv. To those selected as reporters, the FFWPU History Compilation Committee in turn will provide professional education in filming, recording and editing and guidelines on writing articles. We hope to have the cooperation of the regional presidents for these initiatives. We welcome your recommendations of anybody whom you know or believe to be the right person for this job. Once again, we kindly ask for your cooperation.

Respected regional presidents,

In this IT age, our members are the conduits of our witnessing efforts. If in the past our members were considered "storehouses" of material, today they should function as "transmitters" that instantaneously disseminate information provided by the headquarters to the target audience. For this to succeed, close communication and cooperation between the FFWPU International Headquarters, the History Compilation Committee and the regional headquarters is absolutely necessary. In other words, under a cooperative system between FFWPU International Headquarters and the regional headquarters, the committee shall fulfill its responsibility in the following way: First, to speedily and accurately convey True Parents' heart and will to the field and raise members' awareness. Second, to make full use of the latest media in supporting the field so that witnessing efforts can be magnified. Third, to provide our full support and cooperation in strengthening the worldwide missionary network and form a basis for the victory of Vision 2020.

In conclusion, we hope to become a close partner to those in the field in providing various services to those that have been working hard for God's will at the forefront of the providence. Thank you very much. **TP**

—The FFWPU History Compilation Committee



