

True Peace



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Taking the Special Emissary's Path

By Sa Kwang-kee



On April 16, 2014, the day of the tragic sinking of the Saewol ferry in Korea, Mother had invited my wife and me to a meal. There, she asked me to return to a public mission and support mission outreach in Europe. Officially, I was appointed in May as the special emissary to the Western European sub-region. I returned to the very place where I had spent eighteen years serving the church and European CARP. In those days, I had industriously gone around thirty-five nations in carrying out my public mission.

After True Father's seonghwa, our church was on the brink of a crisis, not unlike the one Korea faced following the Saewol ferry disaster. Mother, however, emerged as our new captain and wisely navigated and overcame this crisis. Under her extraordinary leadership, we are advancing without stopping toward great developments.

Through True Mother's insight and as an expression of her determination emerged the special emissary system. Returning to Europe, now as a special emissary, I developed keen awareness of how important the mission and role of special emissaries is in the providence.

What one usually finds when observing someone leading groups of people or an organization is a person in front issuing orders and instructions, not someone supporting, encouraging and cleaning up from behind.

Oftentimes, an organization lacks a person that can objectively assess the overall situation, report to and advise the overall leader and take the necessary steps to deal with discovered issues.


The book *North Korean Partisan in South Korea* [an autobiographical novel by Lee Tae, who had been a North Korean guerilla in the Korean War] portrays communists engaging in partisan hostilities. In this story, the author introduces the Army unit's cultural officer, who is in charge of reinforcing morale in the other company commanders and in the troops. He supervises mental training and loyalty to the Communist Party. Like this cultural officer, I think special emissaries have the mission to encourage members and to provide guidance that facilitates better understanding of the providence and helps members gain the correct perspective, while supporting them from behind.

After taking office as a special emissary, I toured Europe. Unlike my time as the regional president, I was able to see many things from an entirely different point of view, and I felt strongly compelled to reinforce aspects of our organization that were inadequate. I think herein lies the need for special emissaries. I found new appreciation for True Mother's insight and providential leadership.

Of course, the need for this new system notwithstanding, unquestionably the most important issue is whether the person appointed as a special emissary can sufficiently carry out his responsibilities. In this respect, I have deeply contemplated how to carry out my mission and responsibilities as a special emissary adequately and appropriately.

Through my visits to European nations, I saw how many of our members recently had returned to their hometowns and were working hard to uphold Father's last words and carry out their missions as tribal messiahs. I felt deep compassion, respect and love for these members because I remember eventful days when I shared meals and spent sleepless nights with them during the time when Father was sending us across national borders. If it were not for their sacrifice, none of us would be here today. These members are the true champions of that providential age of mobilization.

After Father's ascension, we have seen Mother face indescribable challenges as she shouldered her own the heavenly mission. When I think about what might have gone through her heart during this time, I find greater resolve to do my best in pursuit of Vision 2020 while supporting and encouraging our members and leaders on Mother's behalf.

Let us once again remember the pledge and promise we made during our youthful years to never give up on the truth even if we collapse from exhaustion in a pool of blood. As I continue on this path as a special emissary, I again pledge to live the rest of the life given to me honorably and with dignity for the sake of Heaven and the True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind. 

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God's True Love and Restoring the Relationship with Heaven, Earth and Humankind

The following is an excerpt from the speech Father gave on February 6, 2003 in the Jamshil Indoor Gymnasium, in Seoul, Korea to commemorate True Parents' joint birthday. The full text is in Pyeong Hwa Gyeong, book 2, speech 6.

I would truly like to thank all of you who have gathered here to congratulate me on my eighty-third birthday, and my wife, Hak-Ja Han Moon, on her sixtieth birthday. Above all else, I would like to return all this glory to God, who has protected and looked after me until this day. The living God's promise and my absolute faith in him are the driving forces that have preserved my life during times of suffering, even when I was on the brink of death.

God is not just the God of believers. He is the God of all people. Especially at this time, we are living in an age in which God stands in front of the world not just as some vague and abstract being, but as a God with a definite purpose and will. It is an age of great change, when all people need to awaken to this God. All people need to awaken to the fact that the contem-

porary world is being sucked down into a maelstrom of individual, family, national and world-level problems, which we will never solve if we ignore God.

The ultimate purpose of religion is to recover the original parent and the original homeland. True religion must not espouse vague ideas about God; it has to be able to give a clear picture of God so people can understand him. One cannot call any religion that compromises the relationship between God and humankind a high-level religion. Such a religion ultimately will decline. True religion has to teach people how to know God clearly, how to become one with God and how to build the original world of creation. The purpose of religion is to bring about a world without sin, the ideal world where we make original relationships with God. God is not seek-

ing a religious world. He is seeking his ideal world of creation. The purpose of religion is not for religion itself; rather, it is to realize the world of God's ideal. So we have to think about the original purpose and ideal at the time of the Creation. God created the world, so it is necessary to explain his ideal of creation.

What do you think God's will is? It is to complete his ideal of creation. What do you think God wanted to achieve through creating our first ancestors, Adam and Eve, in the garden of Eden? God, who is the essence of love, created human beings because he needed a partner of love. We were created as the true sons and daughters of God so that he could realize his ideal of true love through us. The original pair was created to grow into a true man and true woman, become husband and wife, create an ideal

family, and then build an ideal nation and world. To repeat, centering on God's true love, they had to perfect an ideal family and expand it to build the ideal world. However, our human ancestors fell, and this destroyed God's ideal of creation at that time.

Accordingly, the purpose of religion is to find a true person, a true family and a true nation, and build a true world where all people can live together in peace. This is the purpose of God's providence for the world. Religion is seeking a good world. However, a good world cannot be realized without first establishing a good country. Moreover, for a good country to appear there must first be a good society, and before there can be a good society there must first be a good tribe, and before there can be a good tribe there must first be a good family. Before there can be a good family, there must first be a good man and a good woman.

After the Adam fell, Israel's the four-thousand-year history ensued. What was its purpose? Regardless of the world's external developments, internally the sole purpose of this period was to find one true Adam and one true Eve. God's deepest grief and resentment were that because of the Fall, there was not one son or daughter that could inherit life and bloodline by centering on his love. The savior whom God sent to the world is the person whom God made to be the owner of true love, true life and true lineage. God's will, the original hope of humankind, is for each human being to become the ideal person of God's originally intended world of creation and to complete the ideal world of creation. This means that after a man and woman achieve God's ideal as individuals, they will then become a husband and wife having true love and then true parents. In order for this to happen, God absolutely needs the True Parents as the source of his true love, true life and true lineage. Thus, in order to complete God's providence of salvation, for one man to appear as the savior, the Messiah, or the returning Lord is insufficient. The True Parents have to appear as a husband and wife that resemble God completely and that have completely realized his true love.

Respected leaders, ladies and gen-

tlemen, leading a religious life is not something you can prefer to do or not to do. Fallen men and women were born with a connection to fallen parents through fallen love centered on Satan. Therefore, without exception, all people absolutely need to pass through the repair shop of religion, meet the True Parents and establish a connection of true love and true life with them. There is one important point you need to understand. When you go to the repair shop, you cannot stay there forever. You need to come out reborn. While the religious life is the required course for all humankind, it is not the basic purpose or whole purpose of life.


The ultimate purpose of human life is to graduate from the religious life, a life of restoration, and live as a man and women of the original world of creation. Religion came about only because of the Fall. Hence, does it make sense to say that the sole purpose of life is to live buried in a religion? If there had been no Fall, how would men and women originally have lived? Human beings were originally God's children. Thus, we are destined to live with true love, realize a true family and establish a free, peaceful, united and happy world. We are supposed to live in the kingdom of heaven on earth.

God did not originally create men and women to have them break down so that he could repair them as his children reborn through religion. Do any parents want to see their children suffer in conflict, while endlessly repenting of their sins? Do you think the original will of God the Father, the omniscient and omnipotent Lord of the Creation, was that his children suffer in sin? The fallen world is not the world God originally planned. The first ancestors' disobedience prevented God from realizing the world he had originally planned. However, God is absolute, and his will is absolute. Thus, God will realize his will as he had intended in the beginning. He wills the complete recovery to the original state. This is why God's providence of salvation is the providence of restoration, the providence of re-creation.

Religion is the central means for the providence of restoration; however, people are not supposed simply to meet True Parents and go through

the course of a religious life. They are supposed to become God's children, establish a Parent-child relationship with him, attend God, and build a world where the values of faith are inherent in their daily lives. No one in history revealed this precious truth; namely, that people must graduate from religious life. Knowing this truth from an early age, I did not want to create another sect or denomination. Because Christianity, which was the central religion of God's providence, did not accept my teaching of Heaven's way, I had to create the Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity. Although it was an association, not a sect or denomination, the Christian world continued to reject it, to persecute us, to label us heretical, and to turn its face away from us. As our movement grew, the world began to call us the Unification Church rather than use the long, official title. That is how we became the Unification Church.

For many, many years, I have lived in hope of seeing the day we could take down our church sign. I even prophesied about that day. Finally, in 1996 we took down that sign and started the Family Federation for World Peace. This was a very important event in humanity's history. It was the beginning of a new world. It marked a change from the old world, where people lived with the burden of sin inherited from false parents. They were living in suffering and conflict, practicing a life of faith in which the only way to find God was through prayer and repentance. However, with this event, the world changed. From then on, people could be reborn by receiving the blessing from the True Parents, and going forward while reporting to God about what they were doing.

Ladies and gentlemen, let us unite with the blessing from Heaven that has come to us. I call upon all the people that make up humankind to graduate from the religious life, receive the blessing of true love, establish a true family and keep the standard of a true child throughout their lives. Those who receive the blessing on earth and live a life of true love can enter the eternal homeland of the ideal world, namely, God's nation, the kingdom of heaven. 

True Mother's Address on January 4



True Mother spoke to the Korean witnessing team and a few Japanese members that are working in Las Vegas. (See pages 10 to 13 for a report on their work.) She is in the US doing research in preparation for building the Cheonji Sunhak Won. "Cheonji" is "heaven and earth" in English. "Sun" and "Hak" come from True Parents' names and the Chinese character for the "won" that Mother used here means "garden." Essentially, it is to be a museum to highlight True Parents' life courses.

While you were out witnessing, I was contemplating how to build the Cheonji Sunhak Won, which is the purpose of my visit to America this time. I plan to make it greater than any other existing museum. I am thinking of looking at those buildings that are well constructed and known to be well managed. I am sure we can ultimately create a finer piece of work in the twenty-first century. That is the kind of standard we need, so that the Cheonji Sunhak Won's stature and True Parents' stature can be remembered and survive for future generations and all eternity. Do you know how blessed and joyful it is to have been part of that endeavor?

Actually, when I invited all of you from Korea and Japan, I asked you to witness for two weeks. However, isn't it true that you slacked off a bit? You probably only witnessed for five or six days. I heard that somebody caught a cold, became ill and caused an uproar. Hyun-hi! [Yes, Mother?] Did you get better? [Yes] Every day I was receiving reports about your activities. I am sure you all had a great experience. Now, you have harvested the seeds of life in this desert. You sowed the seeds of life on this barren land. You should continue to be involved by offering conditions and prayer. From that position, you should protect, manage and raise the new lives that you brought in. You will now return to your countries, but the church in Las Vegas and the US headquarters should be responsible for these new lives so that they do not fall to the ground. Please guide them so that they can blossom in all their splendor and bear fruit. Do you understand?

In this respect, you have actually lit a fire in this city, which had been asleep. You are in an incredible position. Did you engage in your activities with that awareness?

We talked about the Hoover Dam; this dam was the first of its kind in history. It affected three states, which are in a desert area—California, Nevada, and Arizona. The construction of this dam began in 1931. They completed it in six years. Many people made sacrifices. Yet, courageously they made this dam to save the three

states and this helped this nation overcome the Great Depression.

One person's idea saved the lives of the people in these three states and saved America. Your thoughts and actions will not only save Las Vegas but also all of America. The environment here is equipped with everything that it needs; this environment shall spread to the entire world. They hold conventions here all-year round. That is why many people from other parts of the world come here. I heard that there will be some kind of show five to six days from now. People from Samsung, LG and many others from Korea will be coming to this show. What was it called? It was something about video 3D or a consumer electronics show. The conventions will continue, and many people will come to them. These people do not live here, so once they get information they will return to their nations. We should not let this opportunity slip by. How wonderful it would be if the Las Vegas church were prospering so that it were able to lead to God all the people that come to this place! Do you agree? [Yes] America should work harder and the church in Las Vegas should work even harder. Do you understand? Rev. Doo, do you understand? [Yes]

You should continue to connect to God and convey God's word to those that gave their signatures. Do not lose anybody. Do you understand? [I understand.] I will watch carefully to see how you behave. I will be monitoring you. [Laughter] Do you understand? [Yes, I understand!] So do not lose

anybody who has already connected with us.

Well, if you already had a good meal, I hope this day will be yours. Are we already in 2015? We follow the heavenly calendar but after all, it is a new year according to the Gregorian calendar. This new year is the year of the blue sheep. I was born in the year of the sheep. [Cheering] You should work harder to uplift True Mother in the eyes of the world. Will you do that? [Yes] By Korean custom, we comfort the god of the earth in the new year. This means stamping the ground. While doing that, we should make some noise and shout. In other words, we should pray and offer conditions in the new year, so that we can have abundant experiences in the new year. I do not know if there is a similar custom in the West but in the East, this custom is very strong. Are there eighty people here today? Make eight teams and compete; I will give an award up to fourth place. [Cheering] We'll play yut. The custom of playing yut is about becoming one. People from high and low classes, yangban [historically, Korean aristocrats] or a people from the lowest class in Korea, all became one through this game. You should all become one. I will give a generous award to those in first place. I have prepared many prizes so do your best. [Cheering]

If I speak too much, I will be taking away your enjoyment time. Let us have one or two of you reflect on a particularly interesting incident from your activities. ㄸ



Visit to Getty Museum and Reagan Library and Museum



True Mother visiting the J. Paul Getty Museum as preparation for creating Cheonji Sunhak Won



At Pebble Beach on the Monterey Peninsula in California.



Santa Barbara beach



True Mother with her entourage

Visit to Roaring Camp and Redwood Forests in California



Roaring Camp, California



True Mother in front of a section of felled tree, 2,200 years old



True Mother taking a stroll through the redwood forest



True Mother in front of a red rock butte in Sedona, Arizona

TRANSFORMING LAS VEGAS

AN INTERNATIONAL WITNESSING TEAM MAKES AN ALL-OUT EFFORT

By Demian Dunkley

True Mother invited thirty-six Unificationists from Korea to Las Vegas to participate in a fourteen-day witnessing leadership program. In the week before Mr. Dunkley wrote this, Mother had been personally guiding the team to lead the way in sharing their faith. The team members had been working closely with Las Vegas Japanese missionaries, local members and the US National Ministry Team, when thirteen young American members joined their witnessing effort.

T rue Mother is very closely involved in this witnessing initiative, watching and guiding us every day. For our American Unification family, joining in and reinforcing the Korean and Japanese brothers and sisters was a fine way to express their support for Mother. They really have a strong determination to witness, and share True Parents' love. True Mother has asked each Unificationist to bring at least one spiritual child (or even ten).

Every morning and evening True Mother receives an update on our activities and gives suggestions on how to improve outreach efforts. She wants participants to understand True Parents' hearts toward the nation and people here. Dr. Kim Ki-hoon, president of the FFWPU North American region, said, "When I share with True Mother the team's witnessing experiences, she is very sincere and I feel her loving heart toward the brothers and sisters working so hard here. True Mother is happy to hear that CARP in America and our Unificationist-born youth are coming to join the witnessing team here."

The witnessing begins

On the first day, six teams went witnessing in the area around the Univer-

sity of Las Vegas (UNLV) campus and the new CARP Learning Center. At first, some were a little nervous about the language barrier, but our national ministry team had prepared materials for them, and that morning I gave a presentation about ways we can approach people, love and invite them. That these Korean Unificationists are courageous and have a lot of love to share is the main thing. Mother has inspired them; they want to spread True Parents' love throughout Las Vegas.

After just an hour of witnessing, one team brought a young man named Zachary. He is twenty-five and has a family, but lost his two-year old daughter two months ago. He spoke in tears and moved everyone with his deep heart of compassion. He is trying to use his family tragedy to learn how to love people more centered on God. First, we played him the "Create a Life You Love" introductory Divine Principle video. After some discussion, he listened to a one-hour lecture on the Principles of Creation. He agreed to come back the next to continue. He appeared to enjoy his time with us.

Mother listened to the report about the witnessing activity and especially about Zachary, who had come to the Carp Learning Center. This seemed to deeply move and please her. One

comment she made was "It is harder to raise children than to give birth to them." She encouraged the team to keep making effort, because God is ready to back us.

Everyone on the witnessing teams met people and collected names and contact information. Throughout the week, as the next step in our outreach effort, we invited them either to come to the Learning Center or to join our food or cleaning service projects. Rev. Ken Doo, the local Las Vegas Family Church pastor; and Mr. Akira Watanabe, director of CARP Las Vegas; have been helping us.

On the morning of Day Two, Dr. Kim brought gifts expressive of encouragement and conducive to good health from Mother to the witnessing team. Dr. Kim opened the day with a prayer after sharing an inspiring report about the Las Vegas providence to the workshop members as they prepared to go out witnessing.

The cold weather and hectic schedule is effecting some of them physically. Some are catching colds and feeling somewhat weak, but they do not show it. They support one another wholeheartedly and feel determination to find the people whom God has prepared. They have spent every spare minute going through their



Participants are reaffirming their resolution to succeed in their outreach efforts in Las Vegas.



Members are planning their witnessing activity.

name lists and contacting potential guests. They will only be here for such a short time, so every moment counts. Mother gave a beautiful cashmere scarf to each of them to help keep them warm.

America joins the team

On the third day, thirteen American Unificationists joined the witnessing workshop. These remarkable brothers and sisters dropped what they had been doing and came from all over the country to take part in Mother's witnessing workshop. I will divide the new team members among the teams, two per team, to help with witnessing and translation. As the Americans started arriving, the Korean and Japanese team members became extremely excited about working with them. You can imagine their gratitude toward those that have come to help.

The next day, they began the Shine City Project, cleaning the area around Lake Mead. In the afternoon, they worked with the Food Is Love project to feed the homeless. One thing is certain: God is bringing a bunch of cool people together!

The following day, they spent time completing housekeeping errands and following up with guests such as Crystal, who was on her coffee break. She only had a short time but they introduced our movement to her and invited her to the CARP center, where CARP members introduced her to the activities happening there. They then met up with Juanita, another guest, for coffee and discussion. She has already heard some of the teachings from the Divine Principle and met some of the local Unificationists. She feels good when she is with us. However, when she saw Mother last weekend and heard her speak, she thought, "I think I should join this church."

By this time, what had previously been a witnessing team comprising thirty-six Korean and eighteen local



True Mother joined the workshop participants for a meal.

Japanese missionaries was now the miracle team! The thirteen American Unificationists, most of whom are college-aged, officially joined the ranks via a humorous ceremony, emphasizing the love, good fellowship and close bonds already created among the Koreans, Japanese and Americans.

With the 2015 Holy Marriage Blessing Ceremony just around the corner, news of a matching swiftly catches people's attention in our movement. In light of this, the witnessing team decided to conduct a light-hearted "matching ceremony" at the team headquarters. Before dinner, the Americans that had come to offer their support lined up in a row facing the six team leaders to be "matched" to a team. Other team members came to cheer on and give a boost to the possible new recruits.


I had instructed the team leaders to pick which of the American recruits would best complete the team based on the recruits' fluency in Korean or Japanese, their enthusiasm, and other possible factors, like athletic performance (part of the fun behind the ceremony). Each of the six teams chose two American recruits and celebrated over a special dinner.

Our intense schedule and the surprisingly cold weather in Las Vegas

had caused several team members to catch colds. Some were homesick. In response, Dr. Kim Ki-hoon and Dr. Michael Balcomb, the US FFWPU national leader, graciously sponsored a catered traditional Korean dinner to bolster and to thank our hard working members. The American team, in an act of camaraderie, beautifully decorated the dining area, even using lights to foster a warm atmosphere.

The language barriers mattered very little the rest of the night as each team bonded and continued to stay together even after the program ended. The beautiful harmony and companionship among all the team members brought forth a wave of determination as the newly engaged English-speakers became a cultural and linguistic bridge for the deep hearts of the Koreans and Japanese to communicate to the Las Vegas population.

Local Unificationist missionaries and other church members continued to stop by throughout the night, including Akira and Makiko Watanabe, directors of CARP Las Vegas; and local Unificationist Mimi Morse, who brought fresh fruit.

The energy here in Las Vegas is palpable. We trace this directly to Mother, to our leaders and to all those that have prayed for thought deeply about the international witnessing team working that has been working hard in Las Vegas. Thank you for being part of our experience here in transforming Las Vegas into a mecca of forgiveness, love and unity. 

Mr. Dunkley is the FFWPU director of evangelism in the United States.



Picking up trash around Lake Mead



Prayer to begin the day

Las Vegas Witnessing Reflections

The witnessing workshop in Las Vegas, which True Mother was leading, has concluded. The witnessing members collected a list of over five hundred names with contact information and at least ten people visited the CARP center every day to listen to Divine Principle lectures. We are pleased to provide our readers summaries of reflections made by five CARP members that took part in this witnessing workshop.

Desperately Waiting For Someone

Mr. Lee Nam-kyeong
Inje University



I would divide this witnessing workshop into three parts. The first part was the Christmas Party with True Mother, the second the pilgrimage

to holy sites and the third was the witnessing campaign. We prepared a show to perform in front of True Mother during the Christmas Party. Until that time, I had only perceived of True Parents as the Messiah. They were difficult to approach, living a kind of life completely different from mine, a perfect kind of life. Because of this, for me to feel that they are my real parents was difficult. However, performing in front of True Mother led me to see True Parents not only as the Messiah but also as our actual parents. This has led me to feel that True Parents truly are our parents from the deepest place in my heart.

The majestic nature I encountered during the pilgrimage to holy sites humbled me, and realizing that I am only a small individual in front of this vast environment led me to believe that I should be less arrogant. One thing I felt most strongly during the pilgrimage is that nature is a great object of love, a product prepared by our Heavenly Parent and True Parents.

During the witnessing campaign, I felt that we needed to move forward bravely while believing in True Parents. I could feel that our Heavenly

Parent and True Parents had prepared everything for us and all we needed to do was to act. Our team members did not unite in the beginning and this led to poor results. However, we became more united as time went by; we could genuinely feel that we could accomplish something. For the first time, I experienced desperately waiting for someone while engaging in a witnessing campaign.

Witnessing in English

Ms. Park Ye-jeong
Korea University



We began

witnessing after the pilgrimage to holy sites.

CARP members and those from the Cheon Jeong Gung team

paired up. Our task at first was to build teamwork. I engaged in the activity while believing that there is God's providence behind our teams coming to work together. Our teamwork improved gradually. I believe we were able to unite because we centered on True Parents. I prayed to God, "Please, whatever kind of people I meet, allow me to be able to connect them to our Heavenly Parent."

I met connected to one person in Las Vegas. I introduced CARP activities to him at first and told him that there was an event that day. Then the Japanese missionary translated that into English. My original intention was to do just that and say good-bye, but something inside me told me that

I should not let go of him just like that. Therefore, I asked that young man, "Do you have time, now? Let's go our center!" Surprisingly, he simply answered "Sure!" On hearing that, I brought him to the CARP center. While I was staying in America, he came to the center twice and listened to Divine Principle lectures until the chapter on the Human Fall. Now the CARP members in Las Vegas are helping him. I cannot meet him personally, but we are still in contact through SNS, even though we may be far away from each other.

This Campaign Changed My Heart

Ms. Han Yu-mi
Sun Moon University



I had many worries about witnessing. I did not know what to do, only thinking to myself, I do not even speak the language.

What do I do in this foreign land?

My confidence was low. For that reason, I started to pray and one thing that came up in my mind during the prayer was "creation of the environment." I began to think that Las Vegas might not be an ideal place for me to do witnessing activities, but for some reason True Parents guided us to do this in Las Vegas, of all places. They must have created an environment for us already.

I felt that Satan would take away this environment if we fail to overcome obstacles and to invest our-

selves. So I began to commit myself, thinking Let's just do it! I can do it. I am a proud second-generation child of True Parents.

Sometimes people belittled me, and sometimes I had to hear people mock the Unification Church, but I was able to rise beyond these difficulties thanks to my faith in our Heavenly Parent and True Parents. I actually met many people, and I received a lot of love as well. There was, especially, a man by the name of Rick. Doctors discovered that Rick's mother had cancer, which shocked him greatly. This news caused him to avoid human contact and to live alone for many months. However, his attitude changed drastically after he started coming to the CARP center. He promised that he would listen to Divine Principle lectures, and he even read True Father's autobiography. I was not able to exchange many words with him, but we conversed a lot through our facial expressions, bodily gestures and our hearts. I felt truly that Rick is a child prepared by Heaven.

One more surprise was in store for me during the witnessing campaign. I was doubtful about the CARP team and Cheon Jeong Gung team being able to achieve unity. However, after we witnessed together for a while, we were able to become one. As we practiced loving others and lived for each other's sake, our unity came naturally. This workshop has brought a change in my heart. I was able to comprehend how desperate Heaven's heart is, and I wanted to bring joy to True Parents as fast as I could.

Discovering I Am loved

Ms. Moon Ji-eh
Sungshin Women's University



During the pilgrimage, I resolved to keep my love for our Heavenly Parent and True Parents firm, which led me to invest even more sincerity in the

witnessing part of this workshop. Especially during the initial part of the workshop, treating people with the same heart as I would treat my own family was difficult. This caused many worries in me. I was unable to empty myself because of the pressure that came from my line of thinking: I want to make True Mother happy, for which I have to witness, for which I have to be able to live for the sake of others, for which I have to love.

Realizing that truthful love can only come about when I invite our Heavenly Parent into myself, I focused on clearing my thoughts. I fasted in the morning and focused on emptying my heart of distractions. I continued to do this and focused on the moments when I could feel that our Heavenly Parent is with me. Surprisingly, curiosity was aroused whenever I met new people even when I was physically tired. I wanted to talk more, I empathized more, I wanted to connect with others and I laughed naturally because I was so happy that we could converse through our hearts. All this was remarkable and exciting to me. I focused so intently on giving love to them, but in the midst of it all, I suddenly realized that I was not only giving love; I was also receiving it. People gave me their attention, and asked me when I would return to America after going back to Korea. They were sad when I could not give them a clear answer. They gave me things that they could have otherwise used for themselves. They gave me a lot of love, and this loving relationship led to our unity. I have returned to Korea but I still miss them.

Children Heaven Wants to Save

Ms. Tsuji Masako
Yeonsei University




Heaven's providence unfolded from the day we began our witnessing campaign. We were eating our lunch in a Mc-

Donald's that day. One student from Sun Moon University was saying, "True Mother gave us her instructions, and nothing is impossible when the spiritual world is with us." Mr. Moon Sang-pil, the CARP president and other workshop participants were engaged in a rousing conversation. However, I saw a man doing nothing but praying in the corner, not even ordering anything. Then something hit me: This is the man!

I began talking to him. He ended up coming to the CARP center and listening to a Divine Principle lecture on the chapter on the Creation. He also promised that he would keep coming back for more. I felt that this symbolized that we can meet people that Heaven has prepared only if we are willing to take steps forward.

During my witnessing activity, English was a problem for me, a factor that chipped away at my confidence. Even though my English is limited, I started to believe that what matters is not language but having a truthful heart. If I go out with sincerity, Heaven will guide me and the spiritual world will protect me. Every time I met someone, I tried to convey my thoughts as clearly as possible in English. Increasingly, people began to listen to what I said; True Father's poem inspired them and they empathized with our activity. We were able to accumulate a list of five hundred people after only ten days of the witnessing campaign. More than ten people came to the CARP center each day to listen to Divine Principle lectures.

Our team also was able to get a witnessing candidate to donate money, so that he could attend a Divine Principle workshop. He even registered himself as a member of the Family Federation the following week. It was a difficult time, but all of my worries and sadness went away when he made that decision. Many others also came to our CARP center and experienced our culture.

I was grateful for each one. We were able to realize that they all needed the Divine Principle in their lives after listening to their life stories, and we realized that they truly were children whom Heaven wanted to save. 

Our Church in Guri: An Activity Report

In its special activities to prepare for the second anniversary of Foundation Day it ranked first.

In a recent interim check of the hundred-day special activity period for the success of the second anniversary of Foundation Day, our North Gyeonggi church district ranked first out of twenty-two districts in Korea. One can attribute this feat to their innovative worship culture.

Pastor Hwang-bo Gun (who has a two-syllable surname and a one-syllable given name) made effort to tailor the sermons to the level of new members, to improve the choir, to maintain open worship services (to which non-members feel free to come) and to conduct a course for new members after worship. Rev. Hwang-bo, whose church is the headquarters church for the district, submits his annual pastoral plan at the end of each year in order to share his vision for the next year with his Finance Department. The Finance Department head, the pastor and a representative of the Guri members then reach an agreement before the pastor reports the plan to the congregation during a general assembly.

Following this tradition, in 2014, they had created a five-step model pastoral process: to pray and offer conditions, to create relationships, to invite, to determine, and to come to a settlement. The first step entails listing the names of potential members, and then praying for and setting conditions for the people on that list.

For the second step, members act—disseminating pamphlets and *As a Peace-Loving Global Citizen*, conducting service projects, and forming mountain hiking clubs. For the third step, members invited the candidates to their Happy Day seminar or a one-

day Divine Principle workshop. For the fourth step, they run a twelve-lecture Divine Principle workshop. Finally, for the fifth step, they provide their candidates an eight-week educational program to help them settle in as full members.

Key 2014 activities and growth

The implementation of this ministerial model in 2014 led to an increase in members, from 1,148 in 2013 to 1,489. Sunday service attendance went from 494 to 537. Here, are some of the activities carried out by our church in Guri last year. First, they hosted a One-Heart Sports Festival at the LG Baseball Stadium on October 12. The whole congregation participated in the event along with fifty new members and members who had stopped coming to the church. The mayor of Guri, two national assemblymen (Korea's parliamentarians), the City Council chairman and two councilmen also took part. The sports festival was significant in that they used to hold it annually but hadn't done so for seven years. In the morning, all of the members participated in "fun sports" not meant to be competitive. The members then formed teams that competed against each other in the sports festival that afternoon.

On November 8 and 9, they invited Mr. Yun Young-tae, an early member, to give his testimony at a service meant to energize members at the beginning of the one hundred days of special activities. His testimony and sermon had four parts: First, the age of pioneering and persecution; second, overcoming tribulation and revitalizing the church; third, the globalization of the blessing and ac-

tivities in Korea; fourth, the mission of heavenly tribal messiahs.

The service concluded with the members present all pledging to succeed in the one hundred days of special activities by approaching it with the same sincere hearts we associate with our early members. The members within their home groups set their minds on consistently praying early each morning, and each group drew up a detailed action plan covering the one hundred days.

The congregation also hosted a launching ceremony for the People's Committee to Prepare for Unification, an event connected to the activities of the Citizen's Federation for Unification of the Koreas (a UPF component in Korea). Three hundred people, including Guri's city mayor, two national assemblymen, the chairman and five other members of the City Council, and the chairman of the Credit Union participated in this event on November 21 at the Guri Youth Center. Twenty witnessing candidates that had connected to the church thanks to continuous witnessing activities conducted once or twice each week in the subway also participated in this event. Peace ambassadors made a determination to actively participate in it, and a national assemblyman gave Mrs. Kim Bok-gon a civic award.

Our church in Guri created a Youth Department. They had their first Sunday service on November 3, 2013. They are continuing their activities after forming a body of student representatives in March 2014. They held their first Membership Training Workshop for college-student members in June at a rented place in the country-



1 A one-day Seminar on Cheon Il Guk Witnessing
2 The One-Heart Sports Festival
3 A married couples' blessing ceremony



side. They held explanatory events for the blessing twice since their inception and some second-generation couples and some from the first-generation (sixteen in total) have been matched. More than thirty members attend the Youth Department's Sunday services regularly.

The church is working to secure a place to build a church parking lot and an exercise or sports field. The need for the parking lot surfaced because of a lack of space to park the cars during Sunday services and for members to get together and build friendships. They wish to have a sports or exercise area for Seonghwa students (in middle school and high school) and college-aged members to use for witnessing purposes. The church is working to have ownership of a plot of land transferred from our church farm management group to the church. Members now use it as a weekend farm area. The church wants to expand their parking capacity and set up an exercise space for witnessing purposes.

The direction of worship services

Their road map for church growth is to have worship services that encompass three generations of members, open a systematic educational course for new members, strengthen the hoondok family group leaders, and hold a Festival for New Life aimed at inviting people in the Cain-realm. Among these, the worship service for three generations of members is expected to fill the gap between young and old generations, provide a place for communication, increase the number of service participants (as families will come to the services as one unit)

and show to the world the true family culture of the Unification Church. The church in Guri is also planning to develop a system for new members, create a four-week course to familiarize them with the church gradually and to later guide them to participate in Divine Principle workshops.

The leaders of each hoondok family church will come together in the small chapel every Tuesday to report about their activities. They will also continue to hold worship services for people in the Cain-realm. Here, they will submit a list of participants and prepare an environment for open services. To date, the mayor of Guri, a member of the Guri city council, an assistant to a city council official, the former president of the Korean Broadcasting Service (KBS), the president of the National Elderly Citizens' Association in a nearby city, the CEO of an art gallery and the chairman of the Credit Union in Guri have all participated in some of these open services. In conclusion, the following are the directions Guri church's worship services will take in the future.

1. They will worship God.
2. They will attend True Parents centered on God.
3. They will worship with grateful hearts.
4. Three generations of members will participate and harmonize among themselves.
5. They will bring new life to others.
6. Together, their worship services will bring God joy.


The church is also operating a Cheon Il Guk Witnessing School. According to their interim report, on av-

erage, two hundred people participated in the courses, held nine times from April 17 to June 19. Among these participants, 195 of them submitted an application to enter the school.

Looking toward 2015

To achieve their ministerial goal for 2015, the church in Guri has created a plan to develop and publish materials needed for witnessing and to deploy witnessing teams more frequently in order to bolster their witnessing efforts. They will continue hosting Happy Day Seminars. In March and December, they will throw a Welcoming Party cum church service for new members. They will conduct classes on witnessing in April and May. Also in May and again in December they will host a general worship service for three generations of Unificationists. In addition to these steps, they will run education sessions for one-on-one Divine Principle education and provide recreational lectures twice this year in order to learn how to help new members adapt to being full members.

In addition, they will develop educational home-group materials and host a Wednesday Festival Workshop and monthly workshops for home group leaders, aimed at enlivening their hoondok family church practices.

Moreover, they will hold an education session for parents in May and December to invigorate their blessing efforts, Parenting School in May and October to bring harmony within families and outdoor services and sports festivals to strengthen the activities of their Youth Department, thus increasing harmony among the congregants. 

The Jangheung Church Demonstrates Cheon Il Guk

Mr. Lee Byeong-hoi, from our church in Jangheung in South Jeolla Province, has been the head of the local volunteer service group, Jangheung County Supporters, which provides a variety of services to senior citizens that live alone and to multicultural families. Last December 10, the governor of South Jeolla Province recognized his efforts and presented a service award to Mr. Lee. Ms. Watanabe Junko is a member from the same church, who customarily expresses great interest and affection for teaching second-generation members. She consistently supported educational initiatives in the local society and was recognized for her efforts in promoting education. On December 19, the South Jeolla Province superintendent of education presented her with a plaque of appreciation.

Another member of the same church, Ms. Yamazaki Naoko, is a graduate of Tokyo University of the Arts. She organized a band with the seonghwa student group and passionately carried out activities to promote harmony within the neighborhood. Local residents love her. On May 19, 2013, the Minister of Gender Equality and Family presented an award certificate to her.

People know Mrs. Gondo Mutsumi for her deep devotion to her parents-in-law. In September 2013, the Minister of Gender Equality and Family presented a certificate to her as model for multicultural families to emulate as a person living in Korea that has contributed to the advancement of social integration by multicultural families.

Focus on heavenly tribes

Many members at the church have effectively testified about True Parents through their exemplary family lifestyle, volunteer work and expressions of true love not only in their

local community but also in Korean society. Since Rev. Son Gi-moon became the pastor in March 2013, the entire congregation has boosted its efforts to develop the church and promote harmony among its members. All these sincere efforts have led to the substantial manifestation of Cheon Il Guk in the Jangheung church.

One of the first things the new church leader did was to remodel the dilapidated church building. The first church was an A-frame building that the devotion of members made possible. After sustaining damage in a typhoon, they rebuilt it as a two-story building in 1987 using steel girders and concrete. However, another typhoon blew off the tiles that cover Korean roofs. When Rev. Son came, he found the building in this a damaged state. The paint was peeling off the walls, giving the church a shabby look that prevented members from comfortably inviting guests to the building.

In July 2013, members got together to carry out extensive repairs on the building. They transformed God's temple into a refreshing and beautiful place.

Rev. Son's goal was to instill hope and joy in members so that families themselves could be involved in ministry that promoted happiness. Just as he had hoped, after the remodeling, members soon became a harmonious congregation through festive worship, birthday services and sports activities. With the dawn of 2015, Rev. Son expressed his hopes for the coming year. "The central force of activities in the Korean church is now shifting from Korean members to members from multicultural families. The Jangheung church is no exception. More than sixty foreign wives of Korean members serve in various public missions in the church. These women from Japan, the Philippines, Thailand, Mongolia and other countries are now

serving as missionaries through home group activities, witnessing, volunteer services, and as the heads of the wives association and as Sunday school instructors."

Over the New Year holiday, each home group formed a witnessing team focused on bringing victory in their heavenly tribes. On Saturday and Sunday afternoons, members visited all the surrounding towns and invested themselves completely in witnessing. Members also formed Seonghwa Volunteer Groups and engaged in service activities with those children that are unable to go to church. This has accelerated witnessing efforts among students of middle school and high school age.

They also utilized sports activities, such as volleyball, to build unity among young members, while birthday services, band activities, cultural festivals and outdoor worship services will be organized for young members. The church also organized sightseeing tours for elderly members. They invited inspirational preachers to their revivals. All these initiatives have helped members nurture a healthy life of faith.

The Jangheung church focuses on one-on-one education. All members of the church will advance strongly through 2015 toward the victory of Vision 2020 with one mind and one heart.

Rev. Son's hometown is in Jangheung, which is at the southernmost tip of the Korean Peninsula, situated at the foot of the Noryeong Mountain Range. Mountains six hundred to seven hundred meters tall surround the area in all directions. Pristine water flows from the mountains to form a river that waters the vast fields. With its warm-hearted people, Jangheung is blessed by nature with abundant beauty.

God's word first came to this beautiful land in 1957. At that time, Mr.



▲ Seonghwa students visit Beomnetgol
 ◀ [Top] Our multicultural missionary team
 [Bottom] The final match of a volleyball tournament hosted by the president of the Federation of Multicultural Families in Jeonnam Province

Yoo Choong-taek, a director of a dental clinic and a Presbyterian Church elder—a well-respected man in Jangheung—visited Seoul. A member that was witnessing on the street guided him to our church, where he listened to the Divine Principle Rev. Eu Hyo-won lecture for a week. The teachings deeply moved and inspired him. Mr. Yoo returned to Jangheung and covertly began to convey this new truth to the other followers of his church. Although the Presbyterian Church attempted to sabotage his efforts, more than thirty followers joined the Unification Church.

That church has produced more than four-hundred blessed members, ranging from those in the 72-couple blessing group to ones in the 400-million couple group. These blessed members later went out to the world and to other parts of Korea. Even today, they are working hard to fulfill God's will, further making the Jangheung church members proud.

From olden times, Jangheung has been a rice-growing area. The residents are not strangers to poverty and hunger. This was the reality of Korea's farming areas after Japan annexed the country and following the Korean War's devastation. Jangheung was no exception.

During those years, nobody wanted their daughters to come to this farm village to suffer. For many of the single men living in this village finding a bride was

rough. The parents sighed in sorrow as they saw their sons grow old without having found a wife. As their anguish filled the skies of this village, salvation came from Hannam-dong in Seoul. When True Parents, at what was then their official residence in Hannam-dong, about the situation here, they instructed that single men from the farm villages have priority in the matching.

In absolute obedience to True Parents and in hopes of creating true families, young, single women from Japan, the Philippines, Thailand and Mongolia married Korean farmers. Many lovely women blessed to men from Jangheung settled there and began forming families.

However, they faced great hardships and challenges living in a foreign country with a different culture, language and environment. Many of these blessed wives went through unfortunate and painful circumstances. Yet, because of True Parents' teachings, these women were able to overcome the environmental and cultural obstacles. The local community has recognized many of them for their exemplary lifestyles. National government ministers and heads of local governments have lauded these happily married women, recognized their extraordinary devotion and service and awarded them for it. ㄸ

Pastor Son Gi-moon provided the information for this article.

Introduction to Recognized

Lee Byeong-hoi (360,000-couple blessing group)

Mr. Lee and Ushigome are a blessed couple with two sons and two daughters. Mr. Lee has been the head of the Jangheung County Supporters volunteer group, which builds and repairs houses for senior citizens that live alone and for multicultural families. The head of Jangheung County had presented him with an award in the past. Last December, Mr. Lee Nak-yeon, governor of South Jeolla Province, presented a certificate to him in recognition of his services. Members recall that when they repaired the church building he volunteered his services and worked while covered in dirt, sweat and grime.

Watanabe Junko (30,000-couple blessing group)

Mrs. Watanabe and Lym Tae-hyeon are a blessed couple, with a son and a daughter. Her husband has been in the hospital for a long time. Despite her difficulties, she energetically leads her life with her two children. She makes a living by cleaning a local school. Yet, she continues to offer her services at afterschool classes, teaching children Japanese. In December, the South Jeolla Province superintendent of education recognized her for her services and presented her with a plaque of appreciation.

Yamazaki Naoko (360,000-couple blessing group)

Mrs. Yamazaki and Kim Ki-yeon are a blessed couple. They have two daughters. Mrs. Yamazaki graduated from Tokyo University of the Arts. She can sing well and is good at promoting harmony among people. Many prominent figures in local area love her. Mrs. Yamazaki knows how to play instruments, so she recently organized and is instructing a band consisting of seonghwa students. Recently, she bought a small car and is actively going to each town for witnessing activities.

Gondo Mutsumi (6,500-couple blessing group)

Mr. Gondo and Kang Seong-hoi are a blessed couple, the parents of two sons and two daughters. Mrs. Gondo was a city-dweller in Japan. Yet, she came to this rural area to live with her husband and to farm. She has dutifully taken care of her parents-in-law. She is highly renowned as a devout and faithful person by not only her neighbors but by residents throughout the county. As such, in September 2013, the Minister of Gender Equality and Family presented her with a certificate.



The course back to a happy family can be a wrenching, though worthwhile, process.

Family Education through the Happy Family Program

By Mr. Tada Toshi

The Family Education Department of the HSAUWC Headquarters in Japan has a comprehensive program to support blessed couples in their efforts to have happy, vibrant families in which the parents bequeath our beliefs and our most cherished traditions. This article outlines the process.

The Happy Family Program strives to promote happy families—one of the visions of the unification movement in Japan—and to guide parents and children in working together to substantively practice their faith, the values of the blessing and the family ideal across three generations. This program consists of the Seminar for Becoming a Better Parent, Couple Gatherings, and the Parent–Child Seminar for Creating Good Families. In other words, this is a program to help people restore and complete the parental heart, thereby becoming true parents.

By practicing ways to become a

better couple (in a group of four or five couple) this program aims to create a basis for couples to grow through experience, effect restoration in their families, and move toward creating a church that is an extension of a happy family. Within such a church, blessed couples can carry out our tribal mission messiah (witnessing) and develop a true family campaign that can contribute to society.

The primary aim of the program is to restore the bond of heart (trust) within the parent–child relationship, so that parents can guide their children toward the blessing. The main points are the following: Allow participants in the Seminar for Becoming a

Better Parent to share the Happy Family Program vision. Engage in discussions in Couple Gatherings. Then, based on the parents’ investment in the relationship with their child, have both the parents and the child take part in the Parent–Child Seminar for Creating Good Families, so that as a family they can make a fresh start.

The parents’ seminar

The Seminar for Becoming a Better Parent identifies problems within a family as common problems within the church and society that we need to address. Dealing with these problems communally, with mutual support, helps participants build

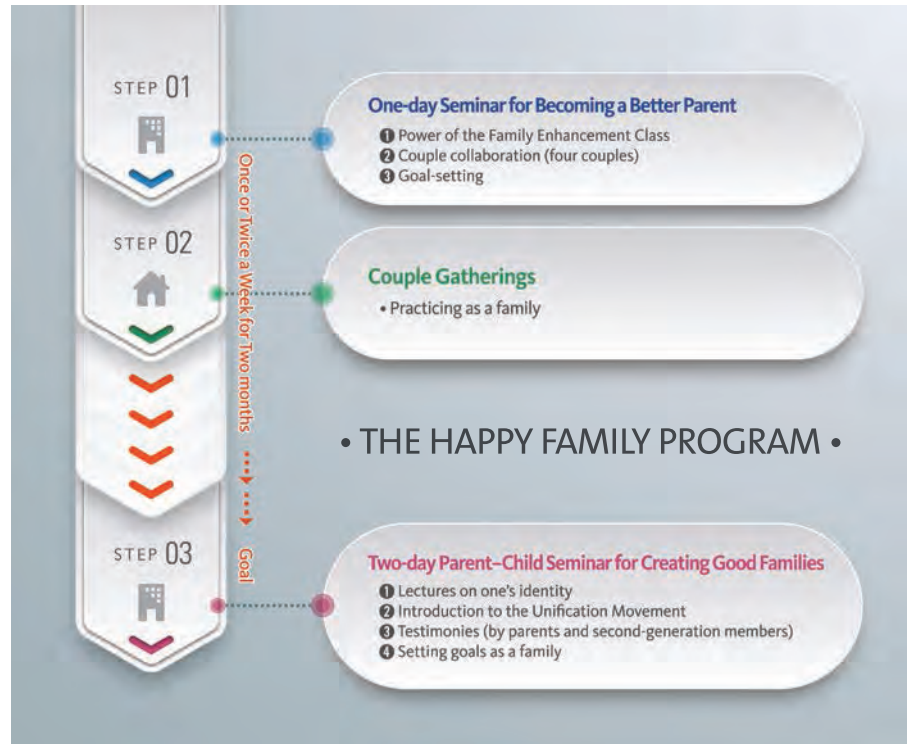
awareness and a mind-set that the underlying purpose of relating to their child is to restore the original parent-child relationship. The program encourages parents not only to engage their children head-on but also to set goals for improving their spousal relationship, so that they can show their children substantive happiness in a couple, thereby encouraging their children to go to the blessing.

Aspects of true parenthood

How long should a parent continue to raise his or her child? Childrearing is for the benefit of not only the child but also the parents. Within the family, parents develop and gradually embody the four great realms of heart. Only when that process is complete are they true parents. Childrearing continues until their child certifies that his or her parents are true parents.

I will introduce four aspects of becoming a true parent. First, is making sure the parents' love reaches the child, which means deepening the give-and-take action. Loving one's child and having that parental love reach the child are two separate things. In most cases, the parents' love does not reach the child. Consequently, in many cases all manner of walls and crevices form between parent and child. Ensuring that your love reaches your child is essential. The second aspect of becoming a true parent is creating an environment in which your child can grow. Children are simultaneously the subject-partner when it comes to growing up and the object-partner when it comes to being raised. The parents are the subject-partner when it comes to "raising a child." That a parent grows toward a certain goal is the third aspect. By goal, I am referring to the aim of becoming a true parent that embodies the four great realms of heart. The fourth aspect is having a purpose in the family. Building relationships within your family assuring that all the members in your family can talk about what kind of family they want to create is important.

Practicing three points is essential to succeeding in these four aspects of becoming a true parent. First, you must believe that your child is God's child. Second, all members of the family should engage in empathic listen-



ing within the family. Third, you must recognize that the child holds the answer to the problem.

The purpose and goal of the Happy Family Program is to build trust between the parent and child, encourage participants to hold family meetings, and for the members to engage in volunteer service activities as a family. By doing so, I believe they can become families that are owners over the mission of tribal messiahs. Participants learn these points through the parental seminars and are encouraged to implement what they have learned.

Collaborative couples

Four to five couples form a group for two months, meeting once or twice a week. There, each couple tells the group what they did with their child and empathizes with the achievements of the other couples, while encouraging one another, resetting their goals and helping one another to grow to become true parents. The goal of this program is to build trust among the couples so that they can talk to one another and to allow participants to see and actually feel that they have grown closer to becoming a true parent. Members of this group pray for one another and pray that the child or children join the couples in

the parent-child seminar and later go to the blessing. Participants continue to help each other until their last couple gathering, with their minds set on participating in the parent-child seminar. After two months, participants discuss whether to continue holding these Couple Gatherings. Some choose continuing meeting once a month or otherwise depending on their circumstances.

We ask the leader of the group of couples to be more a facilitator and contact person than somebody dictating what to do. Essentially, the leader should not force his or her opinion on others. The leader is in a position to praise the accomplishments of each participant and encourage others to identify with the underlying heart. Members speak to the group about incidents in their family that touched their hearts or left an impression and they empathize with one another.

Practicing as a family

Merely thinking about creating a happy family is not enough; practicing love within the family is important. In order to win the trust of your children, what actions should you take? You might do many things, but here I would like to suggest three things you can do.

People say that a child cannot



choose his parents nor can parents choose their children. No matter what kind of person your child is, God entrusted that child to you. Even if your child cries, complains or badgers you about something, you should always remember that God entrusted you with this child and speak to the child with that in mind. (Once again) your child is God's child.

Every childrearing book states that the parent must change. How can a parent change? Parents usually try to change their children's behavior. They try to force their children to study or to force them to go to church. Parents try multitudinous ways to change a child's behavior. Yet, the more they try, the less likely the child is to change. In some cases, parents begin to develop a negative impression of their own child, which defeats the effort in the end. Some may ask what they, as a parent, should do to change. Instead of trying to change your child's behavior, you should first genuinely try to understand your son or daughter. Children are champions when it comes to discerning the motives of a parent. They will immediately sense your motive in trying to understand them. You will see that your love is actually reaching them, and the children will realize on their own that they need to change their behavior.

Parents love all their children. When, then, does your love actually reach your children? Children feel their parents' love when they sense that their parents understand them. Hence, I encourage you to listen to your children and hear what they are saying. If you open your heart and strive to understand what your child

is saying and how he feels when he talks to you, your child will find joy and feel your love. When that occurs, your child will come to have a more positive outlook. Increasing the capacity of your children's hearts requires listening to them and empathizing with them.

Try practicing empathic listening with other parents. Two people should form a pair. One person will practice empathic listening while the other talks about the seminar, reflectively. Each person has four minutes to talk and to listen. If you practice this enough, you will gradually learn how to listen empathically.


Aside from these three techniques that I just introduced, there are other techniques such as "removing the nail in your heart," "pressing the pause button," "getting off the emotional train," "leading a life that increases the balance in your 'trust' account," "accepting your family as it is," and "loving each person."

The parent-child seminar

Once you have practiced in your family what you have learned through the Couple Gatherings and have restored to a certain extent trust between you and your child, we recommended that you and your child participate in the two-day Parent-child Seminar for Creating Good Families. The purpose is to improve the parent-child relationship, increase trust in the church, and reinforce hope in the blessing. One of its features is having other second-generation members give three types of testimonies—a testimony on when they found their faith, one on the joy they felt when receiving the blessing, and one on their

activities in the church. We interview each second-generation child separately. The interviewer listens carefully to whatever the child is unable to tell his or her parents. At the end, we ask the parents and the children to write a letter to each other and to read it to the other. More than ninety-percent of those that participated said that their parent-child relationship improved. The children that participated reconnected to the church. Trusting one's parents is an important factor in a second-generation child's willingness to go through the blessing. That trust itself translates into success. Therefore, if parents can win the trust of their children and grow through this process, this will lead to the formation of happy families.

Parents are responsible

Parents have inherited the victory of our True Parents' matching. Matching by parents requires that each parent have the requisite level of maturity. Understanding their child's heart is the way for the parents to grow in heart and in love. I cannot say enough about how recommending the blessing to your children is the most important event in the family's course. I have found that parents can grow through the Happy Family Program and that this has greatly increased and raised the level of matching by parents, which is True Parents' desire. 

Mr. Tada works in the Family Education Department, HSAUWC Japan, which also produces the guidebooks, Hearts of Parents and Children: Starting Communication and The Second-Generation Blessing Handbook: How You Too Can Achieve a Happy Marriage. You can reach him at tada@uc-japan.org.

Mr. Fukuda Minoro (6,000-couple group)

I was blessed in 1982. I have three sons and a daughter. My wife, Yukiko passed away at fifty-four after struggling against a disease. After her seonghwa, she often appeared in the spirit and guided our family. However, it seemed that my children, who are very sensitive, missed their mother much more than I had thought. Out of their pain and sorrow, they began to engage in problematic behavior, but I was unable to understand them and did not know how to deal with the situation.

As the hostility in our household increased, I realized that this could not continue. I took Power of the Family Enhancement classes and resolved to practice what I had learned. During the classes, I realized that I was accountable for the present condition of my family. I repented for hurting my children's feelings. All they wanted was for me to listen to them as they expressed their pain. All I tried to do was explain the circumstances and point out the problems. I had incorrectly believed that doing that was an expression of parental love. I bowed my head in shame and asked my children for forgiveness.

During a conversation I had with my oldest son, I found myself in a situation where normally I would have scolded him. At that moment, I mentally "pressed the pause button" in my heart and refrained from shouting. Thus, I was able to see my son's pure heart. Since then, I made it a rule to listen first to my children before trying to say something to them. As a result, my children began to comment on how I had changed. They now tell me that they feel freer to talk to me because I listen to them. I remember somebody saying that children are geniuses when it comes to identifying their parent's motives. I feel that this is true.

Mrs. Sato Masami (360,000-couple group)

For the past two years, I have been participating once a month in the Power of the Family Enhancement classes. Gradually, I have come to see my fallen nature. As I practiced the skills that I learned in class, such as "pushing the pause button" and empathic listening, my relationship to my husband—which had been characterized by constant arguing—began to change. In this process, my husband began to repent for having caused True Parents to suffer. He related to me how he actually felt God embracing him during prayer.

My relationship with my oldest son, who was in the second grade of middle school, was not the best, and one day we argued about something frivolous. His twin brother pushed the two of us into a room and closed the door, saying that we should talk it out. At first, a long silence weighed heavily in the room; however, gradually, I began to feel the bitterness my oldest son had had from when he was a child. Soon, I began to feel so deeply sorry. Tears covered my face. During the next hour, I apologized for each wrong that I had committed from when he was three until when he was fourteen years old. My son, in tears, listened quietly. After our talk, I opened the door, and found my second son, who had been listening, in tears. I realized that my second son had been saddened whenever I quarreled with my oldest son. This caused me yet again to repent deeply.

That night, my son came and sat on my lap. Being able to so naturally bond with my son again moved me to tears. Since then, all the members in my family can talk freely with one another and bond in heart.



Cheon Il Guk Taking Root in Korean–Japanese Blessed Families

In Japan, many bi-national blessed couples, being closely attuned to our Heavenly Parent's heart, have utilized God's word and true love to overcome many difficulties and are preparing to harvest the fruits of Cheon Il Guk. We based what follows on interviews of some of these couples. We featured this topic in a recent Pyeonghwa Magazine DVD, produced by the History Compilation Committee.

1. Mr. Ahn Sam-gyu recognized for his exemplary, unselfish life

Kushiro is a Japanese city on the east coast of Hokkaido, where the average snowfall over the winter piles up to several meters, transforming the land into a white kingdom. Here, too, the red-crowned crane, the Cheon Il Guk national bird, comes in winter to greet spring. A thirty-minute drive from here will take you to a dairy farm. There we interviewed Mr. Ahn Sam-gyu and his wife Matsui Mikie, whom True Parents blessed among the 30,000-couple blessing group. More than ten years has passed since they settled down in this area. Currently, they are taking care of three hundred cows on this farm, which has been running since Matsui's parents were young. Mr. Ahn has won his in-laws' trust by working two to three times harder than anyone else does. He has taken over from his father-in-law and is expanding the farm.

Ahn Sam-gyu: Before we received the blessing, my wife told me that she had three sisters, that she came from a family of only daughters and that we would have to live in Japan in order to

carry on the family business. At first, I hesitated but after coming here, all I have done is work, aside from sleeping and eating. After spending ten years in this way, my father-in-law handed over everything to my wife and me.

Matsui Hiroshi (Mikie's father): I saw that my son-in-law worked very hard, so I was able to entrust him with the management. I am satisfied with him because he works ten times harder than the young people around him do. I know he had to face some hardships because of the fact that he is Korean but he always was understanding of the people around him and loved them with an altruistic heart. This gradually drew the attention of the people around him.

Agricultural cooperative staff member: The number of Japanese people in the dairy industry is on the decline. I am impressed that Mr. Ahn came to Japan to get into the dairy business.

Three generations live together in Mr. Ahn's household. He finds inspiration and a glimpse of our Heavenly Parent's heart when looking at his children, born through the blessing.

Ahn Sam-gyu: I am happiest when I am with my family. I think one can find happiness through forming a blessed

family. The last time I went to the Philippines, I saw many people living in poverty. I think it was worse than Korea in the 1950s, yet people are still living under such dire circumstances. I think that as human beings, in the course of our lives, we should help people in need.

His wife expressed her appreciation toward her husband for coming to Japan after receiving the great gift of the blessing and for living for the sake of others.

Matsui Mikie: In the beginning, everybody in our neighborhood and even in my household was fiercely opposed to my marrying a Korean. Yet, after seeing my husband working hard and taking good care of those around him, they all now recognize him as a good husband.

The value of this priceless blessing emanates through the happiness of this family and conveys the beauty of Korea.

2. Pak Hyang-ja, testifying about True Parents and introducing Korea to Japan

After a four-hour drive from Kushiro, we find ourselves in a mid-sized city called Asahikawa, a well-known city for its portrayal in the famous Japan-



Ahn Sam-gyu



Pak Hyang-ja



Lee Yoo-seon



Ahn Sam-kyu and his son enjoy being together.



Park Hyang-ja teaching Korean in Japan



Lee Yoo-seon's parents-in-law and her children

ese novel Hyoten (Freezing Point). The city has a cultural center honoring Miura Ayako (1922–1999), the author. We visited Pak Hyang-ja who introduced, in Korean, stories about Asahikawa. She has involved herself in nearly all aspects of this area. She currently translates and produces captions in Korean for all the videos produced in Kushiro and serves as an evangelist for Japanese culture. While doing this, she testifies about True Parents and introduces Japanese people to Korea. She is one of several well-known Koreans in the region.

A cultural center staff member: She is accurate, quick and perfect in her work. She does not compromise on the quality of her work. She constantly checks and rechecks her translations and interpretation. She has gained a lot of trust because of her diligent work ethic.

She also teaches Korean at one of the largest cultural centers in the area. She has taught more than six hundred students. A staff member told us that Pak Hyang-ja's class is more popular than are others held at the same time. Last year, the Korean National Assembly (parliament) invited her to visit as a member of the Hunminjeongeum Global Society of Japan.

Sato Yoshiko: We provide many lectures at this cultural center. Many people come to learn a foreign language; and her Korean class is quite popular. Many people have signed up for it. Instructor Pak's classes are interesting, and many people take her classes for a long time. I, too, am interested in Korean but unfortunately being an employee of the cultural center I cannot take these classes. Instead, I attend classes at her house.

In her classes, her students learn not only the language but also ways to understand the cultures of both nations. Efforts are underway in learning how to forgive our pasts and unite.

Matsuki Yuri (student): It was hard taking classes because I am old. It also takes about an hour and a half by car

to get here. Yet I want to continue taking this class as long as I can.

Students meet at a Korean restaurant after each class, and soon become like one family sharing a meal together.

Pak Hyang-ja: I am married to a Japanese, and I wanted to set a standard where I could say that I love many people though this is limited to my students. I took an interest in each of my students and got to know them. Although they do not know the Divine Principle yet, I want to introduce them to our concept of a peaceful, happy family. For that purpose, I also visited many families at their homes. I share meals with them in that spirit.

Here, where they communicate with their hearts rather than through language, their faces blossomed with smiles.

3. Ms. Lee Yoo-seon overcame opposition and persecution through true love

In Sapporo, the city of snow, we met another member with an interesting story. We interviewed Lee Yoo-seon, a mother of five children. Her husband is currently a famous cartoonist in Japan. He has quite a few die-hard fans of his comic books, which introduce some aspects of the Principle. His staff members had been fans of his comic book and now work with him in his office.

Lee Yoo-seon: This is my husband's office. He is a cartoonist. This is his seat. He usually spends more time here than at home. He gets up early in the morning for work and comes back to have breakfast. Then he is off to work again and returns around noon for lunch. He then goes back to work again, returns for dinner and then goes out again to work.


Every day, her husband is working hard. When we visited his home, he was out on a business trip to Tokyo with his two sons. Late that night, at Lee Yoo-seon's house, we saw a certificate of appreciation on the wall. Ms. Lee's father-in-law had given it to

her. In the beginning, her father-in-law had a hard time dealing with the fact that his only son had joined the Unification Church and taken part in the blessing with a Korean. However, after the blessing, Ms. Lee did everything she could to serve her parents-in-law as if they were True Parents. Her mother-in-law fell ill suddenly. Ms. Lee spent many sleepless nights at the hospital taking care of her. Through this devotion, her mother-in-law recovered.

Mother-in-law: The diagnosis was lymphoma. The doctor told me I had only a few months to live. I gave up on everything, but my daughter-in-law and grandchildren took good care of me, and I miraculously got better. I found out later that my daughter-in-law was crying every night while she prayed for me. My husband had bought a particular medicine that was supposed to be effective against cancer. We thought that I had gotten better because of that. Later I heard about how my daughter-in-law had prayed so hard for me.

The pain she endured over being married into a family in which her father-in-law was initially antagonistic was soon healed through the trust, appreciation and love she gained through her devotion.

Children: When I grow up I want to live in a three-generation household as my parents do. I want us to live together so we can help one another during difficult times and have a good relationship with my grandparents.

Although, this family is still working on completely restoring the grandparents, each morning and evening, they all read *Cheon Seong Gyeong* together, including the grandparents. Ms. Lee overcame opposition and persecution through true love and now has won their recognition and love. The seeds of the blessing that True Parents planted are now blossoming and bearing the fruit of love through such families. 

A Unificationist Elected Head of a National Association of Korean Residents in Germany



Yoo Je-hun (fourth from the left) soon after he won the election as head of the association

Mr. Yoo Je-hun was blessed to a Japanese woman among the 6,500-couple blessing group. In May 2014, members of the Nationwide Association of Korean Residents in Germany reelected Mr. Yoo their chairman.

Mr. Yoo went through an intense election campaign when he first ran for chairman in 2012, travelling around the country campaigning. The incumbent chairman, a Christian church elder, spread propaganda against his opponent claiming that the Unification Church was funding Mr. Yoo's election campaign with the intent of taking over the entire association. Out of 220 electoral representatives, a substantial number of representatives supported Mr. Yoo. However, around fifty of his supporters were unable to take part in the vote. Despite these odds, Mr. Yoo gained 104 votes out of 158 valid votes and bested the incumbent chairman, who got 54 votes.

Visit to Cheon Jeong Gung Museum

For Mr. Yoo, running for office for this association was putting True Parents' honor on the line. He recounts that his election was a struggle between good

and evil, where he was able to obtain victory by visiting all thirty-eight local associations and win the hearts of their members through his sincerity. He ran for this prestigious position because he dreams of having all the Korean residents in Germany, who contributed to the modernization of Korea, welcome True Mother were she to come to Germany.

On March 28, 2014, Korean President Park Geun-hye was in Frankfurt as part of an official visit to Germany. At a meeting for Korean residents, Mr. Yoo gave the welcoming address on behalf of all Korean residents in Germany. His address reflected the wishes of Koreans dispatched to Germany in the 1960s and 1970s that the Korean government enacts reasonable policies to ease their happy return to Korea, bringing closure to the historical dispatch of Koreans to Germany. In October of the same year, he had the opportunity to meet President Park again, during the annual meeting in Seoul of Korean community representatives from all nations. There, President Park conveyed her appreciation to the Koreans in Germany and requested their support in bringing about the reunification of Korea.

On October 9, after this annual meeting, twenty-one executives from the association including Mr. Yoo visited Cheon Jeong Gung Museum, which True Mother kindly approved. Mr. Yoo arranged with staff members at the Cheongpyeong Heaven and Earth Training Center and of Cheon Jeong Gung Museum so that the delegation could visit the museum on their way to Namiseom Island, where the delegates would hold a two-day seminar. The delegation to Cheon Jeong Gung Museum included leaders of the local associations of Korean residents throughout Germany. Some were devout Christians. Despite their background, when Mr. Yoo told them about this visit to a Unification Church holy ground, they voluntarily agreed to go. That everyone in the entire delegation (excluding one person who had a previously arranged personal appointment) gladly took part in this visit is meaningful.

After arriving in the Cheongpyeong area, the delegates were briefed for an hour on the background of the Cheongpyeong holy ground. They watched a video of True Parents' activities before heading toward the Cheon Jeong Gung Museum. Arriving at Cheon Jeong Gung, the delegates were deeply impressed with the beautiful view, including Cheongpyeong Lake, that the museum commanded from atop the hill. A museum official explained the providential significance of Cheon Jeong Gung. The delegates were then ushered into the museum, where staff members explained each item on display, all of which were articles True Father had used in his lifetime. The visitors were able to get a better understanding of True Father. Mr. Yoo notes that after they returned to Germany, the participants would thank him whenever he met them and com-

ment on how impressed they were by the Cheon Jeong Gung Museum. During their visit, Mother had made special arrangements for them by providing a bus during their tour and giving gifts of ginseng and the museum's official teacup souvenir.

The association's main activities

As a student in Germany, Mr. Yoo first gained prominence in the Korean community through his efforts to normalize the local associations of Korean residents in Frankfurt, the activities of which German courts had suspended for seven years because of legal complications. After being elected the chairman of the association in Frankfurt, he reconciled the parties embroiled in the disputes and brought them into the association. His exemplary services during his time as chairman of this local association, culminated in his obtaining the enthusiastic support of the Korean Embassy and Korean Cultural Center in Berlin for the Little Angeles performance in that city. The Korean ambassador to Germany came to the VIP room to watch the performance and greeted True Parents. Thirty-six years after first coming to Germany as a student, in 2012, Mr. Yoo was elected chairman of the Nationwide Association of Korean Residents in Germany. Currently, he is serving his second-term. This year, he will oversee a number of important events, including celebration of the seventieth anniversary of Korea's independence, sports competitions for all Korean residents in Germany, cultural events that evening, commemorative events for the March 1 Independence Movement and an annual Korean speech contest, which his association will host for the seventeenth year.

During Mr. Yoo's tenure

On March 1, 2013, the Sam-il Cultural Foundation presented the association



with its 3.1 Cultural Award for organizing (annually for more than a decade) events commemorating the March 1, 1919 Korean independence uprising and a Korean speech contest for the purpose of upholding and carrying on the spirit of the 3.1 Independence Movement.

Mr. Yoo carried out events after his election as the nationwide leader that he had planned while leading the local association in Frankfurt. These events took place in Frankfurt. Once Koreans in other countries heard about them, these events won the admiration of many Korean associations around the globe. The association organized events to commemorate the 130th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between South Korea and Germany and it held a Korean Cultural Festival to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the first Korean laborers dispatched to Germany.

The intent of these events was to arouse hope for the reunification of Korea. The cultural festival lasted four days (June 5-8, 2013) at the Rossmarkt Plaza in Frankfurt. The highlight of the opening ceremony for this cultural festival was a colossal bibimbab (bowl of rice mixed with meat and vegetables) enough to feed 2,013 people. Eminent societal figures at the opening ceremony rolled up their sleeves to mix the huge bowl of bibimbab, the ingredients for which the cooks had laid out in the shape of the Korean Peninsula. A large sign written in calligraphy expressing the wish for a reunified South Korea was placed at the center of the plaza and a choir comprised of Korean residents in Germany performed. Other events they held concurrent with this festival included the third World Korean Wrestling Tournament and co-hosted by the World Korean Wrestling Association. These events made a lasting impression on the hearts of the German peo-



ple. Having attracted tens of thousands of spectators, the festival was a success.

Sharing Happiness and Rice: Most of the laborers that South Korea had initially dispatched to Germany are now in their seventies and eighties. Due to the near-absence of policies for these aged Koreans, most of them had been living in difficult circumstances. Since last year, Mr. Yoo initiated a project of sharing rice with these elderly Koreans under the slogan Rice is Love. By the end of last year, association members had delivered ten kilograms each of rice and kimchi to more than three hundred elderly Koreans.

Publication of the Quarterly Magazine for Korean Residents: The association prints and distributes 3,500 copies of a sixty-four-page magazine, which reports news of local Korean associations throughout Germany and serves as a conduit for building solidarity among the Korean community. Promoting the association to important organizations in South Korea is another important function it fulfills.

Plans for a publication on the 130-year history of diplomatic ties between South Korea and Germany: This year marks the 132nd year since South Korea established diplomatic ties with Germany. Over those many years, some bumpy, South Korea and Germany have maintained international exchanges. Germany, which had been divided into East Germany and West Germany, loaned money to Korea, which helped Korea's economic development. The sweat shed by Korean laborers dispatched to Germany also served an important role in bringing the two countries together. At the center of all this was the Nationwide Association of Korean Residents in Germany. The Association is currently planning to produce a publication covering the 130 years of diplomatic relations between South Korea and Germany in order to highlight the turbulent histories of the two nations, both of which saw war and division. The publication will also cover the reunification that Germany achieved and that South Korea still seeks. 

The Nationwide Association of Korean Residents in Germany contributed this article.

Move toward the Mainstream

By Elisabetta Nistri

I am rather a shy person; when I speak in public, I have to push myself. After I began my mission as president of the Women's Federation for World Peace in Italy, appearing as a public speaker was always an internal battle. Yet because I feel there is so much I can say to help and inspire other people from what I have learned in my life of faith following True Parents, I always found the courage and a deep motivation. I realize that good people can feel something beyond the simple words I say; they feel the sincere heart behind them, because I feel inspiration from God when I am speaking. Of course, it is not always easy to insert God's message into some of the topics on which I am asked to speak. I had been used to giving the Sunday sermon as pastor of the Rome church; now I had to learn new ways to approach and express God's heart for humankind.

Other WFWP sisters and I set a goal to find Abel-type women working for peace in our society, women who appeal to the noblest feminine feelings to heal humanity's wounds. We sought to work with these women through the Global Peace Network, to guide them to know True Parents. By organizing meetings focused on "A Woman's Dignity," "The Role of a Mother," "The Marital Relationship," and "Women and Human Rights," I could discover and get to know many women that deeply treasure these themes and are actively working in ways related to them, each in their own field—political, religious or ethical.

We do not have an office in Rome, just our headquarters in Colle Mattia, a town outside the city in the beautiful countryside. As it is difficult to invite new people to come there from Rome, I started to look for other ways to meet people. I began to attend conferences about peace that featured interreligious dialogue or dealt with



WFWP joins forces with the Nigerian community to demand the return of girls kidnapped last year.

issues related to women. I took advantage of these opportunities to introduce myself to the people sitting next to me and to befriend them, until I could contact the speakers themselves.

Before very long, *Lux Terrae* (Light of the Earth) an association advocating holism, invited me to speak at four different events. These were day-long conferences at which each speaker had twenty to thirty minutes. At one of them, in a prestigious auditorium in Rome, I introduced the Global Women's Peace Network project. I also spoke about our True Father's life and his vision for world peace and introduced his autobiography, copies of which I made available at the back of the room. This was to members of the public that the supporting organization had invited. I was challenging myself and overcoming my fear.

Furthermore, the local municipal library gave us permission to use their auditorium for our WFWP conferences, free of charge, on the understanding that we would present topics that were also of interest to them. We held meetings with such titles as "Japanese Writing and Differences between East and West," "Anorexia and other Eating Disorders," and "Beauty

as an Obsession," and "Hemispheres of the Brain and a Couple's Relationship." To these three conferences, we also invited expert speakers in the relative fields. The library had invited many of the people that came to listen. I studied the topics and introduced counterproposals inspired by the Divine Principle. I spoke about the causes of young people's deviant behavior, the lack of ideals in life, interactive relationships in the family, the four realms of heart, and the dynamics in a couple's relationship. I drew also upon True Mother's teachings about our roles as sisters, wives and mothers.

On one of these occasions, the president of the Nigerian community association in Rome, who was present, asked me to come to speak to Nigerian families. A deep friendship began to develop between us, and she invited me to speak at various events sponsored by members of the Nigerian community. She always introduced me with great respect and admiration for Rev. Moon's movement. Later she attended a one-day Divine Principle workshop.

The first occasion was the launching a mini-basketball team for the children of the Nigerian community. Religious leaders in the Catholic

Church, in Islam and in other local groups attended. For the children it was a blessing. The purpose was to get the children involved in sports and thus get them off the street, and to teach them to understand the value of respecting rules. For the second, we, members of the Nigerian community and the Municipality of Rome or-

Over the past two years, we have held two conferences at the offices of the European Parliament in Rome, which let us use their hall without paying. For these events, I had to prepare myself to speak about "Women's response to the economic crisis" and "Women and human rights: equality is progress, prosperity and wellbeing



In the Church of Saint Maria Maggiore, one of the three most important Catholic basilica in Rome, Elisabetta Nistri (in the green blouse) president of WFWP in Italy received an award from the International "Golden Fortune" Academy of Ukraine for WFWP's support, which she spearheaded, of the Ukrainian community in Italy.

value of each person as a child of God, which is WFWP's core message. In March 2014, at a second conference at the European Parliament, on the subject "Women and Human Rights: Equality is Progress, Prosperity and Well-being for Everyone," I invited the president of the Ukrainian community to talk. She has since spoken at a number of WFWP events. A recent one, on December 12 last year, was a joint UPF-WFWP conference on "The Right of People to Live in Peace," at which she spoke about the situation of her own people as an example of self-determination and fighting for freedom. We held the conference at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas, a historic Catholic University in Rome, where the late Pope John Paul II (1920-2005) studied. The university hosted the event free of charge and even publicized it on the university Facebook page. The dean of the university addressed the conference himself. Immediately afterward, he had to leave for the Vatican to meet with Pope Francesco. We asked him to send our love and greetings to the Pope. This event permitted very meaningful cooperation with an important Catholic institution.

Through these various means, I have come to know many organizations and individuals. I recorded the names of some four hundred contacts, whom I provide updates on major WFWP events.

To conclude, I can say that until a few years ago, achieving such results appeared to be a dream. I feel we are starting to climb up the rungs of a ladder that allows us to be recognized by society, institutions and the religious world, so that our True Parents can be duly acknowledged for the ideology of peace that Unification Thought presents, and for their great work. I realize that it does not matter if one does not have a university degree. Speak from the heart and with wisdom, and Abel-type people will realize the value of what you are offering. They feel we are different, that they can trust us and work with us. They can sense that we do not have any ulterior motive, but that we are looking for peace and for solutions to the problems facing humankind. *✠*

ganized a march to protest the kidnapping by Boko Haram of 276 girls from a government secondary school in April 2014. We marched through the streets of the capital city under the slogan "Bring Back Our Girls!" Finally, Nigerian families invited me to speak about the husband-wife relationship and the four realms of heart in their community's Catholic Church. (I had to improvise to give the talk in English!)

I also came to know the woman responsible for the Seventh Day Adventist Church's Department of Religious Freedom. She participated as a speaker in one of our conferences and afterward invited me to talk at one of their meetings. I spoke about a woman's role as a peacemaker and the importance of protecting and defending women's rights so that women can be free to contribute, with men, to the realization of a peaceful culture. Later she attended World Summit 2014, in Korea in August. She expressed great interest and apparently experienced enjoyment. Since her return from Korea, our friendship has grown deeper. She greatly respects WFWP's and UPF's work to promote interreligious dialogue and defend women's dignity. She read True Father's autobiography.

for everyone." I invited knowledgeable speakers to present their analyses and ideas, and I completed the exposition by giving a Unificationist's view from the perspective of what women could contribute. At the end, I introduced Father's proposal for the creation of a United Nations interreligious council and the Global Women's Peace Network.

During a conference held at the offices of the European Parliament in Rome, the president of the Ukrainian community there met our Women's Federation. She later participated with great interest in international and European WFWP conferences and was very impressed by the spirit of cooperation among the participants from so many different nations. After listening to Dr. Moon Lan-young's testimony, she told me, "I think you are very lucky to have known Rev. Moon personally, now that he is not with us any longer."

From that time, a close cooperation began to develop between WFWP and the Ukrainian community. I participated in different meetings within the Ukrainian community, such as the end-of-the-year celebration of the Ukrainian school in Rome. I always tried to convey a message of peace, of respect for diversity and of the unique

What Moldova Tells Us about Korean Reunification

For ease in understanding this article, please note that Romanians are the major ethnic group in Romania and Moldova. They speak the Romanian language. The territory of Moldova has had various names at different stages in its history. This article will use only Moldova.

In late September 2014, Rhoo Khil-jae, head of the Korean government's Ministry of Unification, which the government created seven years after the Korean War, said, "Next year will mark the seventieth anniversary of the nation's liberation and division. In only one more generation, Korea will have been divided for a hundred years." Naturally, the longer a nation remains divided the more difficult it is to piece together. In order to gain insight into the practical aspects of national reunification, let us look at another pair of nations whose circumstances loosely parallel those of the two Koreas. By learning a few details about what achieving this deeply cherished goal of our True Parents entails, we may find that members globally can invest more power and determination into praying for successful unification, the work of which will likely be mainly in Korean hands. Additionally, when looking at nations that have sought to reestablish or to forge a national identity, we can foresee what lies ahead as we engage in the process of establishing Cheon Il Guk globally.

Moldova and Romania

The names Moldova and Romania disguise the fact that these are more than simply neighboring countries. Yet, calling them a "divided nation" is not satisfactorily accurate. One Romanian described the situation of her country's history in this way: "Romania is a unitary country. However, for over a thousand years, its three constituent regions (Transylvania, Walachia and Moldova) have been separated, with people living under

the domination of very different cultures within the Austro-Hungarian, Ottoman or Russian Empires."

In fact, some members of the native populations do speak of Romania and Moldova in a way that echoes wording used by many Koreans. "Our culture is the same," said Mr. Vlad Postolache, a Moldovan music teacher. "I don't know why anybody would be opposed to unification." Alluding to the fact that Romania has joined the European Union, while Moldova has yet to do so, he added, "Romania's roads are not great but they are under Europe's care, and they know which path to take. They already have a direction. The fastest way to our becoming part of the European Community is unification with our motherland, Romania."

Granted, modern Moldova has an ethnically diverse population and not even all those of Romanian ethnicity share Mr. Postolache's views. Nevertheless, what might cause any Moldovan to refer to Romania as "our motherland"? At times in history, they were one nation.

Moldova's early history

Modern Romania and Moldova shared the same homeland beginning at least in the days that they were part of the Dacian Kingdom, which began nearly a century before the birth of Christ (circa 100 bc–ad 106). Roman Emperor Trajan (who ruled ad 98–117) initiated two wars against the powerful Dacian Kingdom, ultimately prevailed and annexed it to the Roman Empire. Thereafter, the people of Dacia adopted Latin, the language of their conqueror. The Romans aban-

doned Dacia in 271. The Daco-Roman people became Christian in the fourth century.

In the first half of the 1500s, what is modern-day Moldova became part of the Ottoman Empire. Not all of the Ottoman's vast empire was gained by armed conflict. Often, they gained territory by marrying into local monarchical families. At other times, they were invited to rule an area. According to history professor Mary Neuburger, "People essentially decided to work for the Ottoman rulers in exchange for security, for weapons, for supplies. They became part of the Ottoman militias and they did bring stability to the region." This arrangement is known as suzerainty. Sometimes, instead of working directly for the suzerain, the protected state might give the suzerain a portion of its crops, precious metals or valuables. The Ottoman Empire would take care all "international affairs," and provide protection, while the local rulers would maintain control of their domestic affairs, including religious ones. Korea had the same relationship under China for centuries before about 1900.

Evocative cultural icons

Someone designated a national poet tends to express the most cherished values of a nation in verse form. About Mihai Eminescu (1850–1889), one can read, "Eminescu listened to the stories of the 'common people' which he encountered at every step of his way. He memorized them with his mind and soul and later, they had a lasting impact on his poetry.... Most of his work brings up the ideas of he-



A 1996 International Education (IEF) program for school directors in Chisinau



The Ministry of Education honored Mother for the work of IEF.

roes, freedom, equity and national spirit." That both Romania and Moldova have honored the same person as their national poet says much about these nations having an overlapping identity. By way of contrast, is it likely that France and the United Kingdom or even Canada and the United States could name the same figure as a poet laureate for their nations?

In *The Moldovans: Romania, Russia, and the Politics of Culture*, the author Charles King described another shared hero and objects that evoke patriotism or sentimentality for citizens of both countries:

In the early 1300s, Dragoș, a Romanian prince (*voievod*) from west of the Carpathian Mountains, set out across the wooded slopes on a hunt. At one point in the journey, having ventured far to the east, the party came upon a wild European bison, an aurochs, in a mountain stream. Dragoș unleashed his hounds on the unfortunate creature, and in the ensuing melee his favorite dog, Molda, was gored by the ox and drowned. Distraught at the loss, Dragoș decided to name the stream in honor of the hound, take the aurochs's head as his personal crest, and build a principality in the newly christened Moldovan land. The aurochs-head emblem can be seen today on the [national] seals of both Romania and the Republic of Moldova.

Same history, separate present

Like Romanians and Moldovans, Koreans on either side of the border re-

vere some of the same historical figures—Admiral Yi Sun-shin (1545–1598), for example. Yi is the only historical figure that South Koreans call a saint-hero. He successfully fended off an invasion by Japan in 1592 and gave his life in thwarting another invasion by Japan that began in 1597. In Seoul's Gwanghwamun Square is a statue of Admiral Yi, on a large concrete base, that reaches as high as a five-story building. Near the bottom of the base, is a miniature "turtle ship," which is an early form of ironclad vessel that the admiral made famous. Koreans universally take great pride in the ingenious design of this vessel.

North Koreans, too, highly esteem Admiral Yi. Soon after the Korean War, North Korea gave a medal bearing Admiral Yi's name to its most senior naval officers for rendering distinguished service. Today, they award lower ranking naval personnel with the Order of Yi Sun-shin. Like their southern brethren, North Koreans have floating versions of turtle ships to help instill patriotism in schoolchildren.

Great power politics

In John Mearsheimer's book, *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*, he described "great powers" as nations that "shape the international system" and that "seek to maximize their share of world power." Unquestionably, life can be harsh, and people in many nations have suddenly found themselves in insufferable circumstances—families and lives destroyed, crushed by events initiated by distant actors seeking "to maxi-

mize their share of world power." Both the Koreans and Moldova and Romania experienced this.

Great powers versus Korea

The Koreans divided some years before the Korean War. As William R. Keylor, explains in *The Twentieth-Century World and Beyond*, "In August 1948, after free elections conducted under the supervision of the United Nations, the Republic of Korea was formed in the south.... The following September, a People's Democratic Republic of Korea was established in the northern city of Pyongyang under the leadership of the revolutionary Communist militant Kim Il Sung."

The Soviet army had occupied northern Korea and the US army had occupied southern Korea to facilitate the repatriation of Japanese soldiers and civilians and the return of Korean people from Japan and elsewhere. Yet, these armies were gone before June 25, 1950, when the war began. As Keylor put it, "Whereas the mutual disengagement of Soviet and American military power from divided Germany proved an impossible goal, the two superpowers had little difficulty in withdrawing from divided Korea, the Russians by December 1948 and the Americans by June 1949." Thus, when the war began a year later, initially, it was an inter-Korean affair.

Great powers versus Moldova

Since the time of Tsar Pyotr I (Peter the Great, 1672–1725) Russian rulers sought access to the Black Sea because they coveted the security that having a port that did not freeze in winter would give them. Three hundred

years earlier the Ottoman Empire had arisen out of modern-day Turkey. By the time Tsar Pyotr was born, it sprawled across three continents. The territory of modern day Moldova stood in a pathway to the Black Sea and thus was a battleground at times in some of the eleven wars between the Ottoman Empire, which Moldova was then a part of, and the Russian Empire. The 1812 Treaty of Bucharest resulted in the Russian Empire gaining the part of Romania that is modern-day Moldova.

Being far from Moscow, when Russia was still under the Tsar, Vladimir Lenin had his underground Bolshevik newspaper printed in Moldova.

As World War I began, Russia was a combatant, under the Tsar. In the midst of the war, however, the German government transported Lenin by train to Petrograd, where he arrived in April 1917. He then began to foment the revolution that broke out that October. Once the Communists gained control, they pulled Russia out of World War I.

With the change of power in Russia, Moldovan politicians created a National Council and initially declared the Democratic Moldovan Republic. At first, they voted to remain tied to Russia in a federation, but they quickly reversed directions and declared complete independence in February 1918. Two months later, the Moldovan people voted to reunite with Romania.

Language and unity

Influential philosopher Johann Gottfried Herder (1744–1803) saw a direct link between nation building and language. He asked, “Has a nation anything more precious than the language of its fathers?”

The Soviets retaliated against Moldova for leaving their union by creating what was to become the Moldavian Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic (MASSR) on the east bank of the Nistri River. It included territory that is today part of Ukraine and all of what is today an (unrecognized) rogue, breakaway territory of Moldova.

The Soviets seemingly created the MASSR with the sole purpose of driving a wedge between Romanians and Moldovans. Most significantly, they



Moldovan folk dancing is known for high energy and an optimistic spirit.

created the fiction that the Romanian and Moldovan languages were different. As Charles King explained, “A new people and language suddenly seemed to spring onto the world stage. In the small MASSR, established on the western border of Soviet Ukraine in 1924, Moldovan histories, textbooks, grammars, newspapers, and other publications were hailed by the Soviet authorities as the first fruits of a Moldovan nation in the making.... Soviet propagandists began to agitate for the unification of all Moldovans, who lived mainly in portions of Ukraine and the Romanian province of Bessarabia, into a single Soviet Moldovan state.”

Regarding the Korean language, North Korean defectors learn the term “Chosun Dynasty” in South Korea. This is one difference in their languages. North Koreans call themselves *Choson-jeok*, or the Chosun People. “Chosun” is never associated with what North Koreans call only “the Feudal Era.” In line with North Korea’s ideology, King Sejong, the most famous figure of the Chosun Dynasty, is vilified in North Korea, not revered, as he is in South Korea.

North Koreans, too, set out to remake the Korean language. In 1966, they declared that their national language is *Muhhwa-eo* (cultured language). Two policies effect what became part of *Muhhwa-eo*. They replaced Korean words that had foreign origins; that is, those based on Chinese characters, which had long been standard words in Korean, and loan words, which had entered Korean from other languages. The second

policy was a preference for the language of the “working class.” This meant that the government made slang used by poor people into official terms and they banned formerly proper terms. It is as if in the United Kingdom, the slang word “brolly” were the only acceptable word, and “umbrella” could not be used.

A tiny sampling of words that have changed completely in North Korea includes: vegetables, girl, lettuce, much, very, proud, displeasure, wilt, Korean clothing, toothpaste, ability, ice cream, knock, irony.

Another change, which the author of a book on the North Korean language explained to Voice of America, was that some terms like “*seon mul*,” a common term in South Korea that means “gift” can only be used by one person in North Korea, the top leader, Kim Jong-un.

Mr. Han Yong-un, the director of a South Korean government-funded project to create a Korean People’s Comprehensive Dictionary (for Korean from both sides of the border) told the UK’s Guardian newspaper in November that in everyday speech one-third of the language is different, and in specialized fields, that portion rises. Defectors testify to being stunned and depressed that after risking their lives to rejoin their “kinfolk” in South Korea, they cannot understand what people say. The South Korean government holds classes to teach them Korean.

The second separation

After the Bolshevik Revolution, Moldovans and Romanians lived



An interfaith conference in Chisinau, Moldova's capital city

again as one. However, at the beginning of World War II, Russia and Germany had signed a non-aggression agreement, the Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact, which included a secret protocol on how they would divide parts of Europe. Article III of the protocol specifically stated that the “the Soviet side” wanted Moldova. Thus, near the end of the war, the Soviet Union retook Moldova. About this, a Moldovan journalist, Oleg Brega, said, “We are the orphans of Europe. We are a bastard state created in one night by two tyrants, Hitler and Stalin, who cut Europe in two.” On its own, Romania became a socialist state that suffered its own form of communist travails.

With the fall of the Soviet Union, the Republic of Moldova declared itself “a sovereign, independent and democratic state, free to decide its present and future, without any external interference, keeping with the ideals and aspirations of the people within its historical and ethnic area of its national making” on August 27, 1991.

For the purpose of this article, a matter of importance is that in the years since 1991, Moldovans have chosen not to rejoin Romania. Although Romania is among the poorer countries in the EU, the average income there is noticeably higher than in Moldova. Moldova faces many serious problems, such as many grandparents raising children because both parents have spent years working abroad, and that their main market, Russia, has found ways to keep out their products.

Toward Korean reunification

What can we learn from Moldova–Romania about Korean reunification? First, that the process will be difficult and will not occur automatically is clear. For decades, pundits have predicted the imminent collapse of the North Korean regime. Our movement is among those groups that want to help North Korea improve its economy so that the North Koreans will not feel belittled by the success of South Koreans and so that the economies can more easily unite. The South Korean government has been working hard for many decades effect reunification, but it has yet to occur. (To learn more about the process, please visit <http://eng.unikorea.go.kr>)

One point that inspires hope is that despite its history, Moldova’s heart remains intact. As former church national leader, Mr. Mihai Calestru, wrote, “Despite secular and western liberal ‘values,’ Moldova is still very religious and family values-oriented society. Divine Principle is attractive to all ages because of its emphasis on the family role in educating healthy children, a prosperous community, peaceful nations and world. Moldovan people, despite being for many hundreds of years under foreign occupation, did not lose their deeply rooted culture of peace, a welcoming heart and hospitality for all neighbors and guests.”

Readers may be curious about our movement in Moldova. Mr. Calestru, when asked what challenges the movement in Moldova currently faces, gave the following response:

On the church side, during over twenty years of activities, major challenges and concerns were developing a continuous education system for core members and a church leadership pipeline. Without a solid foundation of dedicated church members and leaders, the influence of other initiatives is not sustainable.

As a relatively young movement, our growth slowed when members made the transition from single life to family life, with its complications. People going abroad because of financial needs marked our church community as it did the nation.

This has begun to improve with the recent arrival of missionaries from Korea, Japan and Ukraine that moved to Moldova to invest themselves fully into church development and national restoration, after our country became one of the strategic nations under the Vision 2020 plan.

Looking for solutions to the existing social and economic problems of the Republic of Moldova, we realize again the value of True Parents’ teachings and life examples of living for the sake of others.

Currently in our internal politics and external relations, Moldova is in crisis. Regional conflicts and pressure or influence from neighboring countries (the Russian Federation and European Union) show the vulnerability of the nation without a clear national idea that can mobilize and unite our citizens despite ethnicity, faith or race.

This search for national identity and a national idea can start from people of faith and religious groups that look from a spiritual perspective. For the Unification Church, this is also an opportunity. Our True Parents’ peacemaking legacy could serve as a source of inspiration. Our responsibility and duty is to reveal this treasure to the most talented, creative youth and unite them in the restoration of our nation and inspire them to devote themselves for the sake of restoring other nations and the world.”⁷

Mr. Calestru and others in Moldova contributed to the preparation of this article.



A Syrian Refugee Aid Program in Lebanon

By Hermine Schellen

In the past two years, Lebanon has experienced a great influx of refugee families from Syria. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the estimated number of refugees in Lebanon at the beginning of this year is 1.2 million. (Lebanon's population is 6 million.) The UN, as well as many other organizations, such as Caritas, is trying its best to help those families, who are entirely dependent on help for shelter, food and clothing.

In light of the refugees' severe situation and their great need, in early June 2014, UPF Lebanon with the support of our ambassadors for peace initiated a special aid program in a refugee camp approximately forty minutes outside Beirut. We are supporting fifty-three families, who live in humble tents.

Thanks to great support from our

sponsors, UPF International and IRFF Germany, we were able to give donate money, at first, to a certain number of families. In December, we donated an equal amount to almost all the families in the camp. The same month, in cooperation with the Lebanese American University, which is among the top universities in Lebanon, we were able to distribute thirty-three boxes filled with food, clothing and many toys. This was part of the university students' special Christmas

charity activity. Thanks to the great cooperation of the camp manager and his wife, the distribution of goods went well.

The refugee families in the camp come from different parts of Syria. In the face of grave danger, they had no choice but to leave their homes, if they still had homes to leave. Some of them had lost close family members or other loved ones, not to mention having lost—in seconds—houses or shops they had cared for over many years. We visit the camp on a regular basis, with ambassadors of peace, young





1 Preparing relief items
 2 Refugee families receiving relief
 3 Toys for the children of refugee families
 4 The tents the refugees live in
 5 Relief activity includes handing out cash

volunteers, and our national leader Mr. Park Jong-in and his wife Yola. Usually we bring milk or some food or diapers for the babies. We register the families one by one. According to UNHCR, registration is more than a head count. Knowing the number of people helps determine the amount of assistance needed and a record of the refugees' status helps protect them from being forced to return to their country and from arbitrary arrest. While registering people we listened to their heart-wrenching stories.

Among them are several people with serious injuries from the war, including from chemical weapons attacks. After learning about the great medical need, UPF Lebanon was able to recruit a medical team, which goes to the camp to offer free consultations, diagnosis and to prescribe medicine. They also prepare medical reports for those needing treatment in a hospital. We were able to estab-

lish a cooperative relationship with a government hospital in a city near the camp. This means that the refugees, visiting the hospital under the auspices of UPF, receive special discounts, from 30–50 percent or even more. Additionally, certain medication is free of charge.

Most of the tents have no electricity; hence, they are mostly in darkness from about five o'clock in the afternoon, as it is wintertime. During the winter in Lebanon, snow falls in the mountainous area; however this year, temperatures below 0°C and stormy weather—heavy rain and even snowfall—hit other areas in Lebanon, including the camp. The cold weather worsens an already tough situation for the families, especially for those with small children. Four refugees died from the cold.

We have been trying to collect money to provide all tents with electricity via generators. According to the

camp manager around USD3,000 is needed. We could raise a certain amount thanks to contributions from our members in various countries. So far, we have about half of the amount needed. Inshallah [God willing], we will soon be able to collect the funding needed for the electricity as well as some for sealing the rooftops of the tents to keep the rain out.

Mr. and Mrs. Park feel compassion toward the refugees. Mr. Park mentioned that seeing the misery in the camp reminded him of the harsh circumstances Korea faced during the Korean War. Further, he is concerned about the future for the many children there, as they cannot attend school.

Actually, the list of the refugee's needs is endless. We try to address them gradually. Based on our experience so far, the volunteers agree that with cooperation and mutual effort we can help these families more effectively. Our sincere hope is that all the refugees will be able to return to their homes in the near future. In the meantime, we shall continue to do our best to help them in the difficult circumstances they face.

Our special thanks go to UPF International and IRFF Germany, and to all those who have contributed to this effort. All *hamdulillah* (All praise and thanks be to God). If you have questions or wish to offer your support, please contact Hermine at lebanon@upf.org.



Timor-Leste Donates to the Sunhak Peace Prize

In agreement with the founding principles of the Sunhak Peace Prize, created to honor True Parents' peace ideal, the government of Timor-Leste made a donation on January 12 to the Sunhak Peace Prize Committee in the amount of approximately USD100,000.

Thus, Kay Rala Xanana Gusmao, prime minister of Timor-Leste, fulfilled a promise he had made during the launching ceremony of the Sunhak Peace Prize. At the launching, he welcomed the prize with the words, "In essence, the message that this Sunhak Peace Prize should carry is this: By living unselfish and altruistic lives, we can build families and communities of peace. By transcending religion, race, nationality and culture, we can build nations and a world of peace. With this message, the Sunhak Peace Prize will serve as a beacon of hope, guiding us all toward a culture of peace."

Members of Timor-Leste's government held a cabinet meeting last December 19, at which they approved unanimously the resolution to donate to the Sunhak Peace Prize. This resolution bill, approved by the Council of Ministers, states, "Timor-Leste greets the initiative for the establishment of the Sunhak Peace Prize, whose principles include a vision beyond the issues of religion, race, nationality and culture, and promotes the construction of peace communities and nations, so well-defended and promoted by Timor-Leste."

Timor-Leste, a small island nation with a population of 1.18 million, is located east of Indonesia. The nation gained its independence only recently after twenty-five years of suffering under Indonesian colonial rule and internal struggles. In that citizens of Timor Leste have been yearning for peace and independence, the nation's history is similar to Korea's modern history. Its per capita GDP is \$3,664



The Timor-Leste prime minister making his welcoming remarks at the launching of the Sunhak Peace Prize Committee

(by 2014 standards).


The chairman of the Sunhak Peace Prize, Dr. Hong Il-shik, said, "Timor-Leste stands out as an exemplary nation that was able to maintain the... pureness of its soul, even through the long pain of colonization, and to overcome wounds of a painful history peacefully, as 'the first nation to gain its independence in the twenty-first century.' The fact that the Timor-Leste government would show empathy for the Sunhak Peace Prize, which strives for transnational world peace, in itself was a great event for peace that should be conveyed throughout the world." He continued, "In the future, the Sunhak Peace Prize will strive to gain the empathy of and appeal to not only Timor-Leste but the entire world and to work for the implementation of peace for future generations."

The sixty-nine-year-old Xanana Gusmao, who led his government to approve the donation, is a key figure in his nation's independence. His continuous call for unification and peace for Timor-Leste led the international community to recognize him as the actual leader of the nation. His ideal of "reconciliation and forgiveness" was central to Timor-Leste's effort at achieving its liberation. He has been working to reconcile and build a peaceful relationship between Christianity and Islam and between Indonesia and Timor-Leste. He is respected

not only by his people but by the international community. His status helped him to receive the Sydney Peace Prize, the Gwangju Human Rights Prize, and the Sakharov Prize, awarded by the European Parliament.

The Sunhak Peace Prize is an international peace prize that True Mother initiated on February 20, 2013 in honor of True Father, who devoted his life to the realization of borderless, interracial, interreligious world peace. The committee seeks to discover individuals and groups that devote themselves and sacrifice themselves for the realization of peace. The prize, in the amount of USD1 million, will be given each year in Seoul.

A peace prize preparatory committee began operations on January 22, 2014 to carry out initial tasks. The Sunhak Peace Prize Committee, launched on August 11, 2014, comprises twelve members, including some foreigners, such as Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, UN secretary general (1992–1996); Ohno Yoshinori, Japanese minister of state, director-general of the Defense Agency (2004–2005) and Larry Beasley CEO of the Washington Times. Dr. Hong Il-shik, president of Korea University (1994–1996, 1998–2006) is chairman of the committee. Also from Korea are committee members Seongta, head monk of the Jogye order of Korean Buddhism, and Dr. Chung Tae-ik, president of the Korean Council on Foreign Relations.

Prizewinners will be chosen through a transparent process of nominee recommendation and review of the nominees. The first awards ceremony will take place in Seoul's Grand Intercontinental Hotel on August 28, 2015, to commemorate the third anniversary of True Father's ascension. 

Materials provided by the Tongil Foundation Public Relations Office

The Blessing is the First Step toward an Ideal Family



True Parents give the Invocation of the Blessing during the Blessing Ceremony in the Era to Open the Gates to the Victory, Liberation and Completion of the True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind, on 3.3 (March 24, 2012) in the Cheong Shim Peace World Center, Korea

The Importance of Educating Parents

By Ursula McLackland

For Unificationist parents, our deepest desire and goal in life is to guide our children safely to the blessing and for them to experience happy blessed family life. We long to establish our third generation. How do we achieve this great goal? When we look around us, we see many second-generation Unificationists wavering or unaware of the importance of receiving the blessing. Others want to receive the blessing but their parents do not know how to find a suitable match for their child.

We usually focus on educating second-generation members, but from working in the Blessed Family Department, I realize that it is even more important to educate the parents, because educating the children and

guiding them to the blessing is the parents' responsibility. Some parents think educating their children is the church's responsibility when in fact the church can only support and supplement the education the parents give their children at home.

True Father emphasized in his Peace Messages that the best way to protect the spiritual lives of our children is by doing hoondokhae as a family. He said, "No matter how hard Satan may try to worm his way in, to infest your lineage, once he encounters the hoondokhae tradition, he will find no room to move." This is so true.

To not only read Father's teachings together but also for everyone in the family to share their reflections about what was read is so important. This

provides an opportunity for our children to share their hearts as well as any difficulties they encounter throughout the day and receive their parents' advice, which will allow them to feel their parents' love and concern for them. Many of us parents are so busy that we forget to take the time to listen to our children, who might conclude that they are not worth our time.

As our children grow, we have to become their best friends, so that they can open up their hearts to us. Some parents treat their teenage children as if they were little kids, telling them what they think is right and wrong, without ever stopping to wonder what is on their son's or daughter's mind.

Our children are often scared to tell us what they think and feel honestly, because they love us and they do not want to disappoint us. They hide their internal struggles and even purity-re-

lated mistakes, because they know this will hurt us the most. We as parents, then, must make an atmosphere in which our children can feel safe to share even their innermost struggles and know that we will stand by them, help and support them to overcome any difficulty in life. They must be able to feel free to ask any question or express any doubt they have.

This is a tall order—but if our children harbor secrets, unspoken hopes and expectations, all these will eventually come out in the matching process. Why? Because often parents are eager to match a child that is not yet ready or to suggest a potential match that is the opposite of what their child hopes for or expects. Other parents might push a child to go to the Cheon Il Guk Matching, when the child is unprepared but wouldn't dare admit it to the parents.

When children face a future spouse they cannot imagine spending the rest of their lives with, they are in a great dilemma and eventually have to open up their hearts and reveal their honest feelings. The earlier they do so, the better. I have witnessed couples where one partner kept avoiding the spouse for months or years without ever revealing their honest feelings until he or she could not endure any longer and broke the blessing. The

longer they wait, the deeper the hurt of their partner and the two families involved.

No matter how sad and disappointed we might feel as parents, we need to respond in mature and loving ways, accepting the inner reality of our child and helping him or her to move forward. In this way, the parent-matching process is truly a course of family restoration. All hidden problems and difficulties in our family relationships come out and need to be resolved in order to guide our child to lead a successful blessed family life. Not only do the children have to grow up but we parents have an opportunity to reflect and realize what issues we need to resolve in order to help our children.

Many times, second-generation members hesitate to go to the blessing because they have seen their parents suffer. When couples just endure each other without feeling any joy or love in their marital life, how can their children feel hope for their own blessing? Working out our husband-wife relationship and building a bond of true love with our spouse is the best blessing education we can give to our children. Our children do not want to hear nice lectures about true love or listen to beautiful principles; they want to experience them as a practical



Parents and children at a second-generation workshop in Thailand

reality in their daily lives. If we do not practice them at home, we run the risk of our children rejecting the Principle as a mere theory without practical application.

Sometimes parents think that as long as they lead a principled and public life, God will guide their children to the blessing automatically. However, we as parents have to fulfill our own portion of responsibility. Therefore, long before our children have grown up and need to prepare for the blessing, we need to lay the foundation in their tender hearts by practicing a happy blessed family life centered on True Parents' teachings and love. *TP*

Mrs. McLackland is director of the Blessed Family Department in our Asia region.

The Blessing is the Start of a New Journey



Couples celebrate at the 2014 Cosmic Blessing Ceremony by the True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind

True Parents started the tradition of the blessing, signifying that God gives us something special when we enter a blessed marriage. As we approach this important time in our lives, it is therefore worth reminding ourselves of the real blessings we can receive from this.

The blessing is not just a ceremony; it is a lifestyle that True Parents have established in the blessed families. How well we prepare for it and how much space we give to God and True Parents to guide us through the matching and in blessed life matters very much. Our potential fully develops there, and God can help us to fulfill his promise of love by supporting each one of us to reach the ideal, depending on the state of our heart, and of our prayerful mind and conscience. Indeed, True Father said, in guidance

to second-generation members in the Cheon-Il-Guk matching, "If you follow your original mind, God will make it work."

True Parents always emphasized the value of the purity of love; the central concept, "absolute sex," clearly indicates purity before marriage and fidelity within. Through a pure heart, we can connect to our partner and create the most amazing love. True love is not just an emotion, and the blessing is not about falling in love, but growing in love. The purity of our love will bring us nearer to God and to more closely resemble our Heavenly Parent. The purity of our heart and beauty of our marriage has the potential to move even God's heart. God's hope is that we become madly in love with our husband or wife and that our hearts melt into one. Upon this unity of husband and wife, we can resemble the image of God. Therefore, for God and True Parents, how we start our first love, and how much we have been able to protect our love and heart for our spouse makes a big difference.

Father's view of purity is clearly not an out-of-reach, theoretical and religious concept. Through introducing the Cheon Il Guk standard of purity as the standard we should aim for, he gradually increased expectations of what "purity" means. At the same time, Father supported those that made mistakes, offering forgiveness and guiding us to restore our past. He wanted us all to stand in front of God again with dignity as his loving children who understand his heart. The standard is there to define the path and to teach us about the achievable ideal of the original path of love. Still, we should remember not to judge each other for mistakes made or those who are victims of difficult circumstances or lack of love and understanding, but to support each other on the path of goodness back to God.

The Cheon Il Guk standard of purity should make us acutely aware of the preciousness of sexual love. Indeed, our seriousness in this sacred area is an expression of our love for God, and our love for others. Because of love we want to have a pure heart when meeting other brothers and sisters. Because of love we do not want



to flirt; we do not want to see how it feels to date or be in an exclusive relationship. Because of love we do not try to justify careless thoughts, words and actions. Because of love we do not want to compromise the standard. The choice is ours, and God is always there to support us when we want to make a change. The Principle and Father's teachings are there to guide us forward: "God's lineage provides the context and environment for a true life." (Peace Message 10)

The historical course of the first generation in establishing the change of bloodline afforded their children the opportunity to start a new tradition and culture. The course of a blessed child is to further develop this pure heart and devotion to God and continue God's lineage through the blessing with another blessed child—following the course of absolute sexual purity. Thus, starting with the marriage relationship, we build toward an ideal family and attempt to bring God's virtues to others beyond our family—in our career, our friendships, and our community and public life.

Father and Mother have been continuously working to further develop God's lineage and offer God the fulfillment of his ideal here on earth. Anyone who ever heard Father talk to blessed children on the value of purity and lineage knows that he has been uncompromising there. The real value of a blessed child is not in their accomplishments, but the lineage they carry and the potential that this holds for the future generations.

True Parents have been offering the

Cheon Il Guk couples to God, as a textbook for all of mankind and eternity. It was the closest they had to offer God the fulfillment of His ideal: blessed children born without original sin that kept their purity despite growing up in this fallen world and received their partner through absolute faith in God and True Parents. Through the second-generation blessed couples, the foundation of the three Great Kingships can be established and the legacy of their parents and True Parents can be passed on.

Indeed, a characteristic of valuable things is that they may need more effort to attain. Efforts to keep the vision and hope when times are dark, investing again and again, letting God work, keeping faith and trust, and overcoming fears are some of the qualities needed to receive the blessing.

May all new couples preparing themselves to attend the upcoming Blessing Ceremony, make God's ideal a reality in their couple and in their family!

"What is the significance of the blessed families? Satan has no control over the blessed families. When they have complete faith in Father and a strong conviction that they belong to True Parents, no matter where they are, Satan cannot violate that. Why is this so? It is because, centering on the heart of True Parents, they have a relationship with the realm of heart of the converted lineage. That is why Satan cannot touch them."

—True Father, Cheon Seong Gyeong p. 1273

The Role of Religion in the Quest for Peace

By Thomas G. Walsh

In the work that our members do, we sometimes need the support of secular people. To develop a genuine relationship with non-religious people explaining the fact of religions role in world events can be useful. This article does that. Additionally, it explains how work to espouse True Parents' values to religious and secular leaders is a course toward peace.



Religion remains a significant force in the lives of billions of people around the world. In effect, religion impacts global affairs. The great German sociologist, Max Weber, saw Protestantism, specifically Calvinism, as the root cause of northern Europe's development and the rise of modernity. Weber held that the way in which societies or civilizations explain justice theologically, as in theodicy, is absolutely decisive in shaping their worldview and their social systems. The doctrine of karma, for example, Weber argued, in *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism* led to a kind of fatalism about life that was an inhibiting force relative to modernization and rationalization (). Whether one accepts Weber's analysis of the social significance of specific religions' doctrines, his thesis

that religious ideas have social consequences is valid.

The Weber thesis has wide relevance in our current era, given that one of the most significant developments of recent decades has been religious resurgence. While, on the one hand, this development has included the rise of various forms of religious extremism and fundamentalism, it has also been accompanied by a movement to promote interfaith dialogue and understanding.

The cold war era was very much a period where ideology was centered on the position one takes on liberty, equality and social justice. Geopolitical tensions between communism and democracy were related to debates about socialism versus capitalism, or more liberal, free societies versus more state-organized or state-controlled societies. Religion was relegated to the private sphere, not only by the communist countries but also to some extent by the liberal democracies. Religion was viewed largely as a private affair. Concepts like separation of church and state or secularization were dominant.

In the post-cold war era we witness a global resurgence of religion and a reassertion of the religious factor in world affairs. The shocking experience of the terrorist attack in New York on September 11, had a religious dimension to it. Of course, we all recognize the twisted and distorted thinking of terrorists, but there was some aspect of that senseless act that related to the religious, cultural, civi-

lizational differences between people—in this case, Islam and the West—differences that are rooted in religious ideas, even if those ideas have been distorted.

Consider Mindanao in the Philippines. It is an issue where the religious differences, cultural differences as well as the political and economic factors are highly relevant to understanding what is going on there. A comprehensive analysis cannot exclude religion, alongside other factors related to politics, economics, history, and culture. From a social or scientific point of view or a political science point view, religion is seen as increasingly, even centrally relevant and significant.

When you look at politics in India, for example, the parties that have always been strong have actually been usually from the lineage of Mahatma Gandhi. He was deeply rooted in a religious worldview. The main party emerging at this time, the BJP party, is guided by *Hindutva* philosophy, or a Hindu nationalist idealism rooted in Hindu thought. Religion is clearly a factor. It's not the only factor, but it is a factor in world affairs.

Consider the Arab Spring and in particular the disaster in Syria. Syria, like Iraq, is characterized by sectarian divisions among Sunnis, Shiites, Druze, Kurds and Alawites; and then there are the Christian divisions between Orthodox, Catholic, Maronite, etc., that are very relevant factors to the political landscape. We cannot understand the conflict in Syria without knowledge of the religious dimensions.

This is increasingly being noted by political scientists. In the field of international relations, where religion was usually not discussed, it is becoming part of the core curriculum. The founder of the International Institute for Religion and Diplomacy, Dr. Douglas Johnston, published a volume entitled, *Religion, the Missing Dimension of Statecraft*. Jimmy Carter wrote the introduction. And the former US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, came out with a book called, *The Mighty and the Almighty*, talking about faith, politics and the United States of America. She strongly advocated for more religious literacy among both academicians and government officials.

Such a shift does not mean that we are each called to become religious, or join a religion, or change one's religion. That's not the issue. Rather the point is to look at the world as it is, and to see things as they happen in the real world. In so doing, we come to see very objectively that religion is a very, very powerful force in the world. If we are going to understand the crisis in Syria, we cannot just understand it only as a geopolitical conflict. We must also consider the religious factor, the ethnicity factor and the cultural factor.

This reality came out very strongly in the former Yugoslavia, after the coming apart of the USSR. The nations that came about – Bosnia, Croatia, Serbia, Montenegro, Macedonia, Slovenia, Kosovo – generally were each formed in accordance with religious and ethnic identities. Religion is often transmitted through the family line. It is not common for people leave the religion of their birth; thus, ethnicity and religion are often very much tied together. So people identify with ethnicity – as Serbian, or as Kosovars. These identities have dimensions that are shaped by who we are culturally, civilizationally and religiously.

This is impacting the United Nations. UPF's founder, Dr. Sun Myung Moon, proposed in an address at the United Nations in 2000 that the United Nations needs to appreciate more the significance of religion, and should establish within its system an interfaith council. He could see an



Dr. Walsh with Pope Theodoros II, the Coptic pope of Alexandria and patriarch of the See of St. Mark

emerging problematic aspect of the twenty-first century, namely, that geopolitics are becoming even more complicated as the religious sphere, the civil society sphere and the sovereign nation-state sphere are all actively engaged on the world stage. It is no longer just a game played by the nation-states or governments. Today there are many non-state actors, such as religion and civil society, actors that governments cannot control, and which cannot be ignored.

For this reason, the importance of religious literacy among political scientists and concerned citizens alike is increasingly important, at the same time, mutually respectful interfaith understanding among believers is equally, if not more important.


We must understand one another not only geopolitically, but at a deeper level. That is why dialogue is important. A variety of institutions have emerged that underscore dialogue, mutual understanding and mutual respect. One, which had its origins in Iran, as a response to Huntington's "clash of civilizations" thesis, is known as the "Dialogue of Civilizations." Russia's Dr. Vladimir Yakunin and Austria's Dr. Walter Schwimmer, former secretary general of the Council of Europe, head up the World Public Forum "Dialogue Among Civilizations", with dual headquarters in Vienna and Moscow, and dedicated to promoting a dialogue among peoples that serve the ideal of peace for all peoples. The United Nations has its own "Alliance of Civilizations" program, led by the High Representative, Ambassador Nassir Abdulaziz Al Nasser, former President of the General Assembly.

In the area of interfaith relations,

there are multiple organizations that promote dialogue, mutual respect and cooperation. These include Religions for Peace, World Congress of Faiths, The Parliament of the World's Religions, and the Universal Peace Federation.

"Dialogue among civilizations" is critical at this time. Thus we must seek to understand the heart and the soul of nations and the core values of people. Another aspect of the paradigm shift that I think Dr. Moon identified is the need for dialogue to replace conflict oriented dialectics. Conflict and struggle must be resolved through respectful, confidence-building and constructive dialogue. The way to peace is through a dialogical process. That was the message Dr. Moon took to Kim Il Sung in 1991, and to Mikhail Gorbachev in 1990.

By promoting dialogue among the nations, among the governments, among the people we can move toward peace. The dialogue should not merely take place between governments, but "track II" dialogue is needed, between peoples, between women, between the youth, as well as among artists and athletes, students and academics.

As we work for peace, we should give needed attention to this broad dialogue that includes not only the representatives of governments, and "track one" diplomacy, but the dialogue among people in all the richness of their identities and worldviews, including culture, religion, and ethnicity. UPF is committed to supporting this effort in an ongoing way, for the sake of peace. 

Dr. Walsh is the president of UPF International.



Life as a Blessed Mom

When a popular Thai television program, Mom Club, invited Family Federation member and mother of eight children Maneerat Kobayashi to be on their program, it was a boost for family values and the ideal of large happy families. In a nation with a declining birthrate, the Kobayashis have gone against the tide in Thai society that leads most people to decide against having more than one or two children. On a list of 224 countries, from highest birthrate to lowest, Thailand is at 175, while Japan, Mr. Kobayashi's country is at 222.

The on air live interview took place on December 12, 2014. Maneerat, who is Thai, was blessed with her Japanese husband among the 360,000-couple blessing group. They live in Bangkok, where Maneerat is on the Family Federation headquarters staff. Two of her eight children accompanied her on the program, and together they took the opportunity to share insights into their family life.

During the program, the presenters asked Maneerat a number of questions:

Q Are you working?

Yes, my job is translator for the Universal Peace Federation and Family Federation for World Peace and Unification Foundation.

Q As you and your husband both are office workers, how do you raise your children and share that responsibility, for example sending them to school every day?

Of course having many children makes us so busy, but what really helps a lot is we discuss a lot, about how each child has been doing that day, before we go to sleep. We try to cooperate with each other to take care of our children as best we can, so that they can grow up well and be good people. Regarding sending them to school we share the task: two are taken by my husband because their school is on his way to work. And the rest I take because their school is near my place of work.

Q (to Kana, the only daughter among eight): How do you feel in a big family where most of your siblings are boys and only you are a girl?

I used to want a younger sister. However, when my mom gave birth to my seventh and youngest brother, since he is so adorable and I feel so much in love with him, from now either boy or girl for me is just fine.

Maneerat gave the following personal account:

My children enjoyed the experience quite a lot. It was exciting for them. For all of us, it was a very good learning experience because during this time I could teach my children that there are many families having a hard time raising even a small number of children. What we shared during the program could be a great inspiration to others because we have eight children but still aim to have a happy family life.

My husband is in real estate sales, but mainly in charge of leases. Since this program is a program mainly focused on mothers, they do not emphasize the father's role much. However, when the TV program came to our house to make a video record of our kids' activities at home with me, for the last take, they asked my husband to join in, and he did so happily.

Finally we gave copies of *As a Peace-Keeping Global Citizen* to the TV program presenters and they both received the gift with much appreciation and a happy heart. I felt grateful to God, True Parents and the spirit world that is working so mysteriously for the restoration of our nation. ㊦

A True Peace staff member prepared this article.

Andorra

A blessed couple in the news



The tiny nation of Andorra nestles in the mountains of the eastern Pyrenees, on the border of France and Spain. Most of its 85,000 people are Catholic. Andorra’s national newspaper, Diari D’Andorra, recently published (in Catalan, one of Andorra’s three official languages) a feature on “multi-religious love,” in which three Andorran interfaith couples explained how they live together without conflict. The article featured a Muslim–Catholic couple, a Hindu–Catholic couple and a Buddhist–Catholic couple. As a special supplement, Diari D’Andorra included a Family Federation couple through an interview of the Unificationist national leader Lluís Babi, a native Andorran; and his wife Chatiboot from Thailand. According to Chatiboot, Andorra has some fifteen different religious communities coexisting peacefully.

The supplement, entitled “Their messiah united them for eternity,” had a respectful and positive tone. In it, Lluís and Chatiboot testify that for

El seu messies els va unir per a l’eternitat



LLUÍS I CHATIBOOT el dia del seu casament a Corea, el 1982.

Les vides del Lluís Babi i la Chatiboot Chooopchaborn, un catí, es van unir per la religió. Estan casats perquè seguien la voluntat del reverend Moon, el fundador de l'Església de la Unificació; el seu messies els va dir que fossin parella i van seguir la decisió sense pensar-la en dubte. "Ens vam posar a les mans del reverend perquè ens trobés parella; te

va notar de seguida que com a dins, "sag sentir que ets ell", nu, i ell va ser.

El 14 d'octubre de l'any següent van rebre la benedicció del reverend i es van casar en una multitudinària cerimònia a Corea amb 6.000 parelles més unides amb el mateix sistema. El matrimoni, per a ells, és indestructible. Perquè els seguidors de l'Església de la Unificació - Babi i Chooopchaborn són els repre-

vide a la Terra, però a l'eternitat, més enllà de tot el que estem, estiguem, i pensar que estaran junts per l'eternitat ajuda a superar més fàcilment les dificultats, racion. De fet, a l'any següent casant tres cops; el febrer del 1982 a Londres, on vivia Babi; la Chatiboot, i amb una cerimònia civil; l'octubre del mateix any pel seu fill i a Corea; i el 1987, abans que vinguts ella i viure a Andorra en un ritu matrimonial a



them, marriage is “indestructible,” that they do not believe in divorce, and that the marriage vows are not just for the earthly world but for eternity in the spirit world.

Lluís joined the Unification Church in 1975, and his work has been as the secretary to the mayor of his home town, Ordino. He and his wife also have a small business selling Ginseng and other natural health products imported from our Tongil company in Spain—which several doctors in Andorra recommend to patients.

About their outreach work, they say the following: “Our tribal messiah outreach has extended from our family to the local people, since it is a small nation. Thanks to the Spanish and French movement organizing workshops for guests and to the European headquarters organizing European Leadership Conferences for prominent members of society, we are given the opportunity to contact and invite people to well-produced events.” 



From left: The president of FFWPU Korea, Ryu Kyeong-seuk; vice-president of FFWPU Korea, Yoo Gyeong-duk; president of CARP Korea and YFWP Korea, Moon Sang-pil; district leader of the South Tokyo district, Hori Masaichi; president of CARP Japan, Motoyama Katsumichi; vice-director of the FFWPU Japan Planning Office, Kajikuri Masayoshi



SECOND-GENERATION MEMBERS LEADING THE PROVIDENCE

In the aftermath of True Father's ascension, our movement naturally went through a period of confusion. In the midst of this, True Mother, though quite apparently in grief, rallied the movement and set us all on a path toward Vision 2020. Central to this vision is horizontal expansion to be achieved by heavenly tribal messiahs. As we focus on this effort, True Mother appointed or approved many new leaders, especially from within our second-generation realm. We are pleased to present some representatives of this new generation of leaders to our readers as we move together prayerfully toward the fulfillment of our Heavenly Parent's and True Parents' dream.

KOREA

Ryu Kyeong-seuk

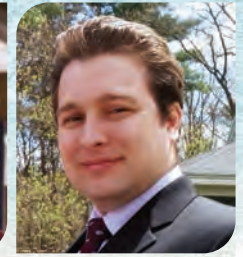
Ryu Kyeong-seuk was blessed to Ohm Hye-ran among the second-generation 36-couple group in 1986. They have two boys and two girls. He was a pastor at the church in Yeosu in 1991 until he was sent overseas to work as a missionary for two years beginning in 1994. He invested his heart in the mission fields of Russia, Ukraine and Georgia. He was variously the director of the Second Generation Department, Cultural Department and Planning Department of FFWPU Korea between 1996 and 2008. He was director of the Headquarters to Support Providential Organizations within the Tongil Group from 2008 to 2012. The following year he became the secretary general of UPF-Korea in the Strong Korea Headquarters. From March 2013 until October, he was vice-president of FFWPU Korea. Since that March, he has been chairman of the Multi-cultural Peace Education Center. In October 2013, during Korea's Top Gun Workshop, True Mother appointed Rev. Ryu president of FFWPU Korea. Begin-

ning that October, he became a board member of the Tongil Group Foundation. In December, he became a board member of the Wonmo Pyeongae Foundation. In January 2014, he became president of the Korea Religions Association and president of the Ecumenical Christian Association. In April of that year, he joined the board of the Segye Times. He is the first second-generation member from Korea to be appointed as the president of FFWPU Korea.

Yoo Gyeong-duk

Rev. Yoo Gyeong-duk was blessed to Kim Mi-ju in January 1989 among the second-generation 72-couple group. They have three children. He earned a law degree at Aju University and a degree in Theology at Sun Moon University. He completed the master and doctoral courses at Sun Moon University Graduate School. He began his church mission work as a missionary in the church in Chungbuk in 1991. He was pastor of the

church in Ilshin for a time the following year. While at Aju University, he was CARP leader from 1992 to 1994. He worked as a teacher in Suwon Hyangto School in 1993. From 1994 to 1996, he was the church leader of the CARP center at Sun Moon University. He was the regional pastor of the area that covers the Gangnam and Gwanak area of Seoul from 1996 to 2000. From 1997 to 2000, he was dean of the Adult Education Program at Gwanak University. From 1998 to 2000, he was the managing director of the Association for Cultural Exchange between Korea and Japan. From 2000 to 2005, he was the chief vice-chairman for CARP Korea and the Sun Moon bloc leader. He was a guest professor at Sun Moon University from 2002 to 2003. From 2003 to 2004, he was vice-president of Service for Peace. From 2006 to 2008, he was the president of the Collegiate Ambassadors for Peace (CAP). He was vice-chairman of the Family Party for Peace and Unification in 2008, and has served as president of CARP Korea and director of the FFWPU Youth Department from 2006. In June the



The director of the FFWPU-USA Family Department, Crescentia DeGoede; the president of CARP-USA, Naokimi Ushiroda; vice-president of WFWP in the US, Katarina Connery; vice-president of FFWPU-USA, Mari Curry; Miilhan Stephens, pastor of the New Hope Family Church and the national leader of Ireland, Young-il Loew

same year he took office as the president of YFWP Korea. Recently, in October 2014, he was appointed by True Mother as the vice-president of FFWPU Korea.

Moon Sang-pil

Rev. Moon is the fourth child of one of the 430-couples, Moon Pyeong-rae and Oh Gye-Ja. Moon Sang-pil was blessed in 1995 among the 300-couple second-generation group to Ms. Lee Shin-young. They have two sons and three daughters. Rev. Moon graduated from Sun Moon University Theology School in 2001. He attended the Unification Theological Seminary in the US, graduating in 2005.

Rev. Moon was a counselor to FFWPU members in Paraguay, where his parents are national messiahs, for a year beginning in 1999. He worked as a missionary in Kona, Hawaii from 2000 to 2001. He was the pastor of the church in Reno, Nevada in the US from 2005 to 2007. He then spent a year as pastor of the church in Munjung followed by a year as deputy pastor of the church in Dobong, both in Seoul. When he was at the church in Dobong, he told Today's World readers, "We need to understand that miracles and great results can come from small practices. We need to be concerned about how we talk to and greet others, how we decorate our restroom, our living room... Out of faith, we have focused more on the vertical relationship than on the horizontal. Though it is important to think of purely providential concepts, it's equally important to think of small practices."

Following his time at Dobong church, Rev. Moon spent three years as pastor of the church in Gwangju, Korea. He was brought in to join the ministry team at Seoul's Cheon Bok Gung headquarters church in 2013. In 2014 True Mother appointed him head of our West Yeosu Church District, and recently he was appointed President of CARP Korea and YFWP Korea.

JAPAN

Hori Masaichi

I am the first son of Hori Nobuyuki and Hori Kikue, who were blessed in the 43-couple blessing group. Oyamada Moriko and I were blessed among the 200-couple second-generation blessing group. We have a son and a daughter.

In accordance with True Parents' instructions, I studied in Korea from middle school to university. I graduated Sun Moon University Theology Department and completed a master's course in theology at the Unification Theological Seminary in America.

I have been serving in the public mission, dealing with the education of second-generation members since 1994. In 2001, I became the CARP leader in charge of the Tokyo University CARP Center. In 2005, I became director of the Second Generation Department at the HSAUWC-Japan Headquarters and went on to serve as the director of the Seiwa Department, and director of the Family and Education Department.

In 2013, I became pastor of the church in Marukame and later the

district leader of our South Tokyo district, where I am currently serving.

My beliefs as a person in the public mission:

True Parents once said, "Shouldering God's will is being part of the mainstream." This had been guiding me for a long time and is the reason I resolved to go to theological school and to a public mission.

After True Father's seonghwa, I remember True Mother asking us in tears to put our hearts together once again in moving forward. What she said gave me the strength to reaffirm my determination and reconfirm the weight that is on the shoulders of those second-generation members that are taking responsibility in the era of Cheon Il Guk.

Sometime after this, I was given a new responsibility in the public mission. One thing I felt and saw after coming to the field was the number of temptations and confusion surrounding our members that lead people astray and away from worship.

Following the path of God's will is not easy, but that does not mean we can simply give up on the way. A person that goes from one place to another judging and criticizing the church does not resolve anything.

I believe that a path toward completing our mission as heavenly tribal messiahs will open when we overcome all these circumstances while upholding the tradition centered on True Parents.

With the members and with assistance from the spiritual world, we are working together in changing the atmosphere of our church. Although we have few results, we are certainly opening up the way for

drawing people into our movement and the blessing.

The churches in our district are now coalescing and moving toward victory as heavenly tribal messiahs, fulfilling True Father's last words.

Japan has the mission of the mother nation. Many members felt that second-generation members should be taking up roles pastors within the church. I, too, have felt the same.

In the beginning, however, I did not know anything and could not see the end of the road. Thanks to Heaven's guidance and support from our members, I was able to triumph over this course.

That I could not attain this victory on my own is true. I believe that one cannot fulfill God's will without Heaven's guidance. I learned that when I was in despair, if I sought God in prayer, True Parents would show me the way and tell me what to say. That is why I continue to walk each day in prayer and devotion with True Parents as my absolute center.

My fellow second-generation members who are of age! If you ever find yourselves in despair on your path of faith, I strongly encourage you to visit the church, let go of your frivolous desires, and simply focus on serving others and engaging in prayer.

If you can discover True Parents, you will find that there is truly hope on this path.

Please join me in creating a com-

munity, a church, which God truly wants to create. I am certain that Cheon Il Guk will emerge from that community.

I pray that 2015 can be a year in which Heaven can fondly remember your devotion, and that you are blessed with the fruit of God's grace.

Motoyama Katsumichi

Glory be to Heaven. My name is Motoyama Katsumichi; I am president of World CARP-Japan. I am a blessed second-generation member; my parents are in the 777-couple blessing group. Both my parents joined through the Kyushu University CARP center; both have spent their entire lives in the public mission. My mother passed away into the spirit world twenty-one years ago. She was a deep-hearted person, while my father is a passionate person who is single-minded about God's will. I am grateful to have learned True Parents' passion and love through my parents. I also have deep respect for my four younger siblings, who have been a great source of inspiration in many ways. Lest they leave me behind, even today, I am working hard to become a loving husband to my wife and good father to my three children, of whom I am proud.

Sometime in high school, I first became determined to serve in the public mission. I went on to study at the Sun Moon University Graduate

School of Theology in Korea. Returning to Japan, I worked in the Second Generation Department and CARP.

After Foundation Day, I had the opportunity to serve in the field as a church pastor. I spent about a year and a half in ministry. I had the chance to get to know many members who shoulder and support the Mother Nation's mission. Seeing the pureness of their hearts toward God's will and their love for True Parents deeply moved me. I was keenly aware that it was because of such pure love that we have been able to see advancements in the providence to this day. However, I also saw that many members in the field have internal struggles and pain. The fundamental cause of this was the conflict they harbored from a sense of resignation and despair in response to the reality that we have yet to fulfill our dream of creating ideal families that we can expand to our clan, leading ultimately to God's liberation. At the same time, I saw them spontaneously filled with God's heart and True Parents' passionate desire to make their children happy and to bring victory.

Last year, when I began my mission as CARP president, I took part in the first Top Gun workshop in Japan. By the end, we were able to connect to the word, substance and heart of our True Parents, who are our root. At the Global Worship Service, I witnessed True Mother's tears, which reflected her fervent desire for her children's victory. Now I



True Mother speaking to members of the Cranes Club

have been entrusted with the responsibility over young people that will take on the future and in whom True Mother is now investing. True Parents and our elder members, who have been walking within the love of our Heavenly Parent, built a good tradition. I have come to feel that the key to building Cheon Il Guk lies in testifying to that tradition and in helping second-generation youths inherit the word, substance, and heart manifested by our True Parents, who are our starting point.

In 2015, I would like to take pride in this heavenly tradition and move forward with the great mandate of bringing salvation to the nation and world.

Kajikuri Masayoshi

I am currently serving as the vice-director of the HSAUWC-Japan Planning Office, as the secretary-general of the True Family Movement, as vice secretary-general of UPF Japan and as chairman of the board of the International Federation for Victory Over Communism Headquarters. In the past, I served as Head of Education in the Second Generation Department. I was the first pastor of the Kienkai Church, which the Japanese movement built exclusively for second-generation members. I have been the president of World CARP-Japan, the president of the Youth Federation for World Peace-Japan, vice-president of the Ambassadors for Peace Association in Japan, executive committee chairman of the Committee to Deal with Abduction and Forced Confinement of Japanese Unificationists, and pastor of the Aso Church.

Born in 1970 in Tokyo Japan, I am the oldest son of Kajikuri Gentaro and Eriko, of the forty-three-couple blessing group in Japan. My wife Yokoi Motoko and I are in the 1992 200-couple second-generation blessing group. We have two sons (ages: twenty-one and nineteen) and a daughter (age: seventeen).

My father, who was the twelfth president of HSAUWC-Japan, passed away in December 2012 while serving his mission. He, Kajikuri Gentaro, was chairman of the

Federation to Save Nations, chairman of the International Federation for Victory Over Communism, president of Sekai Nippo, chairman of the International Highway Foundation and co-chairman of UPF Japan. Additionally, he was in charge of planning and constructions for the Jardim Project. Rev. Kajikuri Gentaro was co-chairman of the executive committee of the organizing committee for True Father's seonghwa ceremony.

My 2015 aspirations

2015 marks the third anniversary of True Father's seonghwa. After True Father's passing, True Mother has consistently offered devotion in properly testifying about True Father to all of humankind, while guiding all of us during this time. First, she has exerted herself entirely in establishing the traditions of Cheon Il Guk by proclaiming Foundation Day, compiling the *Cheon Seong Gyeong*, and promulgating the Cheon Il Guk Constitution. Second, she established the Wonmo Pyeongae Foundation and Universal Peace Academy for the purpose of raising the next generation of leaders. She paved the way for nurturing future leaders by organizing the Top Gun workshops, Cranes Club and other initiatives. Through these endeavors, she has opened up a way for the realm of the second-generation to play a greater role in the providence. Third, she has guided and encouraged all blessed members to complete our mission as heavenly tribal messiahs, which were True Father's last words. True Mother has often reminded us that blessed members have the responsibility, in the position of Abel, to guide the nation, which is in the position of Cain. Currently, the Abe administration in Japan is making effort to end deflation through "Abenomics." However, Japan is faced with a serious case of depopulation with its low birth rate caused by late marriages or young people avoiding marriage altogether. Due to the prevalence of ideologies instigating family breakdown, laws are being enacted that belittle the value of the family. Japan is on the verge of a serious national crisis we cannot overcome through

economic policies alone. The only way to overcome this national crisis is in connecting to heavenly fortune through True Parents. Therefore, I would like to focus my efforts in contributing to the creation of an environment in which we can carry out a True Family movement on a national scale that can present the proper model for the nation and its people and through which all blessed members can victoriously fulfill their mission as heavenly tribal messiahs.

AMERICA

Naokimi Ushiroda

True Parents blessed Naokimi Ushiroda in 2000 to Shukuko Yono. He graduated from the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania in May 2004 with a degree in Economics concentrating in real estate and entrepreneurship. He then joined W-CARP USA as a full-time worker for two and a half years until February 2007, when he was became the director of the Second Generation Department.

He became the president of CARP in July 2013. He has clarified CARP's identity, vision and mission, set goals in alignment with Vision 2020 and presented CARP's new vision to more than eight hundred people in twenty-four communities in North America, which included a new pilot CARP campus model at Barrytown College. CARP held its first National Officers Training at the University of Bridgeport in January 2014.

During his second year as the president of CARP, Mr. Ushiroda added two staff members and with three summer interns hosted CARP Convention: Momentum 2014 at the University of Maryland, where over a hundred students and young professionals met, including twenty-one participants from other nations. Within the year, the number of active chapters meeting regularly went from three to fourteen. CARP America is excited about continuing to build toward forty active chapters by the end of this year.

Crescentia DeGoede

T rue Mother asked Crescentia DeGoede in August 2013 to serve as director of the National Blessing and Family Ministry, which provides education and support for individuals and couples preparing for marriage, as well as marriage and family support and enrichment programs and services. She is currently serving in this role. Crescentia participated in Special Task Force (STF) from 2005 to 2007. She graduated from Arcadia University with a bachelor's degree in Sociology in 2011. She is twenty-eight years old.

Crescentia was blessed to Leighton DeGoede, also twenty-eight, in 2010. They feel truly blessed in their marriage and continually seek to share with others the love and joy they experience. They are thoroughly enjoying their new role as parents since Crescentia gave birth to a baby daughter in November. Leighton and Crescentia served as youth pastors and served as co-pastors of the Family Church of Philadelphia from 2010 to 2013.

Crescentia DeGoede, personal statement

Serving as the director of the National Blessing and Family Ministry (BFM) over the last year and a half has truly been an honor and a pleasure. I am grateful to True Mother for giving me this opportunity. Directly supporting the fulfillment of our Heavenly Parent's will and True Parents' mission in my daily work is a blessing.

Leighton and I feel deeply grateful for the many blessings we have received throughout our lives, and we feel called to share our blessings with others and improve the quality of life for as many individuals, couples and families as possible. Through the BFM, I get the opportunity to do this every day.

True Parents have repeatedly emphasized the importance of marriages and families in building God's ideal and in creating a world of true and lasting love and happiness. For Leighton and I, investing in strengthening marriages and families is the most important work we could be

doing. Our blessed families are precious and need to be nourished.

We will continue supporting our blessed couples and families in becoming stronger, healthier and happier, as well as helping more people throughout the world to receive the blessing and create truly loving relationships with their spouses and children.

Miilhan Stephens

R ev. Stephens is twenty-seven years old. He graduated cum laude from the University of Maryland in College Park with a bachelor's degree in Food Science. He was blessed to Sayaka Inokuchi from Osaka, Japan, in January 2009. They recently welcomed a baby daughter, Ayumi, to the family.

Rev. Stephens is a bright, spirited visionary who discovered the heart of God at an early age. He is an idealist but always looks at what needs to be done from a practical perspective. Having cheerfully shared his faith and willingly listened to others throughout his life, he decided to step up his service to God by pastoring the community he so loves, thus he has led the New Hope Family Church for the past two years, after having taught Sunday school to middle-school-aged kids for many years. He remains committed to serving God and True Parents.

Miilhan Stephens, personal statement

It is an honor and absolute joy for me to serve God and True Parents in this role. If it were not for the trust and support from blessed family members, I would not have found my deep inner calling to be a pastor and to go all out for God. I also want to thank Jesus, whom I feel has always been with me throughout my life, guiding me and training me to reach my dreams.

Jump-starting the year with our True Mother was exciting. I am reminded how blessed we are to have her leadership at this pinnacle time. I am learning that she not only has vision but is sharp and does not hesitate to challenge us to carry out our

responsibilities. As we know, America has been rapidly declining, and I believe our recovery and success starts with love and guidance from God and True Parents. Let us resolve to remain tuned into True Mother's heart this year as we pray and carry out our individual callings.

Mari Curry

M ari Curry is twenty-eight years old. She graduated from Willamette University with a bachelor's degree in psychology and then earned a Master of Theology from Cheongshim Theological Seminary in Korea. Mari is currently pursuing her Doctorate of Ministry from the Unification Theological Seminary.

After a two-year engagement, Mari was blessed to Richard Curry in December 2005. Ten years and two children later (a boy and a girl) they are devoted teammates and partners in life, love, mission and work.

From a young age, Mari was highly involved in local church activities in Miami, Florida. Since her blessing, she and Richard have found a love for serving the church as a couple. In the past, they were camp counselors, youth pastors and General Orientation Program (GOP) staff leaders in Korea. Today, continue pursuing God's calling in tandem—as matching advisers, as members of the Energize Couples marriage retreat development team and as co-pastors. Mari and Richard have been serving the Family Church of South Florida, in Miami, since 2012. The mission that True Mother has given to our second generation truly inspires them, and they seek to fulfill it as best they can.

Mari Curry, personal statement

My whole life's focus has been to answer God's call, so I am grateful and excited for this opportunity to serve our American community and to be a part of the growth of True Parent's legacy. Although I have much to learn, please know that I will do my best to serve and love God and let God work.

My heart is overflowing with hope, joy, inspiration and love. I am so inspired to fulfill my new responsibility well. Part of that is because of the remarkable growth I have seen in our communities both locally and nationally, and through initiatives like DP Life, the God's Hope for America Holy Ground Pilgrimage, True Father's seonghwa anniversary commemoration, and the recent founding of the Cranes Club that brought together young Unificationist professionals from all over the world.

I am driven and committed to doing more and to being more, not to be stagnant water but to be life-giving water, as True Mother has called us to be. During the Cranes Club and Christmas with True Parents, Mother's heart and love for us humbled me. Being at the conference, I could see first-hand the amount of love and effort True Mother put into each of her speeches and meetings. Our True Mother's heart is beautiful and encompassing. Her leadership is forgiving, strong and yet empowering. True Mother's hope for us, her encouragement of us, her desire for us to go beyond being comfortable in serving others is an inspiration for us all to work together and become life-giving water as we build God's kingdom.

To love and to bring back all of God's children is our responsibility. Together I know we can make this happen. I look forward to what this year will bring and what we will accomplish together as one family under God.

Katarina Connery

Katarina Connery is twenty-nine years old. She holds a bachelor's degree in International Political Economy and Diplomacy from the University of Bridgeport and a master's degree in International Relations from the University of Pittsburgh. She is blessed to Michael Connery, a medical student with a PhD in physiology, who will soon start his hospital residency.

Katarina is a committed Unificationist and is committed to supporting True Mother's vision and leadership. She has been a Sunday

school teacher in her community church in Bridgeport. She joined Special Task Force (STF) and served as a field educator. Katarina also attended Sun Moon University for a year, and Kyunggi University for a semester on a US State Department Critical Language Scholarship.

She has been working for the World Affairs Council in Richmond, Virginia, in the area of membership and program development. This organization is part of a network of eighty-five councils in the US that focus on international affairs, as well as provide educational resources to teachers and students.

Katarina Connery, personal statement

I feel gratitude to True Parents and our Heavenly Parent for entrusting me with this tremendous responsibility. While attending the Cranes Club Conference in Las Vegas with my husband, we had the opportunity to meet personally with True Mother. Standing in front of her, I felt unworthy and wondered what I could offer; simultaneously (remembering the tears she shed during her Christmas address) I wanted to offer everything and I felt determined to use my skills, in whatever capacity, for the sake of God and the world. A line in one of our holy songs reads, "The Lord has called and I will go." I feel that with this appointment, God has called me and I will strive, to the best of my abilities, to go.

I believe my life experiences and education have all been for the sake

of a higher purpose and I am grateful to be inheriting a wonderful foundation laid by WFWP's leaders and members. I hope I can give my 100 percent investment to this wonderful organization, to which our Heavenly Parent, True Parents and so many brothers and sisters have been devoting themselves for many years.

EUROPE

Youngil Loew

Youngil Loew, the oldest son of four children, is thirty-one years old. He was born in the United States. He spent most of his childhood in Virginia, near Washington, DC. He went to the GOP program in Korea when he was twelve years old and lived there for six years, eventually graduating from the high school associated with Konkuk University in Seoul. He graduated summa cum laude from the University of Bridgeport in 2008, with a double major in International Political Economy and World Religions. He shares the national leader responsibilities with his wife, Viktoria (Iversen) Loew.

Viktoria Loew is twenty-nine years old and is the oldest daughter of four children. She was born in Iceland to missionary parents. She has lived in Latvia and the United Kingdom, until her family settled in Ireland as national messiahs in 1996. She graduated from a Catholic seminary, Milltown Institute, in Ireland, with a degree in Theology. She is also a certified massage therapist.

Youngil and Viktoria Loew became the national leaders of Ireland in July 2014. They were blessed in 2003. They are expecting their first child this spring. They have been serving the local Irish church over the past five years as youth leaders, organizing Sunday school classes, youth events and workshops for second-generation members throughout the year. They are dedicated to serving the blessed families of Ireland with all their hearts, sincerity and dedication, to the best of their ability. 






The president of CARP-USA, Naokimi Ushiroda, greeting members of the Cranes Club



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Las Vegas Witness Workshop

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