

True Peace



天國4年
天曆02

MARCH 2016



A Global Awakening: God Needs an Only Begotten Daughter Too

By Robert S. Kittel



T rue Mother repeatedly talks about saving the world's 7 billion people by having them understand and accept True Parents. She also refers to her position, next to True Father, as God's only begotten daughter. These ideas are inseparable and absolutely critical for solving the moral crisis in today's society.

True Father taught that religion is at the center of a culture because it provides the moral and ethical values that permeate that civilization. Christianity is the center of the Western cultural sphere. Going deeper, the center of Christianity is Jesus. The problem is that an unmarried man lies at the center of Western values; i.e., there is not even the concept of an only begotten daughter. As a consequence there is a silent, yet inevitable, emphasis on the individual over the family and this is the root of the moral confusion in Europe and the Americas today.

Therefore, to address the crisis of sexual chaos, Christianity must realize that Jesus should have been married. God's only begotten son absolutely needs an only begotten daughter. This paradigm shift would allow the institutions of marriage and family to supersede extreme individualism.

Since this concept is new to Christians they will naturally ask, If Jesus should have married, why didn't he say anything about it? Where is it mentioned in the Bible? Actually, Jesus talked about this repeatedly. It is throughout the New Testament from the very beginning of Jesus' ministry until the end. At the beginning of history, God was going to build his kingdom of heaven on earth starting with one couple, our first human ancestors. God's plan was to first create an ideal family and then expand that into a kingdom. In essence, the seed for the kingdom of heaven on earth was a God-centered family.

In my math class we were taught that if $A = B$, $B = A$. In other words, at the time of Adam and Eve, family-building was the beginning of kingdom-building. God is unchanging and so are his principles. Therefore, the same principle must apply at the time of Jesus, it was just reversed; kingdom-building must begin with family-building.

This means that Jesus' constant referral to building God's kingdom, which he did throughout his public ministry, was essentially a parable about his own marriage. Mt. 13:35 says, "This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet: 'I will open my mouth in parables, I will utter what has been hidden since the foundation of the world.'" Jesus talked about his own marriage metaphorically. His parables most often included a kingdom. The phrase "kingdom of heaven" appears thirty-two times and is found only in the Gospel of Matthew. The phrase "kingdom of God" is used sixty-five times. Surprisingly, neither expression appears in the Old Testament. These two expressions appear ninety-seven times and only in the New Testament—which documented Jesus' life and mission.

At the very beginning of his ministry Jesus proclaimed that "the kingdom of heaven is at hand." (Mt. 3:2) At the end of his life he lamented, "...woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because you shut the kingdom of heaven against men...." (Mt. 23:13) Clearly, Jesus' passion was to lay the foundation for God's kingdom on earth during his own lifetime.

This interpretation is further supported because Jesus spoke in parables about a thing "hidden since the foundation of the world." What was that? In the first book and first chapter of the Bible it says that man and woman were created reflecting God's image. (Gen. 1:27) The idea that a man and woman together mirror God's image is the purpose of creation itself.

To build a kingdom you need three things: land, people and sovereignty. Already God had prepared two of them, the nation of Israel and the Jewish people. The one thing missing for God's kingdom to be established on earth two thousand years ago was heavenly sovereignty—a sinless lineage. Jesus, although sinless, could not create a lineage by himself. However, because of the Fall, our minds and hearts have been covered with selfish egoism. We are blissfully ignorant about the hidden importance of marriage and family which stands as the cornerstone to God's kingdom. True Mother is absolutely right: The Last Adam absolutely needs the Last Eve. It is not just Christians who need to change their concepts; the rest of the world needs to understand this too. *PK*

CONTENTS



ARTICLE ONE

- 02 A Global Awakening: God Needs an Only Begotten Daughter Too

PHOTOGRAPHS

- 15 Major Events to celebrate the third anniversary of the Cheon Il Guk Foundation Day and Cosmic Blessing Ceremony

REGIONAL NEWS

Korea

- 20 Through Thick Walls and Locked Doors
22 Welcome, Invaluable New Members
24 Discover Your Personal Values

Japan

- 26 Feedback, Assessment, Planning and Action

Oceania

- 28 How I Joined the Unification Church
30 An Adventurous Gap Year



TRUE PARENTS' MESSAGES

- 04 In Search of the Origin of the Universe
06 All Must Know True Parents

TRUE CHILDREN'S MESSAGES

- 10 True Parents' Love for Our Endangered Planet
13 In Support of Our Precious Community



PERSONAL ESSAY

- 32 Reemerging into Fresh Air and Sunshine
34 Conversations with Japanese Missionaries in France
38 Contributing My Rediscovered Self to the Providence, Part II

INTERVIEW

- 40 Aspiring to a Noble Life, Part II





In Search of the Origin of the Universe

Father gave this speech on September 15, 1996, at the Olympic Fencing Gymnasium, Seoul, Korea, during the tour that established the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification around the globe.

If we go deeper and deeper in our search for the origin of the universe, we arrive at God. We come to know that God possesses the dual characteristics of masculinity and femininity. How did the universe begin? Let us set aside our discussion of God for the moment and consider humankind. That humankind is composed of men and women, who relate as subject-partner and object-partner is clear. In the mineral kingdom, atoms and molecules are composed of positively charged atomic nuclei and negatively charged electrons. Flowering plants reproduce through the union of male and female reproductive cells produced in the stamen and pistil, respectively. Animals exist as male and female, and human beings, as men and women. When we examine created beings, whether in the mineral kingdom, plant kingdom, or animal kingdom, we observe that beings with plus and minus characteristics on the higher level exist and develop by incorporating beings with plus and minus characteristics from lower levels. Why does this phenomenon take place? It is because the existing world is responsible for perfecting human beings, who are meant to be rulers of all creation.

In the mineral kingdom, plus and minus characteristics, functioning as subject- and object-partner, unite guided by the ideal of love, thereby enabling inanimate matter to exist. Likewise, in the plant kingdom, stamen and pistil generate reproductive cells that function as subject- and object-partners. When they unite guided by the ideal of love, a seed for a new plant comes into existence. Current research in microbiology shows that even bacteria exist with plus and minus traits.

How do beings with plus and minus characteristics unite as subject- and object-partners? By kissing? Love is not a concept. It is a substantial reality. Where can love actually settle? Gathered here today are famous presidents and distinguished guests, but there is something that all of you need to bear in mind. You need to be aware of what characterizes a man as a man and a woman as a woman. The answer is the sexual organs. Does anyone here dislike the

sexual organs? If you like them, to what extent do you like them? Until now, you may have thought that it is not virtuous to appreciate the sexual organs, but from now on, you need to appreciate their value.

The unchanging laws of the universe

What will the world be like in the future? If it is a world that absolutely respects the value of the sexual organs, will that world be good or bad? Will it prosper or perish? This is not a joke. When God was creating human beings, into which part of the body did he invest the greatest creative effort? Was it the eyes, the nose, the heart, the brain? All these organs eventually perish, do they not?

What is the purpose of the Family Federation for World Peace? If all people were to look beyond the traditional categories of what is virtuous, religious or normative by human standards, and absolutely respected the value of the sexual organs, they would earn God's warm applause. Then, what kind of world would it be? When we are born as male or female, who is the owner of our sexual organ? Actually, the owner of a husband's sexual organ is his wife, and the owner of a wife's sexual organ is her husband. We did not know that each person's sexual organ is owned by a person of the opposite sex. This is a simple truth that we cannot deny. Even after history has progressed for thousands of years, this truth will not change.

Every man thinks his sexual organ belongs to himself, and every woman thinks her sexual organ is her own. That is why the world is perishing. Everyone is mistaken concerning the ownership of his or her sexual organ. We all think that love is absolute, eternal and dream-like, but when we come to understand clearly that the ownership of eternal love lies with the opposite sex, the world will not remain in its present condition. There are numerous scholars and people with Ph.D. degrees, yet not one of them has thought about this.

Can any of you deny this point? If you ask your parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, the first ancestors, and even God, who is the origin of the universe, they will all agree

with this. It is a universal law. This truth will remain no matter how many billions of years the universe exists. The natural conclusion is that when you stand before God, He will judge you as righteous or unrighteous according to this immutable law.

Even the Fall of Adam and Eve originated with the violation of this law. Both Adam and Eve erred by thinking that their sexual organ was their own possession. Think about it. Would God chase Adam and Eve away because they ate a literal fruit? God is not such an irrational being. God chased them out because they did not meet the most basic criterion by which the universe operates.

Owing to their mistake regarding the original point of love, they could not be acknowledged anywhere in the universe. In the mineral kingdom, plant kingdom and animal kingdom, the positive and negative traits, or the male and female sexual organs, are reserved for the sake of the complementary partner of love. Adam and Eve were unaware of this. Then why do the sexual organs exist? They exist for the sake of love. Male and female exist in order to find love.

God is absolute, unique, eternal and unchanging. Then who is the owner of love? The owner of love is not man or woman. The owner of love is God. On the foundation of love and through love, God and human beings can unite. This is because both God and human beings absolutely need love.

Then, what kind of love does God need? God needs absolute love. What about you? It is the same for you and me. Just as God needs absolute, unique, unchanging and eternal love, we too need absolute, unique, unchanging and eternal love. Apparently, we all resemble God.

God Himself has masculine and feminine characteristics, or positive and negative traits. Human beings, who were meant to be the substantial object partners of God, were created as men and women. When a man and a woman get married, they become substantial plus and minus partners, and together they represent God. God's Will is that when we get married, we need to unite completely on the horizontal plane, with God's vertical love as the center. ☞



All Must Know True Parents

True Mother's speech at the Main Events Victory Celebration on February 21 at Cheon Bok Gung

Hearing your reports, you have succeeded in these events. It was special. All the members around the world, especially Korea, Japan and the United States—centered on the International Headquarters—became one, and all the events were smoothly and successfully carried out from the start. You have done well.

True Parents' birthday is historic. True Parents' birthday! How long had Heavenly Parent dreamed of it? If the perfected only-begotten son and only-begotten daughter had no position—if they had not been born amidst fallen humankind—True Parents' and Heavenly Parent's dream would not have been fulfilled. However, True Parents were born in this country, on the Korean peninsula. Though in different years, we were born on the same day and both of us were born in the early morning—Father at *jashi* (23:30-00:30) and I at 4:30 a.m. so *inshi* (03:00-05:00). We were born at good times. Do you understand? [Yes]

In the beginning, though there may have been a bit of difference, wouldn't Adam and Eve have been born at the same time on the same day? Regarding True Parents' birthday, we should not have Father's birthday and Mother's birthday.

Therefore, judging it from different perspectives, you should be happy people. Yet we still have a long way to go. You should not be satisfied. You must develop further. To do that, what should we do? We should invest more effort. I am saying that you must not stop after a few compliments from me. You will do better, won't you?

Next year, another Sunhak Peace Prize awards ceremony will take place. Will the peace awards or True Parents' birthday be more popular? In that sense, you are all blessed families. All of you have to take responsibility. There cannot be one person among all humankind that does not know True Parents. You must do your utmost, thoroughly and deliberately, in each of your areas.

This time, I announced three organs. As the fourth year of Cheon Il Guk begins, we will strengthen the Cheon Il Guk Supreme Council this year. The foundation is complete but because they have not united, it lags in action. I have launched them, and there is no alternative. Therefore, with the launching of the Cheon Il Guk Supreme Council, I give each regional president and Cheon Il Guk special emissary the entitlement of a Supreme Council vice-chairman.

I am going to explain what these people need to do. They need to complete the mission that was originally given to them. The church has to develop, and so does faith. Today when you look at Korea and the globe, you do not realize how many people, who are currently not in public leadership, are striving to fulfill their tribal messiah responsibility as blessed members. Simply put, the Supreme Council is like an elder member in a church. Do you understand? It is the center of the church.

For example, in the Mormon Church there is the Seventy [a leadership group responsible to proclaim the gospel, and build up the Mormon faith throughout the world]. They lead internationally. However, they do not receive a salary. It is an honorary position. Our church also has many elder members. The work that I do is important to the present, and as long as I can do many things out of concern for the future, for as long as I am able to while I am alive, I must prepare a favorable path for future generations.

Therefore, how should Unification Church elders live? No confusion should arise over whether what I do is right or wrong. Do you understand what I mean? There is no place that





- ① Thomas Walsh, international president of the Universal Peace Federation and Thomas McDewitt, chairman of the *Washington Times* presenting flowers to True Mother
- ② Cho Song-il, director-general of the FFWPU International Headquarters, presented a report on the events at the victory celebration and was master of ceremonies.
- ③ The celebration cake

True Parents have touched is not valuable, no such place is not historic. Yet you must look far. This is not yet True Parents' nation. When you need to look far and advance, you should not be trying to figure out the right and wrong of small things.

Are any elder members here? Yu Jeong-ok? Is everyone a staff member or are you only leaders? It is the same for everyone. You must change by fulfilling your responsibilities. You must become clear. I said that I have revealed the truth about providential history in the presence of God and humankind. That truth relates to the only-begotten daughter. Do you understand? [Yes] Just like Jesus, I was born with no connection to Satan's realm. You have only now come to know about this precious truth. Do you know how precious Mother is?

You saw the UPA cadets earlier. [To the cadets] I am proud of you and I love you. I recently promoted the Graduate School of Theology. Sunhak UP [Universal Peace] Graduate School. Did you understand? It is not Cheongshim but Sunhak. The name

sounds good, doesn't it? That is how we will do it. All the graduates will be educated to become leaders who have qualifications and skills in all respects. Do you understand? [Yes]

Cho Kwang-myong, you should try harder. To mention one more thing, the Cheon Jeong Won [comprising five organs of the operating body of Cheon Il Guk] office is deeply important. It needs to be stabilized while I am alive. The World Mission Headquarters is also important. There should be no gaps with me. We have to unite. Things need to be instantly passed among Korea, Japan, America, and through all five continents and six oceans. We have to move as one body. In that sense, those regional presidents and special emissaries appointed as Supreme Council vice-chairmen should take good care of long-time members.

In doing so, you need to open the way so that they can fulfill their responsibilities as blessed members before they die. They are the churches' pillars, aren't they? No matter the country, the elder members of a church are its center. They should

correctly understand the will and offer their lives appropriately in front of Heaven. You should open the way for them. The Cheon Il Guk Supreme Council has a chairman, but he cannot do it alone. How can one person manage our members on five continents and five oceans? There has to be people to cooperate with. President Ryu [of the Korean church], do you understand? [Yes, I do.] We need to educate our church elders well so that they can grow and not feel neglected.

True Parents also need to continue to advance. How long will you wear yourselves out in front of True Parents by holding on to your worries? Huh? In the past, many people in leadership positions did not think of the whole but acted selfishly? There can be no development in that way. However, now is different. I am different. I will not stand aside and watch that happen. Do you understand? I am telling you to get a hold of yourselves. For world restoration, the Cheon Jeong Won... I sent the vice-president of FFWPU International Headquarters, An Jun-seok, to



True Mother presenting plaques marking the graduation of Universal Peace Academy students who have completed their one-year internships as missionaries abroad

Europe as its special emissary. Is An Jun-seok here? How is your work progressing? You will need to work hard to fulfill your duty. Please sit.

CARP president Kwon In-seong, become a good example in your post. I want to remove the World-CARP president's entitlements. Okay?

There is a song that I find affinity with nowadays, "*Geu-nomui sarang ddaemunae*" ["That Darn Love"]. I sing it every day: Once I abandoned my greed, flowers of joy blossomed. Please listen intently to why I am telling you these things. We are one. We must unite and advance. World-CARP is different now from when Hyo Jin nim was here. It has to grow, but it has not set down roots in each country. So why does the World-CARP president need such a structure? Whether in America or in Japan, it should develop within its own country first. Do you understand?

Earlier, the national leader said that young people are easily recruited. It is the same for CARP. The person that actually takes responsibility, makes effort and acts, will

succeed. I am emphasizing that each of you have your own responsibility.

Thus, when the entire world recognizes that you have risen to the world level, you can become independent. Until then, each national leader has a CARP leader under him. All of them do, right? All the national leaders in every nation should support those leaders in carrying out their responsibilities so that CARP grows.

How can a big tree have no roots? Hmm? Can there be a pastor if there are no members? You must come to your senses. You should work hard and offer devotion asking, What can I do for True Parents and for True Parents' will? If a person thinks about his or her status and how he or she should be treated, that person cannot develop much. Do you understand? [Yes]

I feel as if you do not yet know me well. If even my own children, born from my own womb are inadequate, I do not use them. Do you understand this? [We understand.] They have responsibilities. They have indemnity. I am a thorough person. That is why I am the True Parent;

God's only begotten daughter. I had only planned to compliment you on your hard work today. Did I raise my voice a bit? This is a spank on the bottom so that you grow well. Okay? [Yes] Have I said everything I meant to say? I am quite multifaceted, extremely complex.

This time I took a new look at Cheon Il Guk Special Envoy Otsuka. He has great potential for future growth. I will be expectant of you, Otsuka. Therefore, I hope that you will carry out the work as the Special envoy of Northeast Asia and the regional president simultaneously.

Chung Jin-hwa, please work in the Cheongpyeong Training Center's international department. Okay? From now on, this training center needs to work on the global level, and you will need to speak foreign languages for workshops and for counseling second-generation members who come from all around the world. Can you give Divine Principle lectures in English? Still, please try harder. Okay, you can sit now. With our dream nearby, let us all become victors by 2020. ㄹ

True Parents' Love for Our Endangered Planet

This was the keynote address delivered by Sun Jin Moon, FFWPU international president, at UPF's International Leadership Conference 2016, at the Jamshil Lotte Hotel in Seoul, on February 14.



FFWPU International President Moon

I am delighted and honored to have the opportunity to address you today at the outset of this International Leadership Conference sponsored by the Universal Peace Federation, in cooperation with

the Washington Times and the Segye Times.

Throughout their lives, my parents dedicated themselves to the goal of building a world of lasting peace, a world in which all people and cre-

ation live consciously together in harmony, cooperation and mutual prosperity.

They have always taught that in order for peace to be achieved, all individuals must, first of all, transform their consciousness and become people of honorable character and sincere heart whose actions are guided by moral and spiritual principles.

Secondly, the family unit must be made healthy, stable and loving; for family is the school of love. It is within the family that the core virtues of love, goodness, compassion, caring, faith and responsibility are learned. The upright and decent behavioral qualities of our children are learned and formed by the wholesome and loving example of each parent.

Thirdly, all human beings must develop greater awareness and sensitivity to the way we think, speak and act, not only in relation to other members of the human family, but also in relation to all beings and the world around us.

We are all precious gifts of life created by God. In other words, for my parents, a love of creation is an essential component of their spiritual, moral and theological vision. We cannot imagine achieving peace without having a loving respect for the world around us, our environment.

In fact, according to the world's religions, human beings are created with a responsibility to take care of the earth, to be good steward of the earth, and to view the earth, including all natural things and all living



Sun Jin nim addressing International Leadership Conference 2016, which upf.org reports attracted more than three hundred delegates from sixty nations and a hundred and forty parliamentarians. Our international president seemed “in her element” as she expressed deep concerns and conveyed True Mother’s deep concerns for the natural environment.

things, as expressions of God.

Some of my earliest memories as a child are of my parents’ love for the natural world. They spent much of their time exploring the natural world, from Kodiak, Alaska, to the Amazon jungles and the Pantanal Region of South America, to the waters of the Hudson River Valley in New York, and even this area around Cheongpyeong Lake in Korea. Nature was their second home. I spent many a summer’s day with them on a fishing boat.

Now, looking back, I have nothing but admiration for their love of nature as a sacred gift of God. I will cherish these memories for eternity. But, what pains my heart is that this is an experience that many in our future generations will never have, unless we change how we live today.

In my father’s autobiography, *A Peace-Loving Global Citizen*, he pleads for humanity to wake up, stating, “Human selfishness is destroying nature. Competition for the shortest route to economic success is the main reason that the earth’s environment has been damaged. We cannot allow the earth to be damaged any further. Religious people must lead the way in the effort to save nature. Nature is God’s creation and His gift to humankind. We must work quickly to awaken people to the preciousness of nature and the urgent need to restore it to the rich and free state it enjoyed at the time of creation.” (Page 310)

He knew that when natural resources come to be seen merely as commodities, no longer sacred, the

consequences are imbalance, suffering, fighting and war. He warns, “We must stop waging war and forcing people to suffer. It is perverse to start wars and squander hundreds of billions of dollars. The time has come for us to beat our swords into plowshares and our spears into pruning hooks... It refers to an equalization of the world’s standard of living. When someone monopolizes a technology and keeps profits for himself the balance of the world is upset.... This will require sacrifice from those with greater material possessions or knowledge. Building a world of peace cannot be done with onetime charitable acts or donations. Only sincere love and continuous sacrifice are capable of creating a world of peace. We must be willing to offer everything. The world can be completely unified only when there is both physical communication and communication of the heart.” —p. 341–2

Spiritual root of the harm we do

As we lose our connection to God, our Heavenly Parent, we lose connection with the world around us. This is our sad reality as we face so many devastating consequences of our abuse of one another and of the earth. We have lost our center; we have lost perspective.

All around us we see the disheartening effects of climate change: global warming, sea levels rising, acidification, mass extinction of marine and animal life, deforestation, food shortages and extreme fluctuation of weather patterns, and even an in-

crease of new “super bugs”, viruses and disease.

These tragic developments are exacerbated by fracking, unsustainable energy consumption and unnatural and unsustainable food production. Our world is out of balance, resulting from the way we live, often unconsciously and without a larger awareness that all life must be respected and honored for the sake of the world and one another, and not just our own convenience.

If we really open our eyes, we will see that our food, our water, our air, our lands, our bodies and the basic life elements are being polluted at an alarming rate. We are even polluting outer space with what is called “space junk.”

At the same time, we observe so many other indicators of human beings being “out of balance,” for example, over-consumption leading to obesity and chronic illness are at one end of a spectrum, and food shortage, poverty, and more illness are at the other.

We have lost touch with nature, as GMOs [genetically modified organisms] proliferate, and inhumanely treated animals are horrifically processed and chemically engineered. Are these manufactured food products likely to keep our human family healthy? No! A new generation of children may not outlive their parents. What is happening to our world, our families, and all creation is devastating!

In order to regain our health, we need to change our orientation to life fundamentally. I like the concept of



From left: Hwa-yun Chun and her husband, Kwon Jin Moon; Mr. Akhtar Ali, mayor, Nasinu Town Council in Fiji; Maria Lopardo, an Argentinian congresswoman; Sun Jin Moon and her husband, In Sup Park; Thomas Walsh, UPF international president; Choi Jai-chul, Korean government ambassador for Climate Change; and Saburo Takizawa, a retired U.N. High Commission for Refugees' representative in Japan, were among those who enhanced International Leadership Conference 2016, the theme of which was Addressing the Critical Challenges of Our Time: The Role of Governments, Civil Society and Faith-Based Organizations.

salutogenesis, which means “the origin of health.” We have lost the way to true health, as individuals, as families, as societies, and as a planet. We seek health and happiness, but find ourselves racing forward into deeper levels of stress, illness and insecurity.

All the environmental issues we discuss today are interconnected. They are related to and derive from the many conscious and unconscious choices we make each day. What we consume, what we dispose of, and the way we live, either contributes to the destruction of the earth or helps save the earth. If we make conscious effort to educate ourselves, our families and our communities to choose health and sustainable prosperity, an upward cycle of positive change can arise.

My parents' shared quest

My father and mother love humanity and nature, and in their lifelong ministry they have taught that all human beings need to live together as one family, in harmony with God, with each other, and with all of creation. This has been their platform for realizing a world of peace and prosperity. They have invested all their human and monetary resources to educate the world about how to live in unity and goodwill with all forms of life.

Since my father ascended three years ago, I have accompanied my mother on speaking tours around the world as she strives to raise awareness of the need for all of us to care for God's creation. My mother founded the Sunhak Peace Prize to honor

those who practice true stewardship and respect for all life on this planet, people who have dedicated their lives for the sake of future generations.

To prevent global conflict and destruction, my parents always taught that how we live our lives, how we join in marriage and raise our families and how we interact in the world must be centered on true love, living for the sake of others.

With every breath, at every moment, they worked tirelessly to create a moral, spiritual, social and political shift toward the true path of enlightened consciousness, responsibility and right action. This is why the vision of UPF, and the Sunhak Peace Prize underscores the importance of respect for the natural world, the planet, the oceans and all living beings.

Let us join hands

I also appreciate the work of the United Nations and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change” which has taken direct action to seek to mitigate the impact of climate change. The COP 21 Summit, convened in Paris last December, was encouraging in that the entire world, 195 nations, is becoming increasingly concerned and engaged.

Moreover, not only governments are onboard, but also many civil society organizations, faith-based organizations, municipalities, and corporations. There is a growing awareness of the problem and increasing demands for solutions.

We must do everything we can to

restore our planet, and to restore ourselves. However, it will not be by government policy alone that the kind of changes that are required will be implemented effectively. We often hear the term “political will” applied to situations that require widespread commitment and decisive action. Even when policies may be in place, when political will is lacking, the results fall short of the desired goal. This is why it is so important that we draw on the great spiritual and moral traditions for inspiration, guidance and direction at this time.

While fear of threats provides a great incentive for action, it often leads to action that is both too late and too little. Spiritual inspiration, on the other hand, has most often been able to guide humanity to go beyond self-interest, and to avoid what is called the “free rider” problem. Pope Francis' encyclical from last year, “Our Common Home” is an example of the way religion can guide us to restore balance to our lives.

Finally, one of the great challenges of our time is rooted in the ways we are divided and at odds with one another, separated by nationality, religion, sect, ethnicity, culture and political ideology. Too seldom do we rise above these differences to bind our hearts and minds together, as one family under God. Precisely such action is needed at this time.

Let us work together to achieve that vision of sustainable peace, health and prosperity, and stewardship of our “common home” and practice true love for all beings and creation. ☸

In Support of Our Precious Community

In Sup Park, vice-president of FFWPU International, delivered this keynote address, at the Global Cranes Club Assembly at the Jamshil Lotte Hotel, in Seoul Korea, on February 19.

Beloved Fellow Cranes! It is a tremendous joy and honor for me to have this opportunity to greet you all here today. I am profoundly grateful that each and every one of you has gathered for this special Cranes Club meeting, where we will share together and discuss our plans and goals for 2016.

First of all, I want to express my deep appreciation to True Parents, for their lives of love and sacrifice for all of us. Also, I want to share my boundless gratitude to True Mother, who is carrying the heavy burden of leadership of our worldwide movement. We are very proud of her, and I know we all want to do our best to support her, doing the best we can, despite our limitations.

In developing the Cranes Club with the guidance and blessing of True Mother, many people asked me, What is its purpose? Frankly, in the beginning, the project was met with some skepticism and doubt. However, as we launched Cranes Club in the United States, Europe and Korea in 2015, we received a lot of feedback and recommendations. We received much encouragement and inspiration, but we also received many constructive suggestions for improvement. Many wanted to see Cranes Club become an organization that was very interactive, focusing on dialogue, connecting, and networking.

The purpose of Cranes Club

Overall, I think there are several key motivations for starting Cranes Club, based on my personal experience,



Vice-President Park at the Global Cranes Club Assembly

especially as a second-generation member. First of all, on a very personal level, growing up in the second generation, I experienced numerous

workshops, Sunday school programs and summer camps, up until the time of the blessing. The church did a great job in educating and support-



Young, activist members from a number of countries attended the Global Cranes Club Assembly.

ing me as a young person by sponsoring many of these workshops and camps.

The deep friendships that I formed and our youthful camaraderie as we grew up together as an extended family left an indelible mark in my heart. Also, in many respects, it was only others in the second generation who could really understand the numerous challenges, difficulties and issues that we in the second generation had to deal with. This time spent together, learning that we all shared a precious common background and history, was a great source of inspiration that both strengthened our relationships to God and to one another. As we grew to know and understand one another, we could also support each other. But, over the last twenty years, I began to notice that for many of us, especially after receiving the blessing, and for very understandable reasons, priorities began to change gradually.

The practical and very necessary responsibilities of trying to raise and support a family became the number one priority for many of my peers. Also, given that the movement was still developing and growing in terms of human resources, many in the second generation even had to take on the added responsibility of trying to provide for and support their parents as well.

So, again, very understandably, it is easy for people to drift apart

because priorities have changed. Under such circumstances, it is easy to lose our connections to one another. I do not think this situation is unique to our movement. It is a part of the natural life cycle, and naturally happens in many organizations or groups; for example, among university students after they graduate. This is why universities form alumni associations.

I know that the church is very much focused on investing in our youth. Still, in the back of my mind, I am very concerned that if we do not provide a forum for meaningful interaction and a way to reconnect—especially among the older second-generation members after they have received the blessing—like a cup with a hole in the bottom, water will leak out, even as we keep trying to fill it.


Like HARP, CARP or the Youth Federation, which try to connect high school or college students, I hope that the Cranes Club can inspire us to build stronger connections with one another. We can strengthen our bonds of friendship, supporting each other, and building a community, especially among the older second-generation members of the movement, many of whom are working professionals.

About a month ago, I was in New York City and had an opportunity to meet an older second-generation Unificationist “hyung,” whom I had

not seen for probably about twenty years. As I greeted him, thinking about all the unique challenges and difficulties he must have faced and overcome, and feeling very proud of all his accomplishments, despite the difficulties he had faced, I was moved to greet him with a big hug.

I felt sincere joy as we reconnected, especially after such a long time. Cranes Club, from an external point of view, can provide a great professional network among those in the second generation. In this way, we can mentor younger brothers and sisters, engage in voluntarism and philanthropy, and support on another professionally.

From an internal point of view, Cranes Club provides a great opportunity for us to rekindle, reconnect with and maintain lost connections with all those in our extended and international family—that worldwide family that True Parents’ and our first generation elders have built with their vision, and their blood, sweat, and tears. Cranes Club can help all of us find strength through knowing that we share a precious common history and that we have each other, no matter what difficulties we may face. Cranes Club can help us continue to nurture and develop our precious community, as we—those in the second generation—grow older and wiser. I sincerely applaud each and every one who has come here today. I deeply respect your accomplishments in life, for I know that these accomplishments were not won easily. I admire you all the more, knowing of the many difficulties and challenges you must have had to deal with in your lives. In conclusion, and with a spirit of family, with a spirit of reunion, and a spirit of reconnecting with joy, love, care and support, I encourage you to be actively involved in Cranes Club. Let us work together to develop and expand Cranes Club, for the sake of our movement, for the sake of the world, which needs what we have to offer, especially when we come together in harmony and cooperation.

Thank you very much for all your support and investment in Cranes Club. May Heavenly Parent and True Parents bless each one of you and your precious families always. 

Major Events

to celebrate the third anniversary of the
Cheon Il Guk Foundation Day and
Cosmic Blessing Ceremony



The Third Anniversary of Foundation Day





- ❶ True Mother delivering the main address to the assembled masses
- ❷ The Cheon Il Guk Supreme Council on the anniversary of Foundation Day
- ❸ Song Yong-cheon, chairman of the National Federation of Blessed Couple Associations in Japan, offered a representative prayer.
- ❹ Ryu Kyeong-seuk was the master of ceremonies at the main event
- ❺ Young people, including (black jacket) Shin Heung nim, son of Hyo Jin nim and Yeon Ah nim, entertained the audience as they filled the stadium.
- ❻ Moon Hye-yoon, wife of Dr. Seuk Joon-ho, presenting True Mother flowers as her husband prepares his heart to do likewise
- ❼ True Mother standing to receive a greeting bow from audience members
- ❽ The audience, tens of thousands of people, came from numerous nations to celebrate with True Parents, the third anniversary of Foundation Day.



The Cosmic Blessing Ceremony

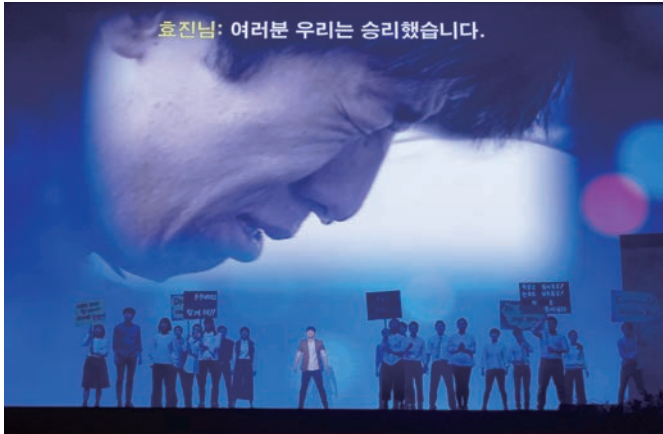


- ① True Mother leading the couples through their holy vows
- ② The Holy Water portion of the Blessing Ceremony
- ③ A representative couple present flowers to True Parents.
- ④ Mr. Dan Burton, a retired US congressman, and his wife Dr. Samia Burton, congratulate the newlywed couples.
- ⑤ Couples form heart shapes at the photographer's request.
- ⑥ The musical, "The Dream of Cheon Il Guk Butterflies," was performed both after the main event and after the Blessing Ceremony.

- ① True Mother and Sun Jin nim with assorted Korean leaders onstage
- ② True Mother with successful heavenly tribal messiahs
- ③ President Camara (left) of the East Africa region and President Cho of the West Africa region, present a Foundation Day gift from their regions to True Parents.
- ④ True Mother presenting certificates to successful heavenly tribal messiahs
- ⑤ The Little Angels perform for an appreciative audience.



The Dream of Cheon Il Guk Butterflies



Luncheon Celebrating the Third Anniversary of Foundation Day



Through Thick Walls and Locked Doors

The Story of inmate No. 1151

Throughout the years, many of our members have had visions of True Parents. Even when they are not otherworldly or filled with particularly striking images, these experiences can change our behavior, even our lives. During a trying time as one of the original 1975 missionaries to Uganda, Hideaki Kamiyoshi recalls, "As I walked along the street, I had a vision of Father as he was in his early thirties. I felt as if he were with me. I could not stop adoring him. I was drawn to incorporate in my world the intensity and the perceptive heart Father had found in his youth. Because of this experience, I feel that whenever we face our limitation, the best way to overcome it is to think of Father."

Recently, James Powell (who contributed the article, "Saving My Life at Cheongpyeong" to our October 2015 issue) saw True Father on May 10, 2015, onstage with True Mother at the Austria Center in Vienna during the celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Unification Movement in Europe. Regarding that experience, Mr. Powell testifies, "Together they were radiating God's true love as a beautifully, bright, golden light," which he described as "warm and comforting." He added, "True Father was leaning forward, checking out people in the audience to see who was receiving God's love."

In our December 2015 issue, a fourteen-year-old Filipino-Korean boy, Han Seok-in, described an elaborate dream which culminated in encountering True Mother, "wearing the holy robe and holy crown, which signify her unity with Heavenly Parent, and holding the heavenly

royal scepter symbolizing the authority of the True Parents of the substantial Cheon Il Guk." Mother was seated on a throne and on the throne beside her were True Father's holy robe and holy crown. Suddenly, he felt embarrassed to be in his pajamas. He went home to change and missed his opportunity. This experience compelled him to act and not to wait. In the following months, he recruited many of his friends into the church.

Beyond members

Many Unificationists have had dreams or visions of True Parents. Some had these before they had even met the church. Philip Burley is one of the earliest American members. He received the blessing on February 28, 1969 in a group of thirteen couples. In the mid-1980s, he described experiences he had had before joining our movement.

Jesus appeared in a dream, letting me know how much he loved me, how he was a man of flesh as any other man, and that as much as he had tried and desired, he could not complete his work. For this he was most sad and in a way broken. I shall never forget his personal love and kindness in this dream. Jesus appeared to me again for a last time. I was in a place not unlike heaven in the spirit world. Jesus appeared in the distance and began approaching me. At one point, he stopped and gave me an ancient salutation. As he did so, a voice spoke and all around me the atmosphere rumbled with the sound. It was like the voice of God and it said, "This is Jesus, the Christ."

Another man dressed in Oriental garb appeared beside Jesus—it was Father. They then became one and Father went inside of Jesus, and Jesus' face became magnificently radiant as he continued to walk toward me. He took both of my hands in his, and I felt tears running down my cheeks. Satan appeared in the dream, accusing me of my past sins. Jesus only became more compassionate. I spoke, saying, "I have waited all of my life to meet Jesus." Jesus spoke to me from his mind, "I understand."

As I woke from the dream, Jesus was standing beside my bed. Then only his face and piercing blue eyes hung in the air against the background of the darkened room. Finally, his face and then his eyes gradually faded out of sight.

As the True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind, our True Parents are saviors to all people on earth and in the spiritual world. At the Victory Celebration for the Foundation Day period events, True Mother said, "There cannot be one person among all humankind that does not know True Parents. Do you understand? You must do your utmost, thoroughly and deliberately, in each of your areas." This may seem like a tremendous burden, but we are not alone. Even during this recent holy day period clear evidence arrived through Korea's national mail system to attest to the powerful spiritual forces that are at work to support the accomplishment of this noble objective. *TP*

Material from the prisoner courtesy of the FFWPU-Korea Headquarters

Letter from inmate No. 1151, Seoul Detention Center

Hello, I am not sure how to begin this letter. The reason I am sending this letter with the courage of a craving desire began from a vague idea about the religion, the Unification Church.

I am an inmate currently imprisoned in the Seoul Detention Center. I am undergoing a trial for a crime I have committed and I am appealing to the Supreme Court.

At first, I could not control my anger because I felt resentful and irate, and I turned my back on the world and lived every single day in despair. I was pessimistic about everything and I wanted to die. I had received an eighteen-year sentence so I did not want to live and lost all willingness to invest in life.

However, one day I had a dream. Four people that I had never seen in my life came in front of me and spread out a big white drawing paper. They drew a person's face and then handed the large drawing paper to me. Each of the four people took turns drawing the same face, but once I woke up, I could not remember the face that those four people had drawn for me.

The dream was vivid, but as I was feeling frustrated because I could not remember the face that they drew on the big white paper, I saw an advertisement in a newspaper. The person on the front-page advertisement, Sun Myung Moon, had the face that I had seen in my dream.

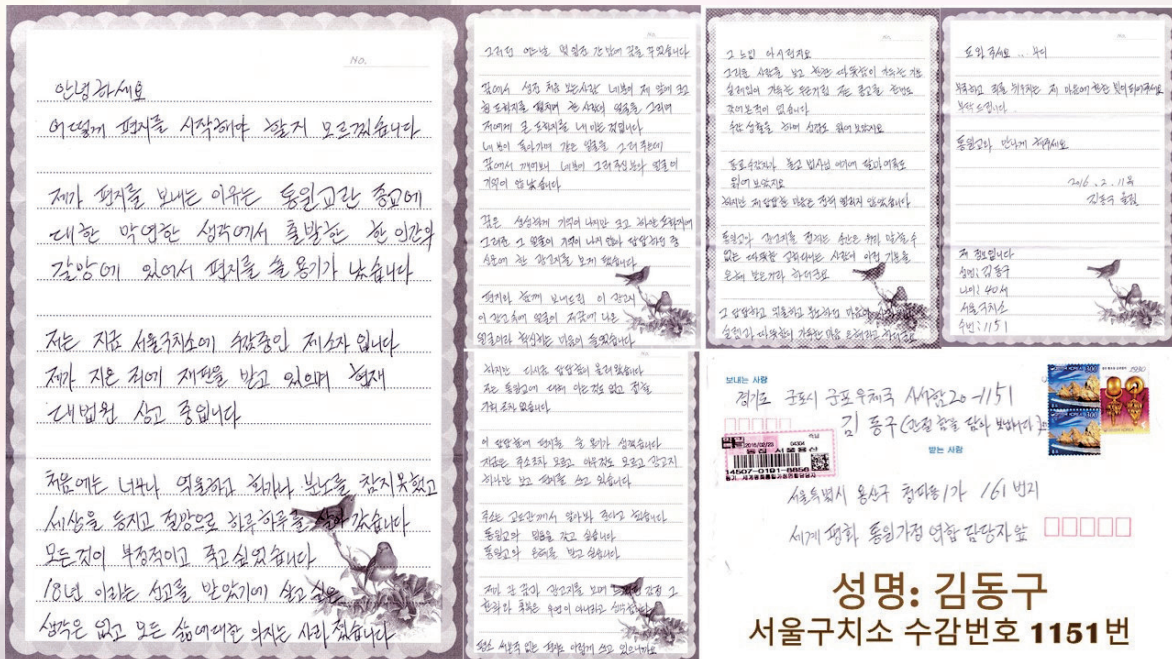
Do you know how I felt at that time? It was as if I were filled with illumination and warmth, and my heart was thrilled as if I were seeing someone I yearned for.

I have never been a member of any religion. During my life in prison, I have read the Bible and read quotations from the Dharma, as another inmate is a Buddhist monk. Yet my stifled heart has never opened.

I want to have the faith of the Unification Church. I want to receive the grace of the Unification Church. Please help me.... Please.

Please become a bright light to my inadequate and repentant heart. Please let me meet the Unification Church.

February 11, 2016 (Name redacted)





Welcome, Invaluable New Members



As a component of the third anniversary of Foundation Day, events took place, March 5–6, to welcome members to our church that had joined throughout 2015. Accompanied by spiritual parents, new members from four quadrants of Korea attended four separate events, held simultaneously. Those from the capital city, Seoul, met at either of two buildings within the Cheongpyeong International Training Center. Those from Gyeonggi Province, a largely rural area, held their event at the Cheongshim International Training Center. Those from the Honam area, comprising South Jeolla Province, North Jeolla Province and the city of Kwangju, met at the Mt. Gaya Tourist Hotel, while those from the Yeongnam area, comprising North Gyeongsan Province, South Gyeongsan Province and the cities of Busan, Daegu and Ulsan, met at Yeosu’s Blue Sea Garden Training Center.

Around two hundred people came from the Seoul area, from all of their five church districts—north, south, east, west and the headquarters church. Nationwide, the events began at 10:30 AM. Seoul’s event

opened with a speech by the vice-president of the Korean church, Lee Hyeon-yeong, in which he said, “Please remember how precious a blessing it is to know Heaven’s great will and to attend True Parents when the world is still unaware of their value.”

A personal testimony followed, by an actor, Shin Yang-hong. One middle aged member, Mrs. Kim, explained, “I accompanied my three guests, the wives of married couples that had received the blessing last year. All three are over seventy. Mr. Shin testified that he knew Rev. Moon through his biography. I appreciated what he said and I think the whole audience did.” Mr. Shin spoke in a booming voice, and made some strong statements, such as “Even though I am speaking to you from this platform, my words do not feel like mine at all. It strongly feels as though True Father has come down from the spiritual world and is conveying his words through my lips.”

They then watched a documentary, “Sun Myung Moon: A Life Dedicated to Peace and Unification,” produced by Munhwa Broadcasting Corporation, a long established



secular broadcast company. Mrs. Kim thought it was even instructive for her to see how a media outlook saw value in our projects and activities. "One of my guests said that she learned from the documentary and respected that Rev. Moon had worked hard to unite North Korea and South Korea," Mrs. Kim explained.

Following the documentary, the group was asked to go through stacks of magazines to find a photograph that represented their personal dream. Mrs. Kim observed, "Many people said they wished for their grandchild to find a good husband or wife." The Unification Church is certainly a good place to pursue that dream.

A talent show was the next major event that day. It followed dinner. Mrs. Kim and her guests found all the meals very tasty. Another good point: they stayed in a recently built building in Cheongpyeong, which has very comfortable sleeping quarters. The talent show's extremely funny master of ceremonies raised the groups enjoyment level considerably. "He caused everyone to laugh and the whole group began to feel closer to one another," Mrs. Kim said.

What the new members seemed to find profoundly enjoyable and what is likely to leave a good lasting impression on them was the Cheongpyeong clapping session that they all took part in on the second day. "They clapped very hard and invested themselves energetically," Mrs. Kim said, adding, "Seeing many foreign members, families with children, who

- ① Korean Church President Ryu Kyeong-seuk presents the Cheon Il Guk national flower to new members.
- ② New members in the hoondokhae room, which True Parents used, at Blue Sea Garden in Yeosu
- ③ Yeongnam area members welcome new members with songs
- ④ New members from the Yeosu area by the sea
- ⑤ The church in Jungbu, Gyeonggi Province, welcomes new members.

had come to Cheongpyeong impressed them. After the clapping session, they agreed that their bodies felt lighter."

Around the nation

The official name of the event was "The 2016 Welcoming Festival for New Members: Being reborn in True Parents' endless true love and heart!" One strong impression that new members expressed was admiration for our grand facilities, especially those at Cheongpyeong and Yeosu's Blue Sea Garden Training Center.

Korean Church President Ryu spoke at the event in Gyeonggi Province. Major cities in Korea have special status. Thus, both Seoul and Incheon are independent administrative areas surrounded by Gyeonggi Province, which has a population that exceeds twelve million inhabitants. Rev. Ryu told the new members there, "Heavenly Parent's infinite love and grace is with you as you begin your new lives as members of the Family Federation. Let us become children that complete our duties as devoted and loyal children to True Parents, who opened the way of true love for us."

Honam and Yeongnam come up in explanations about regionalism in Korea, because of their opposing political and social views, and their

competitive, even antagonistic relationship. Fortunately, all can find harmony in the sunshine of True Parents' love and grace. The Honam event took place at Blue Sea Garden. Rev. Shin In-seon told the assembled guest, "True Parents offered deep devotion here.... You new members were able to come on the foundation of devotion offered by your spiritual parents. I hope that you can regard as precious this heart-to-heart connection and completely settle in as members."

At the Yeongnam event, new members arose to attend 6:00 AM hoondokhae on the second day, reading from Earthly Life and the Spirit World in Cheon Seong Gyeong. It was a chance to reflect on the significance of life and our ultimate spiritual destination.

Overall, Mrs. Kim had the impression that a gap exists between the headquarters' expectation of new members deeply educated in Divine Principle, tithing and attending Sunday service and the actual members that attended her event, but clearly momentum is building and we are becoming an organization with increasing power to attract good people from society. *TP*

A TPmagazine staff member prepared this article.

- ① The writer
- ② The presentation that he had prepared so assiduously to give went smoothly after so much practice.
- ③ The hangul spells "youthfulness."
- ④ Young, "hip" Korean members can communicate our faith in modern terms.



DISCOVER YOUR PERSONAL VALUES

By Han Dong-min

January 13, 2015: That day is significant because the story of my year began there. On that day, I resolved to take on the responsibility that goes with being student vice-president of CARP-Korea. I had two reasons for deciding to do this. I wanted to reciprocate love I have received from Heavenly Parent and True Parents and to challenge myself. I believe that those two things—giving back love and challenging myself—played the role of guiding me from the front as well as pushing me from behind throughout the past year.

The year before, I had been a simple CARP member active in my local community. I had never had any experience being on the Central CARP Council, and because everything was a first for me, the concept of the CARP Council was not easy. Nevertheless, I began learning things one at a time. Though there were



times when I had lapses—I became frustrated as I worked with the CARP Council—eventually I was able to relax.

The Central CARP Council’s overall responsibilities are planning, promoting, and managing events and projects. Over the course of a year, I observed myself coming to grips with the flow of things within that large movement and found my own place. Out of all our activities, the most memorable one for me personally was the CARP Get-Together.


Normally, I am not good at speaking in front of many people. I try to avoid having to do that. However, at the CARP Get-together I had to give a presentation on the Central CARP Council’s activities in front of three hundred people. I did not get much sleep as I prepared for the presentation. I think I read my script at least fifty times. I

would secretly go to quiet places to read it aloud and listen to recordings of my voice. I even sat in a bathroom stall to practice in private.

Though I did not do as well as when I practiced, thanks to excessive practice, I was able to get through the presentation well. Through that, I gained an extreme sense of accomplishment. I became confident. From that point on, I have looked for opportunities to speak publicly whenever I can. In the future, I will probably have to be in that position many times, and now rather than becoming scared, I feel that I can take the task on proudly. Looking back, my experience at the CARP Get-Together is the most memorable because it elicited such a change in me.

Lastly, in the past year, the skills that I improved in the most and felt the most satisfaction from is learn-

ing to prioritize, to determine what is most important. Another important outcome of 2014 was that I was able to find my own values; in CARP I was able to establish those values.

Thus, as my priority, I did everything with an attitude of giving back to Heavenly Parent and True Parents, who have established such values. Last year was a year full of happiness and gratitude because I was able to become Heavenly Parent’s and True Parents’ missionary. In the future, I will face moments of decision in my life continuously. Yet with this grateful attitude, I will choose the most important priority and find the right path that my Heavenly Parent and True Parents hope for. 

Han Dong-min was the vice-president of CARP Korea throughout 2015.

Feedback, Assessment, Planning and Action

A simplified summary of Japan's efforts to achieve Vision 2020

As our church bodies in other nations are doing, FFWPU Japan is focusing all of its determination on becoming the people's religion by 2020.

As reported in *Today's World*, the sincere desire of members to contribute to the providence as the mother-nation by supporting the development of our church in other nations all over the world had led to some unfortunate excesses within Japan as they sought the funds to provide this support. The church faced an existential crisis. Beginning in 2009, Japanese members spent several years working to re-earn the trust and respect of the Japanese public and to repair rifts within the membership. In the course of this process, they conducted a survey of the image of our religion in Japan. They did a survey covering the Japanese church's own members' opinions (2014), which they then analyzed, and they had itinerant workers collect views directly from the public. The collection and analysis of information was the yin aspect that coincided with numerous conferences within various sectors of the movement. Their aim was to convince the public that the Unification Church was a harmless religion. They did that satisfactorily, and they have moved on in pursuit of becoming an indispensable benefit to their nation.

From then, their first objective was to be an ordinary religion; that is, non-controversial, non-sensational. By having done so, from a spiritual perspective, this indicates they have achieved citizen status. By 2017, the church is aiming to gain enough ground for society to accept it as an elder-brother faith, an appreciated religion that satisfies some hope with-

in the Japanese national soul. To achieve that, they see reforming the church cultural milieu as necessary to gain the respect of members and of outsiders. They aim to be the most influential religion in Japan sometime between 2017 and 2020. At that point, in relation to the people of Japan, the movement would have reached parental status. From 2020, as the religion of the people, they will have achieved monarchical standing (kingship).

Recovering citizenship

In 2013, they clarified their aim and strategy regarding Vision 2020. They created the Cheon Il Guk witnessing teams, which are serving in various nations. In this issue, Laurent Ladouce

contributed an article that highlights the hearts and efforts of missionaries are in this program (p. 26).

They established a Youth and Students Bureau and obtained social insurance for their church workers. The following year, they concentrated on reformation within leaders' hearts, in pursuit of which they implemented regulations delineating ethical practices for all pastors and introduced a transparent personnel system to encourage church growth. They focused, too, on organizational reform: they demonstrated strict compliance with societal laws.

They declared Vision 2002, giving that objective to the overall membership. Regarding leaders, they began



pursuing seven major objectives: 1) To produce Cheon Il Guk citizens, ideal families, sustained by the Four Great Realms of Heart; 2) To create a sound church, a heart-based community filled with the Holy Spirit and truth; 3) To promote multi-format witnessing and Heavenly Tribal Messiah outreach; 4) To reform leaders and nurture human resources with an eye toward the future; 5) To encourage hoondokhae using the Cheon Il Guk Scriptures; 6) To fulfill their mother-nation mission and contribute to global peace; 7) To inculcate maturity within their administration and provide stable financing for the organization.

They defined a leader as a servant, someone who empowers others, who takes initiative, who acts in a transparent manner and engages in and encourages mutual communication. They also formulated norms of financial administration.

Last year, they implemented the Project of Hope to address five deep-seated problems in the Japanese movement that will seem familiar to many of us: sluggish growth of worship attendance; a steep rise in the members' average age (currently, 54.7 years old); members mired in personal economic hardships; a disjunction between the first and second generations and a bad social image. In many

areas, they saw significant improvement. For the Japanese movement, the Bureau of Legal Affairs granting permission to change their name to the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification was a manifestation of their internal efforts and represented the recovery of citizenship.

They are grappling with the reality that their assessment of the Japanese movement exposed. As in the nation itself, the birthrate among blessed couples has fallen. They are seeing a decrease in the numbers of people that can produce results. That donations will decrease is inevitable. They need to tighten their finances and raise their efficiency level. They need to pick mission work to pursue by carefully focusing on activity that is future oriented and avoid continually responding to emergencies, while trying to increase their membership through heavenly tribal messiah activity.

Restoring primogeniture

Broadly expressed, they see the route to regaining the right of the eldest son within their nation as entailing a qualitative shift in the Japanese movement itself. They need the Japanese nation to conclude that their movement adds value to the society, that it is a contributor. Drastic reform will be

the focus of 2016. They aim to be a reformed organization that creates value for their neighborhoods, their nation and the FFWPU members by 2017. They expect this to be followed by a leap in social influence in the years that follow 2017 and they are looking forward to explosive growth as they near 2020.

The headquarters will play a pivotal role in assessing the potential and actual results of churches throughout the nation and selecting those it would be most wise to concentrate manpower and effort in. Likewise, it will need to assess the forms of activities that members engage in, so that they are investing themselves in the wisest possible way into activities that can most effectively move FFWPU-Japan toward its ultimate objectives. Heavenly tribal messiah activity will be central as mandated by True Mother and as a wonderful means of permeating True Parents' love throughout Japanese society. In short, as Japanese members demonstrate to their neighbors and relatives love within their families and perform what are ultimately acts of love in pursuit of Japan's total restoration, every citizen will be able to enjoy the fruits of Unificationism and the love of the True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind. ♪



How I Joined the Unification Church

By Penny Moore-Amaral



I was fifteen years old when I first heard the Divine Principle. It was 1979. I was visiting my older sister who was already a full time Unification Church center member in a city that was not our hometown. I arrived at the airport, was driven to the center in Adelaide, South Australia, and within half an hour, I was being taught the Fall of Man. I thought it was a ridiculous talk—all the mention of angels, as if they were real beings (my family was quite agnostic, but not quite atheistic)—as well as recounting the story of Adam and Eve, which I was sure was fictitious. I remember thinking how ridiculous the whole scene was, these serious, conservative, lovely people, actually believing in something so fanciful and ludicrous. Still, I was a guest in the center and did not want to be rude, though I did laugh during the Fall of Man pre-

sentation. What I remember vividly, as if it were yesterday, was the wonderful, clear, clean and peaceful atmosphere in the center. There were very few furnishings, and whatever there was was clean and white. I loved that house, that wonderful atmosphere and it filled me with a sense of happiness I had not felt for a very long time.

They invited me to the next weekend workshop and I thought it would be a nice experience, out in the country. I was the youngest of the group; the average age was around twenty-four. I felt comfortable around them all as they treated me like their favorite kid sister. The workshop was great fun and the content of the Divine Principle hit me like a hurricane—from the giggles that the Fall of Man had initially produced, I suddenly realized the Messiah had been born on

- ❶ My husband, Romilton Amaral Rosa, and I
- ❷ A skit during the workshop; my sister is in front of me wearing the hat.
- ❸ The taller woman is Tracy, the one who first taught me the Fall of Man—during which I laughed. She was a very patient woman!
- ❹ The group of people at my first two day workshop—I'm the one in blue with wild red hair at the front. My sister, who is my spiritual mother is holding onto me.





earth and I was here to join him. It was as if a thunderbolt hit me. The impact of Jesus' story and the Parallels of History was undeniable. I felt privileged beyond measure, even though I was a bit underwhelmed by the idea of Rev. Moon being the Messiah. Still, the message, the "breaking news" as In Jin nim put it, could not be ignored, even if there were flaws in the ideology. I could work through such flaws, because I intuitively knew what I had heard and had understood was a revelation from God.

I did not understand what I was supposed to do with such an understanding and so when the center leaders suggested I should stay and live with the group, I went along with it. As I had already run away from school and home, and my parents were at the stage of despair over what to do with me, they readily accepted my decision. From there, the Unifica-

tion Church sent me back to finish high school and even supported me while I continued piano and singing lessons. I felt so lucky to be within such a loving, supporting, kind group of people.

From that initial workshop and conversion moment, I never doubted my understanding of where I stood in the face of providential history—that I was born to be a disciple of "Jesus," in his Second Coming. However, my specific role in that history and what God might want of me within the providence, has often been blurred and has been a source of great anxiety and dismay.

It is only now—after thirty-seven years—that I have been able to make moves towards reconciling these two issues: what are God's responsibility and my responsibility, and how we are to work together. I must be a slow learner!

I would like to share the joy of my experience, as well to encourage others in witnessing efforts, by adding that no matter what potential spiritual children may espouse to believe, when the conditions are there, God can totally change the hearts and minds of anyone he wishes. But those conditions are many—True Parents' work, the work of people's ancestors, the highest standard of personal integrity of the people initiating the witnessing activity as well as their spiritual efforts or conditions. However, the icing on the cake is the final ingredient—love. Those responsible for the work and many associated people must truly love everyone around them with genuine, unselfish love. This creates a warm, receptive atmosphere, within which God's spirit can move and Divine Principle can be understood in the heart and the mind. *TP*





An Adventurous Gap Year

The writer, who is twenty years old, recently finished a ten-month church program, on the Oceania Leadership Team, in Australia. She had never before done a church program. She was born and raised to the age of eleven in the United States before moving to Korea with her family in 2006. She went through online homeschooling and graduated in March 2014. The journey she describes here began after that.

By Abby Richardson

I have always known that I would have a gap year to do some traveling or participate in activities with the Unification Church before going off to college. The real question was, which one? This was a huge decision, one that could change how I would perceive my life when I went to university. When I look back on the process, it's all a blur, really. I do not

know when I decided that the Oceania Leadership Team (OLT) would be my home program. All I know is that I prepared for about a year in advance before I actually went to Australia.

OLT jitters

When I get there, I was already a day late. OLT picked me up in a big white van and we are off for the orientation

workshop, where the adventurous part begins! Pretty soon into the program, we are busy raising funds, going on mobile raising funds teams (MFT), doing service projects, going to the beach, traveling around Sydney, etc.

Pacific projects

Pretty much the biggest thing OLT does is go to islands in the Pacific and



do projects to help needy communities. We spent around half a year raising funds and preparing to go to an island. We went there for a few weeks helping with education, building facilities, donating supplies, and getting to know the hearts of the people. In 2015, we were able to travel to Vanuatu, Fiji and the Solomon Islands. To be in a country where there may not even be readily accessible hot water, humbled all of us OLT members when we spent time with the members. The people of the islands live quite simple lives, yet that is one of the beautiful points about them. They feel joy in each other, in nature, and by helping others. I would not trade my experience in the islands for anything. It helped me to see the reality of the difficult situations in the world and helped me realize how lucky I am and that I should be more grateful.

Raising funds

Many second-generation members feel quite intimidated about raising funds. It probably has to do with the

- ❶ During the orientation workshop
- ❷ Graduation day
- ❸ Carrying wood
- ❹ With others on Vanuatu, an island group that is home to 275,000 people

fact that they would have to walk up to a random stranger and ask them for money. I get it. They have to go outside their comfort zone, far outside of it. More often than not, there is a higher number of rejections than donations. I know that it is difficult and have had my fair share of rude rejections that made me want to break down and cry and not continue. Each time this would happen, I would sincerely pray to God, to forgive that person who rejected me. I would move on to meet many supportive people who wished me good luck. I never let the negativity sit in my mind for long. Maybe that is the trick. My favorite part of raising funds was not just getting any donation, but a food donation that I could share with my team. Within my OLT intake, my specialty was getting food donations. My friends say it is my face.

I think God has prepared a person to help even in some small way, such as by giving food. Most of the experiences I have had with God so far were through raising funds on this program.

Independence

OLT is really a program to focus on yourself individually. The participant has to have discipline within themselves as well as the determination that they want to change. The OLT family will help of course, but you have to set it in motion. It is a great way to learn about who you really are and to build your faith and to ask questions.

Future after OLT

Now that I've done the program, what do I have in store for my future? Well, OLT has asked me to come back as staff member. I am going to help OLT continue to be a great program for young second-generation members as well as continue to build up my own faith. *✍*

Reemerging into Fresh Air and Sunshine

By Gregory Davis

- ❶ Gregory and Sumiko Davis
- ❷ Gregory having found a means of getting around his neighborhood again
- ❸ Jesse was born with a serious nerve condition.
- ❹ Mary enjoyed being able to exercise again.



I was never searching for religion, unlike one of my best friends, my college roommate in the early 1970s. He was always excitedly telling me about his latest “in search of religion” exploits. They were entertaining and interesting, but... not for me. So, it was surprising when in July 1974 I found myself at a Unification Church weekend workshop studying a teaching called the Divine Principle.

A few days before that, I had met some young people who expressed new ideas for Christianity, using big meaningful expressions, like “purpose of life,” “the fall of man” and “the return of Christ.” They said I could possibly be living at the time of Jesus’ return.

As a disillusioned teenager growing up in the 1960s, I wasn’t knowledgeable about or interested in religion or the second coming of Christ. However, they were interesting, friendly people and I was intrigued. I

wondered, Could I be living in a unique time in history?

Surprisingly, I found myself agreeing to attend their three-day seminar to discuss these ideas further. The workshop, at first, seemed like summer camp, with lots of singing, clapping and lighthearted fun. I was thinking, What is this? It soon took on a more intense, serious tone and I was drawn in to the fascinating lectures.

The conclusion, which was to totally upend my comfortable world, was, yes, I was living at special time in history, the Lord was here, he needed my help (and that of tens of thousands of others) to quite literally save the world. Count me in, I thought. I was ready (or so I imagined) for the adventure of a lifetime. Thus, in July 1974, I became a member of the Unification Church.

Missions

I joined the International One World Crusade in Rochester, New York. We eventually ended up in Philadelphia. From there, I became a member of MFT (mobile fund raising teams) with brief occasional involvement in Father’s speaking engagements—Madison Square Garden (MSG), Yankee Stadium and Washington Monument. I was mostly on MFT for seven years, after which I was an early pioneer in Happy Group, doing many kinds of business activities.

My matching and blessing happened in MSG in the historic 2,075-Couple Blessing in July 1982. After a few years in church businesses, I attended the Unification Theological Seminary, graduating with the class of 1989. After which, I continued

in business missions and working, as well with the fledgling International Leadership Seminars, first in the US and later in the former Soviet Union.

My wife Sumiko and I raised two lovely daughters on Long Island (a pastoral area adjacent to New York City) and participated in various activities with our local Long Island community church as well as missions in Korea, Israel and her native Japan.

Illness and sudden loss

When, in 2009, I was diagnosed with a serious debilitating illness, Multiple Sclerosis (MS), my life retreated. I became very sick, unable to work. I began an intense regimen of months and years of physical therapy and various alternative treatment options. I got better. In the meantime, I lost my house, went through a bankruptcy and lost my mobility—not necessarily in that order. Walking even a few feet was difficult; I constantly stumbled and lost my balance. Fortunately, I did not fall much. These are common symptoms of MS. The good news is my condition has improved, my mind is sharp, and I am in relatively little pain.

How I got my life back

From the day I learned I had MS, my life has drastically changed. I had been able to work. I enjoyed swimming, running, bike riding, hiking and various other outdoor activities. My illness brought such activities to a screeching halt. To walk down the hall to the bathroom or to walk to the street corner to get our mail was a struggle. Just to get through the day



was a challenge.

Nevertheless, I felt determined not to let my illness define me. I fought back. The gist of it is that after many years of physical therapy, acupuncture, meditation, and various nutrition programs I was able to restore some semblance of functionality. I still have a long way to go. I am very grateful to be doing as well as I am.

Yikes, trikes!

Last summer I started thinking about how to get mobile. I missed getting out into my neighborhood, meeting my neighbors, and experiencing fresh air and beautiful scenery. Being from Long Island, I missed the strolls along the boardwalks of our beautiful beaches. Then I discovered the world of recumbent trikes.

I had seen guys riding around in some sort of weird tricycle, but I didn't know what they were. They looked like exotic pedal cars. They looked hard to ride, and for someone with limited mobility and reduced leg strength, impossible. But they looked so cool! I wondered to myself, Could I actually pedal one of those things?

I researched online and learned more about the world of recumbent trikes. I watched videos and researched companies. I wanted to try one to see if I could actually ride it. Finding a shop that had any type of recumbent trike in their shop was difficult, but I was undaunted.

Eventually I found a shop in my area with just one in stock. It was "love at first sight." It was low and sleek, dare I say—cool. Could sit in it? Could I pedal it? After my initial test ride, I knew this it was coming home

with me. Since then, once again, I have been enjoying beautiful, precious mobility. A recumbent trike is amazing and easy to ride for someone with my disability. I have been riding my trike for a couple of years. Each day is special because I have my freedom again. No price can be put on that.

Your Trike Spirit

My "liberation" so profoundly affected me that I want to help others have that experience. I am now in year two of my effort to sell recumbent trikes on Long Island. In April 2015, with the help of family, friends and numerous brothers and sisters in the Long Island Unificationist community, I set up a shop, Your Trike Spirit, so named because riding a trike is close to having a spiritual experience. We sell recumbent trikes with a focus on the disabled and mobility-challenged community.

People with disabilities deserve to have options and to be able to enjoy the best that life has to offer—to get out and get mobile on their own power.

Helping others

Jesse was born with a serious nerve condition. As a child, she was told she would never walk, but she did not listen. She is a fighter. She refused to accept that fate. A friend of hers made an appointment for her to come into the shop. He was not sure she would be interested or able to use a trike. When she came in her eyes opened wide; she was so excited. On that beautiful warm day, we went for a test ride. She seemed thrilled at how


easy it was for her to pedal even though she normally needs two crutches to walk.

Her church community took up a collection (that was their plan from the beginning) and bought the trike for her as a Christmas present. When they presented it to her, she was in tears. Truly, her life changed instantly. She now rides the trike at every opportunity. She rides it to work on warm days. She has a new sense of hope now that she has mobility.

Mary, who had never seen a trike before, came to the shop with her mother. How comfortable and easy to pedal a trike is surprised her.

She told me that she had been having knee and back problems and was unable to ride a regular bike due to stress on her joints and back pain, but she wanted be active. She had recently lost a lot of weight and wanted to continue to do so. She was convinced that with the trike she could do that. She was like a happy child when she made her purpose, and was riding all summer enjoying the ability to get exercise and enhanced mobility. We rode together with other customers to a local park several times last summer. She is now part of trike family.

Support for Your Trike Spirit

I am currently engaged in a fund raising effort to develop and expand the scope of my business and to help more people get their mobility back. If you are interested in helping and are able to do so, I would deeply appreciate it. Here is the link by which you can do that <http://www.gofundme.com/mnbitw>. 

Conversations with Japanese Missionaries in France

This discussion, which took place in early March with Cheon Il Guk missionaries on topics of importance to our lives of faith, was the last discussion possible with these missionaries, who would soon depart for their native Japan.

THE FIRST TOPIC

Meeting God and developing a personal parent-child relationship with God

HARUKA HASEKAWA: In the beginning, there was one person I could not love, which was disturbing. I shared this information with Hisako [the national leaders' wife]. Through talking with her, I realized something: God is training me, because he knows the goals that I had set in Japan, before coming to France. I started to feel God's love and that he is always with me. Nevertheless, I have to make more effort in my prayer life.

AYAKA YOKOMICHI: I was alone here in France after the three others went to Albania. One day, I watched an impressive video, broadcast live from Japan, showing that we officially changed from Unification Church to the Family Federation. It was at a huge meeting in Tokyo. When I was watching this video, alone in France, so far away, I felt God so strongly, and that I am responsible for his providence,

which means I am on the front line. I am not merely a churchgoer, a person who believes in God. I felt sorry then, and sad, because I have no result. This made me cry very deeply, all alone, after watching this program. After crying, my heart felt better. I felt that God had given me permission to continue.

NORIKO MIYAE: as you know, I spent three months in Albania, returning to France in December. At that time, I felt so lonely on this team. I wanted to be alone, by myself, not with my sisters. It was the end of 2015. I suddenly felt so homesick (furusato). I miss my house, my family; we are a warm-hearted family, and I miss this. My feeling of being homesick was so strong that I did not attend the evening prayer with the rest of the team. I was struggling spiritually, and I became a confused person, self-centered. I tried to pray but felt so empty. Anyway, I went to bed. During the night, in a vivid dream, True Father suddenly appeared to me in my house in Japan—just Father and I in my home. Father had brought holy salt. I offered Father chocolate, and he took just one piece, saying that one was enough. Father with one piece of chocolate was so close to me. It was as if he were telling me, I am here. A few days after this dream, I met Marine—she is my precious guest,

who is studying the Divine Principle.

RIKA ITAKURA: Already in Japan, and much more so in Europe, I feel God's love through hoondokhae and prayers in this mission. When we study God's word together as a team, this is where God appears. He worries about our team. As the team leader, who experiences such a God, I struggle over not wanting to be a leader. I lack self-confidence, but God



The big heart on Maurane's hand says "daughter" and the small heart on Rika's hand says "mother."



chose me. It is embarrassing. There is love and there is the burden of responsibility. Many times, I feel that I do not believe in God enough. What helps me is realizing that we are God's temple. Whenever I feel that I am a temple of God and my sisters are temples of God, it is wonderful. But how to feel this? I am sorry to say that after nine months, I was not able to love enough. How much I regret! How much I regret! [In tears]

THE SECOND TOPIC

Becoming an ideal woman and preparing to be a bride

NORIKO MIYAE: I clearly want to apply for the blessing; this is now my priority. Before applying for this mission, I wanted to develop expansive love, like True Mother's. I try to love people with a parental heart, which is sometimes difficult. While doing this mission, I have had to learn how to love each person. This is training for blessed family life. In our team life, we are constantly together, sleeping in the same room,



always doing things together. On this team, I am the oldest. Sometimes, I want to say something, out of experience, but I hesitate and keep it inside. In light of this, maintaining team harmony can be stressful. On the other hand, I had many experiences when other sisters helping me a lot and caring for me when I was sick or tired.

HARUKA HASEGAWA: [Crying deeply]. This topic of the ideal woman is difficult for me [muzukashi]. I have an image of what I want to be, but when I compare this ideal and the reality of my life... Anyway, let us do it gradually, little by little [smiling].

AYAKA YOKOMICHI: an ideal woman, as I see it, should love God. True Mother is this person. When we love others from God's point of view, we start to become ideal human beings. When the other Ayaka came to France and we were the only two in the mission, I used most of my energy for her. She knew I was intent on doing almost anything I could for her, as if I were her mother. However, this attitude could sometimes become merely external, and without a deep heart. We cannot just imitate the ideal, externally; it has to come from the heart. So I prayed for her for forty days, on this foundation. She was able to share deeply and I could understand her background much more internally.

RIKA ITAKURA: I am thinking about the blessing, after this mission is over. I can say honestly that I learned from each person on the team, internally and externally. Together, when we are united, we become some kind of a collective ideal woman. Let me explain: From Haruka, I can learn how to cook very well. A housewife should cook for her family, right? [Laughter]

I am not good at cooking, but if I watch Haruka, I can change. She is also much better than I am at organizing and advance planning. Ayaka has a very good heart, especially toward God. She has a good connection with Heaven. She can speak English and French fluently. When I saw that, I made more effort. Noriko



has a balanced personality, internally and externally. She feels that it is important to clean, because it was her tradition at home. I discovered the importance of cleaning. It is good to become a housewife. [Laughter] Also, I realized that Noriko is able to understand other people's situations more objectively than I am. She has a sense of others, which has not matured in me.

The image of an ideal woman is not just vertical or theoretical. I could learn from each one of the sisters something concrete.

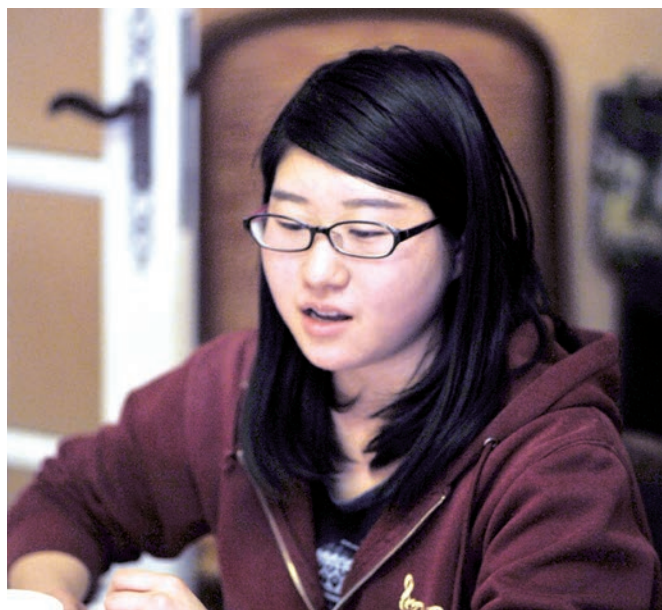
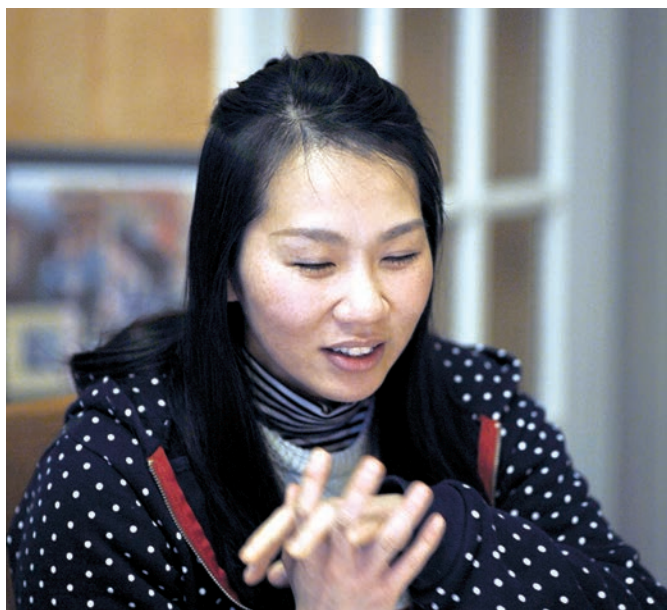
THE THIRD TOPIC

Feeling joy through spiritual children

AYAKA YOKOMICHI: I had two similar dreams. In the dreams, I am holding a baby in my arms, but actually, I do not care about the baby. Through these dreams, I could see the difference between having guests and caring for the guests as a

parent. Hassini was my first close friend. She comes from a Hindu background but converted to Christianity five years ago. This, in itself, was new to me, I mean meeting people of this background. At a later stage, I had wonderful experiences with Catherine, from Belarus. She speaks Japanese and French perfectly, she came to the origami club many times and heard some lectures on the Divine Principle. I loved her very much—with all my heart; whenever we meet, the stimulation is there; I want to be with her. Recently, I could reach a deeper level still, when Sheherazade came to the center and Laurent started to teach her the Divine Principle right away, at first with Maurane. When the lecturer, the spiritual parent and the spiritual child are together and intimately connected, it is best. Now, Sheherazade will continue to study with Didier and Yves.

HARUKA HASEGAWA: It is only in the last stage of my witnessing that I could bring someone to the Divine Principle. I met Naoufal, from Morocco, on a very cold day. I was witnessing with Rika near Diderot. Naoufal sent an e-mail to me, saying that I had a beautiful smile. I was wondering what his motivation was for sending this. Anyway, he came to the origami club, and he liked the



family atmosphere. When we had the one-day workshop a few days ago, I was struggling to invite him, because he had never studied the Divine Principle before. I asked Hisako what she thought. We decided that to invite him is my portion of the responsibility. His reaction is his own portion. He came in the afternoon, and was struggling with the material, because he is a Muslim. However, he did ask sincere questions. After the workshop, I sent a letter to him, and he felt spirituality in the letter.

NORIKO MIYAE: I have had several guests; it is not as difficult for me to bring them in. The situation with Marine was different, however. She came in the beginning of January, after I had had a dream of True Father. A few weeks ago, she started to read the Bible by herself. Marine comes from a chaotic family background, but her attitude in the church center is good. Her main motivation to come is to receive God's word. A few days ago, we made an appointment with her, and she came right on time, at 11:00 AM. Didier started to give a detailed lecture to her, on the Fall. We were surprised. She took sheets of paper and she wrote everything down, listening to Didier very respectfully. Watching this made me happy. Until

the end of our mission in France, we kept witnessing and recently, my guests have been better and better. Maisa came recently and she immediately started to study the Divine Principle. Didier and I felt that she is amazingly prepared and promising. I also have other guests. I very much like witnessing.

RIKA ITAKURA: Today, Maurane is with us, sharing our dinner. I met her, during the week when the whole team was supporting me to find a guest. On Tuesday, Laurent phoned many of our guests, to explain to them what we are doing. Maurane felt good about this telephone call, and the next day, she came to Parole Donnée [debates on current events between our members and non-members] with her best friend Cyrielle. Both are studying Korean. Cyrielle came to three Parole Donnée, but Maurane came to four and attended other programs also.

She also started to study the Divine Principle, and even attended a one-day workshop. The day before the workshop, Laurent taught her the Principle of Creation, and Didier joined in. Laurent told her that she should look at me as her spiritual mother. When I heard these words, my heart filled with joy. I had never experienced such joy before. A few


days ago, Maurane offered me a very small gift, which means so much to me.

FROM MAURANE TO RIKA: Tonight, I feel like crying. Ever since I met you, I cannot sleep well. My mind is on fire. I have known you for a short time, but it looks as if we have always known each other. When I am with you, I learn so much about life.

You were the last missionaries with whom I had a chance to work every day for the sake of witnessing. The mission called "witnessing" includes many events, many activities, many words also.

The words that remain forever in my mind are not lectures, or briefings, shared information, or official reports. Of course, we need to use the language for these purposes, but that is not the main thing.

The Unification church has appeared so that the deepest conversations might be possible. These conversations are informal, natural, but can be deep and have a flavor redolent of eternity.

What remains forever is the genuine, heart-to-heart conversations among people made in the image of the living God. God is a personal God, a God of heart. We can experience this divine heart when we share our inner feelings. 

Contributing My Rediscovered Self to the Providence, Part II

By Satoko Oshima



Mrs. Oshima's writing has appeared in these published collections of short stories and poems.



My mother-in-law underwent dialysis once every other day and had a high fever during the process. When the fever went down, symptoms of dementia appeared. For dialysis, one must have access to an artery or a vein. In my mother-in-law's case, this was not possible through her arm and had to be done through her chest. However, because of dementia, one day she pulled out the lines by herself. Shocked, I immediately took her to the hospital but her blood vessels were no longer viable for dialysis. All I could do was to bring her home. As a nurse, I had some knowledge so I knew when a patient needing dialysis was unable to have dialysis. The patient would usually die within twenty-four hours or as toxin accumulated in the body. I made up my mind to be by her side until her final moment. My mother-in-law held on for a month and a few days.

That last month was tough. I cleared away anything that could be dangerous because she had serious dementia; she might even eat cat food by mistake. I could not leave her home alone because

she would try to crawl out of the house, although she could not walk. In the end, she suffered aphasia. I cooked her porridge and fed her because she could not eat regular cooked rice due to loss of muscle function. Both my husband and I lost sleep having to look after her.

My mother-in-law passed away in 2009. Yet that was not the end of the story. We had some debts, so my husband borrowed money from various places to pay them off. In the autumn of 2014, however, we became insolvent. Debt collectors came to our house, insistent text messages came to our cell phones and many registered letters came from the court. In the end, debt collectors auctioned off our house. Only last October, we had settled everything. Finally, we cleared our debt with the money earned from the auction and moved into a new place. We may have lost our house, but I feel much better because we do not have to meet debt collectors or receive phone calls and demand notices anymore.

I knew I had lost my ability to write when I began having conflicted feelings about my father. How could I write with anger and discord within me? This was why I could not write even after I came to Korea.

One day, though, from reading a passage in a book I gained a bit of insight into my father's heart. Later, I learned a new side of him by talking by phone with my

older brother's wife. Listening to my sister-in-law's impression of my father, I realized that I had been merely looking at an isolated part of him and not his real nature.

Moved to tears

After my mother-in-law died, I started learning Korean at a community welfare center. Since I had not formally studied Korean before, I was unable to write Korean. I could converse, but having learned them from my mother-in-law who used strange dialects, I often made people laugh, which hurt my feelings.

The aim of the Korean class was passing the Test of Proficiency in Korean (TOPIK). Soon after we started learning, we were writing short essays. The teacher had us write our impressions of particular sentences. After submitting the assignment, the teacher neatly corrected the errors with a red pen. In this way, I learned how to express myself in Korean. Since they were essays, I was required to state an opinion and then explain and support that opinion. I learned a lot from that course.

With trial and error, I started to build up a natural feeling for Korean as I repeatedly wrote essays. At the same time, I started to develop confidence in myself. Gradually, I learned to read Korean books. I also managed to pass the TOPIK. I appreciated that my efforts resulted in an actual outcome.

As a Japanese living in Korea, I am a minority. I used to struggle with this fact. Often my thoughts were tinged with a sense of victimization, "How I wish I could see, think and speak like them." At one point, though, I realized, "Now that I've come this far, I would not be fully Japanese even if I went back to Japan, but that does not mean I could become fully Korean even if I stay in Korea." At that moment, I felt that I should write. After some time passed, I felt that I must write. Still later, I wondered, "I do want to write, but how should I write this in Korean?"

About that time, I ran across a community course, "Composition Exercises," a short course, only four sessions. However, a famous poet taught two of them. When he began, the poet said, "The reason you cannot

write well is because you try to write nice, well-written sentences. You should write your story as it is. The fact that you write is precious in itself. You can put your ideas in order if you start writing in that state of mind." With this in mind, I began writing without concern for the results. At first, I did not produce well-written stories. I pushed myself nonetheless because the poet had said, "You can write whatever you want." Then I found I could not write through tears. Thinking to myself, "I can write at last!" I could not stop crying from happiness.

At the end of the course, the students turned in a composition for evaluation. I turned in a composition written in my poor Korean, but it received the grand prize.

After the poet's first lecture, I began to think, "I suffered because I could not be in the majority, but perhaps opinions of minorities are also important."

Two years, six awards

In 2014, a composition I submitted to a multi-cultural writing contest on the theme, Thinking of the Yellow Ribbons, (which refers indirectly to Korea's April 16, 2014 Sewol Ferry disaster) won the grand prize. A few months later, I submitted five poems and won a prize. Next, I wrote an essay and won an honorable mention.

These results gave me the motivation to keep writing in 2015. I have never thought my writing would win prizes. I would only think, "I hope it would be selected." Fortunately, I was able to win prizes for all three compositions I entered last year.

Actually, I started submitting my work to contests because of something one sister in the church said. "You have to write. Please write to show people that even Japanese can write and that such a Japanese exists in Korea." As I listened, I got a strange feeling that perhaps it was not her who was speaking but God who was speaking through her.

Furthermore, since the church leader was pleased when I won a prize the first time, I showed him the poems I had written for the next contest and asked him to advise me on the Korean. As he read them, he said, "You must write," which moved me.


Through such experiences, I came to think, "Perhaps I can live my own life now. How happy I would be if I could do something that is unique to me," and concluded that writing could be that.

I was unable to write from the age of fifteen and only began writing again two years ago. The thirty "blank" years are longer than the period when I could write. Yet I have always wanted to write and have always thought I would regret not writing. I do not know how much I will be able to write in the future, how I will write and how things will turn out, but since I can write again, I want to continue writing, expressing my thoughts and feelings.

The times have changed. I am grateful for having met somebody like our church leader. I am also grateful that the time has come when people can acknowledge differences in one another, in their way of life and many other things.

Until then, I was not an active member of the church. I felt guilty about not being able to witness despite my heavy responsibility as a tribal messiah. However, recently, I have come to realize that that was because I had not lived my own life. I have also realized that if I live my own life with all my strength, many people in Korea who would recognize my efforts. Consequently, I feel that the best shortcut to contribute to the providence is to live one's own life, so I wish to keep writing into the future.

I usually write about nature and life, but recently, I am planning to write about people whom others may not recognize as national figures but who have contributed to the development of their local community.

The Korean language is difficult and I feel the need to study harder. When I submit my work to competitions, I realize that my ability to express myself in Korean is still poor. If what I long to write were 100, the other prizewinners may have written 120, 130 or even more. Meanwhile, I can only manage 80 with my present Korean skills. I have to study harder in order to express at least "100" out of 100, and someday reach the level of expressing 110 or 120. I want to work hard so I can someday win the grand prize. 

Aspiring to a Noble Life

This is the final installment of the two-part interview of Aeryun Lee Hokanson (이애련), which her daughter Amanda conducted.



Q How did you come to understand True Parents' value?

A **W**hen you read True Father's words, you know who he is; he is God's son. Through his teachings and directly experiencing his love, I can testify that True Parents are... They have the mission of the savior and messiah, but I was able to experience their parental love. They showed me their parental love. I can testify that they are the true incarnation of true love, true parental love.

Spiritually, somehow they knew my thoughts, what I was thinking. Early one morning, while I was driving from my home to North Garden [in Kodiak, Alaska] during a fishing tournament in the winter, I was thinking, "I wish I could do hoondokhae with True Father like the leaders do," but then I forgot about it. Yet in the middle of preparing breakfast, the door between the kitchen and the dining hall, where True Parents were doing hoondokhae, flung open. I was standing in front of the sink washing something. I turned my head to the left and there was True Father at the end of the long table looking at me, laughing and saying, "...so that you can hear."

Wonju was reading and True Father said to leave the door open. Mrs. Inoue came and



- ❶ The Hokansons and their oldest children, daughters Kim and Leah with True Parents
- ❷ Mrs. Hokanson put extra effort into cooking for True Parents.
- ❸ She was able to observe True Parents' unwavering love.

opened the door. He was telling me to listen to the word. I mean, it could have been anybody else standing at the sink at that time. Who knows, there were many other people in the kitchen, but I was there and True Father was telling me to listen. So what do you do? Do I keep standing there? I had other stuff to do. I pretended I was listening, but finally we were making too much noise and they had to close the door.

Because I am not a natural cook, I usually have to put in extra effort to cook for True Parents. Sometimes I would feel quite burdened. Especially since True Father does not have set mealtimes. You never knew when he would eat, so preparing food is very difficult. If you make it early, you do not want the food to get cold, and when he is ready to eat, you do not want to be late and make him wait for you. So we keep reheating the food, back and forth, back and forth. After a while, it no longer tastes good.

One summer True Father said, "The kitchen staff feels as if the kitchen is hell. I will set meal times for you." So True Mother came to us

and decided on meal times. I do not even think that lasted one day, but I was surprised that they knew exactly what I was thinking.

It is the same with True Mother. She knows my thoughts. Whenever I was thinking about her, she would respond to me and would even take me out to spend time with her for half a day. Not through words, but just by spending time with her she was responding to me and answering my questions.

What would you usually do with True Mother?

Once she asked me to guide her in shopping in Kodiak, in town, but I had never gone shopping there, so I was taken aback. For twenty years, I had never gone downtown! The only place I would go was to garage sales or to the Salvation Army. She actually knew more than I. She bought me clothes, we went to McDonald's and she took me up to Pillar Mountain to pick wild cranberries.

Anyway, back to the mealtime: True Father could not eat at a set time because True Parents had only one single thought—the work to liberate God, nothing less, nothing more. They were of one mind to accomplish God's will and connect humanity back to God's heart.

True Parents came to Kodiak

right after Young Jin nim passed away. I was surprised to see that they did not look any different from the last time I had seen them. For normal human beings, when a child dies, human couples cannot cope because it is too painful to lose a child—to the point that their relationship as husband and wife suffers and many couples divorce because of it. I was surprised to see True Parents did not waver. They did not show their pain. I realized that because they are the True Parents they are the parents of humanity, not just of one child or of just the True Children. It was the same way with Heung Jin nim, and others.

The only interests they have are Heavenly Parent and Heavenly Parents' will. Each day Father's focus was on how much more devotion he could give than he had given the day before. Therefore, if he had lunch at 1:00 p.m. today, the next day he would not eat until later, so he would feel hungrier. If he went to bed at 1:00 a.m. yesterday, he would go to bed later today. That was how True Father lived. True Parents were only interested in making more conditions and laying more foundations.

Their only concern was God's will. They had only one single mind, for humanity. True Parents are True Parents.

I never saw them complain. True



Father was aging, in Kodiak, where especially when fishing, it can be very cold and uncomfortable. However, I never saw them complain or being negative. I never witnessed that. Back then, I took it for granted because they were True Parents. Now, when I look back and think about it, I think that always being completely focused and so absolute is impossible.

One time, we were fishing in Karluk [a tiny community on Kodiak Island] and True Father's boots were leaking. We did not even know about it. He had water getting in his boots and we had to walk a long distance. However, he said he was happy because he paid more indemnity.

Another time in Karluk only about two or three guests—including Peter Kim and Rev. Park—the staff and the True Children were there. We were all in one trailer with one bathroom. True Father went to take a shower and we had just arrived from the town of Kodiak. True Mother came out and told us, "Do you know what True Father did? Father could not find a towel to dry himself after showering. He used the bathroom floor rug instead." If you are True Father's wife, you could get upset at the situation, but she didn't. She just casually said

that and left. So what would become of us? There were many other, more terrible situations than that, but I cannot make them public. [*My mom was laughing the whole time she was talking about these things.]

Many things happened in Karluk. The trailer that we rented had not been used in years. We went in and had to scrub the whole place and the bathroom was not working properly. If you flushed the toilet, the water would leak into the next room. The feces would not go down either. The water would leak into the next room. We had to clean it up with a rag and then sleep there at night. Yet even sleeping there in a sleeping bag was not easy. If you were to see photos taken of us at that time, photos, all True Parents' faces were swollen from lack of sleep.

The best moments for me were when I would cook with a cookbook because I wasn't a very good cook, but True Father said that it tasted good even though I made many mistakes.

There was a time when I went fishing with True Father. Usually whenever True Father left for or came back from fishing we would all greet him outside. Each time, because True Father was a parent and was a person who overflowed with a parental heart, he would

always ask us to join him. We were never able to go because we had to cook his food. One time, however, a Japanese cook came so we were able to go fishing.

It was silver salmon season and each person managed to catch about five fish. Around ten people were on True Father's boat. That was the first time I went fishing in Kodiak. But I thought, "This isn't fishing; it's war." It was a condition for True Father. As soon as the boat's anchor goes out, the fishing poles come out. If there are ten people on the boat, the goal is fifty fish. If they caught fifty fish yesterday, the goal was to catch fifty fish in a shorter amount of time today. That is why it was not fishing but war. For the first time in my life, I did not get seasick. There was no time to get sick. Hence, all those leaders, who visited Kodiak with the idea that it is a novelistic place, did not even have a single second to admire the beautiful view or glance at the sky. We all completely focused on catching five fish, and as the fiftieth fish was being reeled in, the boat would already be leaving. True Father did this every day. Luckily, that day we had caught a king salmon so Father was very happy. It was the first time I had ever had such an intense experience. He based his goals on achieving a



- ❶ True Father with a red salmon, introducing a granddaughter to the beauties of nature
- ❷ True Parents with a king salmon; they loved nature and exerted great effort in setting conditions through outdoor pursuits.
- ❸ The large fish is an Alaskan halibut; members working in the Alaskan fish industry participated in annual fishing contests.

greater victory than yesterday. That was his condition.

Another memorable experience also showed me who True Parents are. One day True Mother called me and gave me a ring. The reason for this was that I had brought the then Kodiak mayor, Gabrielle LeDoux. We were friends even before she became mayor and I had witnessed to her. After she became the mayor, I invited her to visit True Parents. What was amazing was that she did not even come alone; she brought her daughter along. That was extremely significant to True Parents. The fact that the mayor, the representative of the people, had come to greet True Parents was more significant than all the other people on the island greeting True Parents.

She must have told them that I had invited her. Hence, True Mother gave me a ring. True Parents visited Kodiak often and it was meaningful for the mayor, who was in the position of the Cain-world, to meet True Parents with her daughter. I did not

think of it much when I had invited the mayor, but to True Parents it set a condition and they were very happy. After that, True Parents rarely went to Kodiak anymore.

Why did you move back to Korea?

During that time, True Father said many times that members in America should move to Korea. Just as when he told everyone to go to Jardim, we wanted to obey. Also, the more I studied True Parents' words, the more I realized I needed to learn about the vertical relationship in order to build my relationship with and understand God's and True Parents' hearts. It was also hard for my children to understand the vertical tradition.

Miraculously, my husband got a job at Sunmoon University at the time I was thinking about this. Yet I was still waiting for a strong sign from God because it was such a big decision. We also needed a place to stay in Cheonan, which is nearby the school. I had been away so long from Korea; I didn't know anybody in Cheonan.

So I said, "Heavenly Father, I don't know anybody in Cheonan. How is this going to be possible? How is my big family going to move to Korea?" Then I got a phone call from New York. Someone I knew back in Korea

thirty years ago, called me from New York out of nowhere just to say hello. How did she find my number? I still don't know. I didn't even know she was in New York. She told me her sister, Jeongsun, lives in Cheonan. Is this a strong enough sign to move to Korea? So I said, "Okay, that is enough. It must be God's will." So we moved to Korea and got an apartment, which was miraculously possible through Jeongsun's friend's friend who happened to be moving out.

What are you currently doing?

True Father told wives to get a master's degree and doctorate. Thus, I went through the master's course in Pastoral Theology in Sunmoon University's Theology Department. It was the best experience of my life. I was then asked to manage the international Wonmo Scholarship students at Sunmoon University, including the Korean Language Institute. This includes a hundred students from thirty different countries. Even though my income is half what it was at my previous job, I feel as if I have been prepared for this job, this mission. I am very happy to contribute to raising leaders of the next generation for the substantiation of Cheon Il Guk. 