

True Peace

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MAY 2016



Offering Ceremony for Restoration

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The Substantial True Mother of Heaven, Earth and Humankind

By Umberto Angelucci



As a newly appointed regional president, in the Middle East, the task seemed quite arduous. This is a region that is creating hell for the whole world. How are we to bring peace in such a region?

Our True Mother has frequently explained to us that the time has come for us to solve substantially the problems of the world, to actually analyze our region's situation and make substantial plans to solve problems and bring peace.

We, as experienced members, have spent many years making spiritual conditions for the "kingdom to come." In fact, the mission of our True Father was to make the providential and spiritual declarations and conditions to lay the foundation to build the kingdom of heaven on earth.


But now we are living in a new era. Now is the time when we, as the believers, must substantially build the kingdom of heaven on earth, Cheon Il Guk. According to Exposition of the Divine Principle (ten-hour lecture version) "During the period when the providence of restoration is to be completed after the Second Coming of Christ, the people of faith are to bear the third responsibility to defeat Satan and complete the providence of restoration." This is the time we refer to as the women's era or the time of our True Mother. As a mother, her mission is to bring to fruition the mission that our True Father had pioneered and together with us build that kingdom.

When we started our mission in the Middle East, True Mother was very supportive. She had a special meeting to discuss our region and sent us a directive. She was concerned about the war in Syria. She discovered that families were leaving in droves because the educational system had been destroyed and there was no hope of a good education for their children. That was one of the main reasons they were leaving in such large numbers for the West. The parents knew that in Europe their children would receive a good education, which they had no hope of receiving if they stayed in their own country.

Hence, True Mother gave us the direction to start a school for the Syrian refugee children in Lebanon. We followed her direction and created a preparatory school to equip refugee children, who have been out of the school system for years, to enter Lebanese schools. We are also supporting the ones that have enrolled to receive the expenses they need to continue. To start our own school is not easy but at least we are helping many of the distressed children to prepare to return and others that do not have the resources needed to take advantage of schooling offered by the Lebanese government. Also WFWP is in the process of creating a library in the local school to improve the education the children are receiving. We are doing what we can within our capacity.

True Mother also encouraged us to conduct more service projects in the Middle East. We have proposed three under the title of Middle East Peace Initiative Service Projects. Again, she encouraged us to identify problems and try to make a program that can solve them. In addition, she mentioned that the blessed couples in the West (Europe and America) should help to support these projects.

We have just finished a project in Jordan titled, "Dreams Can Come True," again, working with refugees, to create and perform dramas that have themes involving moral lessons. We know that refugee camps are breeding grounds where fanatics recruit new soldiers. The dire situation of the camps had led some children to corruption and an immoral lifestyle. There are many people there that encourage this unethical way of life. We created a team of university students that mentored high school children to create and present these Moral Dramas. They traveled to twelve refugee camps in Jordan to present these dramas to the children in the camps. This was a big success and profoundly affected the lives of those involved as well as those that observed the lessons. Making effort to change the minds of these young people is not an easy task, but now they have hope that there is an end to their desperate dilemma. We need to do more of these kinds of programs to help these talented young people make their Dreams Come True.

True Mother deeply cares about the children of the world and needs our cooperation to create the kingdom. We have high ideals, and though it is not easy, Heavenly Parent and True Parents are depending on us. Let's not make them wait any longer for us to take responsibility to defeat Satan and establish Cheon Il Guk. 

Rev. Angelucci is the FFWPU president of our Middle East region.

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Salvation through the Holy Marriage Blessing

Originally, if Adam and Eve had reached the perfection stage in the Garden of Eden, they would have received the marriage blessing. Due to the Fall, however, the marriage blessing centered on God was not realized. Therefore, God had to work through four thousand years of history to raise the Israelites, to whom he had sent the Messiah. He intended to give the marriage blessing at the time of Jesus, but again the marriage blessing went unrealized. As a result, the providence of the blessing had to begin anew at the advent of the third Adam, upon his laying a successful foundation in the nation and world. The marriage blessing of the third Adam was a historic event. From the creation of the world until then,

never had there been a time when God's love, life and lineage tied together.

Reversing the original failure

Adam and Eve, who were the ancestors of all human beings, fell due to false and immature love. Based on self-centered love, the archangel intervened in their relationship and caused the Fall. As a result, God was in exile and Adam and Eve banished. By introducing a love connection that God did not permit, humankind came to bear original sin. Removing this original sin is the enormous responsibility of human beings. Because all human beings were born from false parentage, unless a love connection emerges that is from true parentage, this original sin cannot be removed. In

order to remove the false love and original sin sown by false parents, True Parents must create a new foundation of love.

Adam and Eve lost their foundation to establish absolute faith, absolute love and absolute obedience to God when they entered into a false marriage. As a result, they turned their lineage upside down, lost their realm of ownership, and their family came to ruin. Thus, the restoration of lineage is necessary. Adam and Eve as true parents should have passed their pure love down eternally through their lineage. However, Adam and Eve married without establishing a pure lineage, so we have to restore the absolute lineage, the realm of absolute ownership, and an absolutely pure heart through the blessing.

I know clearly about God and the spirit world. I also know how important God's nation and lineage are. The purpose of the Unification Church marriage blessing is to restore that lineage. Due to the wrongful marriage of the false parents, the world fell into ruin. Yet in the name of True Parents, it is possible to return to God's original nation by creating the realm of lineage and connecting it to God. For this reason, establishing a blessed family is a truly remarkable thing. With the blessing, I have given you the ticket to enter heaven.

God's original plan

Once Adam and Eve had attained perfection, God would have blessed them in marriage and he would have become one with the bodies of Adam and Eve. Their becoming one in true love would have allowed God to have an embodiment on earth, to have an object partner, and to form a family. This can begin only when the love of the invisible Heavenly Father and the visible Heavenly Father become one.

That connection was to have been made through Adam and Eve's first love on their wedding night. Centering on love, heaven and earth, man and woman, God's life and human life, God's lineage and human lineage are united. Because Adam and Eve would have represented the invisible God in the flesh through their lives, God's presence in the human world would have manifested substantially in the child, husband and wife, and parents. Through Adam's family, God wanted to have his lineage realized in our families. The love, life, lineage and conscience of the invisible God should have been one with the love, life, lineage and conscience of the visible God in humanity. This unity is realized through marriage.

Originally, the blessing enables the father and mother to bequeath their love to their sons and daughters, as well as the love of a couple, of children, of a family, of a nation and of the world. The holy marriage blessing of unfallen Adam and Eve would have meant that God became the vertical Parent and bequeathed the ownership of everything in the cosmos to his children. That is the significance of the blessing. Blessed

families should not think of the marriage blessing as an ordinary marriage of a man and woman. You should know how serious it is to receive the blessing.

Heaven's ultimate hope

The ideal of True Parents existed before the creation of the world. Before God created humankind, he had the concept of True Parents at the center of creation. In order to complete the ideal of True Parents, all things in heaven and on earth came into being.

Centered on true love, everything should unite into one. Unity cannot happen in isolation. In order for two things to become one, the relationship has to be level. When children become adolescents, boys look for girls and girls look for boys, and they come to unite with one another on the same plane. Thus, they will meet in the center. In that center, God will come down through the straight vertical line of the tradition of love. Therefore, the center of love at the wedding ceremony is God. The invisible God, who is the root of love, resides at the center of Adam and Eve's wedding, and heaven and earth unite as one. Their wedding ceremony means that the Heavenly Parent and the earthly parents have united as one, centering on love. The place where God can reside is the place where man and woman become one. God, the internal character and form, enters into Adam and Eve, who represent the external character and form, and these two worlds become one centered on love.

Toward the age of the family

The goal of the Unification Church is to establish the right order of love and to unify the world. What is the most difficult thing in terms of unification? Unification can be achieved by force to some degree. However, force cannot settle the world of love, which is based on internal character. Love cannot be taken by force, nor sold for money or knowledge. Love can be exchanged only for something true. Therefore, both men and women search for true love and when they move, it should only be to pursue true love.

In the garden of Eden, Adam, Eve and the archangel started a family

without heeding God's commandment. Thus young people today, who are descendants of those ancestors, do not listen to anyone. Such is the time we are living in. The Fall in the garden of Eden is the origin of free sex. What was sown there is bearing fruit today throughout the world. Young men and women fall in the very same way as they did in the garden. The value of human beings has declined to below the value of animals. In order to get physical satisfaction, people act like animals.

All people became thoroughly degraded through the Fall, which blocks them from returning to God. However, God is alive and he feels sadness when he looks at humanity. This is why he sent the Messiah to the world. God will create a united world by establishing the order of love in the family, the nation, the world and God through the Messiah on earth, who demonstrates the example of good character. The Unification Church is accomplishing what no one else could do. As re-creation is being realized, the world is becoming one and Satan's evil world is giving way to the heavenly world.

The reason the Unification Church has to give the worldwide marriage blessing is to help couples prepare for central missions when the age of the family comes. People from more than a hundred nations can go through the blessing ceremony. These people are our brothers and sisters. I see them as our siblings. I do not see them as foreigners. By giving the blessing to everyone, we will have representative families worldwide. When all families follow True Parents, the parent-child relationship will form, which means families that accomplish the four-position foundation and have a reciprocal base with True Parents will come to be. Therefore, they can inherit everything from the victorious True Parents. Then, to pass all this on, you need to go back to your family as tribal messiahs.

The marriage blessing in the Unification Church has established a new family culture transcending race, nation, culture and tradition. Within the realm of the heavenly nation, all countries are included in "one world under God." The Fall led to the gap between mind and body,



True Parents pronounce the Invocation of the Blessing at the 10.14 True Parents' Cosmic Blessing Ceremony on October 14, 2009.

the gap between husband and wife, and the gap between parents and children. It was within the family that a Fall took place. That means that Adam's family fell. Everything was lost through the Fall of that one family. For this reason, we have to find one perfect family.

The unity of the world as a global family is essential for heavenly fortune to come. Astonishing developments in science and technology bind humanity together through a revolution of information, communication and transportation. Thus, international cooperation is needed and a shared commitment is necessary in order to protect the Earth's fragile environment. Yet what can bring the power to change people's tendency toward selfishness and their attachment to a self-centered

perspective of the world? What can fundamentally resolve the problem of nations competing to satisfy their own interests?

Each one of us must find the answer in Heaven's law, and by means of a fundamental awareness of God, who is our origin and root. The nature of God's true love is to give but want to give more, to give and forget what he gave, and to love his object partner more than himself. God's love is the only answer. We can get answers when we realize that all human beings are brothers and sisters under one set of True Parents. When all human beings form one family under God and True Parents, live for the sake of one another and are united, all problems can be resolved. Throughout my life, I have practiced the way of true love and

educated people about it. I have lived for the sake of others and created a worldwide foundation. I have raised young people in each nation to live unselfishly for the sake of others. Not only that, I have also conducted international marriage blessing ceremonies in order to establish ideal families of true love that are international, interracial and interreligious. This work changes the history of human culture. Centered on true love, we have brought down national barriers and have gone beyond racial barriers to overcome hatred. We have fought to give birth to ideal families that live for the sake of one another. As a result, we are forming a new world culture. *TP*

This edited excerpt is from Cham Bumo Gyeong, Book 4, Chapter 1, pgs. 309–313.



The Way toward Freedom and Peace

True Mother gave this speech to gathering of heavenly tribal messiahs from Thailand on May 8 at Cheon Jeong Gung.

All of you know the Divine Principle. You probably understand the meaning of the word “indemnity” as used in the Principle. A person has to pay indemnity in order to correct a wrong. In the history of the Family Federation in Thailand, Thai authorities persecuted Dr. Lek Thaveetermsakul. How long was the prison term of the eight Thai leaders? Twenty-one months, and the trial lasted twenty-one years. They truly paid a huge amount of indemnity. Therefore, Satan could no longer hinder God’s work in relation to the Principle.

God created heaven and earth in the beginning and had a dream of the future through humankind. God desired Adam and Eve to grow and receive the blessing under his realm of protection. God’s vision was for

them to become the true parents and true ancestors of all human beings, but they failed to fulfill their responsibilities. The Fall saddened God. However, because God has the blueprint of the ideal creation, he could not simply discard everything. Thus, the providence of salvation commenced. Regardless of how omniscient and omnipotent the Almighty is, from you, conditions for Satan to accuse must not arise.

The loss of Jesus

Because God’s intention through the Creation was for human beings to perfect themselves and achieve oneness with him, an individual among fallen people who can shoulder his or her own portion of responsibility and attain perfection must arise. Within the historical provi-

dence of salvation, God selected a group of people within the fallen world and called them the chosen people. Then, as he cultivated them and waited for them to establish a national foundation, he told them he would send to them the Messiah.

Just as he had promised, God sent Jesus Christ as the Messiah. Even though the Messiah possessed great capabilities, in order for him to establish a nation, a central figure and a people were required. That is why God raised the Israelites to receive his only begotten son, Jesus Christ. Then Judaism...the high priest, Zechariah’s family, Mary (who gave birth to the only begotten son) and the Jews had to act as a fence for Jesus and become one with Jesus. Because they could not achieve that unity, Jesus had no place, no foundation to stand on.



Consequently, Jesus had no choice but to take the way of the cross. As he died, he promised he would return to hold the marriage supper of the Lamb. Fallen people desire to meet True Parents. Since Jesus died on the cross two thousand years ago, the position of the only Son remained, but the only begotten daughter had not emerged. God could not enter the nation of Israel, could not use it again; the Israelites had failed to fulfill their responsibilities, so God's doing that would have created grounds for Satan's accusation.

A new chosen people

In light of that, Heaven had to pick another nation of people to establish a foundation for his only begotten daughter. Simply put, the two thousand years of Christian history through the Korean people, the Republic of Korea, has been to prepare for the only begotten daughter, for the sake of the Returning Lord. The only begotten daughter is True Mother, born in 1943. Can you follow what I'm saying? The only begotten daughter had to be born on the Christian foundation because providential history unfolded in that direction.

Dae-mo nim was a person who was born in a family in which three generations consisted of an only-child, and she had fulfilled the central role in a religious group that offered immense devotion in order to prepare for the returning Lord. You have to be aware of this. Two thousand years ago, Mary did not fulfill her responsibilities in the presence of Jesus, but Dae-mo nim fulfilled her role in the presence of the only begotten daughter to have been born in six thousand years.

She protected and educated well the only begotten daughter and offered devotion for me to take part in the marriage supper of the Lamb, for the True Parents. She also led an exemplary life of serving True Parents in front of blessed families and other church members. Even after she went to the spirit world, she was able to carry out her role in lieu of True Parents. Hence, she was named Dae-mo [Great Mother]. She is an indispensable person to all fallen people. From that viewpoint, all of you are fortunate. In Jesus' time, two thousand years ago, no similar environment existed. No fence protected all of you, but if you look at the history of Cheongpyeong today, Dae-mo nim displayed absolute faith, love and obedience in the position of being one heart, one body, one mindset and one in harmony with True Parents. Though she was in the spirit world, she prepared for True Father's ascension in the real world, which nobody had ever imagined or thought of doing. It was not something that just anybody could accomplish. That is why she is the one today responsible for preserving the dignity of those carrying out church activities in the world.

Approaching God

Yes. Heavenly Parent is the parent of all human beings. True Parents are the ones who make it possible for us to come into God's presence. Without them, none of you is able to approach God. Due to True Parents, we can stand before Almighty God, the Creator, as his children.

Particularly in the Orient, filial piety toward parents (concepts such as loving and respecting one's parents) is taught [pointedly]. Parents

- ① Mr. Ronnachit Phutthala, who is a Thai government official and ambassador for peace, with his wife receiving a gift from True Mother
- ② Robert Kittel, True Parents' special emissary to Asia
- ③ At right, the regional president, Rev. Yong Chong-sik, listens as Thai national leader, Kamol Thananopavarn speaks
- ④ Thai members offer a traditional dance to True Parents in Cheon Jeong Gung

love and take care of their children, and they fervently hope their children will surpass them. In many countries today, however, people are unaware of the philosophy of filial piety. Therefore, only those in the Family Federation act as responsible children in relation to Heavenly Parent, the Absolute Being. That is, by fulfilling one's filial duty.

Think communally

Receiving the blessing is not for your benefit alone; the desire of Heavenly Parent is to be able to embrace the 7.3 billion people of the world as his children. In that case, those of you that received the blessing earlier have to guide the rest of the world to participate in the blessing. In plain language, the more happiness is shared the more it will spread. The more blessings you give to others, the more happiness you will receive in return.

Governor Ronnachit (who spoke to you earlier) I am proud of you. One's original mind yearns to be expressed. I would like to congratulate him for being able to take the path toward the position of a true, filial son and a true loyal subject.

It can be lonely by oneself. If all brothers and sisters go together, happiness will multiply. All the people of today's world will feel that



they should not think only of their own well-being and prosperity or that of their own countries. Only when those in their neighboring countries are all happy at the same time will those in their countries be happy. All the world's countries are brethren in the presence of Heavenly Father, the Creator, and True Parents.

True Parents' mission

When the environment to welcome the returning Lord was ready, God utilized democracy rather than monarchy. Hence, it is not that the United States was doing well. Rather, the U.S. committed many mistakes. In providential history, however, Christianity laid the foundation that could receive the only begotten daughter and the returning Lord. For the sake of religious reformation, God led the Puritans to establish America. Religious freedom was proclaimed. Even in the Middle Ages, the Roman Catholic authority was powerful, but this later broke up into various denominations. Many regulations existed. To awaken the original mind within all human beings, God had to cause people to search for the parents. As Roman Catholicism was too bureaucratic and its leaders had little foresight, it just flowed away like an incantation one is trying to memorize.

Heaven could not simply sit still and do nothing. Therefore, Heavenly Parent permitted the God-centered Puritan movement on the new continent. Before the bicentennial anniversary of the founding of America, God bestowed his blessings in a place where he could embrace the entire world. The blessings were not solely for America itself, though. Since Americans did not look up to God or

knew nothing about his purpose for the Creation, True Parents officially went to the United States in 1972 to awaken that nation. We went there as doctors to solve the problem of family breakups. The decadent culture in society was destroying the United States. We had come as firefighters to extinguish the blaze. Since then, True Parents kicked off providential history, which reformed and awakened the U.S. In his almost forty years there, True Father developed the history of the providence. Since the providential history of the United States embraces the entire world, Father was trying to embrace the world through awakening the U.S., having left Korea and Asia behind.

However, because True Parents have forged all the paths for humankind to move forward on, True Parents have fulfilled their responsibilities. The door to receiving the blessing has now opened in Asia. You need to understand this.

Work toward personal renewal

You are blessed people. Be grateful in front of Heaven. When you were not yet aware, unspeakable pain arose in providential history. However, due to hard work, the door has opened for the world. You need to understand that the place in the spiritual world and the substantial world where one can best experience and feel grace and blessings is Cheongpyeong. Do you understand?

All of you are sad at heart. You need to come often if you miss True Parents. Only then can the level of your hearts develop. For instance, if a student pays close attention to his or her teachers in elementary school, middle school and high school and

even in college, and grows up normally, he or she will eventually be somebody great, with all types of knowledge. By supplying you with the essential spiritual and physical nutrients, this place can help shape you into that type of person. In this way, you lay your foundation here.

Dae-mo nim's spirit world efforts

This is possible due to the substantial providential history of Dae-mo nim, centered on True Parents. Two thousand years ago, Jesus lost his four-position foundation due to Mary's failure. Nevertheless, that four-position foundation came back alive, owing to the foundation of the only begotten daughter to have been born in six thousand years. I fulfilled my responsibility. So who am I? Satan cannot invade.

When Dae-mo nim passed on to the spirit world, the first thing she started doing was subjugating Lucifer, the archangel. Natural subjugation... You probably have not heard that Dae-mo nim subjugated Satan with true love. She awakened the heart of the archangel, who had assisted in the providence of creation together with God in the beginning. Overcome by unfortunate greed and thus causing the Fall, Lucifer became the ringleader who brought human beings into the satanic realm.

She educated and persuaded him in his original, unfallen archangelic position. She showed him love and talked him into coming back to his natural self with his original mind. I know this as a fact. Do you understand?

This was not done by rule of thumb. You have to understand and explain with the law of the Principle. There will not be other True Parents' ideologies. They are the highest. When many nations know of and attend True Parents, the world will naturally have peace. Human beings are striving for freedom and a world of peace; the answer is True Parents. Do you understand? Thus, fulfill your responsibilities in your nation. Then expand to neighboring nations. In that way, happiness will spread. By fulfilling your portion of the responsibility, Thailand will be the central nation in Asia. Doesn't it sound tempting? Go right ahead and do it. ☞

True Mother's Benediction Prayer over Holy Items

*April 21, 2016 (3.15 on the heavenly calendar)
Cheon Jeong Gung Prayer Hall*





Our awe-inspiring Heavenly Parent! In order to realize your dream, you manifested the Creation and created Adam and Eve, who were to become ancestors of all human beings. The principle behind the Creation called for human beings to become one with you. If Adam and Eve had fulfilled their responsibilities and become the very first ancestors of humankind by attending Heavenly Parent the world today would not be in its present circumstances.

However, due to the Fall, Heaven has endured a long, six-thousand-year history filled with resentment and grief.

Yet you held on to your original ideal of Creation, so you endured, longing for the day the human ancestors would appear and liberate you.

For the first time in six thousand years, in 1960, the term, “True Parents,” was manifested on earth through the only begotten son and daughter that You raised. However, even though True Parents had many miserable days owing to their having to begin from the very bottom and climb up through the eight stages (because the Christian foundation, which had been prepared for two thousand years could not create an environment or become a ladder) True Parents still bore many blessed children.

These blessed children, who are in Satan’s realm of power, have the responsibility—centered on True Parents, with absolute faith, absolute love and absolute obedience—to multiply in a position united with their True Parents. Yet, even before fulfilling that responsibility, they have looked after themselves alone and wavered in that (satanic) environment. True Parents’ hearts break when they see their children living such a life a faith.


Heavenly Parent has supported True Parents’ wish with compassionate grace once more to establish a realm of God’s homeland where all human beings can become blessed children. As blessed families and true citizens of Cheon Il Guk, which You have settled anew on an established standard of faith at high noon, we will become blessed children who fulfill our missions and responsibilities.

Please bless this occasion so that these blessed children may engraft as unified children who fulfill all our responsibilities in the presence of True Parents’ efforts to embrace the 7.3 billion people, which is the hope of our Heavenly Parent. To bless this day, once again, in the name of True Parents, may we be reborn through these holy items graced with Your compassion and become true children who can go to the eternal original homeland with no shadows and no trace of even the smallest satanic realm.

May all the children of our unification families all over the world realize that these holy items bestow your blessed grace and may they joyfully appreciate you. May we become children who do our best to fulfill our responsibilities so that your children, the 7.3 billion people, who will remain in your proud history—can be embraced within True Parents’ bosom.

In hopes that you will once again oblige us with your compassion, I bless these in the name of True Parents. Aju.

True Mother then said to the members present:


This holy salt is special. When a blessed member nears the end of his or her earthly life and is about to ascend to the spirit world, the member should repent to purify any wrongdoing. This holy salt should be used in a special ritual during the Seonghwa Ceremony so that the person can ascend in the original state of Adam and Eve at the time of their creation. 

Providential Background to and Purpose of Bestowing the Holy Items

Providential Background

- A. On February 2 (1.13 by the heavenly calendar) in 2013, True Parents hosted the Cheon Il Guk Foundation Day Registration Blessing Ceremony. Through this blessing, True Parents unconditionally bestowed the grace of returning to the original garden of Eden. Through True Parents' unconditional love, blessed families could return to the era of Heavenly Parent's direct dominion and take the path befitting the era of Cheon Il Guk.
- B. The True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind proclaimed Vision 2020 to enable the settlement and firm establishment of Cheon Il Guk. Three key policies were announced for this vision, namely, "witnessing," "creating an environment for witnessing," and "raising future talent." Furthermore, True Parents have been leading the providence to restore all humanity through heavenly tribal messiah activities. In particular, following True Father's ascension, True Mother offered profound devotion for three years in a state of absolute oneness with True Father. True Mother offered this devotion on behalf of all humanity and participated in the last measure of filial devotion that True Father offered to our Heavenly Parent. Furthermore, on the foundation of these devotions, True Parents hosted the historic third anniversary of Foundation Day centering on True Parents' holy birthday.
- C. True Mother instructed that we celebrate the joint holy birthday of the only begotten son and only begotten daughter as well as True Parents' Holy Wedding. These celebrations helped members reminisce on the meaning of these events. During the fifty-sixth anniversary of True Parents' Holy Wedding (held on March 16, 2016), True Parents bestowed the Cheon Il Guk holy wine. True Mother explained that through this special holy wine, blessed families should completely purify themselves for the lives they have led since the Cheon Il Guk Coronation, resolve to improve and make a new start through the four years of hope for the victory of Vision 2020.
- D. In order to forgive and embrace blessed families once more, True Parents had to bear an unimaginable cross of love. Let us remember this special grace bestowed by True Parents through this special holy wine ceremony, repent for past mistakes, and express our gratitude by contributing to Vision 2020 through victorious heavenly tribal messiah activities.

Purpose in bestowing this grace

1. Cheon Il Guk Holy Items of the perfection level: True Parents made the very first holy items during their Holy Wedding on March 16, 1960 and bestowed them at the formation level. On June 13, 2006, True Parents presented us with holy items at the growth-level through their victorious Coronation and Entrance into Cheon Jeong Peace Palace. Finally, during the fifty-sixth anniversary of their Holy Wedding, True Parents bestowed Four Great Holy Items of Cheon Il Guk at the perfection level.
2. This grace will enable us to be reborn in the original garden of Eden and enter the eternal original homeland (Bonhyangwon) in a state of ninety-degree alignment with Heaven and without any satanic traces or shadows.
3. This blessing is a special grace that will enable us to become true children.
4. Moses received the tables with the Ten Commandments, an unchanging symbol from Heaven, while praying and fasting for forty days in the wilderness on Mt. Sinai for the sake of the Israelites. Likewise, the Four Great Holy Items of Cheon Il Guk are heirlooms to be cherished by all citizens of Cheon Il Guk. They have been bestowed on us as symbols of Heavenly Parent and True Parents as well as a special grace that will retain heavenly fortune and stop all satanic intrusions. 



True Mother arranging the Holy Items as she prepares to pray over them

The FFWPU International Headquarters contributed this article.

Bolstering Thai Families through the Blessing

This article was adapted from a Thai government official's speech given in the presence of True Mother on May 8 at an event to honor people that had fulfilled their 430-couple blessing mission in Thailand.

By Ronnachit Phutthala



One of thirty-eight Interfaith Peace Blessing Festivals held in Kalasin Province Thailand since 2013; Opposite page: The writer speaking at Cheon Jeong Gung

I feel deeply honored to have the opportunity to meet True Parents here at Cheon Jeong Gung Peace Palace and to be able to express my determination to bring peace and happiness to the one hundred and forty thousand people, whom I serve as the chief provincial officer of Kalasin Province in north-eastern Thailand, with the help of FFWPU Thailand.

In January 2013, I studied the Divine Principle and received the blessing as the chief district officer of Khao Wong District. I came to appreciate the greatness of True Parents' teachings, their vision and the Interfaith Peace Blessing Festival. These answered all my questions, which I had had for over thirty years, and showed me the way to bring true



peace and happiness to my people.

True Parents teach us about the value of filial piety, love, life and lineage, fidelity in marriage and the true love relationship between wife and husband, parents and children. When we give ceaselessly, we can bring lasting peace and security as well as sustainable economic growth and development to our communities and nation.

Since the beginning of 2013, we have organized thirty-eight Interfaith Peace Blessing Festivals and blessed more than twenty-seven thousand couples in many districts and sub-districts of Kalasin Province in close cooperation with Mrs. Sangkom Netsopa and her team. By the middle of this year, we will have reached more than seventeen thousand blessed couples, or forty tribes, who will have completed the three-day ceremony and who practice the blessed family traditions.

Wherever we organize blessing ceremonies, I can see positive changes in the lives of the government officers, their families and communities. Many couples had serious problems and were on the brink of separation, but after receiving the blessing, their negative behavior changed. They now enjoy warm family relations; even criminal behavior and drug problems were solved through the FFWPU education programs and blessing. From the bottom of my heart, I want to express my deep gratitude to True Parents for their teachings and the blessing, which have brought much greater benefit and happiness to the people of Kalasin than I ever experienced before in my work as a government officer for over thirty-eight years.

In general, the Thai government policies focus on three pillars: 1. To ensure security and safety through law enforcement by the police, through public relations and advertisements. Despite huge government spending, however, the problems have steadily increased.

2. To improve the national infrastructure, such as electricity, water, roads and the internet to bring prosperity to the people. However, families and communities have become weaker and crime and social problems have increased.

3. To bring economic development and increase the GDP; nevertheless



becoming richer does not mean becoming happier. On the contrary, our society has become more corrupt and conflicts have increased.

On the other hand, through True Parents, I can now see the light of hope. True Parents teach us that true happiness comes from true love, which begins in the family when parents and children practice true love. As the family is the starting point of happiness and true love, the strengthening of the family is a crucial factor in solving all kinds of problems. Though the Thai government has not shown much concern for this issue until now, there is great hope now as the new constitution under consideration states that "the government has a duty to strengthen the family." I sincerely hope that this will open the way for the government to implement policies and allocate budgets to programs that strengthen the family in Thailand.

I have brought fifty-eight government officers representing forty families from Kalasin Province and high level government officers from five other provinces to participate in this special seminar in Cheongpyeong. Meeting True Parents in person and recognizing their life-long sacrifice for the sake of all humankind, they will take True Parents' vision back home and dedicate themselves to building increasingly more model communities of blessed families throughout the country.

My wife and I have firmly resolved to work with FFWPU for the one million people of Kalasin Province and to nurture a model Province of peace by expanding True Parents' vision and philosophy to every sub-district and village in Thailand. ♪

FFWPU-Thailand contributed this article.

How I Joined the Unification Church

By Charles Mugabo Kahondah



The writer with his son, June Tae Kahondah

My physical parents are Mr. Petero Mugabo and Mrs. Prisca Rufuure Kahuliire Mugabo. In a polygamous family, my mother was the fourth wife. Among their nine children, I was the third born, following two sisters who each died shortly after birth. My father, who in September 1939 was already old enough to be exempt from our graded poll tax due to old age, took on my mother in 1948. I was born on June 4, 1952. They upgraded their marriage to Christian matrimonial status in 1956. I grew up amidst difficulties and suffering but still grew.

My loving old father had wished me to marry when I was still young, so that by the time he died, he would leave me with his legacy of continuity. Yet, because I first had to get through my education, it became hard. He kept waiting in eagerness. When eventually I had completed my education at twenty-six, I tried to comply with my father's desires but was five

times appallingly disappointed and rejected in all my marriage proposals in a period of six years. On December 5, 1983, my father died, having lived well over one and a third centuries, leaving me a lonely and disappointed son.

A new life begins

Exactly a month after my father's burial, while still experiencing the pain of the loss of my beloved father, on January 8, 1984, dear Margaret Guderia Ndyazhugwa Busiingye came into my life with a heart of sympathy. Two and a half months later, I met the Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity, Uganda chapter, which Margaret and I have embraced with one heart since March 1984. When we finished a twenty-one day workshop, many experiences surrounded us, highlighting the many struggles we were going through. For instance, I remember the dream that scared me most, in which I found myself climb-

ing portable ladders leaning on a very high wall on top of which was a smooth, paved landing, leading to a shining house. The house was about twenty meters away.

As I reached the top of the wall, I found myself unable to step on this landing, because ropes bound my hands and ropes connected my legs to a very heavy object, which I was unable to see. I took a penknife from my pocket and tried to cut the ropes, but by the time I cut the last rope, the ones I had cut earlier were again holding me as they had before.

The heavy object was still on the ground, securely fixed to the ropes. I took time struggling, without success, to disconnect myself from this heavy object. I sat in silence in this dream searching for a solution until an idea came to me: I should pull the heavy object up. I did so, only to find the heavy object was my dear Margaret. Reaching the landing atop the wall, we were both tired; we sat watching and marveled at the shiny house.

When we stood to walk toward the house, Margaret walked quickly and disappeared into the house, while I remained behind, gazing only at the building. I then awoke from my dream.

The next evening, I went to the center and told the central figure, Ulf Ingwersen, who listened attentively and then said, simply, Margaret will go to heaven ahead of you. Sincerely, I did not understand what that statement meant at the time. I went home and told Margaret, who only laughed.

Our course toward oneness

Life continued with our difficult

course as a married couple. My background faith was from native Anglican, whereas Margaret was from the Roman Catholic faith. Our embracing a new, uniting faith in the Unification Church brought new challenges. Rituals and traditions confronted us.

Soon, as it happened, we had our first child, a daughter, Patricia Agarukire, born to us in July 1984. Our second-born was a boy, Bosco Aineamazima, born in August 1985. He lived only eleven months and died due to measles. At his burial, we confronted the experience of having embraced what our relatives called a different religion. Thank God, Mrs. Irmigad Ingwersen had moved some four hundred and fifty kilometers with us all the way from Kampala City to my home village in Rukungiri District, and had offered to preside over this burial memorial ceremony. When my relatives and the local Anglican clergy saw that we had come with members of our Unification Church and that we were determined to bury even without their involvement, they softened. The joint burial ceremony we held smoothly.

Amidst difficult challenges and hardships of faith and responsibility, separation became intermittent, which nonetheless brought us two daughters, Providence Atubweine in February 1987 and Preparation Aturiheihi in September 1989. With these challenges and hardships from inside and outside our newfound faith, we continually moved on in ways that mere words cannot adequately explain.

Becoming a blessed couple

On August 25, 1992, dear Margaret and I received the blessing in the thirty-thousand-couple Blessing Ceremony. Margaret, with a few other representatives from Uganda, attended this ceremony in Seoul at the main venue. Meanwhile, a few others and I participated in Nairobi, Kenya, via the assumed satellite link, which unfortunately the government disallowed perhaps because of poor packaging of the necessary information our church had provided. Nevertheless, we went ahead in a Blessing Ceremony supervised by Rev. and Mrs. Lee and Mr. Nonami.

We, Margaret and I, thereafter officially started our glorious blessed

family by going through the final concluding procedures of the blessing on December 24–26, 1992.

Part of Margaret's rush to the shining house in my dream of 1984 was physically seeing and meeting True Parents in Seoul. Yet, still much more was to come. On December 3, 1993, we met True Mother in Nairobi, Kenya, on her one-hundred-and-twenty nation speaking tour, the theme of which was True Parents and the Completed Testament Age. Margaret and I, as blessed couple number one, sat in the front row, directly in front of True Mother in the Kenyatta



The writer with his dear wife Margaret, who ascended to the spiritual world in 1998

International Conference Center. This was significant in our life of faith to a degree that these words are inadequate to describe. In January 1994, Heavenly Parent blessed us with a blessed son, to whom the regional president, Rev. Lee, provided the name, June Tae Kahondah.

Public outreach

From the time of the inauguration, in 1993, of the Uganda chapter of the Women's Federation for World Peace, dear Margaret served as the vice-president. In 1995, we felt good when we actively brought spiritual children into the blessing, the likes of Mrs. Betty Busiingye Byamukama of Kabale and her husband, who received the blessing among the 360,000-couple group. In November 1996, my blessed central family received a second blessed child, a daughter named Ho soon Kahondah.

When Ho soon was just nine months old, we moved from a place we were renting to our own house, where unfortunately after only six months and thirteen days, Madame Margaret died of a stroke on the February 15, 1998. Her ascending to the spiritual world in such a hurry reminded me much of what the dream communicated to me back in 1984. This accorded with the interpretation Rev. Ingwersen had given me.

Moving ahead

One may think that hardships and suffering have continued to follow me, but with constant allowances, through prayers in my life of faith, I am remaining focused and raise my children with one heart. In life, I have realized that a great part of responsibility is often singular and particular in nature. Having served for nine and half years as a vice-national leader in my country, I appeal to my heart to see the way forward. When our church was thrown out of rented centers in Mengo, a neighborhood in Kampala, we had nowhere to go to gather for fellowship. I offered my home, though humble, to provisionally accommodate us shortly after God's Coronation on January 13, 2001. When True Parents' coronation occurred on February 6, 2006, our national-level celebration also took place in our home. This was humbling for my family. Sunday services there were simple and socially warm. God was with us all the way through.

Our movement's purchase of a Peace Embassy elevated us from where we had been worshiping for over sixty weeks. We could feel True Parents' love by reflecting on their humble beginnings and reflecting on True Mother's visit to Uganda in May 1999. There is hope in vision 2020 through conviction and devotional service. My family feels grateful for being present in life at this time when True Parents have been walking on earth, moreover at a time unique in the history of our redemption. As I write, I am happy to have my daughter Ho Soon attending a second-generation Top Gun program and being elevated with all the logistical desires of life including the blessing. I love and thank True Parents, and I pray for True Mother's good health and long life. ☩



Cheon Il Guk members singing before one of the members begins street preaching outside Chiba Station; the writer is second from the left.

Witnessing in Alignment with Central Figures

By Lee Mi-jae



I came from Korea to Japan in December 1991. My husband and I started our family in Tokyo. After moving to Chiba in 2008, I served as a leader of families with bi-national parents in the Chiba Family Church. In June 2013, I joined the Cheon Il Guk Support Group to realize True Mother's wish for us to fulfill our mission as tribal messiahs.

The logic was impressive

I was born to a farmer's family in

Iksan in North Jeolla Province as the sixth of eight children. I have three older brothers, two older sisters and two younger sisters. My family was poor; we crammed into a small house with only two rooms.

During the early days of the Unification Church, leaders such as Rev. Lee Jae-seok and Rev. Hwang Hwan-chaе (both in the thirty-six-couple blessing group) missionized in my village as regional leaders. Back then, no church or church-owned building for them to stay at existed in the village. Although my parents were not members of the church, they kindly offered these missionaries a place to stay whenever they came to our village. Winters were very cold, so my family gathered in one room and kept our chickens in the other room. The missionaries said, "We don't mind sleeping in the room with the chickens. Please let us stay." Looking back, I feel sorry for allowing respected leaders of our church to stay in that room.

My oldest sister (thirty-thousand-couple blessing group, after marriage) married while working in Seoul but she had many difficulties in her married life, which brought her to the Unification Church. My sister strongly wished that her brothers and sisters would marry through our marriage blessing.

In 1982, after graduating from high school, I started to live with my sister's family in Seoul. One day, she handed me Exposition of Divine Principle as she returned from work and said, "I'm exhausted. Could you read this for me?" After I had read it for about fifteen minutes, she asked me, "How is it?" Since it was very different from what I had learned in a Christian church I attended up until I entered high school, I answered, "It's scientific and amazing." My sister responded, "I know," in a content tone.

I visited the Unification Church with my sister and attended a seven-day workshop and a twenty-

one-day workshop. Through these workshops, I felt that True Parents' teachings were the most precious of all jewels. Teachings of Christian churches such as "Just believe" or "the Lord will come to earth from heaven on a cloud" seemed vague and unscientific. On the other hand, the logic of the Divine Principle astonished and fully convinced me. True Parents' teachings have captured my heart ever since.

I worked in Ilhwa's Business Administration Department (in Jegi-dong, Seoul) until I was blessed among the 6,500 couples in 1988. My husband is Japanese. I had never met a Japanese before, and since I had learned in Korean history classes that Japanese were "murderers" who killed many Koreans, I remember being scared that horns might be sticking out of Japanese peoples' heads. I can laugh at it now, but I was serious then.

True Father said to the Korean sisters blessed in Japanese-Korean couples, "Go to Japan and love your husband's tribe and nation in my place." I have lived in Japan with these words in mind.

My view of witnessing

I do not have likes and dislikes among approaches to witnessing. I take the central figure's viewpoint and do my best in any given environment such as street preaching, social witnessing through True Father's autobiography, explaining our teachings using a (computerized) tablet, etc. Since I believe oneness with the central figure creates the foundation to connect to God and to True Parents' heavenly fortune, I make every effort to follow True Mother's advice to forgive, love and unite and be grateful for any environment given to me by whomever is in charge.

In the Chiba Family Church, which is in the South Chiba District, we go out on the street in front of Chiba Station once every month. Around fifteen women and young



The writer and her husband Mr. Okamoto Hideyuki at the Cheon Il Guk Foundation Day Registration Blessing Ceremony, February 22, 2013

members along with Rev. Takahashi Yosuke, the church leader, and Mr. Koshikawa Takayuki, the Missionary Department manager, participate. When I give a testimony as one of our bi-national blessed couples, some people stop and listen, others come up to ask if we are running an election campaign and still others hand me a drink saying, "Good job." It is fun to receive various responses.

Since 2014, we officially started shosha witnessing [writing out True Parents' teachings by hand] in front of the Chiba Station under the leadership of the then regional leader of Region Fourteen, Rev. Aoki Hiroshi. In starting shosha witnessing, we first visited Mrs. Maekawa Masumi of the Fukuoka Family Church (in our Fukuoka District) who had achieved satisfactory results in shosha witnessing. Her

testimony of her having come this far because she has maintained the sheer desire to be a filial daughter to True Parents moved me. I was also surprised by how she listened closely to the people she met on the street and how she communicated with them with patience until they would open up their hearts to tell her their addresses, names or telephone numbers. Moved by her deferential attitude of continually making effort to return even more joy to True Parents regardless of the results achieved, I formed a firm determination to inherit her heart.

Working in Chiba

I pick up trash as I walk from the church to the Chiba Station every morning after attending our 9:30 AM departure ceremony at our church. I believe that picking up trash has been a condition to clean

my impure heart and to love the people of Chiba. Although I used to be a bit embarrassed around people, I can now talk to strangers on the street without getting nervous. My heart has become so close to the people of Chiba that some say they mistake me for their cousin or other relative.

How would True Parents love this person who is standing in front of me as their child? If I approach a person with that heart, my joy will reach them. I usually start with a greeting saying, "I came to Japan from Korea as a bride twenty-four years ago. Rev. and Mrs. Sun Myung Moon blessed me with a Japanese man because they love Japan. I also learned to like Japan, and now I love Japan!" This moves people and I can praise them naturally.

After I have them experience

shosha, I show them a video on a tablet and invite them to the Chiba Shosha Hall. A year has passed since we started shosha witnessing and fifty-four people from various age groups and careers have decided to take the course.

A returning guest prepared by God

I make appointments to meet my guests from morning to night as much as time allows. However, I could not build a deep relationship by merely conveying True Parents' teachings. Therefore, I always think of ways to make them happy by serving them, by cooking Korean food, preparing birthday presents for them, etc.

In February 2014, I met Ms. A (a woman in her fifties) on my way to the airport to participate in the commemoration of the first anniversary of Cheon Il Guk Foundation Day in Cheongpyeong. Snow fell heavily that day and Ms. A gave up her seat for me when I finally managed to reach the bus station with a large suitcase. I thought to myself, "I wish I could witness to such a warm hearted person," and kept her in mind.

A month later, I ran into Ms. A on the street by coincidence and found out that she lived nearby. We exchanged greetings and enjoyed some conversation. As we talked, I learned that she had lost her parents and lives in solitude with no friends. When I told her I was Korean, she said, "I used to attend the church before." I wondered if she was talking about the Unification Church but chose not to ask at that moment.

Since then, I kept in contact with her by cooking and delivering Korean food or by bringing back souvenirs whenever I visited Korea. Ms. A, who had a certain faith, one day asked me to visit the training hall for tekazashi [healing through energy coming from the palms of one's hands]." When I asked her, "Would you come to my church if I visit yours?" she said, "Okay," so I

visited the training hall three times.

After that, I gathered the courage to ask her, "Which church was it that you had attended before?" and she answered, "The Unification Church." I told her that I had met my Japanese husband through the Unification Church Blessing Ceremony. When we both felt better by getting it out, I invited her to our church.

When she came to the church, she willingly told me episodes, such as how she witnessed with devotion to her spiritual child who has now received the blessing or how she ended up placing a distance between herself and the church to take care of her parents. She started to learn True Parents' teachings again and she was able to receive the Cheon Il Guk Scriptures by contributing a donation to the global providence.

Wealth through witnessing

Until recently, I had been too busy to pay attention to my personal appearance. I think I had also placed restraints on my husband and two daughters in various ways such as by not buying clothes or enough food. True Mother said that we can become wealthy through witnessing. When I first heard this, I thought, Really? However, as a result of holding firm faith in what True Mother had said and making continual and desperate efforts in witnessing, I now realize every day that this is true.


One of my guests brings me deliciously cooked food once every week. Another guest gives me clothes as seasonal gifts. Now I can give a street sermon wearing nice clothes. A church member who is a farmer brings me rice and vegetables. I feel the existence of God who lives and works in my daily life through such people around me.

God also polishes my character through my guests. One of my guests who is a corporate operating officer's wife and a teacher of flower arrangement and the tea ceremo-

ny strictly points out the strange Japanese phrases I use. Until meeting her, I used to communicate with people casually without using honorifics or formal terms because church members usually understand me even if my Japanese is a bit strange. But this will no longer apply.

There are times when I feel so severely stressed that I want to break off my relationships with guests. Yet I gain power to love them again by thinking of God and True Parents, who strive to embrace humanity with parental true love and their true hearts. Even if I find fallen nature within guests, I feel grateful that I can be liberated from such fallen nature through such experiences.

Our regional leader, Rev. Nam Gyeong-tak, who began working in this post in March 2015, is asking us to shift our mentality in witnessing. He suggests that we relate to True Mother's wish and witness to guests who can contribute to establishing the foundation to save the nation and the world in practical ways. At first, the members were puzzled, not knowing how to witness to such people. But as our mentality and our ways of thinking started to change, guests in their twenties or thirties started to increase. Another significant characteristic of our recent guests is that many of them work in welfare-related jobs such as caregivers and nurses.

I want to keep up my effort in witnessing by becoming one united with the heart of the central figures who represent True Parents and interact with their wishes with a pure heart. I will offer absolute sincerity with faith in what True Parents instructed: To fulfill the mission of a tribal messiah by completing the blessing of 430 couples and to move forward for the victory of Vision 2020. 

This was reprinted with permission from FFWPU-Japan's March 10 issue of Sekai Katei (World Family).

For the Sake of the Nation

The Development of Character Education in Nigeria

By George M. Ogurie

It all began with True Mother's visit to Nigeria in December 1993. True Mother was then on a forty-nation speaking tour proclaiming "True Parents and the Completed Testament Age" and Abuja, Nigeria was one of her stops. After a momentous speech to some one thousand five hundred Nigerian dignitaries at the Hilton Hotel, Abuja, she addressed church members at a victory celebration, charging them to bring victory at the next blessing that would be held in 1995 (for 360,000 couples). She said she was having everyone in the world stand at the same starting line for a new beginning and that she trusted that the Nigerian members would

come out tops in the race. She then gave Nigeria the goal of ten thousand couples for the next Blessing Ceremony in 1995.

After True Mother had left, under the guidance of Kathy Rigney, then regional director, church leaders began to brainstorm to figure out how to reach the huge goal. They realized that by conventional witnessing alone, reaching it would be very difficult. They decided it would be best to witness to Christian churches and bring whole congregations to the blessing.

To convince the churches to accept the blessing, we had present it as a practical solution to the rampaging

AIDS crisis at the time. The core message, derived from the Divine Principle lecture on the Human Fall, being—"chastity before marriage and fidelity in marriage."

Serving the nation

Incidentally, apart from some token government effort, the unification movement found itself among very few groups doing any form of serious AIDS awareness campaign at the grassroots in the country at the time. As this was seen as an important service to the nation, HIV/AIDS education became a stand-alone program on the list of unification movement activities. That was a shift from AIDS campaign for blessing in churches and rural communities to a full-scale HIV/AIDS education program in secondary and tertiary institutions.

For its pioneering effort in this area, in 2000, the Lagos State government under the auspices of the state Ministry of Health invited the unification movement, represented by Michael Kiely, our national messiah and me, as education director, to join its action committee on AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs).

This was the first such committee in the country. In 2002, the federal government was to constitute a similar committee at the national level, drawing the bulk of its leadership from the Lagos Action Committee. The national committee later matured into what is now the National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA).

The unification movement's HIV/AIDS activism in Nigeria spanned ten



1993: True Mother receiving flowers from blessed children in Nigeria



True Mother and members of her entourage in Abuja, Nigeria with Nigerian members

years, 1995–2005. We reached hundreds of thousands of students in about a thousand schools across the country. Official figures showed that the HIV/AIDS prevalence rate became significantly lower in the southwestern states of Nigeria, which enjoyed more intensive intervention than the other states in Southern Nigeria.

Our national role changes

Nigeria is an amalgam of more than two hundred ethnic groups of various sizes struggling to stay together as a nation. Transition from many years of military rule to democracy (1984–1999) in the fourth republic, had its side effects in that the greater freedom of expression inherent in a democracy was wont to manifest violently in an environment where people with divergent loyalties must struggle for access to political power, in order to gain control of scarce resources. Therefore, the country experienced quite a bit of restiveness in the early years of the fourth republic, all through the 2000s.

A critical reassessment of the unification movement's social engagement effort, therefore, showed the need to move from the narrow area of HIV/AIDS education to the broader area of character education; in other words, we upgraded HIV/AIDS education to character education, in order to address other social malaise such as drug abuse and all forms of violent crimes.

Heavenly influence

The impetus for a concerted character education program in Nigeria again

came from our True Mother's visit, together with Hyo Jin nim, in 2006 during their 180-nation world tour, that year, to proclaim "God's Ideal Family and the Kingdom of the Peaceful, Ideal World."

The then governor of Bayelsa State, Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan sponsored that event, which took place at the Nicon-Luxury Hotel, in Abuja. He and his wife with some one hundred and twenty other dignitaries received the blessing on that occasion, officiated by True Mother and Hyo Jin nim. After the event, Governor Jonathan invited a team of UPF character educators led by Kathy Rigney and Kevin Winter (of blessed memory) to his state to run a statewide character education program in secondary schools, 2006–2007, under the direct auspices of the governor's office.

Governor Jonathan's intention was to stem the tide of violent agitation and militancy at the root in Bayelsa State in particular and the Niger Delta region in general. In 2007 he became vice-president of the nation and in 2009, following the death in office of President Yar' Adua, he became president of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and in 2011 he was elected substantive president.

The unification movement's character education was appealing to President Jonathan not only in the sense of personal character building but in the promotion of a unique sense of patriotism toward the nation. The idea that the individual should live for a higher purpose—especially in uplifting and preserving the nation rather than the pursuit of sectional

interests—is an important catch. Another important catch is that the Unificationist character education presentations have a lot of spiritual power. They are spiritually invigorating and have an interfaith appeal. The presentations identify with traditional values cherished by the various religions and ethnic groups. This was also a key factor toward the success of our HIV/AIDS education. High government officials, school administrators and teachers have testified to this fact. Even die-hard militants who received the character education lectures have confessed that our group was the first group that taught them in a manner that touched their hearts, so they were always willing to listen.

Recognizing Character education as a critical tool for social engagement by the unification movement is very important. In Nigeria our goal is that unification movement's brand of character education ultimately becomes the mainstream curriculum at all levels of the educational system. That is why the focus is now on training teachers to acquire the knowledge and skills to deliver character education in order to have the required manpower for massive nationwide programs. Although teacher-training programs are still at the pilot stage, interest is high among stakeholders at various levels of leadership. If we ride on that wave of interest, we will surely reach our desired destination—Cheon Il Guk. *☞*

Rev. Ogurie is the national leader of FFWPU-Nigeria.

Our Course To 430 Couples



Immediately following the last Foundation Day celebration, an event took place in the main hall of the Cheongpyeong Heaven and Earth Training Center that honored members that had blessed four hundred and thirty couples, thereby fulfilling their tribal messiah mission. This is an edited version of a speech given by a tribal messiah wife explaining the efforts she and her husband had made to achieve that lofty objective. Some material has been included from a DVD they produced.

By Nellie Huard



My husband Patrice and I came to the Philippines from France, in Europe. My husband is French. I am from Holland, from a family of fifteen children. We are both sixty-five and we have been in the unification family for forty-three years. We received the blessing in 1978 in England among the 118-couple-blessing group. That blessing took place for the unity of Europe.

We have three children and six grandchildren. I had worked as a pioneer in the south of France. I contacted forty thousand people in six years, but we could not bring people to participate in the Blessing Ceremony. We moved back to Paris, where over a four-year period, I distributed seventeen thousand pamphlets, but no one responded.

I had finished working and I wanted to know what God wanted

me to do with my life, so I went to Cheongpyeong. During a forty-day workshop there, my ancestors told me, Go to the Philippines. We have prepared everything for you. This is not for you to gain results but to heal your own heart.

This happened several times, so I thought that it came from my ancestors, so I could trust it. My only desire is to bless people. The blessing is the only way to rid ourselves of the fallen bloodline. When I came home, I said to my husband, I must go with you to do a mission in the Philippines.

Republic of the Philippines

When my husband and I arrived in the Philippines, I saw the late Pope John Paul II (1920–2005) speaking happily with True Father. We stayed in a hotel for a few days because all the members were in

- ❶ The Huards giving the Invocation of the Blessing, in lieu of True Parents
- ❷ Guiding a Filipino Muslim through the registration process
- ❸ The Huards with (left to right) Shirley Vergara, head of the Witnessing Department, and Renely Baloalao and Roel Ejada, who married before they were blessed.
- ❹ Attending our church service with Mr. Kwon, Public Relations Dept. Head for Africa.
- ❺ Francis and AnnaLiza Lopez, the couple that began missionizing Marikina

Cheongpyeong at the end of August. I saw the pope praying every day in our room. After we started witnessing, I asked him, Will you witness to your 430 through us? He smiled. I often saw the pope smiling like that.

We discovered a new way of witnessing. We did not present ourselves as members of a church but as members of the Family Federation for World Peace. We would visit people in the poorest





A Blessing Invocation by the Huards with the assistance of a Filipino member

area around Manila. Fulfilling our four hundred and thirty couples completely took only four months.

One woman came to help us. “God and the Holy Spirit told me to help you,” she said. We also worked with a few coordinators, like Grace and Rose, who helped us by gathering people in different houses. People in Marikina City are like children—with open hearts and excitement. They receive the blessing with a humble attitude.

Can you imagine people running in the street to give you the paper filled out with their name and their picture in order to receive the blessing and asking for more papers to give to their friends? In an hour and a half, a hundred and fifty people signed up for the blessing. That amazed me.

I felt the presence of True Mother walking in front of me every day in

the street. When my husband gave a speech, I felt True Father’s presence. Sometimes, we were doing prayer blessings half bent over, because the ceiling was so low. Sometimes the unique small rooms people lived in had no windows. We did the indemnity-stick ritual for seven couples in a tiny room; sometimes a mouse would run by or fall down from the ceiling when my husband would give his speech.

In the beginning, they told us that in order to have a hundred people finish the three-day ceremony, we would need to contact three hundred couples. My husband said, I do not want that. I hope that 98 percent can succeed.

In the end, we accomplished that goal. We would show a picture of True Parents and after a short lecture of less than ten minutes, in English, by my husband, despite

whatever difference existed in their Christian background, they easily accepted that they had to drink the holy wine, do the indemnity-stick ritual and for married couples, remain separated for forty days. In the end, 98 percent succeeded in doing their three-day ceremony.

Personal visits

We visited them one by one to administer the holy wine, guide them through the indemnity-stick ritual and start their forty-day separation. We would visit couples a second time, one by one, to offer a prayer blessing over their three-day ceremony. For the people living in that area, just reaching the end of every day at 10:00 PM or 10:30—Saturday and Sunday included—required a huge amount of energy. Sometimes, a wife would need to awaken her husband for the sake of



An indemnity-stick ritual taking place in a public setting as Ing Keng Brandner (in white) and a blessed member in her tribe supervise and guide the process

the three-day ceremony. How great the willingness of these people was to follow with grateful hearts.

We came to visit a woman before doing the three-day ceremony. With a sparkle in her eyes, she said, I pray every morning and every evening in front of the picture of True Parents. Others told us, Do not worry; we will do our forty-day separation.

The power of the holy wine is strong. The attitude of husbands that had not been interested in the beginning changed after the holy wine ceremony. Usually wives became excited. People stopped drinking. Couples stopped fighting and others found a job after their three-day ceremony.

Why were we so successful in Marikina? It is the most difficult place to live. Many people died there because of devastating floods.

The residents are strongly religious. The fact that only ten couples did not do the forty-day separation period and three-day ceremony surprised us. They understand that to receive heavenly fortune they must make effort.

We created a center in the middle of our area to educate people following their three-day ceremony. Father said that we could fulfill our 5 percent of the responsibility by blessing four hundred and thirty couples as tribal messiahs.

Dealing with collective sin

This mission, reaching this number of couples, involves reversing collective sin, because only by working with our coordinators were we able to bless the required number. I personally went through a very deep cleansing of collective sin. Thanks to Heavenly Parent for

such patience and love. Thanks also to True Parents for their sacrifices and for having paid a huge amount of indemnity, through which we could be free and we could help free the world through our four hundred and thirty couples. Thanks to the enthusiasm and wonderful lectures of Dr. Yong. For the help of our ancestors and others in the spiritual world, for Pope Paul II, who was with us from the beginning, we are grateful. We also feel grateful toward all the leaders in the Philippines, who received us so well; for Francis and Anna-Liza Lopez, the main leaders in Marikina City; and for all the coordinators, who helped us to fulfill our goal of four hundred and thirty couples. *TP*

This text was edited for inclusion in TP-magazine.



One goal of the project was to raise awareness among young people of the suffering of others.



YOU HAVE GREAT VALUE! A W-CARP PROJECT

One of our local World-CARP chapters, in Korça, the major city in southeastern Albania, organized a project called You Have Great Value. As in many other places in the world, we were aware that in this city live some very poor families who do not have enough to eat and whose living conditions are bad. Therefore, the young members of CARP-Korça divided into three groups and discussed what our CARP members might do for them. We had already done this type of project once before, in January. This article covers the second project, which we carried out in April. Through these projects, we have helped support six impoverished families.

Our intentions

Our purpose in carrying out these projects is two-fold. On the one hand, we want to help young people become aware of the difficult reality in which many people find themselves, thereby helping them develop empathy for others and to help inculcate in them the value of living for the sake of others. On the other hand, we want to provide substantial relief to these poor families, to alleviate some of the difficulty and the accompanying stress that burdens them.

Our CARP meeting

In a meeting with CARP members, we spoke about historical figures who invested themselves in bettering others' lives, and thereby changed the world. We spoke about the significant work and investment of Mother Teresa, Martin Luther King, Thomas Edison and Rev. Sun Myung Moon. In a previous activity, we had presented a video of the famous movie, "The Great Dictator," which Charlie Chaplin directed, produced and starred in. In a speech featured in the movie, Chaplin's character, the Great Dictator, said "I should like to help everyone if possible—Jew, Gentile, black man, white. We all want to help one another" and "You are not machines... You have the love of humanity in your hearts. You, the people, have the power...the power to create happiness." This was an inspirational video, through which we encouraged members and guests to do things in life from which other people can benefit. Each of the teams decided to collect

money, clothes and food to support poor families.

Activity to raise funds

For most of the guests, this was their first experience of raising funds. Actually, we were worried about how they would react to the experience, but what we saw and felt after the activity was nothing but inspiration and happiness. We could experience how wonderful it is when we invest ourselves for others' sake.

Visiting Poor Families

Each team visited one poor family and gave them all the things the team members had collected. These families invited us to go inside their homes. We sat together and listened to each family's story. Their stories touched us all. Most of their situations were beyond anything we had ever imagined. These experiences made us think a lot more about life.

Reflections

In our next CARP meeting, we asked some members and guests to share their experiences.

—I know there are many poor people in the world, but a great difference exists between knowing and seeing this with my own eyes. I was shocked. This caused me to reflect deeply. In one part of the world, there are many material things and a lot of food, which is even being thrown away. However, on the other side of the world, people are suffering because of starvation. Why is it so difficult for people who are wealthy to share with people who are not? I am very grateful that W-CARP gave me this great experience.

—Through this activity, I understood that there are still many people who need help...

Results of the project

After the activity, our relationship to our guests became closer. We also more clearly understood that if we put True Father's words, "live for the sake of others" into practice,



- 1 The message on the board is the theme of the project, You Have Great Value! in the Albanian language.
- 2 People of all ages and backgrounds donated to help desperately poor families.
- 3 She is helping to alleviate poverty caused by low employment and low income levels.
- 4 Some of the staple foods Albanian CARP members delivered to needy families
- 5 Delivering food and necessities
- 6 Albanian CARP members posing with members of a recipient family

we can do many good things for others that make some difference in their lives but that we also gain great energy and happiness.

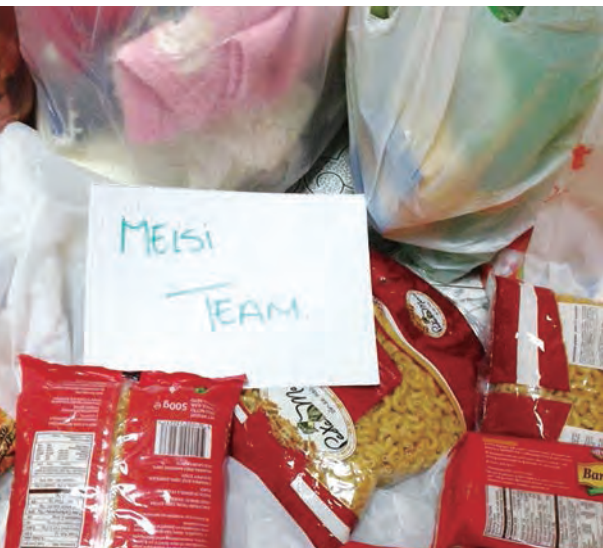
Here are links of two videos we made about this project:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z9iG8FaZ3h4

www.facebook.com/FFPBB/videos/1333499573333613/

UN Information—Albania

Albania is located in southeastern Europe bordering the Adriatic Sea



and Ionian Sea, between Montenegro and Kosovo in the north, Macedonia in the east and Greece in the south.

Albanian history and culture is fascinating. Butrint, one of the world's archeological wonders, a city inhabited beginning in pre-historic times—now a UNESCO World Heritage site—in the south of Albania provides a glimpse of Mediterranean civilization from the Bronze Age through the Greek, Roman, Byzantine, Venetian and Ottoman periods—all atop a cliff overlooking Corfu.

Throughout the transition period Albania has been faced with a number of extremely complex challenges in order to establish stable institutions guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law and human rights as well as to operate a functioning market economy and to cope with competition and market forces.

Albania has enjoyed a high, sustained rate of economic growth over the past several years, averaging about 5–6 percent per year, placing Albania into the group of countries with a high Human

Development Index (HDI).

Albania represents a considerable market in the region, due to several agreements on free trade with neighboring countries and the European Union, as well as an attractive investment destination. Life expectancy in Albania is 77.1 years at birth according to the 2013 Human Development Report. According to the same report, 45 percent of Albania's population uses the internet. 

W-CARP in Korça, Albania, contributed this article.



A sign of the times: Members come together to foster generational change in leadership in the Austrian movement

Meetings of the Austrian Committee for Transition

Austria is forging ahead with its efforts to revitalize the movement and to encourage the participation of young leaders.

On March 18–20, the Austrian Committee for Transition (ACT) held its first Working Weekend in Gafrenz, which was a successful step in working together more concretely.

Peter Zoehrer initiated the ACT in September 2015, as a group of fourteen young Unificationists (primarily second-generation couples), with the purpose of assisting a transition process in Austria to younger leadership over the next few years. Since its inauguration, the committee has met twice, at the Austrian Leaders Meetings in September and November

2015, where we took time for the committee to find clarification and direction in its mission. This weekend workshop in March was the first initiated meeting of the ACT, to start a working process together in separate focus groups.

The idea for the weekend was to allow time for the three ACT working groups (Inreach, Outreach, Structure and Organization) to meet and make a start on mapping out the areas that need addressing and to set up a working process, in which others outside of the ACT could also be involved.



As an initial step toward working with others beyond the ACT, the working groups invited two second-generation members and two first-generation members to participate in the meeting. As it turned out, they provided valuable contributions. This being the first time that we met in earnest, having smaller groups proved valuable. The smaller sizes made it easier to identify and discuss the main topics. The working groups intend to gradually involve others and work more with others, over time.

Over the weekend, in addition to having three constructive working group sessions, we had the opportunity to take part in some programs as a whole group. These included hoondokhae, discussions, fellowship, games, just taking in the fresh country air and some presentations. Among the latter, we had an opportunity to learn what inspired Top Gun workshop participants in their workshop and received information about various communication and self-help training programs available and heard an overview of the Gafrenz center, currently Austria's sole church property.

The main outcomes and actions steps from each working group were announced at the end with the whole of the ACT, to identify crossover points, and to connect everyone to the bigger picture with a shared direction.

Inreach Meeting, Vienna

As a follow-up to the ACT Working Weekend, on Saturday May 7, the ACT Inreach working group, led by Anna Janssen, organized a one-day meeting in Vienna with relevant members from

the areas of Inreach in the Austrian movement—namely, in the areas of Youth and Education (Small children, HARP, CARP), Blessed Family Department, and Pastors. This was the next step, as it included more people in the ACT working process. In total twenty-four people took part.

At the meeting, we spoke of supporting the Blessed Family Department and regional pastors in their roles, for example, by providing a greater network of mentors and counselors, and by delegating some of their more menial tasks. We see it as useful to bridge the gap between the international and local level activities. This could be done by creating more national level retreats and activities, as well as a national newsletter.

Outreach and public relations

We discussed the possibility of developing a German version of America's "dp life," which acts as an outreach web site and witnessing tool for the movement in the United States. We see as useful the idea of revitalizing our witnessing efforts through a national "AUTreach" witnessing campaign and a "DP Refresh" workshop. We also anticipate that working in concert with Germany and Switzerland to strengthen our public relations work would be effective and would produce synergy.

Structure and organization

We intend to evaluate our church finances, legal status, and organizational structure with the idea of researching systems used by other faith groups to find most effective solutions. We also delved into the


potential to develop national projects such as Gafrenz and an annual Austrian Gathering (Österreich Treffen).

This Working Weekend helped the group to feel a greater sense of unity, teamwork and family spirit, and created some momentum for the working groups to do the groundwork. We decided amongst us that the next time that ACT meets as a whole would be in the autumn and that until then the working groups would make up their own plans as far as when, how often and in which form to meet.

ACT Inreach Meeting

The well-coordinated schedule allowed working sessions to take place within these respective areas, as well as cross-over sessions, for example, Youth and Blessed Family Department (discussing matching and blessing curriculums), Youth and Pastors (improvement of our youth involvement and increased engagement), the Blessed Family Department and Pastors (pastoral care and counseling).

This created a dynamic and highly interactive spirit, which allowed fruitful sharing to take place throughout the whole day—including over lunchtime, where the whole group went together to a local Asian restaurant for a buffet lunch. For the final session of the day, everyone met together again and each working group shared a summary of its action points.

It was inspiring to be able to involve and work with more members in the ACT activities, and we hope to continue this process by including the abilities and passions of even more people in the community. 



Seated (from left): Peter and Gabriele Zoehrer and Heinrich Krcek, an ex-Benedictine monk blessed among our 6,000-couple group

INVESTING IN OUR MOST PRECIOUS RESOURCE, BLESSED CHILDREN



A candle for prayer



The theme of the workshop is important for Israel and for each of our nations. Imagine a world with forgiveness, love and unity...

From April 25 to April 28, we held a blessed children's workshop at the CARP center in Jerusalem, Israel. The participants ranged in age from eight to fourteen. Seven children fully participated in the workshop from beginning to end. Its purpose was to help these blessed children discover their identity, learn the importance of purity and develop a personal relationship with God and True Parents. "Spreading the FLU—Forgive, Love and Unite" was the workshop theme.

Who am I?

The topic of the first day of the workshop was "Identity." The children reflected on the question, What is your identity as blessed children? Yuval Skupinski answered, "My role as a second-generation member is to restore the world..." while Mirey Morita expressed the view, "My responsibility as 2nd gen member is to do God's will!"

After lunch, everyone went to a wall climbing facility, where people practice rock-climbing skills. The

children had to challenge themselves to reach the top using teamwork and their mind-body unity.

Liya Sasaki said, "I felt so determined to climb up that when I reached the top I felt I could do anything. If you are determined, you can reach any goal in life."

We dedicated the afternoon hours to guiding the children in preparing skits and personal lectures, which they would present later.

Maintain pristine innocence

Purity and its importance was the focus of the second day. After hoondokhae, we went outside for morning sports. The children, whom we divided into teams, played games to help them learn to work together and bond.

After breakfast, the children heard three lectures, "The Fall," "Purity and Our Responsibility," and "Our Life." Through these, we urged the children to understand how important their purity is and how they can maintain it. Another point we raised was how to distinguish between good and evil.

The next part of the schedule called for watching a movie together. The purpose of this group activity was to exercise the ability to analyze and better discern what is good and what is evil. Through a fruitful discussion after the movie, the children appeared to have grasped which points in the movies were good to learn from and which points they would be better off discarding. "There were many activities that we could learn from," Emma Mirzaev said, "not only through lectures but also through fun. We watched a movie and we could learn how to distinguish between good and evil." Another child, Mirey Morita, expressed the sentiment, "I want to be much wiser and to distinguish between good and evil."

Interacting with others

The third day began with hoondokhae, followed by breakfast. Afterward, the participants listened to a lecture about how to connect to God. They learned how they might hear God; that is receive communi-



cation from God, and feel God in their lives.

After the lecture, the children took a train downtown and participated in a Challenge Day activity. As part of this, we asked them to do tasks that required them to talk to and interact with people they did not know. As a reward for the teams, the participants ate ice cream together while speaking about their experiences. After lunch, we presented another lecture; this one covered developing and maintaining a relationship with God.

Later in the day, after some additional rehearsal, the children presented their skits. One team performed a sketch on the topic of purity, and the other team did one on the conscience. Following the

- ① The narrative form of True Father's autobiography is well suited for young inquisitive minds.
- ② "For the lessons of life there is no better teacher than the look in the eyes of a child."
- ③ A group of well balanced Unificationist children
- ④ We would not be surprised if their youthful exuberance radiated throughout all Jerusalem.
- ⑤ The wall teaches patience, endurance and determination. It also allows some climbers to face their fears.






skits, the staff went with the children to the Jerusalem Forest. After sharing a nice outdoor dinner, each of the children received a prayer candle. The children experienced an individual twenty-one-minute prayer. In this prayer, the children later reported having felt God talking to them and answering their questions. They felt his love and protection. This prayer was very meaningful to them. "Internal change happened for me," Maya Sasaki said, "when we had the special prayer. I felt I understood a much deeper aspect of God's heart much better; it was true and all through my heart." For Miki Morita, it was also something of a turning point. "After the twenty-one minute prayer," Miki proclaimed, "I felt so liberated and closer to God. For the

first time, I wasn't afraid of God, and shared with him honestly about everything." For Yaniv Skupinski, it was also a deep experience, "I felt that God was talking to me, and I had the deepest experience with God."

Afterward, they all sat around a fire that the staff had prepared and spoke of their experiences. One of the young adult staff members, Libael Ben Zvi said, "When I looked at the children I felt they are the light and hope for God. I felt so much love toward them, and the need to guide and protect them, which reminded me that God loves me in the same way."

What they took away

After hoondokhae and breakfast, the

participants gave their personal lectures. Some spoke about experiences in which they reconsidered an issue or realized something important. Others described phases in their lives in which they had managed to overcome hardships by using the Divine Principle and by following the true way. They then had some time to write their final reflections. During this time, they also had private conversations with staff members. This was a chance to express questions, thoughts and feelings of a more personal nature. The workshop concluded with a graduation, in which the participants received certificates and gifts. 

FFWPU-Israel contributed this article.



Rev. Ignace Wantete lectures Divine Principle in the French language in Colorado, a US state.

Divine Principle in the Language of Love

By D. Michael Hentrich

Since the inception of the French ministry in 2013, members have been actively involved in the activities of the ministry, including witnessing. They contact different people and Rev. Ignace Wantete takes care of teaching the Divine Principle in French. If a member witnesses to someone in a different city or state, Rev. Wantete teaches the person over the phone. He is currently teaching, via telephone, a brother living in Missouri who will receive the blessing on Foundation Day in

2017. On November 8, 2014, the French ministry held a conference at the Ramada Hotel based on the Divine Principle. The turnout and teachings were impressive as seen in the participants' testimonies (below). On Foundation Day in 2015, two couples whom Rev. Wantete had witnessed to received the blessing at the Colorado Family Church, which brought joy to the faces and hearts of each member. Later in the same year, we organized a workshop in Estes Park in the Colorado mountains, where

participants had time to concentrate on God and on polishing their knowledge of the Divine Principle.

Rev. Wantete is the center of the new French-language Unification Church community in Denver Colorado. He joined our church in the Republic of the Congo (also known as Congo Brazzaville) in 1990. He was the first member in the providence from Congo Brazzaville to set foot in True Parents' homeland, Korea, in 1991. He received the blessing in 1992 and moved to Senegal, where he later



The diverse group that came to hear the Divine Principle taught in French, which is an official language for twenty-nine countries.

became the president of the Unification Church. He is currently an assistant pastor in Denver, in charge of the French-language ministry.

A valuable godly resource

I was working as vice-regional leader under Rev. Park from 2003 to 2006 and thereafter as the state leader of Colorado when Mr. Wantete became increasingly active in the Denver Church community. His spirit and heart for God and True Parents were truly refreshing and inspiring. Moreover, since he was a French-speaking brother and an experienced Divine Principle lecturer, he brought those special gifts and talents to the community. I asked him how many French-speaking churches were in the Denver metropolitan area, and he informed me that there were very few. I encouraged him to start a French-speaking ministry to reach out to the many French-speaking people in the area. Then the direction came from

headquarters to divide our local church congregations into smaller groups that might grow more than they would by continuing to identify themselves as one large group. Thus, I asked Mr. Wantete to create a separate French UC community there, utilizing the same church facilities, as the Mormon community does, effectively creating a French-speaking Unification Church. Based on his past mission leadership and experience, I designated him as a “reverend” and gave him all the help I could. We made French yard signs and bulletins and he secured French Holy Song books. Since about a dozen local members already spoke French, a seed community was formed and they were off and running. Now, they hold workshops, and weekly worship has been ongoing for about three years.

Earlier this year, Rev. Wantete realized that there was a need for a new witnessing strategy, because we have yet to witness to so many French-speaking people. He came

up with a yearly plan that will augment the group of people being exposed to the truth. The French ministry will hold four conferences this year. These conferences will have catchy topics with broad appeal. The first conference took place on March 5, under the topic, “God’s Ideal for World Peace.” The ministry’s goal is to develop a good relationship with other Christian church members and invite them to events, with the ultimate goal of teaching them the truth and having them participate in Blessing Ceremonies.

As in the beginning of any other ministry, challenges are inevitable. The French-speaking members often converse with Christians who truly believe that their doctrines convey the ultimate truth. The second challenge is the lack of material. They need French Divine Principle books, more Holy Song books and more French reading material that conveys True Parents’ message.

The spiritual and financial sup-



Discussing Divine Principle in a divine, natural setting


Nancy Emerson

I had not been in a church in eighteen years when I met Rev. Ignace Wantete in January 2015. My story is too long to tell here, but I absolutely know God put him in my life to teach me the Bible and Divine Principle. God waited until I was ready; believe me, eighteen years is a very long time. Rev. Wantete spent so much time patiently teaching me in a way that I would understand. There were a few trying times throughout this process. Once I even quit, but he did not give up. He came and brought me back. I did find the truth and the answers to all my questions about the Bible. God, True Parents and Divine Principle are finally in my life. On April 10, 2016, I formally became a member of the Colorado Family Church. I am now a pioneer on my journey and looking forward to my adventures as I seek to spread the word across this nation and throughout the world.

I am an American and do not speak French, but I do attend both the regular and the French services, where someone always interprets for me. On March 5, Rev. Wantete held a Divine Principle seminar for French speaking guests titled, "God's Ideal for World Peace." He held it at the Colorado Family Church in Denver. If you ever have a chance to attend one of his seminars, I highly recommend it. He explains in detail about Adam and Eve and the Fall. He talks about the three great blessings, the four-position foundation and about how God has striven to save humankind throughout history. He explains the growth period we all have to go through in order to reach perfection and how this all shows the scientific aspect of the Bible. One woman even commented that she did not realize the Bible had a scientific side. She was so excited. In addition, he drew a time-line and showed how each age is parallel to

port of the local church is the basis for everything the French ministry has been able to do. Pastors Michael and Adonia Hentrich encourage and provide the resources necessary to facilitate the work of the French-language outreach. The love and support among all members are priceless. English-speaking members also participate in the French events to support the ministry.

I continue to believe in Rev. Wantete and his potential to lead and grow a substantial UC community for French-speaking people throughout the Denver metropolitan area. There are many prepared

people out there, waiting for True Parents. Rev. Wantete and all the powerful and inspired French-speaking members of the Denver church are the chosen people to find them and invite them. True Parents are depending upon them and expecting greater things to come. Rev. Wantete hopes to inspire French-speaking members around the country to do the same in their respective states. He is also looking forward to working with others who want to establish a French ministry in other states so they can help each other to maximize their potential. 

all the others right down to where we are on that time-line today. The Bible contains many parables and symbols. Divine Principle explains it all and Rev. Wantete goes into great depth and detail in his teaching of it. The people in this church as well as Heavenly Father and True Parents love him very much. He lives by Divine Principle.

Catherine Ichinohe

I have been a member of the French ministry in Denver from the very beginning. I would not miss a Sunday service for anything. The sermons given by Rev. Wantete are deeply inspiring, deeply rooted in the Bible and in the Divine Principle. The unique fact about this ministry is that the participants are from diverse French speaking countries—France and several African countries. Through True Parents' teaching shared in French by Rev. Wantete, we can truly feel that we are one family under God.

Emmanuel Shima

I was born and raised in a Catholic family. When I met Rev. Wantete, I noticed that he was different in some ways—the way he carries himself, his way of talking and


how he gets along with people so easily. These attributes earned him much respect from me and other people who conversed with him. I am a very skeptical person, but when Rev. Wantete started talking to me about the Divine Principle, I found it hard to argue. He spoke with so much passion and seriousness. His confidence and eloquence stimulated in me the willingness to listen to him more. He told me things in the Bible that shocked me because some of them are things that I held so dear but happened to be wrong. For instance, I believed that the predestination of God is absolute, when he destined something for you it would come to pass whether you had fulfilled your responsibility or not; but this was wrong. It took me a while to come to terms with the teachings. After studying the Divine Principle, I embraced the truth and I accepted True Parents. I received the blessing on Foundation Day in 2015.

Laurette Heppell

I am so eager every Sunday to come to the French service, which I have attended ever since it began. I am so inspired to receive the word of God in my language, but most of all, I have been so inspired to hear my brother, Ignace Wantete, who gives

sermons with a passionate heart and excitement. I often laugh or cry.... He has opened my eyes to Bible stories. He explains each story in light of the Principle and God's providence. Brother Wantete is very charismatic, entertaining and fun to listen to. Mainly, he reminds us always to be faithful and to develop our prayer lives. We pray in unison every Sunday. It is powerful. Thank you, brother Wantete.

Justine Daboni

I moved from Togo to Colorado sixteen years ago. My husband and I received the blessing in 1995. Unfortunately, he passed into the spirit world four years later. The French ministry has been such a blessing to my family. Rev. Wantete takes time to teach us more about the Divine Principle. Having the teachings in French helps us to better understand them, as French is our first language. The commitment that comes from each of us is something I like. Even though we are a small number of people, I believe that the Divine Principle is a precious jewel that will attract others. We just need to expose people to it. 

Rev. Hentrich is the pastor of the Colorado Family Church.



Some of the participants at the retreat in Estes Park, Colorado

MUSIC, ART AND CULTURE IN A HEAVENLY WORLD





David Eaton, who is slated to become a key figure in the Cheon Il Guk Institute of Music speaks to the group True Mother brought together at the initial meeting. In the left foreground is Cho Sung-il, director-general of the FFWPU International Headquarters and Jeong Won-ju chief of True Mother's Secretariat.


During the recent celebration of True Parents' Holy Wedding anniversary in Korea, True Mother invited David Eaton and a select group of talented and experienced Unificationist musicians to form the organizing committee of the new Cheon Il Guk Institute of Music. The institute's offices will be in Korea as part of the FFWPU historical complex and David Eaton will be conducting the organization's activities from there.

At an initial meeting, it was explained that True Parents had discussed the "blueprint" for Cheon Il Guk from which they have been carrying out their responsibilities in order to bring the world back to God since their Holy Wedding in 1960. Music, art and culture have always been a part of the blueprint, and now is the time to substantiate True Parents' desires in that regard. David Eaton related how True Father had often spoken about how "music and religion go hand in hand" in terms of bringing people to a higher consciousness and Godly virtues. In a subsequent meeting at Cheon Jeong Peace Palace, True Mother spoke of how great composers such as Mozart and Beethoven had abundant talent but suffered because they could not find true love and a true purpose for their creative endeavors.

True Mother cited Hyo Jin nim's

vision of using music and art to witness to the ideals of Divine Principle and to boldly proclaim the work of True Parents in this providential era. It was notable that true Mother invited several members of Hyo Jin nim's musical team to the meeting, further emphasizing the importance of his foundation in this new endeavor. Mr. Eaton, who joined the church performing arts department forty years ago, during the Yankee Stadium campaign, worked with Hyo Jin nim at the Manhattan Center in New York City for several years producing a series of musical projects.

Upcoming projects for the institute include the compilation and discovery of new Unificationist hymns and Holy Songs, education for those in our second generation, and engaging the world through the creation and production of music that embodies the expression of shimjung culture. With the Winter Olympics taking place in Korea in 2018, the world will be coming to Korea. This might be a significant opportunity to produce events showcasing the culture of heaven to international audiences.

The committee will reconvene in Korea in June to begin the process of implementing the various initiatives of the new music institute. 

The Cheon Il Guk Institute of Music Organizing Committee submitted this article.



