

# True Peace

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JULY 2017





# A Big Believer in Miracles

By Kim Ki Hoon



On July 15, True Mother concluded her world tour with a great victory in the world's most famous arena, Madison Square Garden. It was truly a historic day for Heaven and for earth as twenty thousand people arrived at the illustrious venue for America's first real introduction to True Mother. The day was full of miracles, from True Mother's message of truth, the three-thousand-voice choir and the twenty thousand people in the audience representing an incredible diversity of faiths from all over the world. These achievements could not have been attained by human effort alone; with God's help, and according to his will, these miracles were possible.

Although True Parents have held providential events previously at Madison Square Garden (the first rally of the eight-city Day of Hope tour on September 18, 1974; the 2,075-Couple Blessing Ceremony on July 1, 1982; and the first stage of the 120-Million-Couple Blessing Ceremony on June 13, 1998) families in attendance on July 15 declared that they had never been to an event so full of joy, energy, and hope. For over forty days, families from all around the nation became one in preparing for True Mother's speech at the Garden. Their efforts were a reflection of the theme of the event, "Peace Starts with Me," as they took initiative to execute their various mobilization plans to bring as many people as possible to listen to True Mother's message. These family members explained the significance of True Mother as they visited many churches of varying faiths and denominations, invited passersby on the street, and encouraged longtime friends to participate in the momentous event.

The reality that True Mother witnessed to the thousands who attended the event is yet another miracle. In this divided world, many Christian pastors, Muslim leaders and people of many other faiths brought along their congregations, came together as one family under God and listened to True Mother's speech under the roof of Madison Square Garden. I am supremely confident that such a diverse, beautiful and miraculous gathering could not have been manifested by anyone other than our Heavenly Parent and our True Parents, who have come to save this earth as the Messiah. True Mother told all those that had gathered that day:

True Parents blessed Korea and Japan as the central nations of the providence and America as the eldest-son nation. These three nations need to unite and on the foundation of a revolution in the culture of heart, and based on a heart of filial piety, we need to begin the era of the Pacific Rim civilization from Asia. When the footsteps of blessed families and young people of the Youth Federation across the five oceans and six continents become sparks and lights in front of the world, 7.4 billion people will flock as one toward those lights. We need to create such an environment.

A world of genuine freedom, equality, peace, unity and happiness is not far off. When all of you gathered here today become one with True Parents and practice living for the sake of others with true love toward those around you—your tribe, your church and your nation—we can build a united world with our own hands.

This great victory belongs to none other than True Mother and the blessed central families and second-generation Unificationists who are completely united with our True Parents. In preparing for America's introduction to True Mother, our movement strengthened its crucial bond with Christianity. Many Christian ministers rallied without hesitation in support of True Mother's call for a world of peace, in which all brothers and sisters join together through the true love of God. With a warm, loving smile, True Mother encouraged everyone in the audience that this world is not far away. Because of this great victory at Madison Square Garden, because of True Parents, and because of our beloved Heavenly Parent, I am now forever a believer in miracles. *✍*

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*Dr. Kim is the chairman of our North America region.*

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# The Role of Continental Nations in the Twenty-First Century

*True Father gave the following speech at the Meadowlands Hilton Hotel in Secaucus, New Jersey, in the US on August 30, 1996, at the Inaugural Convention of the Federation of Continental Nations for World Peace.*

**R**espected representatives of North America, ladies and gentlemen:  
I congratulate you on your labors for the welfare of humankind and the realization of a peaceful world. I hope that this conference, convened with less than four years remaining in the twentieth century, can be a fruitful forum of discussion clarifying and expanding our hope for a peaceful world. I would like to share with you my thoughts on the realization of world peace and the ultimate human ideal.

### **Our global mission work**

I grew up on the Korean Peninsula, where people suffered greatly as major powers fought over ideology and resources. In my youth, I sought desperately to find answers to questions about life and the universe. I came to know the living God through my experiences with him, and to know that God is the Lord of true love who has been present with humankind throughout history. I could not believe that God would have planned and created a world in which evil, conflict and war prevail. I do not have time to speak at length about the experiences of my youth. I will testify simply that those days were filled with an intense longing for the truth.

I have revealed the teaching of the Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity, a teaching known as the Divine Principle. It was not easily discovered. Needless to say, I received the essence of the Principle through deep, fervent and prayerful communion with God, Jesus and other saints in the spirit world. Its revelation is a victory gained through a desperate fight with Satan. I am devoting every moment of my life to the teaching and practice of the Principle. Those whose lives it has touched are sharing it throughout the world, in 184 countries. The Principle is transforming people's lives by bringing them into a new relationship with the living God.

### **God's ideal and human perfection**

As human beings created by God, we were born with an innate hope to attain our dreams and realize an ideal world in relationship with God. Even under the worst conditions, we never

give up our desire for an ideal and peaceful world. When we say ideal world, we need to know that God is the origin of the very concept of the ideal.

God did not create the world for the sake of power, glory or wealth. Being absolute, unchanging and eternal, and being the origin of all existence, he has no particular need for these things, as he already has them in abundance.

However, it would not be right to think that God has fulfilled all his desires. God exists as the embodiment of true love. God needs a partner in order to experience love, just as we do. Love can be experienced only when there is a relationship between a subject partner and an object partner. No being can experience love in isolation, solely by itself.

God created human beings to give and receive love freely in relationship with him. We were made to be the true object partner of the love of God. He created us as his sons and daughters. He is the True Parent of humankind.

God wanted Adam and Eve, the first man and woman, to mature in purity, centered on true love. He wanted Adam and Eve to become true people. He created this beautiful and exquisite natural world as the environment for their biological growth. Human beings were to grow and develop within this environment.

God's central concern, however, is with our internal character. By experiencing true love, God intended that we would come to reflect his true love and grow to perfection. God created the power of love to be the strongest of all forces. Through the experience of such a power of love within the realm of Heaven's love and law, increasingly, people are to resemble God, their Parent. To possess unlimited true love, people must first learn to be responsible. When human beings come into oneness with God through true love, they resemble him and become the perfect embodiment of true love, with wholesome character. Thus, we can say that God's love is the essence of human happiness, life and ideals.

Adam and Eve were meant to mature in God's love and become true individuals, true husband and wife, and, by rearing children, the True Parents. People experience God's true

love step by step, throughout the stages of life's growth. Each individual is meant to come to know the heart of children through the love of their parents, the heart of a sibling through the love between brothers and sisters, the heart of husband and wife through the love of a spouse, and the heart of parents through loving children. The family is the foundation upon which we establish these four realms of love and heart.

The family is the basis for love, happiness, life and lineage. We cannot learn and experience these four realms of love anywhere other than in the family. We know love only through actual experience. The true perfection of the individual, family, society and environment has its root in the realization of love within the family.

### **World peace and restoration**

What is the reality of our world today? Despite advances in technology and the conveniences of modern life, the world is facing a profound crisis: the loss of our very humanity. Disorders and affliction of every kind of violence—crime, drug abuse and war—plague humankind. More significant, the breakdown of the family, including the rising divorce rate, the collapse of sexual morality among youth and the problem of unwed mothers, is destroying the foundation of society.

Even though we have sought peace and happiness in many ways, none of us can be satisfied with the results we have achieved in our lives. After the First and Second World Wars, the League of Nations and then the United Nations were established to prevent further conflict. However, the global work of these organizations has not brought about a peaceful world. The efforts of religious groups also have not led to a world of happiness. The proud ideals of communism and the fascist illusion failed to bring about an ideal world of oneness. Neither highly advanced technology nor skillful diplomacy deliver us peace and happiness. This is because the cause of humanity's unhappiness and suffering lies in the human Fall and our disobedience to God. The solution of the problem begins by eliminating this root cause.

Adam and Eve defiled true love



True Father gave this speech at a time when True Parents were frequently moving between the US and South America. This picture, from that time, shows Father with his Spanish interpreter, Alejandro de Souza.

during their time of growth. They fell away from God's Principle by having sexual relations and creating children before they reached maturity in true love.

Human history thus began with Adam and Eve's lack of faith in God, their loving parent, and their ultimate submission to Satan. By this action they became a false husband and false wife, and false parents. Our inheritance from the original family includes their legacy of corruption, conflict and suffering. This legacy has nothing to do with God's ideal of creation. We cannot imagine how God's Heart is broken!

God must, at any cost, restore his original ideal of true love and peace. What we call God's providence of salvation means his providence of restoration. For the sake of this restoration, he established religions and expanded a sphere of goodness.

The Messiah, sent by God, is the person who comes with the overall responsibility to complete the providence of restoration. The Messiah must come as the True Parent and must rectify everything, beginning at

the very root of the problem.

Jesus came as the Messiah with the mission of the True Parent. He came to resurrect human beings on earth. He would thus restore them as true individuals, so that they might become true husbands and wives who would be true parents themselves. Unfortunately, because of the lack of faith on earth, he was unable to accomplish his purpose fully. However, he promised to return. He must return in order to restore God's ideal of creation.

#### **Divine Principle and civilization**

Jesus was born in Israel, but he was not born for the Jewish people alone. Jesus came in the position of the Messiah and the True Parent. It was his purpose to realize God's ideal, that is, a world of true love and peace. At that time, Israel was under Roman colonial rule. If Jesus could have accomplished his purpose among the people of Israel, then God's providence would have spread his message throughout the world.

In fact, Israel's location at the crossroads of three continents—Asia,

Africa and Europe—led to the transmission of Jesus' teachings during the first centuries of the Christian era. Christianity spread south into Africa, east into Asia and west into Europe. Christianity attained continental dominion in Europe, western Asia and the Americas. Through Christianity these vast continents each accomplished relative unity. These unified continental powers came to dominate the world in the modern era.

Civilization first emerged on continents, in Egypt, Mesopotamia and China. The center of western civilization then shifted to peninsular cultures in Greece, Rome and then Iberia. These peninsular civilizations gave way to an island civilization in Great Britain. The center of civilization then moved to the continental civilization of North America, and then across the Pacific to an island civilization centering in Japan. It is the view of providence that the development of civilization will bear fruit in a peninsular culture emerging in Korea.

Peninsular cultures have given rise to important civilizations. Great religions and philosophies have emerged from peninsular cultures to guide the human spirit. These include, among others, Greek philosophy that came from the Balkan Peninsula, Catholic culture that blossomed on the Italian Peninsula, Hindu philosophy and culture from India, Islamic culture that arose on the Arabian Peninsula, Buddhist culture that flourished on the peninsulas of Southeast Asia, the art of navigation of the Iberian Peninsula, and the Nordic culture on the Scandinavian Peninsula. These peninsular initiatives took root on continents. Greco-Roman and Iberian culture flourished in Europe and the Americas, and Islamic culture spread across Africa and Asia.

#### **Recovering our original nature**

There are many obstacles blocking the way to human happiness and peace, including political and economic conflicts. Most fundamental, however, is the conflict between mind and body within the individual. Throughout history, the conflict between mind and body has never been completely resolved. This is the



True Parents at a later date on the same tour that included this speech

serious and miserable result of the human Fall.

Thus, people with inner conflict establish families, which cannot set up a proper standard of ethics and morality. They cannot experience the world of heart based on true love. Can such families achieve complete harmony and unity? Since the family unit has abandoned its responsibility to practice true love, it is now being shaken and destroyed. In light of the breakdown of the family, is peace in the society, nation and world a realistic possibility?

I convened the inaugural world convention of the Family Federation for World Peace in Washington, DC, the United States Capitol, from July 30 to August 1 of this year. Two former United States presidents, Gerald Ford and George H. W. Bush, sitting or former heads of state from forty nations, as well as representatives of 120 nations gathered for that historic international conference.

The Family Federation for World Peace will be the most treasured organization, coming as it does on the foundation of the above-mentioned

international organizations that I have already set up in the course of investing my life for the realization of a world of peace and true love.

Today, each individual must recover his or her true human nature, by uniting mind and body harmoniously within the realm of God's true love. Humankind must prepare a realm of eternal happiness through a movement for sexual purity and for the realization of true families. The Family Federation is dedicated to this task.

From the viewpoint of God's dispensation in the course of human history, humankind is one great family that is to live in attendance to God as the True Parent, transcending national boundaries, race and religious differences. Despite the fact that humankind as a single community is destined to cooperate as a global family, we live in an age when we feel that we have nothing to do with the problems of our neighbors and other countries. We cannot, however, ignore the reality of humanity ravaged by war, crime, drug abuse, pollution, destruction of ecosystems, corruption and the scourge of AIDS.

Today, with the eyes of history upon us, we must answer to God. How can humankind, whose mandate is the realization of complete harmony and unity, overcome the unfortunate reality and greet the coming millennium with hope? How can we realize a peaceful world, in which everyone lives for and trusts others without regard for personal and national interests? What is the new value system by which we shall attain this ideal?

Rather than riding the chariot of science and technology pulled by the horses of secular humanism, we must humbly seek the answers within our original mind. If we cannot find the solution on earth, we must find it through listening to the voice of Heaven.

I sincerely hope your deliberations at this conference can be fruitful in realizing the dream of a peaceful world. May God protect you and your families eternally. *TP*

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*This speech is from Pyeonghwa Gyeong, Book 9 Speech 11 and has been edited for inclusion in TP magazine.*

# America's Mission from the Viewpoint of the History of Human Civilization

*True Mother delivered this speech to an audience of twenty thousand who had purchased tickets to the "Peace Starts with Me" Hyojeong Cultural Festival, which took place in New York City's Madison Square Garden on July 15 (5.22 by the heavenly calendar).*







A view of the vast audience at the Hyo Jeong Cultural Festival in New York City

**E**steemed Ladies and Gentlemen, Ambassadors for Peace, Academic and Political Leaders, ACLC Ministers, Family Federation Blessed Families and Our Future Leaders in the Youth Federation:

Today, I will talk to you about the responsibility of this blessed country, America, God's providence and America's mission from the viewpoint of the history of human civilization. When we look at the world today, we see that war, religious conflict, ideological discord and natural disasters are plaguing it. When we know of seven million children dying from such unspeakable tragedies, can we find hope for our future?

The religious world is the same. No matter what the reason was or where trouble began, our destination must be the same. We need to know God. The Creator, God, who is the owner of the original universe, created the world and created a man and a woman to become the first human ancestors. God gave them a special growth period, during which they were to

learn how to take responsibility. Heaven's hope was for Adam and Eve to grow beautifully with absolute love and absolute obedience and to receive God's blessing to become the true parents of humankind.

Unfortunately, during their growth period, Adam and Eve acquired greed. That is what brought about the state of the human race today. Because the almighty, all-powerful God gave the principle of creation to human beings, human beings themselves had to make their own way to victory. Yet, for those unaware of God, inheriting Heaven's will has not been easy.

God chose the Israelites and tried to achieve his will through them. Throughout the long period of four thousand years, God strove to indemnify the original sin from the individual level to the societal level. Meanwhile, he promised that he would send the Savior, the Messiah, Jesus Christ, and he did. However, what happened?

Jesus was born as God's only son. God created a man and a woman. Since Jesus is a man, he needed to meet a woman. Mary, Zachariah's

family, Judaic figures and the Israelites generally should have prepared for this, but they did not fulfill their responsibilities. Jesus could not fulfill God's will alone. He had no choice but to die on the cross and under those circumstances he said he would come again. He said he would return and hold the marriage supper of the Lamb. The marriage supper of the Lamb! The history of the Christian Church began with resurrection by the Holy Spirit, and its believers await the returning Lord.

However, in the beginning, the Christian Church suffered from extreme persecution and misunderstanding. Three hundred years later, Christianity received official recognition in Rome, and then in all of Italy, and then across the European continent, all the way to Britain, an island nation. Centered on Britain, the surrounding nations began the era of the Atlantic Civilization and Christianity spread throughout the world. Yet Christians did not understand Jesus' essence. They did not fully understand God's providence and in the end, they retreated. Consequently, today's modern civilization pursues



True Family members in the front row of the main floor seating at Madison Square Garden for the "Peace Starts with Me" Hyo Jeong Cultural Festival

the development of a material civilization rather than that of a moral civilization.

### The returning Lord

Meanwhile, in the seventeenth century, King James, England's king, commissioned an English version of the Bible. This brought about a new religious movement, the representative nation of which is America. Heaven established America as a blessed nation to prepare the foundation for the Lord, who said he would come again. Within the short span of two hundred years, America became one of the world's most powerful nations. This was possible because it had Heaven's blessing. Isn't that so?

However, those in the Christian cultural sphere had a responsibility to prepare for the returning Lord but they were not striving to fulfill that. Jesus said he would come again. He could not form the True Parents of humankind by only coming in the spirit. He needed to come in a physical body. In that case, since he said he would come and hold the marriage supper of the Lamb, the birth of God's only daughter needed to occur

within the Christian cultural sphere.

Heaven began to prepare for the birth of God's only daughter. Once a people, nation or central figure fails to fulfill a personal responsibility, God does not use them again. This is because they came to owe indemnity for not fulfilling that personal responsibility. Through history, we know what kind of indemnity others had already paid. Therefore, Heaven chose the Han people in Asia and in 1943, centered on the foundation of Christianity, God's only daughter was born.

In 1945, Korea gained liberation [from Japanese occupation] but with it, Korea was soon split into North Korea and South Korea, communistic and democratic, respectively. The North's communists, under a single system, were ready to invade the South. At the time, the South's democrats hadn't established their own system yet. However, just as God established period of growth according to the principle of creation, God's only daughter, who had already been born, also needed a growth period. Heaven could not leave her in a dangerous area and thus guided her to

South Korea. After she had made it, the Korean War broke out on June 25, 1950. At the time, South Korea had no power to face North Korea; yet, like a miracle, the UN rallied sixteen nations to Korea's aid and good people shed blood. Today's South Korea is the fruit of its democracy.

Throughout all this, Heaven could wait no longer to solve global problems and required True Parents' manifestation. Hence, the realization of True Parents occurred in 1960. However, the Christian realm did not create an environment for them. True Parents' every move had to begin from the bottom-up. Thus, they completed the blessing of 430 couples who could represent a people.

### To America's rescue

In the meantime, America, blessed by Heaven, became sick and in 1972, True Parents came to the United States. Healing and restoring all the problems in America became a priority. Many righteous people and many young people followed Rev. Moon, but reckless politicians who did not understand, tried to chase Rev. Moon out of America. As a result, True



The photograph follows a presentation of flowers by grandchildren of those blessed at Madison Square Garden among the 2,075 couples in 1982.

Father went to prison in Danbury. If it were not for True Parents' mission, no need existed for them to come to America. However, because they were the True Parents, because their mission was to save America and guide the world to God, True Father endured incarceration in Danbury, and for forty years, he shed blood, sweat and tears for America.

America was supposed to take responsibility as a nation blessed in relation to Heaven's providence, but it was suffering from so much individualism, family breakdown and problems among youth that one could not bear to look an inch into America's future. It was also facing the threat of communism. My husband believed that the way to save America was the way to save the world; therefore, he told a famous doctor of political science to declare the failure of communism. That was in 1985. What happened? Communism fell five years later. That was not all. True Parents brought three thousand young people from a communist environment, the Soviet Union, to the United States and taught them. As a result, these people were able to

protect their nation from communism's threats.

The world is unaware of this. Even without the cooperation of any nation, let alone that of America, True Parents overcame unspeakable and indescribable difficulties. It took more than fifty years to reach where we are today. During that time, the Family Federation has established blessed families in more than a hundred and twenty nations.

Fallen human beings cannot return to God. They need to receive engrafting by the True Parents, who among all human beings, achieved victory. That is the blessing, which the Family Federation offers. When this nation and the world is overflowing with blessed families, God's dream, humankind's hope, True Parents' hope, and the one human family's hope can become reality.

#### **The global providence**

That day is not far away. True Parents blessed Korea and Japan as the central nations of the providence and America as the eldest-son nation. These three nations need to unite and on the foundation of a revolution

in the culture of heart, and then based on a heart of filial piety, we need to begin the era of the Pacific Rim civilization from Asia. When the footsteps of blessed families and young people of the Youth Federation across the five oceans and six continents become sparks and lights in front of the world, 7.4 billion people will flock as one toward those lights. We need to create such an environment.

A world of genuine freedom, equality, peace, unity and happiness is not far off. When all of you gathered here today become one with True Parents and practice living for the sake of others with true love toward those around you—your tribe, your church and your nation—we can build a united world with our own hands.

Ladies and gentlemen, here today, I hope that all of you unite with me and become sparks that light up this dark world and guide people to God's bosom. God Bless America! May this country, blessed by God, truly uphold this statement: May you never forget that essence and become lights in the world with redoubled courage! 7



# The Keys to the Kingdom of Heaven

*This was True Mother's message on July 16 (05.23.05 on the heavenly calendar) at the breakfast Peace Starts with Me Victory Celebration with district pastors and other leaders at East Garden, which was formerly True Parents' residence in the United States.*

**T**o whom did Jesus leave the keys to the kingdom of heaven with when he died on the cross? It was Peter. Life on earth is important. You are very lucky! You are people filled with joy. You have received the blessing through True Parents. You have been reborn through True Parents. What more could anyone wish for?

Then, every day that you are alive on earth, you must live your life offering joy and glory, with a heart of *hyo jeong*, to heaven. In light of that, you who have received the blessing have responsibilities. Those around you, your family, tribe, race, nation—all 7.4 billion people of the world must know the True Parents. They must be

reborn through True Parents. I am saying they must receive the blessing.

Why did Jesus give the keys to the kingdom of heaven to Peter? God's principle of creation calls for the perfection of man and woman, the perfection of husband and wife. When the husband and wife become one during their earthly lives, they realize the kingdom of heaven on earth.

After you have lived your life, blessed families can live an eternal life in the eternal world. How blessed are you to be in that position? The most important thing is that you are the embodiment of True Parents. You received the blessing through the True Parents.

It will still take some time until all

7.4 billion people of the world return to God's embrace. The blessings will continue in accordance with the principles of the providence. However, do you know how great a blessing it is for a person to be able to say, I received the blessing under True Parents' direct dominion? If so, you must fulfill your responsibilities. No matter what, you must fulfill your responsibilities while True Parents are still alive.

You must go out as filial sons or filial daughters and loyal subjects. Your descendants will proudly praise you forever and you will be respected and congratulated throughout all eternity. Will you go down that path, or will you stop? [We will go.] Work hard! [Yes!] 7



# Align Your Lifestyle with True Parents' Lifestyle

*This was True Mother's message on July 16 (05.23.05 on the heavenly calendar) at the Peace Starts with Me Outdoor Victory Celebration and Youth Gathering at East Garden.*

**H**as anyone of you [young people] received the blessing? Most of you probably have not. What did Jesus say to the thief on his right when he was on the cross? He said, "Today you will be with me in paradise." Why did he say "paradise"? Jesus came to earth to form the True Parents. I already said this the other day, but Mary, a central figure, did not fulfill her responsibilities. Zachariah's family, the Israelites, did not fulfill their responsibilities. Today's Catholic Church attends Mary like an idol. However, she was the woman who drove Jesus to the cross. Therefore, Jesus said, "I will come again." He said he would come to


hold the marriage supper of the Lamb.

God's ultimate creation was a man and a woman. They were to grow and finally receive the blessing from God. They should have become the True Parents of humankind, yet fallen humankind was the result of not doing so.

Therefore, your maturity is most important. You must have a lifestyle aligned only with me, with the True Parents! Just as a sunflower always aligns itself toward the sun, you must unconditionally unite with True Mother. Until you are ready to receive the blessing, you must maintain your purity. You must not have desires like those of Adam or Eve.

The result of that was the Fall. Do you understand?

Heaven is a place that only blessed families can enter. Jesus used the word "paradise" rather than "heaven" because he had no family of his own. People today are lucky to be able to meet True Parents. You must receive the blessing through True Parents. Only when you do that can you take the path to be in True Parents' lineage, which has nothing to do with the Fall. Please bear this in mind. Do you understand?

I will compliment you on one thing. You did very well the other day. Good work! When I call, you will respond unconditionally, won't you? Thank you. 

# True Parents at the Garden





- ① True Mother uplifted the audience with the words, "I hope that all of you unite with me and become sparks that light up this dark world and guide people to God's bosom. God Bless America!."
- ② The crowd of 20,000 in Madison Square Garden, built in 1968, and one of the most expensive public arenas ever built
- ③ (Clockwise from top left): Abp. George A. Stallings (AACL) was one MC; Dr. Kim Kihoon (FFWPU International vice-president) greeted the audience; Rep. Yvette Clark, (a US congress)woman gave a congratulatory address; Dan Burton (retired from US Congress), thanked True Mother; Michael Balcomb (US FFWPU president) was another MC TL Barrett and his wife Cleo (Life Center COGIC) gave the keynote introduction; and Rev. Paula White-Cain, (New Destiny Christian Center) spoke eloquently





- ❶ A wee child, pure of heart, presents flowers to True Mother.
- ❷ Dan Burton, a retired US congressman; Yun Young-ho, deputy chief of True Parents' Secretariat; Cho Sung-il, director-general of the FFWPU International Headquarters; Song Yong-cheon, chairman of the Blessed Family Associations of Japan; and Ryu Kyeong-seuk, president of FFWPU-Korea, visible here at Madison Square Garden
- ❸ The two-(estimated nearly three)-thousand-voice choir, a collection of church choirs, led by A. Curtis Farrow, an Emmy Award winning producer and director; (Pictured, right) Hezekiah Walker, two-time Emmy winner for Best Gospel Album By Choir Or Chorus performing





# Breakfast Victory Celebration



① True Mother at the Breakfast Victory Celebration  
 ② Og Manseil True Mother and faithful members conclude the Breakfast Victory Celebration.  
 ③ A toast  
 ④ Jin Jang-jin, head pastor for Korea's North Gyeongsang Province; Kevin Thompson, pastor of the Bay Area Family Church in San Francisco; and Dr. Michael Jenkins, head of the Office of Business Investment and Asset Development for the US church at the celebration



# Lunch Victory Celebration



# Outdoor Victory Celebration



1

- 1 True Mother at a celebration with Japanese and US leaders to celebrate the success of the event at Madison Square Garden. This luncheon event took place at East Garden.
- 2 True Mother did not speak but asked for songs. The US team sang two; the Japanese team sang one and then they sang "Sarangaeh" together.



2

- 1 True Mother addressing young adults who had attended a special event with Sun Jin nim and In Sup nim as part of their Peace Starts with Me experience on the East Garden grounds. (See p.20)
- 2 Flowers being presented to True Mother; the Chinese characters on their shirts spell "hyo jeong."
- 3 The crowd of about five hundred at this special victory celebration.



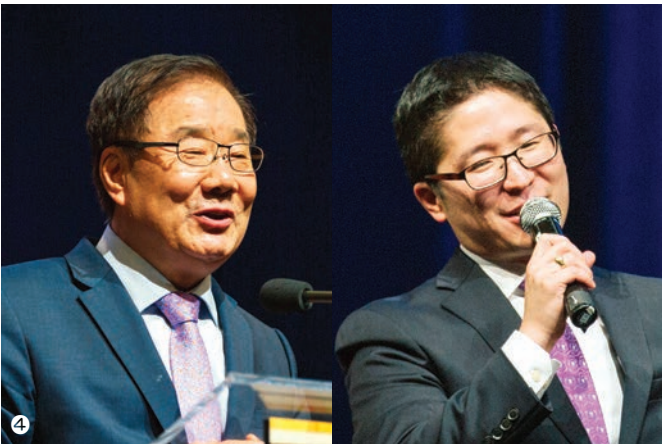
3

# Hyo Jeong Weekend





- ① Sun Jin Moon and her husband In Sup Park hold a discussion with Unificationists from eighteen to thirty-nine years of age on the topic of "hyo jeong," filial piety, during an event called Hyo Jeong, a Weekend in New York City with True Mother and Our Extended Family, July 14–16
- ② Among the many encouraging things the young people heard that day, Sun Jin nim said, "True Father could have just been an ordinary citizen, but he chose a path to do something extraordinary. You need to make that choice, you need to find your truth, you need to do your own good in the world... Just like True Father at sixteen. That's the potential each and everyone of you has."
- ③ Sun Jin Moon and In Sup Park receiving flowers
- ④ Dr. Kim Ki-hoon, vice-president of FFWPU International, explained to the audience that a Victory Celebration for young people at East Garden had been prepared for those who had enrolled in the Hyo Jeong Weekend (see page 13)
- ⑤ Music plays an enormous role in the lives of the young generation and was a means through which the audience expressed joy and found heightened unity.
- ⑥ The Hyo Jeong Weekend attracted more than five hundred people



# Tribal Messiahship in Los Angeles

*Following a visit to Japan and Korea, where she was able to meet True Mother, TPmagazine requested Mrs. Hiraki's testimony. She was busy supporting True Mother's efforts, but agreed to update a testimony she had given in 2015, providing more details about her witnessing breakthroughs on college campuses in Los Angeles.*

By Naoko Hiraki

**L**os Angeles Kodan decided to work together on their tribal messiahship efforts. We met together, sixty-eight families, and each counted who was already in our tribe. We counted our physical sons and daughters, and then our spiritual sons and daughters. We tried to conclude the count by June 30 and on August 30, we determined to make at least one tribe together among 68 families. With Dr. Kim's leadership, we made it.

## **Our motivation**

I had gone to Korea for the second anniversary of True Father's ascension last year. After that, I had the chance to attend the World Leaders' Summit. At that time, I heard testimonies from Unificationists in Asian countries. The testimony of Kang Deok-lae from Korea struck me. She had been reaching out to one person at a time for a long time. She took care of her spiritual children, and then she married and had son and daughters of her own. So she had a big community; she was taking care of her spiritual and physical sons and daughters. She reached 430

couples with consistent effort over thirty years.

I was shocked, because she had been doing this for her whole life. I felt that I also should have been doing this. Then I heard testimonies from Unificationists in the Philippines, Thailand and Nepal. They believe that in their country if even twelve families could each establish 430 couples, together as a result of heavenly tribal messiahship, their country would move and they would be able to make Cheon Il Guk real in that country. They believe in this that strongly. I was shocked.

If I can strongly believe in starting tribal messiahship in this country, we can build Cheon Il Guk here in America, I thought. I want to do that. I came back to Los Angeles and reported to all the Kodan brothers and sisters in Japanese. They were so inspired. I teamed up with the Kodan leaders. We had thirteen leaders altogether, and we dedicated ourselves to pursuing tribal messiahship until the next anniversary of True Father's ascension.

It helped to know we could work together as a group. True Mother told us many times that it is difficult

to work as just one person. As just one family, it's also difficult to find 430 couples. She has told us we can do it as a group, or as a church. We can make it together. So I spoke to Kodan in Los Angeles, and they decided to do that.

Then I counted my spiritual tribe, and still I had only 189. Our circumstances now forced us to witness to college students because we wanted to make CARP stronger, which is True Mother's desire. Since 2014 we have witnessed to college students.

True Parents lived in America for forty years, loving and investing in America. True Parents wanted the best from America, which is in the position of the eldest son nation, so we have to build Cheon Il Guk here quickly. True Mother told this to us strongly, but behind what True Mother said, I saw many tears in her heart. I want to make this nation number one in building Cheon Il Guk.

Our Japanese sisters are doing campus outreach in Los Angeles. To date, we have eighty students who have finished reading Divine Principle reading and A Peace-Loving Global Citizen or Cheon Seong



Mrs. Hiraki giving her testimony to American members during a national leadership conference

Gyeong and eighty students who consistently come to our center.

We started our outreach activities at Pasadena City College. Now we have spread to seven other colleges to do witnessing activities. More than thirty mothers in Kodan are witnessing, and now thirty second-generation Unificationist students help with the reading and witnessing. This year, we will establish CARP chapters on seven more campuses. We are using the college cafeteria, and we have a study group. We're just reading Exposition of the Divine Principle with guests. One-on-one Divine Principle study is our reading style. True Mother asked us to use this method in 2013. (Everybody needs to do it this way.) Since she first asked us to, we have used this style.

#### Our methods

To begin with, we just ask people to look at a questionnaire, asking which questions are more important to them. Some of the questions on our questionnaire include: "What is the purpose of life?" or "Does God exist?" and "What is the spiritual world?"

We then ask them to express themselves in comments. They're thinking a lot. Most of our team consists of Japanese mothers. We cannot speak English well, which means we listen a lot. (Now, though, second-generation members or first-generation native speakers witness with us.) We heard from many students that when they ask pastors about the Bible, the pastors tell them not to question it but just believe it, so they tire of going to church but they do not lose their faith in God or in Jesus Christ.

Based on the questionnaire, I tell them, "We have a study group that addresses these questions, and we will read a book called the Divine Principle and discuss it together." On the spot, we show them a simple two-page summary of an introductory lecture. We ask them just to read it, and the student reads it. Then I explain about True Father a little after that. I ask, "Are you interested in studying with us?" If they say yes, I say, "We have a study group at the cafeteria on campus." Then we make an appointment and they come by themselves. Using the

whole Divine Principle, starting with the introduction, they read the red parts and yellow parts, and we read the blue parts.

Then, when they finish, they write their names on the back of the book for that chapter. Seeing other students' names already there turns into something of a competition. "Oh, this person is ahead of me! I want to come more often and learn more. Who else is ahead of me?"

#### Administration

We make an effort to get to know the people and learn about their lives. For each student, we made a file. Each time they came, we wrote in detail in the file about what we talked about, everything. We write everything. I report everything and then keep the records. I wrote down things like what internal problem a person is struggling with or what a person's goal is.

Using a notebook, we keep track of who's coming. Almost twenty-five students come every day. We also have daily staff meetings. Mothers are coming from morning until 7:00 pm, Monday to Friday, spending all day in the cafeteria.



Mrs. Hiraki (polka-dotted dress) on a pilgrimage to Busan with CARP America staff members on the Rock of Tears; Teresa Rischl, president of CARP, is the third person from the right.

### Obstacles

For those of us who witness on campus it has been very difficult. Once they begin to witness with us, many members of our team seem suddenly to face challenges in their personal lives. One sister's husband lost his job. Another sister's daughter had surgery. Another sister's brother died. Every member of staff had a problem, but they were determined never to give up.

Some endured challenges within the outreach work itself, being unable to bring even one guest for the whole year, but then their motivation changed. Every time we met, I reported about True Mother's heart. When they first came, they thought that they wanted to witness. At some point, they realized that the desire to witness does not come from us. Once we changed our perspective, we wanted to do this to help True Mother, to give joy to True Mother, and our spirit changed. Right after that, everyone began to meet good, curious students. Now everybody has brought several guests.

### Strong relationships are vital

I have twenty-five spiritual sons on campus, plus their families. They come with their families to Sunday service. Every student has some challenges and receives persecution from family or friends or from the internet while they study Divine Principle. We strongly connect to them, though, so they strongly stand up to their parents, and then bring their parents to church. We now have a foundation of a hundred and twenty students.

Recently, we went on a trip to Japan and Korea for the second time. While we were there, US CARP students gave speeches on North Korea and South Korea at the National Assembly complex in Korea. They studied True Parents' teachings so hard and they found out that CARP's entire purpose is to restore this nation and restore North Korea and South Korean unity. The students inspired us. After that, we were able to meet with True Mother. It was unbelievable occasion.

True Mother's great love and

heart are so amazing! Every student could feel so much love, which no one else had given but for which they had been waiting. Especially when we offered to sing a Korean song, (Hyo Shim), everybody cried. Because True Mother was there, they had wanted to prepare a song to offer to her.

Later, True Mother asked us to go to Madison Square Garden perform a popular Korean dance (*Mujojeon*). For that, they practiced very hard. Their hearts toward True Mother embodied the famous song lyrics ("I'll Be Around" by the Spinners), Wherever True Mother call us, we'll be there; whatever True Mother asks for we will do.

### Our determination

As CARP Los Angeles together with Kodan will reach 360 students next year, and we will hold a rally of ten thousand students at UCLA, a famous university in the US. Each of us is determined to do this in order to build our confidence to restore America. We love you so much, True Mother. ☮



# Students Gain New Insights from International Exchange

By Jennifer Pierce

**F**rom June 19 to July 4, over a hundred and twenty American CARP students participated in the second annual International Exchange Trip to Korea and Japan. This year's trip was a success and opened up opportunities for the future. The big takeaways were experiencing Father and Mother Moon's heart and vision for CARP, the young people, and the world and fostering unity between the three countries of Japan, Korea and America.

The very first international exchange trip took place in the spring of 2016. The Los Angeles chapter of a CARP-affiliated women's group, Kodan, initiated these exchanges. They saw them as opportunities for local CARP members to develop leadership skills, discover CARP's roots in Japan and Korea, and build relationships with CARP members from other countries.

CARP landed in Japan on June 20. At the airport, Japanese CARP members greeted the CARP participants from different communities across America, Canada and England. After everyone arrived, we took a bus to the Isshin Education Center, where we stayed for most of our time in Japan. There was delicious curry for dinner and then a short orientation. Our hosts gave participants a booklet of information and we took some time to get to know one another in groups and to learn what motivated others to take this trip.

## **An initial workshop**

This year, participants spent eight total days in Japan and roughly four days in Korea. The trip opened with a two-day Divine Principle workshop, which focused on the essence of the Divine Principle and the meaning and value of the blessing. Mr. Nakamura gave the lectures and clearly explained the principled lifestyle and true families. Through these lectures, the participants gained a deeper understanding of God's heart and of how to develop healthy and lasting relationships.

"I learned a lot about the main principles from the Divine Principle," Daniel said. "I learned that relationships and love ensure a better life for a person, and that true love is sacrificing yourself to your significant other just as God did. I appreciate everything that God has done to ensure a better life for all humanity and I feel the hardships that he goes through when something goes wrong in his plan."

"I never realized how much True Mother had to sacrifice in her life with True Father, and it made me feel so grateful that God, True Parents, and my own parents have paid so much indemnity for the life that I have now," said Leo. "I also learned that without actual effort, you will never attain true happiness."



Above: CARP America members doing a serial massage after the long flight to Japan; CARP members enjoying a packed lunch, Japanese style, called "bento" after the compartmentalized box it comes in

### Discovering Father as a young man

After the two-day workshop, the participants went on a pilgrimage to Waseda University, following in Father Moon's footsteps—the place he lived, the path he traveled, the jail he was sent to, and finally Waseda Institute of Technology, which he attended. This experience opened up a path to understand Father's past. They were able to connect to Father's heart during a painful time in his life and saw the very places they had read about in his autobiography, *As A Peace-loving Global Citizen*.

We visited the police station where officials questioned and tortured Father Moon, the house where an elderly Japanese couple took him in when he needed a place to stay and the very first church in Japan. Father's love for Japan and the Japanese people despite the treatment from the Japanese government during that time moved everyone. Benjamin Lam felt, "It's pretty cool that Father Moon went to this school and it's still here and we could see where he was coming from. It's inspiring how he went through so much...."

To conclude the pilgrimage, we all gathered in front of the Okuma Hall to take a picture where Father Moon had taken his graduation picture many years ago. Then some of us paired up with a Japanese CARP member to walk through the campus and invite people to come to our special conference for intercultural exchange, the International Borderless Conference, which CARP-Japan was conducting on the Waseda University campus.

### A world without borders

At the International Borderless Conference, four CARP members spoke—two from CARP Japan (J-CARP) and two from CARP America. A Japanese student spoke about the beauty of Japan explaining that what makes Japan cool is not just the popular anime books and movies but also the honesty of the Japanese people. People say Japan is one of the safest countries in the world.

Then Jennifer Pierce gave a speech about America and reminded us that sometimes it is not easy to see the good side of America while living in the country but that if we take the time to look to our roots and foundation, something beautiful is there. The founders had the notion of putting God first and establishing an environment for people to cherish freedom and equality based on Christianity.

We then heard two students talk about their dreams and aspirations. Koji from the University of Tokyo spoke about his dream to resolve energy issues in the world. "If we can eradicate poverty, climate change and hunger by creating infinite sources of energy, we could bring world peace more quickly!" Yasu then spoke about his dream. "I want to make God's dream my dream. I think God's dream is world peace so my dream is also to create world peace. I also want to be the best father to my children and pass on a world that they deserve to live in."

Following these testimonies, each student in his or her groups had a chance to describe their own



Above: US CARP members learning from their Japanese counterparts the Mujojeon dance that they would need to perform at Madison Square Garden. Below: Their experience in Japan began with a two-day Divine Principle workshop.

dreams on paper. Then, each student shared what they wrote and each group member wrote them words of encouragement. After many reflections came performances by both the Japanese and American students, concluding the event in laughter and joy.

It was as if friends and family were meeting beyond national borders. We hope that this is the first of many such events. To end the day, we heard a testimony from Mr. Harugai, who served as the pianist in Hyo Jin nim's band for fifteen years, about Hyo Jin Moon (1962–2008) Father Moon's oldest son. The experience today seemed to touch everyone. I hope this leads to a deeper and heart-to-heart connection to Father and Mother Moon and to the Japanese culture now and in the future.

### The joy of new guests

Fifteen new guests showed up at the event. They were inspired by the content and some even began studying the Divine Principle, which showcased to the participants how CARP can positively impact people. They could see the importance and necessity of CARP.

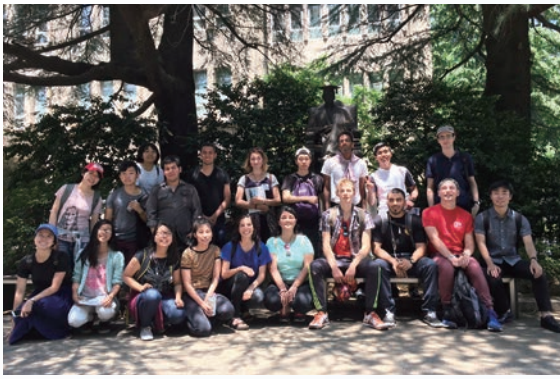
The next day, an exchange program took place between J-CARP and CARP America with presentations and testimonies, culminating in a homestay for the American students at the Japanese CARP houses to experience CARP Japan's lifestyle. One team went by bus and subway to the Shibuya CARP center, where CARP-Japan members warmly welcomed them to their center, which was small but cozy. They made a lovely dinner for them—*okonomiyaki*. While enjoying the food they got to know one another better. Sharing experiences and a similar living space helped to bridge the cultural gap between the two CARP groups and foster new relationships.

### Learning from each other

The leaders of J-CARP and CARP America met on June 26, exchanging plans and insights to build better CARP programs on both fronts. This was an inspiring exchange. "I feel like the one thing that we lack is ambition to [J-CARP's] degree," was Joshua's take on the difference. "The one thing I felt we could absolutely inherit from them is that conviction," he continued. "That's something that Americans can inherit. Moving forward [for CARP L.A.], the first step is working on a clear, logical direction and model for what that CARP chapter is going to look like."

J-CARP also came to teach the Mujojeon dance to CARP America who were asked by True Mother to perform at the Madison Square Garden event on July 15. Learning the dance in just a few hours was a challenge, but they managed it well and performed it for President Tokuno and President Motoyama and his wife later that day.

Afterward, CARP America performed at an Open Mic night as part of the last full night together with J-CARP.



Clockwise from upper left: CARP America on the Waseda University campus; At an International Borderless Conference members from J-CARP and CARP America spoke; Leaders of J-CARP and CARP America meet to learn from one another; In front of the CARP Korea Headquarters

### Coming to Korea

Upon arrival in Korea, CARP on the eighth day, America participated in a pilgrimage to Beomnetgol, Father Moon's first church (also referred to as the "mud hut"), and Cheong Pa Dong, the first headquarters church. Witnessing Father and Mother Moon's humble beginnings moved many participants to realize how much they sacrificed for the world.

For Mika Miyagi, "it was a very deep experience thinking about the investment that True Father put into those places and seeing now how all his visions are coming true. People from all over the world are now coming to see [the Rock of Tears]. It is his devotion that really moves these people, and it's something that's really inspiring. It gives me hope for the future. Back in those days, Korea was underdeveloped. Busan was a small town, and now here we all are from across the world. It's really beautiful to think about."

"An amazing experience was being able to go to [Cheong Pa Dong] which was my first time...," Ikusei shared, "I remember the pastor there telling us how True Father was praying floods of tears until the floors were wet and seeping through the other side. When I heard that, I was able to understand even a little how big Father's heart was for this world. This pilgrimage helped me realize deep God's goal for the future."

Our closing ceremony was not without tears as everyone said good-bye to one another and gave gifts of appreciation to their staff. We hope this trip has inspired all the students from both continents and we hope to bring an even stronger determination into the next semester!

### Longing for unity

The participants then attended the 2017 International Collegiate Symposium for the Reunification of the Korean Peninsula at the Korean National Assembly building (Korea's unicameral legislature). Three representative students from CARP Japan, Korea and America gave speeches on the importance of peaceful reunification. It was inspiring to see all three countries coming together to tackle this very crucial issue that was also dear to Father's heart.

Afterwards, CARP America held an exchange program with CARP Korea to share, bond, and inspire each other to be their best self. One K-CARP member gave a testimony about a condition the members are doing together—proclaiming True Parents on the streets. She explained how at first she was scared, but she overcame her fear through the realization that True Parents need her and that she loves them. There was no room for shame in this context. The two CARP groups ate together and perform for one another, making everyone laugh and cry.

### Peaceful Cheongpyeong

During our stay in Korea, we stayed at the Hyo Jeong Cheon Won Training Center (formerly known



A group photograph in Cheon Jeon Gung, following the meeting between True Mother and CARP

as the Cheong Pyeong Training Center). The peaceful atmosphere was refreshing and participants were able to take time to meditate and pray. In the morning, we went up to the Tree of Blessing to pray and reflect. We also heard a lecture from Mr. In Moon Pyo about how the spirit world works.

### Meeting True Mother

Finally, the culmination of the trip was meeting Mother Moon at the Cheon Jeong Gung Peace Palace. First, they were led to Father Moon's eternal resting place, Bonhyangwon, for a prayer. From mud hut to palace in the presence of Father and Mother Moon, the participants were moved to tears and made determinations to work even harder from this point on.

"Visiting True Father's grave allowed me to experience a deeply spiritual experience. I felt a tangible presence of the man who gave me everything; the man who instilled within me purpose and faith... but then I realized that he was not at peace. Not until all of God's children come home can Father be at peace. In this moment, I understood that fulfilling his mission is the only thing that will bring about joy to God, True Parents, and all of humankind."—Ryusei

"I was holding in tears because of the emotional experience this trip has been. The love in the room was definitely there... In that moment, I was filled with love that can last a lifetime."—Darius

"Seeing True Mother in person allowed me to see the love that she has for humanity infinitely more clear than her portraits ever will. Today when visiting both Father and Mother, I felt a strong spiritual presence that I have only ever felt in my life when I was closest to God. I am looking for answers within my heart, and I won't give up on the Divine Principle until I find what I'm looking for."—David

True Mother opened with words of love strongly urging the American students to fulfill America's responsibility in recognizing and providing an environment for True Parents. She shared that although she wanted to praise us, she felt she needed to focus on pushing us forward to finish God's providence in America. CARP America shouted with agreement.

During the lunch, we ate Heaven G Burgers and sat with True Mother while CARP America gave presentations about CARP including personal testimonies from Jermaine Bishop and Naoko Hiraki and a few words from CARP America President, Teresa Rischl. Afterwards, CARP performed for True Mother with such sincerity that many tears flowed from the CARP students.

Before the participants packed up to return home, they made determinations within their CARP chapters to create or expand their CARP chapters. Everyone was motivated to set goals and achieve them, even shouting them out loud for their fellow participants to hear.

All 120+ participants experienced one global family. With newfound determination and fond memories with CARP Japan and Korea, each participant is ready to go back to their communities and achieve more until the next year's trip! 🌀

# Cycles of Life in a Central European Church Community

**H**ungary is a Central European nation with a population of ten million. The capital city, Budapest, is home to 1.75 million people. Nearly 3.5 million people live in the Budapest metropolitan area. For centuries, Budapest was Buda and Pest, two cities on opposite sides of the River Danube. No bridge spanned that watery divide until 1849. The two cities became one in 1873, but more than a hundred and forty years later, some argue that Budapest retains a split personality. Buda is hilly and more residential; Pest is flat and urban and is home to most of the city's major public buildings.

Debrecen, Pécs and Sopron are also important cities in Hungary. Debrecen, in the east, is Hungary's second largest city and served as the national capital at various times in

history. Pécs is a multicultural city in the southwest, near Croatia. Sopron is in the west on the border with Austria. It stands on Roman ruins.

### Activities in Hungary May–June

Hungarian Families celebrated our precious Cheon Il Guk Holy Day, the fifty-fifth Day of All True Things, all over the country. Those families living far away from church centers or who could not manage to visit the centers, celebrated this victorious day in their homes. The Budapest community was fortunate to share a resounding celebration with Mr. Jacques Marion, vice-president of the European Movement, who arrived for the World Families Congress. He gave uplifting explanations about the importance of interfaith efforts and of how True Parents systematically built

up a movement to restore the world.

### Public lectures

During the last two months, we held several public lectures in which we presented some parts of the Divine Principle. Moreover, we introduced a Family Values seminar and Korea as the homeland of the True Parents through a cultural event. Newcomers and earlier guests, those who had already attended similar lectures and events with us, participated in it.

### Divine Principle education

How to apply the Divine Principles in our daily lives was the focus of the two weekend seminars. Some of the participants came for the first time but quite a few came back to study and get to know more about the True Parents' teachings. The workshops



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- ① Jacques Marion, vice-president of the European Movement, celebrated the Day of All True Things with Hungarian members
- ② An advertisement for one of the public lectures a Hungarian member presented
- ③ A DP workshop at a campsite that had the theme "Connecting with our roots."
- ④ A small group meeting
- ⑤ The Hungarian movement held a classical music concert and art exhibitions at the Peace Embassy, which serves the community.
- ⑥ Some of the young women who are developing programs for second-generation members

helped many of the participants, according to their feedback, to take their first steps toward God as the divine being, the Creator. Some of them experienced prayer for the first time or honestly reflected for the first time about our Heavenly Parent. During the seminars, they had chances to experience hoondokhae, studying the Word, True Parents' teachings with others.

### Caring for all children

The couple who serve as both the city leaders and head of our training center in Pecs organized a three-day Divine Principle seminar for youngsters. Blessed children from the region and friends they had invited participated in the workshop. In that way, they could learn together and create loving relationships. The city

leaders designed the program to fit the children's ages and youthful impatience. This workshop also proved a good opportunity to bring the parents of the "outside" children closer to our movement.

### Raising funds

Older second-generation Unificationists decided to challenge themselves through a fund-raising experience in July. In light of that, the national leader organized a short seminar for them, which provided some insights into the basic ideals and purposes for which True Parents included raising funds as a part of our formula course. One young woman spoke to the group about her three-week fund-raising experience that she had had during the DONE program. A Q and A session included discussion and

clarification of several practical issues.

### Upcoming activities for youth

June 27–29, we will hold a three-day Divine Principle seminar for those over fourteen years old. For those aged six to thirteen a four-day camp, July 25–28, should be fun. A six-day HARP camp, covering August 1–6, will help build comradery for those in their high-school years. Finally, three second-generation members will attend at the Global Top Gun workshop in Korea with True Mother August 1–21.

### Interreligious outreach

The Ministry of Human Resources organized an event in which Louis Raphael Sako, patriarch from Iraq, gave a lecture about the "Future of the Christians in Iraq." His visit also



focused on raising awareness of the serious issues created by terrorists in that area and of how developed countries can support refugees, mentally and financially. At the same time, he issued a warning to the well-settled countries and to Christians to renew their faith and commitment to God. After the event, the national leader had an opportunity to meet the patriarch and introduce our movement and had a brief discussion with the patriarch's personal assistant, together with one of our ambassadors for peace. Another uplifting meeting took place at the banquet with a Hungarian Catholic priest who had heard the first three chapters of the Divine Principle a while ago.

The Unification Church in Hungary also received an invitation to be among sixteen religious groups to take part in an Interreligious Prayer Day. One of the main topics covered was the need to stand together and not ignore or exclude refugees, which applies to an astonishing 65.5 million people nowadays. In Hungary, it is necessary to balance peoples' concerns about refugee issues and helping them to understand that these people fleeing as refugees is not solely a Muslim problem. The representative of each religious group had an

opportunity to explain his or her faith traditions. Our Hungarian national leader, read Good and Evil Seen from the Viewpoint of Purpose from the second chapter of Exposition of the Divine Principle.

### Peace Embassy events

With some of our ambassadors for peace, who have their own NGOs, we held both a classical music concert and an art exhibition in our Peace Embassy. These occasions create a pleasant environment conducive to witnessing, to introducing our peace movement and creating new friendships with good-hearted people, who by in large are not strongly religious.

After fourteen years as Budapest pastors, Tibor and Zuzana Krebsz concluded their mission as church leaders. The Hungarian church held an inauguration ceremony for Mr. and Mrs. David and Zsuzsanna Klimes on June 18 at the Peace Embassy. We wish God's blessing, guidance, love and wisdom on the new church leaders. Tibor and Zuzana are going to focus only on national leadership from now on.

### A Seonghwa Ceremony

Mr. Antal Gergely and his wife Zsóka met the True Parents around a year

ago. Already, at that time Antal was bedridden due to the state of his health. Their life story is a victory for true love. Zsoka took Antal from the street many years ago because he was homeless. Later, they married. Zsoka came to know True Parents and they went through the blessing together. With special care, Antal and Zsoka completed the three-day ceremony. Antal contracted cancer, too, during his last years. It was as if he had been waiting to complete the blessing providence. A few months later, at the end of April, he passed on to his eternal home. In our Gyor church center, we held a Seonghwa Ceremony. Afterward, brothers and sisters, his family and friends said good bye to him in the cemetery. He was seventy-two years old.

### Etcetera

Other important events of the Hungarian family include the continuing Sun Myung Moon Peace Running. We are strengthening interpersonal relationships in small groups. Mr. Rainer Fuchs has been leading leaders meetings and the national leaders, husband and wife, have been visiting our various local communities. 

*FFWPU-Hungary contributed this article.*



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- 1 At an event sponsored by the Hungarian government's Ministry of Human Resources at which the national leader introduced our movement to the Patriarch of Babylon of the Chaldeans in Iraq.
- 2 Tibor Krebsz, the outgoing national leader, standing between David and Zsuzsanna Klimes, the incoming national leader and his wife, and Zuzana Krebsz on the day of handover, June 18
- 3 The many flowers received during the Seonghwa Ceremony for an elderly member
- 4 Participants in the Sun Moon Peace Run, a sporting event our Hungarian movement conducts



4



# The Momentous Launch of IAPP Myanmar

**W**hile undergoing profound and rapid change, Myanmar is today emerging as one of Asia's most sought-after investment destinations. Its opening to the global economy has come after forty-nine years of military rule. Finally, after this long isolation and internal conflict, Myanmar is opening up to the world.

On Monday, July 3, between 3:00 and 7:00 PM the launching of the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace-Myanmar took place in the Grand Ballroom of the Hilton Hotel in Naypyitaw with the theme "Addressing the Critical Challenges of our Time: The Role of Governments, Civil Society and Faith-Based Organizations."

Among the 126 guests attending the launching were ninety-nine Burmese members of Parliament, Madhav Kumar Nepal, prime minister of Nepal (2009–2011), a Nepalese member of Parliament, three Thai members of Parliament, four religious leaders, the Nepalese ambassador to Myanmar, four religious leaders, NGO representatives, ambassadors for peace and twelve major UPF leaders.

## Once dormant, now revived

The revival of UPF-Myanmar, through Daw Swe Zin Taik becoming its acting president and the choosing

of a new Board of Directors, made launching IAPP-Myanmar possible. Daw Swe Zin Taik is a nationally renowned actress and outstanding NGO Leader. Two of the board members have good ties to the government. With this board in place, we were able to contact parliamentarians, two of whom had attended the IAPP World Summit Conference at the beginning of this year. Two other board members attended the Inauguration of IAPP-Philippines and one member of Parliament attended the IAPP-India inauguration. Last June, twelve members of Parliament attended UPF's Asian Leadership Conference in Bangkok, Thailand. Through these members of Parliament, we could connect to the upper house, House of Nationality, Speaker, U Mahn Win Khine Than. After we sent a proposal letter on the launching of IAPP to his office, he agreed to send seventy members of Parliament (as we requested) to participate in our event. Later, the lower house, House of Representatives, Speaker U Win Myint accepted our request to send thirty members of Parliament to the IAPP-Myanmar inauguration.

## A living national symbol

The courtesy call on the state counselor, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi came based on the cooperation between Nepal's ambassador to Myanmar and

Madhav Kumar Nepal, with the support of Ek Nath Dhakal, a Nepalese Constituent Assemblyman and the Co-chair of IAPP-Asia. Dr. Chung Sik Yong had invited Ek Nath Dhakal to come to support the launching in Myanmar, with the purpose of gaining the State Counselor's acknowledgement of and support for it. Through this diplomatic channel, our UPF executives could meet the state councilor and were able to discuss the role and significance of IAPP worldwide in supporting the peace process and reconciliations in Myanmar.

Dr. Robert Kittel describes the meeting with the state councilor as follows:

"Her handshake was firm. Her eyes were strong and clear. She looked each of us straight in the eyes, shook our hands and personally welcomed all eight members of the Universal Peace Federation's (UPF) delegation. She invited us to sit down. She sat on the edge of a couch big enough for three people and filled it with her presence. Her back was straight. It never touched the cushion behind her."

"She had studied in New Delhi, India and then at Oxford University in England where she earned BA degrees in Philosophy, Politics and Economics in 1967 and an MA in Politics a year later. After fifteen years



of house arrest, which ended in 2010, her party won a landslide victory winning 86 percent of the seats in the Assembly of the Union. Although prohibited from becoming Myanmar's president because her late husband and children are foreign nationals, she assumed the newly created role of state counselor, a role akin to a prime minister or a head of government. This allows her to work across all areas of government and to act as a link between the executive and legislative branches during a five-year term."

She first invited the head of the delegation, Madhav Kumar Nepal to offer his remarks. He talked about Nepal's peace process and the unique model of transitioning from a 240-year-old monarchy, via a violent insurgency, to a vibrant democracy. M. K. Nepal was one of the main architects of this historic undertaking. During these turbulent times, armed militant Maoists peacefully integrated into a democratically elected government and helped write Nepal's new constitution making it a Federal Democratic Republic. She listened intently.

The former prime minister then offered Dr. Thomas G. Walsh, president of UPF International, the floor. He highlighted the role of UPF in peace building in other parts of the world—the Middle East, Northeast

Asia, Europe and Africa. He also spoke about the numerous high-level personalities around the world supporting these initiatives, which are based on Rev. Moon's universal principles of peace. She again listened carefully with her eyes fixed on this tall American who looks like Prince Charles.

She then spoke. Her voice was poised and steady. Her words were measured and her manners full of grace without much movement of her hands. First, she thanked everyone for coming to Myanmar. To M. K. Nepal, she was courteous and fondly remembered her many visits to Nepal officially and on leisure. In fact, her mother was the first ambassador from Myanmar to Nepal.

She then asked our help. It was a humbling moment. We were caught off guard by this request. Our hearts immediately focused and yearned to understand how we could assist. First, she said her government needed help in reconciliation. Without specifics she was obviously referring to a number of fronts: religious harmony, political integration, and building concord between the 135 officially recognized ethnic groups in Myanmar.

In the same vein, the Nobel laureate (1991) and youngest daughter of Nepal's "Father of the Nation," (Major General Aung San), talked about

human rights from the international perspective. There was pain in her heart as she spoke. So many times people use human rights violations as if they were arrows of accusations. They criticize nations for their shortcomings and only blame governments for failures. This, she said, was unhealthy. She wanted our help to change this attitude in the international community.

In turn, each delegate spoke. When the topic came to "raising the children of a nation," her motherly heart sprang forth. Her main concern was that the internet posed a serious problem for young people. It was too easy for adolescents in their formative years to be misguided. Parents are clueless to what is happening and youth are exposed to extreme forms of selfish individualism in areas affecting lifestyles and relationships.

The last speaker was Ek Nath Dhakal, a member of Nepal's Legislative Parliament and twice a government minister, representing the Nepal Family Party. In addition, he is the Asian chairman for the newly formed International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP). He first outlined IAPP's impressive list of activities in South and Southeast Asia and then thanked the state counselor for supporting the launching of IAPP in Myanmar, noting that the program would take place later the same day.

- ❶ Yong Chung-sik, regional chairman of our movement in Asia speaking at the IAPP inauguration in Myanmar
- ❷ Madhav Kumar Nepal, prime minister of Nepal (2009–2011)
- ❸ The audience in Myanmar watches True Parents' message during the launch of IAPP in their country.
- ❹ The wife of Bhim K. Udas, Nepal's ambassador to Myanmar, signs the resolution to establish IAPP in Myanmar
- ❺ The delegation that paid a courtesy call on Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, state counsellor of Myanmar



To this Daw Aung San Suu Kyi replied, “When you meet the members of Parliament this evening, please ask them to go beyond being politicians and become statesmen who put the interest of the nation even above party politics.”

“At the close of the meeting she accepted our request that she invite five or six delegates from Myanmar, whom she might select, to attend one of our Asian Leadership Conferences in Bangkok. This was a model that Dr. Chung Sik Yong, chairman of UPF-Asia, used in Nepal to teach Communist leaders. She agreed and suggested we work out the details with Myanmar’s Embassy in Thailand.”

“Prior to meeting us, she had been chairing an important session of parliament, which she had left to be on time for our meeting. We were to meet for thirty minutes, but in the end were cordially granted forty minutes. Even though we were running overtime, she was endearing enough to allow us to have memorable photographs with various contingents of our delegation—the Nepalese diplomats, the UPF staff, and then all together.”

### The launching

Later, in the afternoon of the same day, our UPF delegation led by Madhav Kumar Nepal, Ek Nath Dhakal, Thomas Walsh, Dr. Chung Sik Yong,

and other UPF executives met with the Speaker U Win Myint at the House of Representatives. As a result the Speakers sent U Khun Maung Thauang, president of the Citizenship Committee and U Khin Maung Win, president of the Judiciary and Law Committee to participate in the IAPP inauguration on their behalf. In this sense, the Myanmar government has supported the IAPP-Myanmar launching. This gives us great hope that Burmese parliamentarians will cooperate with us in the future.

The launching of IAPP-Myanmar began with an interfaith peace ceremony conducted by representatives from Buddhism, Islam, Christianity and Hinduism. They created a beautiful atmosphere with their blessings for peace in Myanmar as they all poured water into a common vase representing the harmony of all religions.

Daw Swe Zin Taik gave welcoming remarks. Dr. Walsh delivered the opening speech. Dr. Yong, Madhav Kumar Nepal, Ek Nath Dhakal and Dr. Kittel gave special remarks.

Representing members of Parliament from both houses, Shi lar Nan Town gave congratulatory remarks acknowledging support for the IAPP launching in Myanmar. She said, “It was great to learn that IAPP has such a noble vision and the government should support the work of IAPP in

Myanmar.” Myanmar parliamentarians confirmed their support by signing the IAPP Resolution.

At the end of the inaugural session Mr. Myo Win, vice-chairman of IAPP-Myanmar, delivered the vote of thanks. Mr. Jakari Iamsam-Ang, assistant secretary general of UPF Thailand, served as the Master of Ceremonies of the inaugural conference. A dinner banquet and cultural performance followed the inaugural session.

This victorious breakthrough, the launching of IAPP in Myanmar, came after all our Myanmar Family Federation members went to Thailand to attend True Mother during her visit from June 11 to 14. We all felt the great blessing from True Mother, who encouraged us to take responsibility for the national restoration of Myanmar. The only way to do this is to reach up to the top level of the state. True Mother gave us this initiative, IAPP, last year to help us fulfill this mission. Dr. Chung Sik Yong unites with True Mother absolutely and helped us with the launching.

Through this successful launching we have gained trust from the government. The gate is now open to make Myanmar into an ideal peaceful nation, Cheon Il Guk under God and True Parents. ☯

*UPF-Myanmar contributed this article.*

# IAPP Comes to the Israeli Knesset

By Koriel Ben Zvi

**O**n June 21, 2017, we held the IAPP inaugural assembly at the Knesset (the Israeli parliament) in Jerusalem. From my personal perspective, the event was successful. I am very grateful to have been able to take part in this important event and to be able to use this opportunity to announce the plan of initiating our local chapter of Youth and Students for Peace.

On that day, we had four different sessions. Seven local parliamentarians hosted the first two at the Knesset and the other two sessions took place in Jerusalem's Olive Tree Hotel. For this significant occasion, we invited a delegation of twelve parliamentarians from abroad led by UPF's international president, Dr. Thomas Walsh and UPF's Middle East chair Mr. Umberto Angelucci. I was fortunate to participate as a speaker at the actual IAPP inaugural session.

Some eighty people attended, including local and international parliamentarians, young leaders from student's organizations, religious leaders, scholars, peace activists and other guests. The session took place in two segments. The first part was formal, allowing the parliamentarians and the international delegations to deliver their messages. The second part, following immediately after, gave us an opportunity to introduce YSP, mainly to the young leaders, with the

hope of sparking interest and creating partnerships for our future work.

### **The young can energize the nation**

When speaking in the first part of the session, I illustrated our role as young leaders in this nation and region. As young people, our work should be supportive and complimentary to that of the parliamentarians. We must become a source of light and positive

energy for them. At the same time, we must learn from their knowledge and experience. Instead of seeking hope from them, we are the ones who give it to them. In addition, our work should be to go out and be active, to lead by example. We should all be promoting a new culture of living for the sake of others, as opposed to the current culture, which glorifies selfishness and promotes self-interests.





The writer listening intently during the inaugural assembly; his father, Hod Ben Zvi, is visible behind the speaker, Roberto Rampi, a Member of the Italian Parliament and of Italy's Democratic Party.

We need a cultural revolution brought by love and self-example, rather than by power. I also shared True Parents' thoughts that real peace starts from each one of us, so we need to strive toward peace within ourselves, and between our mind and bodies. Only then, is it possible to move up, based on this foundation, and aim for peace in our families, communities, nation, region and world. In my closing


remarks, I announced the soon-to-be-inaugurated YSP and encouraged the young leaders to come and take part in it.

#### Winning over an audience

When the first segment of the session ended, the parliamentarians left with the international delegation to take part in a plenum in the Knesset. The second part was a short discussion

with the young leaders in the audience, about the importance of YSP and about what our next steps should be in creating it. The participants brought a sharp and skeptical attitude to start of the discussion. Later, the atmosphere changed and their attitude became more optimistic and constructive. We were happy to exchange contact information at the end of the session and look forward to the next step in creating our local chapter of YSP.

I think this event was highly significant and even more specifically, that session was. True Parents are pushing forward and focusing on IAPP and YSP throughout the world at the moment. I strongly feel that through aligning our hearts with them and moving in the same direction, a good change can come to this nation and region. Of course, the inauguration of these two projects is just the starting point. From now, we should push ourselves and move things forward.

I am also grateful to all the local members who have been preparing for this event for a long time through many different conditions and offerings of jeon seong. I think that thanks to all their devotions and prayers, we could all carry out this event successfully and offer it to our Heavenly Parent and True Parents. For more details of the overall event, please refer to the report at [UPF.org](http://UPF.org). 



In the Knesset, (facing page) Head of the UPF UN Office, Tageldin Hamad; this page: (woman in white) Marilyn Angelucci, wife of the Middle East regional president

# Faith Blossoms in a Harsh Environ



# ment



**TPmagazine: Abdou, you come from a Muslim-Unificationist background, with a brother and a sister who have both received the blessing. Can you tell us about this?**

**A** **BDOU GAYE:** The living God sent someone to witness to me in one of the most inhospitable countries of the world, Mauritania, and it worked. All the credit, or the merit, should go to my father, a man of God, and to my ancestors. My father was a very strict Muslim, so attentive to teach the proper rules of Muslim attendance to God. Yet, outwardly, he was a loving man and a man of peace. He would always wake up at 4:00 AM and wake up all the children for the morning prayer, and then he would go to the mosque, where he officiated as the muezzin. This prepared me for the Family Pledge, hoondokhae and the deep sense of attending God that True Parents have taught us. My family background helped me a lot to do these things.

**Did your father and True Father share other common points?**

**M**y father was born in 1921, a year after True Father. I could see the relationship between the two figures through a mystical experience. My father had tried to call me in the US, but I was unreachable. He then called my sister. I promised her I would call him back in a few days, after all my work was done. I could not, though, because he died two days later. Just after he called her, my sister had a dream in which my father took our ancestors and us to some sort of palace. My sister suddenly saw True Father coming out of the palace. We prepared to welcome him, to bow to him. Suddenly, my father appeared in an alley and walking in True Father's direction. Seeing the three of us, he



Abdou Gaye at UTS, where in 2016 he earned his his Doctor of Ministry degree

said to Father, "You won. Take them." Then the dream ended. My father had never agreed with our choice, but in the dream, he somehow yielded.

My sister was dear to my father for a particular reason. After 1960, my mother stopped giving birth. This lasted for seven years. We might call it a seven-year course. Finally, my special sister was born on August 25, 1967. She was so dear to my father, but I "snatched her away" and connected her to True Parents. She received God's eternal blessing on August 25, 1992, the day she turned twenty-five. My older brother had received a special blessing in April 1992, when the Women's Federation for World Peace was established.

### How did the providence start in Mauritania?

Three missionaries came in 1975, but only the Japanese one could make it. The other missionaries, from the USA and Germany, were unable to stay. Mauritania may be one of the most isolated countries in the world. This desolated and barren land may be the best place on earth for camels but the worst place on earth for men. Human beings can only survive in that huge country of 1,000,000 km<sup>2</sup> (386,102 mi<sup>2</sup>) with fewer than four million people today. Three quarters of the country is desert or semi-desert. You come to understand why prophets like Moses, Jesus (known as a prophet in Islam) and Mohamed, who tasted life in the desert, had a bittersweet character.

Our mission there has always been fragile, in a pioneer stage. Yet, whereas the mission was always difficult, three people in my family alone were picked out to be blessed, among fifteen children. Imagine if 20 percent of the whole nation had been restored! My family was the golden nugget of the nation.

I sometimes feel that God Almighty had singled out our family, our lineage, our ancestry. In that hostile environment, three souls could be claimed and offered to the providence. No nation in the world should be deprived of God's blessing. God loved Mauritania. God sees the people there. They have the right to respond to the call of the new age

and to meet the one whom God appointed as the providential figure on earth. (The Nouakchott citizen, no more, no less than the citizen of Seoul, Tokyo, or New York, can be called by God.) Each individual has an infinite value, even in a barren land like Mauritania.

When I encountered this movement in 1980, I was in my senior year of high school. I was a strict Muslim because of my father's education. I was doing my five prayers every day, including all the detailed ablutions. My father would check how carefully we made our ablutions before the prayer. If we had neglected one part of the body, we had to do it again and he would teach us the meaning. Looking back, I see this practice in childhood as if Heaven was preparing me to understand the value of attendance. Later, when I began reading the stories of God with the first generation of Israelites, the rules and regulations imposed on Moses and his people, the rigor behind Heaven's expectations of men in the way he wants worshipping to look, I see the face of the God of Moses in my dad.

### How did you encounter Unificationism?

Kunio Iwaoji was working as an undercover missionary; he was officially a correspondent for Sekai Nippo. When the police investigated and found out who he actually was, they expelled him from Mauritania. That took place in 1983. Meanwhile, as a spiritual doctor, he had infused "manna" into the hearts of a few people, invested all his energy and skills, but they dropped out, leaving behind two young and innocent souls (my friend Abdoulaye and me) surrounded by elders desperate to find more answers to questions left unanswered. In those days, we spent long and sleepless nights discovering hidden codes from the Koran and engaging in debates with those who stood as guardians of Islamic teachings and traditions.

Abdoulaye and I were friends, and I gradually observed a change in his habits. He had a new attitude in prayer. I saw that he was praying by himself, kind of meditating, and I felt, "oh! oh! That's not Islam. What is it?" I



also noticed that he was reading a strange green book, called Outline of the Principle Level 4. It contained biblical verses and the publisher called for the Unification of World Christianity. My father had always told me to avoid Catholics, the uncircumcised.

Abdoulaye brought me to their "center," and they invited me to join their "prayer." I became very attentive. My ears witnessed that human beings, whom I knew, were talking to God, directly, calling him "Heavenly Father," so respectfully, so lovingly. They were addressing him intimately not in the official, ritualistic way that I had so far known. The next time I came, something even deeper happened to me. I was asked to pray. So, I prayed, "Father," and tears came to my eyes. The moment I called him Father, I believed it.

Even now, the taste of those tears remains. At that moment, my rebirth started. One might say that something in me died that day and another man was born as a child of True Parents. At the same time, it completed the verse, "And We have already created man and know what his soul whispers to him, and we are closer to him than [his] jugular vein." (Quran, 50.16) I





A view of Mauritania's capital city, Nouakchott. In the forefront is a mosque built by the Saudi Arabian government.

### You experienced God's heart before studying his word?

**Y**es and no: I went through an emotional conversion that prepared my mind to receive the word. But hearing the word more deeply and practicing the word diligently prepared me gradually for a deeper and deeper experience of living as a reborn person. It is an ongoing process, in which you have to surrender your life into God's loving hands.

After a few months, Abdoulaye and I were invited to attend a workshop in Côte d'Ivoire. We went to Dakar, Senegal, took the train to Bamako and then made our way to Abidjan. This five-day trip was a nightmare: The train was jam-packed, the weather so hot, and the smells of dried fish, other goods and many other smells were difficult to endure. I wondered what I had gotten myself into. What kind of hell am I inviting into my life? When will this journey end?


As the Principle says, there is indemnity before a blessing. After going through a five-day nightmare, I spent twenty-one days in a dreamlike world. I experienced substantial brotherly love, with no barriers.

People from many African countries came to attend the workshop, as did missionaries like Judith, Kathy, Kevin, Uto and other Japanese members. These people had a wonderful quality and their relationships were close. The atmosphere was as warm as in my own family. People were caring, and they expressed their love; they would offer you food, find a nice place for you, make you comfortable. They knew how to love others. That was something I had to learn. This was love from heart to heart, divine love but transcending religion. Until then, I had cared for those who were like me, but suddenly, my heart wanted to reach out to anyone.

I discovered that we are literally one family. We are absolutely brothers and sisters. We all were selves born anew into a universal family, our Family. I went home but did not sign any membership form. I went to another seven-day workshop, one taking place in Dakar. Something took place during the lecture on the Fall, which Bakary Camara gave. He is originally from Mali. I had already understood that the Fall was the misuse of love, but suddenly, he was inspired to talk about God's heart. He used the analogy of a great painter

that has created a masterpiece of eternal value, but someone leaves on it an ugly stain, and the whole masterpiece is good for nothing. He said that this is a thousand times less than God's suffering heart. I burst into uncontrollable tears. And so it was: Allahu akbar, God is the greatest; this is indeed a cardinal statement of Islam, but Father was the first man ever to understand that Almighty God is the greatest of all in suffering and agony, not in glory. God is not the greatest on the throne but the greatest in enduring for his lost children. This is when my heart knew for sure that my life should be with such a God and his people.

However, my rebirth was not yet complete. In September 1981, I started to cultivate a conversation in the new humanities campus in Nouakchott. The national university had just opened. Students were impertinent from their knowledge of Islam or of philosophy. I was laughed at many times and ridiculed. I could only use the Quran translated into French, not the Quran in Arabic. To share my new findings was so difficult that I entered a crisis and started to offer a prayer vigil. I asked God, Please tell me. If this is the truth, your truth, why do they laugh at me instead of listening? How is it possible?

Then the most impossible answer came to me. [Abdou Gaye stops speaking and cries deeply as he remembers this experience.] As I was praying to God, suddenly I felt a third presence. Someone was coming, between God and me, and I knew who he was, though no one introduced him. It was Jesus. [Abdou cries even more deeply.] Jesus was telling me, lovingly and firmly, "You are in a better position than I am. My journey in heaven has been the journey of the shepherd looking for the lost sheep. Whenever I knock on Christians' doors, they don't open, even to see who is knocking. You are working outdoors, and people at least interact with you. At least they listen to you. They talk to you, even if they become angry, at least they are listening and they react; please keep going." 

*A TPmagazine staff member conducted this interview in South Korea.*

# My Conscience Helped Me Guide My Husband

By Ooya Mayumi

My husband and I received the blessing for married couples in 2012. However, my husband had not studied the Divine Principle before joining, so after we were blessed he did not attend church services. Since last year, many programs and activities began centered on family gatherings. I had passed out True Father's autobiography, As a Peace-Loving Global Citizen, to people in homes in our neighborhood, so I thought to visit those who had accepted the autobiography and invite them to our home. At the same time, I hoped my husband would recognize the work I was doing, so I invited the neighbors at a time when my husband would be at home. However, in direct opposition to what I had imagined it would be like, the experience made my neighbors uncomfortable.

I had succeeded in bringing my daughter into the church earlier than I had my husband. One day, as I was doing laundry with her, she asked, "Why doesn't Father go to church?" With that, we began to talk about my husband. My daughter said, "I know! Mother, see how you do Father's laundry? He must attend church because you take care of him so half-heartily." From what she'd said, I realized I had not been considerate enough to my husband.

Sometime later, the church orga-

nized a fishing tournament for older members. I suggested that my husband go. He said, "If they are going fishing, I'll go." As he was fishing, District Leader Tsubokura began talking to my husband in an easygoing way. I felt that my husband's heart was opening a little. I sensed this had been a good opportunity and wished to bring my husband to church before much time had passed.

At the Shimonoseki Family Church, we hold a Cheon Il Guk Welcoming Service twice a month for new members. I strongly wanted my husband to come to the service with me. I gathered my courage to speak to him and just as I was about to bring it up my conscience said, "It is time to convey your feelings." I felt Heaven was cheering me on and the rest was my responsibility. I told my husband honestly, I wish for to go to the service together with me. I felt that I had barely been able to speak my mind.

In response, my husband said, "To be honest, I have wanted to pamper you, just as I had hoped to pamper my mother." He began to pour his heart out to me all at once. I was caught off-balance by the unexpected situation, but he began to speak of his lonely memories as a child and the things he was unable to do with his mother. I felt God's heart and desire to save my husband through me at that moment. From that day on, my husband and I have become even closer



Mr. and Mrs. Ooya with a leader in the Shimonoseki Family Church

in heart. My husband told me, "I do not want to be hated by our daughter," and so began to attend the new members' services, Divine Principle revival meetings and Sunday services together—all three of us.

Currently, my husband is actively attending a Divine Principle seminar twice a month and is studying the Divine Principle in depth. On January 27, our family made a fresh start after the headquarters of our sector officially recognized our home as a family church. We will work hard to resemble Heavenly Parent and True Parents and go forward to become an ideal family that can be a good influence to those surrounding us.

*Mrs. Ooya is a member of the Shimonoseki Family Church in the Yamaguchi District.*

# Witnessing after Much Preparation

By Kondo Naomi

Since 2015, the Iwamizawa Family Church has continuously been holding special forty-day devotional periods and one-hundred-day educational workshops to create a foundation for victory as heavenly tribal messiahs and for national and global restoration. Each week on Monday, our church leader, Jyobu Toshikazu also gives Divine Principle lectures. I did hoondokhae with the Divine Principle and studied it as well. Often, when I reflected after learning something new, I realized my faith had been conceptual only. After being reborn through the devotions and repenting, the participants of the workshop set off to witness.

During the forty-day devotional period, each person would read forty-three names aloud and work out the best way to approach and guide each person when witnessing to them. Every day we would meet and check our progress. We could separate ourselves from our fallen natures during the one-hundred-day workshop. Through bows and prayer we would reflect internally, make inquiries of our conscience and learn how to unite with God.

Before the one-hundred-day workshop, for a period, I wondered why I had not been able to meet someone whom I could bring to hear lectures. My pessimistic heart grew heavy and I felt drained. After that, I heard True Mother's message that the four years

remaining until 2020 are years of hope. This resonated deeply within me, causing me to realize that witnessing is not something I do alone. Witnessing succeeds upon the foundation of True Mother's three years of devoted mourning. If I unite with True Parents, I will be victorious. My heart began to feel lighter and my witnessing tasks began to organizing themselves.

In our church, we have made a practice of inviting people we meet from house-to-house witnessing to our homes and connecting them to family gatherings. One day at a meeting, our witnessing director came up to me and asked if I had someone we could visit together. I remembered Mrs. Mikami, whom I had visited earlier. I had offered her True Father's autobiography but she had rejected it. Together with the witnessing director, we went to visit Mrs. Mikami's home. As soon as Mrs. Mikami saw me, her face took on an unhappy expression, but as she spoke to the witnessing director, she began to lower her barriers. She then invited us into her home.

Since her husband's death fourteen years ago, Mrs. Mikami had been living with her husband's sister-in-law. It had been her husband's last wish for her to take care of his sister-in-law. Mrs. Mikami said, "In truth, when Mrs. Kondo said she was from the Family Federation, I remembered seeing them on television and



Mrs. Mikami (left) and Kondo Naomi, the writer

thought of mass weddings. I was interested but I was wary so I took a step back." She was an optimistic and curious person and asked many questions. We could see her interest growing as we resolved her misunderstandings about the church one by one. Right now, because Mrs. Mikami is taking care of her husband's sister-in-law, she is unable to come to the church but she is learning through home church and expressed her wish to receive the spiritual blessing with her husband. As I continued to witness, I feel that God is always waiting and preparing people for us to meet.

*The Iwamizawa Family Church, which Mrs. Kondo attends, is in our church's North Hokkaido District.*

