

True Peace

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JULY 2018





Let's All March Forward Together with Hope

By Eiji Tokuno



The title of our July 1 rally on was “The 20,000-Person Rally for a Hopeful March Forward of FFWPU for a Heavenly Japan in 2018.” We had only a month of preparation after we received official permission for it from True Mother.

It commemorated the beginning of missionary work in Japan on July 15, 1958, when Rev. Choi Bong-choon arrived in Japan from Busan, Korea, dispatched by True Parents. It was the first rally in which we welcomed True Mother officially as Heavenly FFWPU-Japan after the change to a five sub-region structure. In addition, that True Mother effectively announced the start of the last half of 2018 from Japan to the entire world was significant.

The rally's main program had five key features. Needless to say, the most important feature was True Mother's message. True Mother emphasized the importance of the blessing, which is to connect all 7.5 billion human beings to True Parents and asked all blessed families to succeed in the heavenly tribal messiah mission. The way to national restoration and world restoration will begin on the foundation of our heavenly tribal messiahs' victories.

True Mother requested that Japan invest for the sake of other countries with acknowledgment of the truths of history and as the Mother Nation, as mothers invest everything for their children without any regret or hesitation. True Mother also strongly requested that those in the first generation raise their children and grandchildren properly by bequeathing the first generation's traditions of attending Heavenly Parent and True Parents, of keeping purity and of practicing for the ideal world within an ideal family.

Furthermore, True Mother referred to the unification of North Korea and South Korea and pointed out that it will be accomplished not by human power but by God's power when the leaders of countries concerned became united centered on God's will.

The second remarkable feature of the program was a speech by a third-generation Unificationist, granddaughter of Rev. Ishii, ex-president of FFWPU-Japan. She made a wonderful and hopeful speech, saying that she respected her parents and grandparents and had resolved to realize Heavenly Parent and True Parents' dream, thereby inheriting True Parents' tradition.

The third point was the performance by second-generation youth and students. A youth team from Nagoya performed an energetic dance and five hundred students and young adults from Region One vigorously offered the “*Mujokkon*” dance to True Mother. They wished for True Mother to feel glad and to have hope for the future through their overwhelming performance.

The fourth was the choir of 1,300 Japanese women who have been on the front lines of the Japanese mission until now and who sang True Mother's favorite song “Violet Mugunhwa.” This, too, was emotional and inspiring. The last remarkable thing was a choir of 3,000 middle-aged men. This significant performance, which expressed their resolve to arise as central figures in Japan's providence from now on, was awe-inspiring. As mentioned above, woman members have leading roles in Japan's providence until now, but this marked the beginning of new era when our members will carry out mission work as couples. True Mother appeared gladdened at seeing them and I think we were able to provide great hope to members throughout the world.

We're still preparing for 10,000-person youth rally in Tokyo on September 9 and a 5,000-person youth rally in Nagoya on October 21. We have just welcomed Sun Jin nim on behalf of True Mother and held a successful 10,000-person rally in Okayama. Mainly members in Okayama Prefecture organized and conducted it.

We are determined to accomplish our mission and responsibilities as the Mother Nation, which should be in the position of reciprocal realm of True Mother's heart and lead other children-nation remaining united with Korea and the United States in the positions of the Father and the Eldest-Son Nations, in order to respond to God's expectation and wish. *✍*

Rev. Tokuno is the president of FFWPU for a Heavenly Japan.

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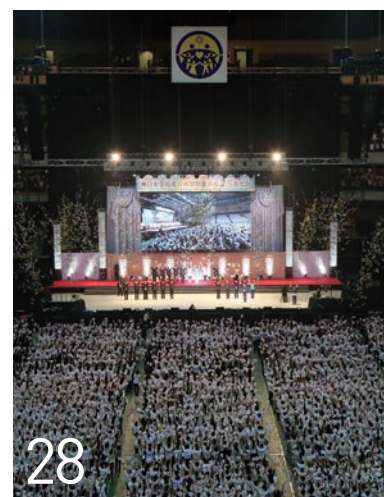


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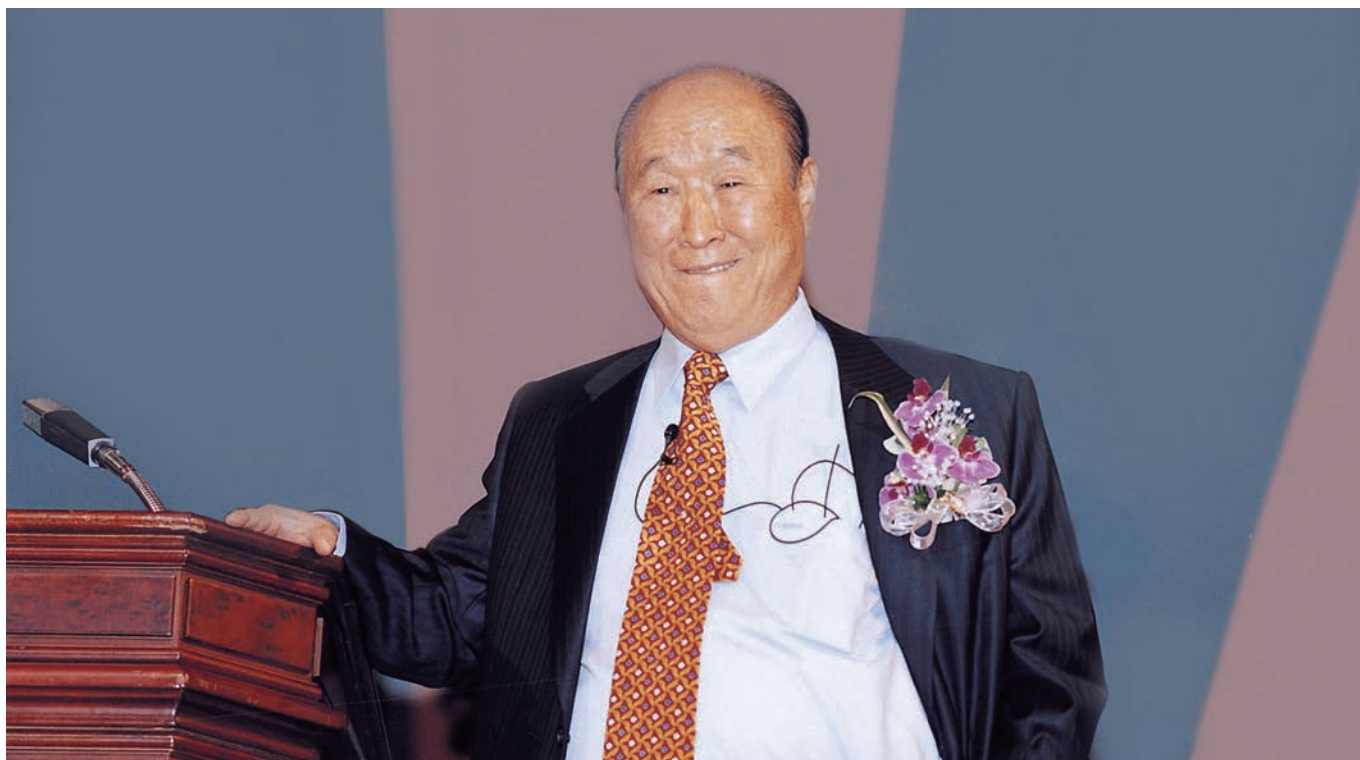
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The Role of the Tribal Messiah





True Father was preparing for us to become responsible figures. He urged us to become tribal messiahs who save our extended families.

You need to become a tribal messiah and return to your hometown. As a tribal messiah, you have to recover your hometown and your ancestors and serve God. What is first? The earth is, the homeland. Second are ancestors and third is the true realm of God's heart, where we can live with God. The land where you were born and grew up is not part of heaven's realm, nor are your father and mother ancestors from heaven. That is why we cannot dwell with God. The land of the unfallen, original Adam and Eve is both their land and God's land, and they are the ancestors of humanity and the ancestors of God. With God dwelling there, that would be the kingdom of heaven on earth. As of now, we have not realized this original homeland. It will not come unless you fulfill tribal messiahship. You have been following me, but when you return to your country, you need to do so as a tribe, just as did the Israelites. You are meant to enter heaven only with your family; this is true whether it is the kingdom of heaven on earth or in heaven. The kingdom of heaven is the place you enter with your family and relatives, as the Israelites did. Without them, we

cannot recover our nation.

The tribal messiah mission

Returning to one's homeland requires three conditions: life, love and lineage. Fulfilling them requires that you put your life on the line. I often had to risk my life as I overcame countless obstacles. If you put your life on the line for an endeavor, the sun's morning rays at the daybreak of the new nation will shine brightly upon your efforts. God's love shines as sun rays falling upon the nation. That sunshine will cast brilliantly upon the tradition that will continue from generation to generation for eternity. You can attend God eternally and receive his sun rays only if you inherit the eternally unchanging lineage from him. The sun represents God, the origin of human life and the parent. You need to inherit the tradition of the parent, Heaven's tradition, and transform your life for the providence of restoration. Once you feel confident that you have reached that level as a subject, and that no worldly threat can endanger the new self you have inherited through that transformation, you will begin a new day.

In order for you to begin a new personal existence, a new family and

a new nation, you need to become a tribal messiah. You need to achieve this objective by investing yourself completely. I am freely bequeathing to you the path of faith I pioneered, as well as all the fruits of God's labor for the past hundreds of millions of years since the Creation. Please inherit this completely.

This means that you will envy nothing worldly, but rather will honor the power of one great family that unites heaven and earth. There can be nothing more virtuous and nothing of greater value. If you go forth toward the world of peace and attain this value, a way to return to your hometown will open to you, as well as a way toward the unification of the new nation.

One task of a tribal messiah is to help one's father and mother achieve the position of Adam and Eve prior to the Fall. Next is to restore kingship by recovering and establishing the hometown. When that happens, isn't everything finished? First, by restoring the hometown and the kingship, you as the tribal messiah will stand in a position equal to your parents. Then your hometown will be in the heavenly kingdom. You must have your parents in the heavenly kingdom in



True Father loved nature and thought deeply about the large area of human life he took responsibility for.

order to have your hometown in that kingdom. The mission of the tribal messiah is to bring your parents to belong to the heavenly kingdom.

Just as you shed sweat for heaven, you need to shed blood for it. You should seek the bloody hills of tribulation in history with a joyful heart. You have not yet understood that you have to invest this much for your liberation. You might have thought that others would do everything and it had nothing to do with you, but this is not the case. You have to return to the origin. You are responsible to dismantle your current base in order to return to the homeland. You must clearly understand this and straighten out your root. Due to the Fall, the father and mother took a wrong turn, and the first son went the wrong way as well. Therefore, centered on True Parents and True Children, you need to turn around and adjust, go in the opposite direction, toward the original right of parents and the original right of the eldest son. You will never make this connection the way you are; you can do it only after you turn yourself around 180 degrees.

Up to this day, I have taken responsibility for everything, but henceforth you have to take responsibility for

your extended family. If you align yourself with this mission and attune your heart to God's at a ninety-degree angle, you can bring oneness on the levels of the individual, family and tribe. Nothing in your life—whether it is eating, sleeping, getting up or anything else—should revolve around your personal desires. Your life should be for your extended family, your clan. If you are part of the Kim clan, give your life trying to resolve Kim clan issues. The Unification Church needs to prepare for this. This is the way to give life to the people and to give life to the nation as well. Please advance relentlessly in your tribal messiah mission.

After you achieve victory as an individual and form a family, your family should overcome the levels of tribe, people, nation and world. Therefore, your wish as an individual should be to mold your family into one that stands on heaven's side. After establishing such a family, however, your attitude may become, "I have gone through hell and beyond for the matter of the blessing and have overcome all the obstacles. I have reached my goal now that I am married." You then may try to take a nap and enjoy your life. If you do, Satan will lay

siege using the world, the nation, the people and the tribe to engulf you. The individual needs a family in order to settle. Thus, we have been struggling to establish families. But by the same token, a family cannot settle without a tribe. Your tribe should serve as a hedge that protects you and your family from blasts of wind and other adversities. Without creating such a realm that can serve this purpose, you cannot live as a peaceful family. The way to do that is to become the tribal leader for your relatives. That is the objective of the tribal messiah mission.

The family is the textbook of tribal messiahship. Your grandfather and grandmother are in the position of ancestors, your father and mother stand in a position representing the present and you represent the future.

These three generations encapsulate the tribal messiah's textbook of love. Based on the heart that unites these as one, you have the capacity to live wherever you go in the world—north, south, east or west. The world consists of people who are like your grandfather, grandmother, father, mother or siblings. So if you are able to relate to them all with warm feelings, you will become a person possessing Heaven's love and have no problem entering the kingdom of heaven. If you create the environment in which you can engage with strangers as if they were your parents and siblings, you will link to the spirit world immediately. This is how you should live in your home. In order to create such an environment, you need to return to your hometown as a tribal messiah. This is your mission, so please overcome any hardships that prevent you from doing it, no matter how hard it may be.

Jesus could not become a tribal messiah on earth. You, however, are living in the age of completion, and if you succeed in this mission, you will have the qualification to become a daughter or son of the True Parents. On the Home Church altar, we can restore every mistake our forebears made. We can combine everything in history, everything in the Old Testament and New Testaments, as the formation and growth stages, and offer it like a burnt sacrifice. If you become victorious and complete this, you will receive a pass allowing you



Parents take joy in the success of their children. True Parents have pointed the way forward and it goes through tribal messiah activities. Our successes will bring them joy.

to come and go wherever you wish in this world and the spirit world.

Blessed families form based on absolute faith, absolute love and absolute obedience. Thus they possess heaven's right of ownership and are able to embrace all heaven's nations and the world. I went to the heavenly realm and restored the lineage with the heart of absolute faith, absolute love and absolute obedience. I fulfilled the change of absolute lineage, the change of the realm of absolute ownership and the change of the realm of absolute heart. I recovered them all. When tribal messiahs fulfill the change of absolute lineage, the change of the realm of absolute ownership and the change of the realm of absolute heart in numerous tribes, the nation automatically will be saved.

That is the end of everything, and everything will be clean and clear. All these results hinge on your confidence in carrying out tribal messiahship. You have to work with the confidence that success will come through your activities carried out with energy. Please realize that you are the sons or daughters of the True Parents who can gather up the entire world of their victory and claim, on their behalf, ownership over all that

for which they have paid the price. Tribal messiahs need to fulfill this national restoration, and once you gather the entire world you will offer it to True Parents.


Our mission in our hometowns

You become a family member of the heavenly kingdom just by hanging True Parents' picture and raising the Unification Church flag. I will make you a family member of the heavenly kingdom. A number of people suffered tragedies because they cursed the Unification flag. In a mysterious incident, someone pointed his finger at me and his hand became diseased. He had to repent and pray for several nights to recover. Why do such incidents occur? The individual's fortune cannot affect the advance of heavenly fortune. The path of heavenly fortune is a destiny that one cannot change. Just as the Israelites survived if they looked at the bronze serpent that Moses held up, you will live if you bow each time you see the Unification Church flag or a photograph of True Parents.

Your putting up the Unification Church flag is a signal to members passing by that they can enter your house and rest if they are tired or have lunch if they are hungry before they

go on. You should always be prepared to receive guests. You should make such preparations on True Parents' behalf. You could keep a room for this purpose. Attending True Parents saves you. However, since True Parents do not come in person, you should attend your guests as if they were True Parents. This practice represents the ideal, equalization of the highest heavenly standard. For this reason, attend your guests as if they were God or True Parents. Both you and they will surely be blessed.

You should hold family revival services, which when held focusing on your extended family, represent all tribes. You should think of each revival service as representing not only Korean tribes, but also the tribes of blessed families around the world.

Then the people of the world will participate in similar revival services. The Unification Church members in Korea today can hold revival services representing the world, focusing on the tribal foundation, with Korea as the base. You do not know what a great blessing this is. 

This is from Cheon Seong Gyeong, Book 9, "Home Church and the Tribal Messiah," Chapter 2, Section 3, parts 1-13.

When is the Point of Settlement of Heaven's Providence and What Should We Do for It Today?

True Mother gave this address at the Twenty-Thousand-Person Rally for the Sixtieth Anniversary of the Beginning of Missionary Work in Japan and the Hopeful March Forward of FFWPU for a Heavenly Japan on July 1 at the Saitama Super Arena in Saitama Japan, a city 27 kilometers (17 miles) north of Tokyo.





A view of the Twenty-Thousand-Person Rally for the 60th Anniversary of the Beginning of Missionary Work in Japan and the Hopeful March Forward of FFWPU for a Heavenly Japan

Distinguished guests, Diet members, ambassadors for peace and blessed family members from the Family Federation gathered here! I am pleased to meet you today. Today marks the sixtieth anniversary of the Japanese movement. I hope you will remember that in terms of human life, the sixtieth birthday is not the end, but a new starting point. There are many problems arising in the world. We have reached the limit of what human power alone can do about them.

Yesterday, as I was approaching Japan in the airplane, I saw Tokyo's beautiful sky. As I remember, Tokyo was known as a heavily polluted city in the 1970s. However, today Tokyo is known as one of the most pollution-free cities in the world. This was possible thanks to you. When we observe the problems of the world today caused by human ignorance—such as pollution—we are speechless.

We can see that the future of humanity and of the Earth cannot be guaranteed. So, what do we have

to do? All of humanity should unite, but we need a focal point for unity. In today's world, although there are countries that do well, if the countries that surround them do not do well, they will all be harmed. When will we be able to actualize a free and peaceful world? There is only one answer to this. Human beings are not the center. God is the center, the true owner of the universe. When we live in relation to our Creator and his principles, a world of peace is possible.

God created the heavens and the Earth and the entire universe according to his image. He created plants, animals and finally a man and a woman to be the true ancestors of humanity. He gave them a period in which they were to grow. In that period, they should have grown into beautiful people who can receive God's blessing in matrimony. Yet they became self-centered. That is why people in the world today do not have a relationship with God. God absolutely has to complete his will. God thus had to begin the painful providence of

humanity's restoration through indemnity. Therefore, God raised the chosen people of Israel, until the foundation for a nation could be established.

Christians know this history well through the Bible. How long and arduous this dispensation was! God sent Jesus Christ to be our Savior, the God's only son. Four thousand biblical years elapsed before he could do that. It took four thousand years. Even Mary, who gave birth to Jesus, and the leaders of the time did not understand God's will. They did not understand Jesus' essence. So, he had no choice but to take the path of the cross. Indemnity was paid throughout history for this. This is the truth of history. Jesus died on the cross and said he would return. Had the people united with Jesus and stood with him, he would have used the foundation of the Roman Empire to build the kingdom within his lifetime. How very sad and regrettable was Jesus' crucifixion!

Jesus had needed a bride

After the crucifixion, the resurrection



Behind these major leaders, every person in the stadium declared he or she would testify to True Parents' providential triumphs and victories to all citizens of heavenly Japan, be completely equipped with good spirits and the truth to achieve heavenly tribal messiah mission, save Japan and contribute to Cheon Il Guk.

by the Holy Spirit started the Christian civilization by the Apostles. It took a thousand years for the Christian civilization to reach the British Isles from the Italian peninsula. The British Empire opened the Atlantic civilization to Christianity. That's why the British became prominent in the world. It was said that the sun never set on the British Empire due to its vastness. However, what was the result? They also did not understand Jesus' true nature. Rather than practice Jesus' teachings on true love, they sought their own interests and their civilization became one of oppression. God does not use people for a second time who have failed to fulfill their responsibilities.

Jesus said he would return and host the marriage supper of the Lamb. The two-thousand-year history of Christianity was to find the daughter of God who could become the heavenly bride. God has been guiding the Korean peninsula for two thousand years. He has been preparing it. Thus, in 1943, God's only daughter was born in Korea. In 1945, Korea was liberated. It then divided between north and

south. It separated along the lines of democracy and communism.

At that time, I was still in northern Korea, my homeland. Many Christian groups there believed that the Messiah would return to Pyongyang. So, in my household, my mother and grandmother did not think of fleeing south, but my uncle, who had studied at Waseda University, could not return to our home so he enlisted in the South Korean Army. We three women eventually decided to go south. Under God's principles of creation, human beings need some time to grow. God's daughter, who came to be after two thousand years, needed to grow. I needed to grow up in a safe environment. So Heaven worked so that I could come to South Korea.

Two years after I came, the Korean War erupted. At that time, South Korea was not ready to deal with North Korea. Korea was also not well known to the world, but young UN soldiers from sixteen countries came and sacrificed their lives there. Because I understood when the time had come, I decided, and in 1960,

Father and I became the True Parents. Fallen humanity cannot return to God through belief alone. The fallen lineage must change in order to be under God's dominion. Only the True Parents can change this fallen lineage. Therefore, FFWPU praises the ideal of the blessing and blessed families.

Fulfill your messianic role

The blessing is wonderful, because the more you share it, the greater it becomes. So I am asking you to become heavenly tribal messiahs. By becoming tribal messiahs, blessed families can work for the sake of the nation and the world. We can realize the peace that humanity yearns for and actualize the kingdom of heaven on earth—one family under God.

There is a title for today's speech: "When is the Point of Settlement of Heaven's Providence and What Should We Do for It Today?" As I said before, even if one person or nation excels, a world of lasting peace cannot be actualized. When we join together, we can succeed. The problems in North Korea and South Korea are the same. As long as solutions are hu-



The event concluded with cheers of Eog Mansei, led by Rev. Ban San-il, with True Mother at the center and carried out using the *Hinomaru* (circle of the sun) Japanese national flag and the Family Federation flag, symbolically but boldly expressing the wish of each Japanese member for the unity of their nation with True Parents.

man-centered, true unity will remain only a hope. That is due to concentrating only on one's self-interests. That is also because the solutions do not address the whole picture. The only solution is placing God, the original owner of the tribes, nations and world, at the center.

During the sixtieth anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War, we sent the Little Angels to thank the nations that had sent their soldiers to help the Republic of Korea. The veterans still vividly remembered and thought fondly of Korea. This is how we showed sincerity. If others have graced you with blessings, you should repay them.

I would like to speak to Japan. Let us unite, recognize our past mistakes and join hands for a bright future! From a human perspective, some things are impossible to forgive, but True Parents blessed Japan to be the mother nation to live for the sake of the world. You are the mother nation. A mother gives and sacrifices wholeheartedly for the sake of her children. Korea, Japan and the United States, which represents the world, began

the era of the Pacific Rim civilization. While the culture of heart that our second- and third-generation Unificationists are conveying worldwide is garnering great success.


In individualism and egoism, no place exists for the family. Thus, FFWPU should place the family first. Those in our second and third generations are following their parents and actualizing the kingdom of heaven as brave warriors of Cheon Il Guk for the sake of the world. It that we find hope.

At this time, the Earth is falling ill. I am worried about the future of this planet. Unimaginable and appalling things are happening around the world. These man-made disasters are all a result of human ignorance. Thus, we cannot sit idly by and be satisfied with the present. In light of this, we have worked to heal this planet and brought together scientists, including Noble laureates, to find lasting solutions, in order to restore the world to its pristine, original state.

From a long time ago, the world could have united through an International Peace Highway, which True

Parents initiated. I want to move this project forward and substantiate it. The island nations will connect with continents. I wish to unite Korea and Japan through a Korea-Japan under-sea tunnel. I want this road to connect to North Korea and South Korea, Eurasia and beyond. Already, the African continent announced they would start from the Cape of Good Hope. My wish is for North America and South America to connect from Santiago, Chile, all the way to Korea through an international highway.

Will it then be possible for Japan and Korea to unite through that project? Isn't it possible? I knew you would feel the same. This nation is Heavenly Japan and when it attends God and fulfills its responsibilities, the other nations of the world will revere Japan as the mother nation. Isn't that so? Won't that day come?

Righteous people need to recognize the mistakes of the past. For the sake of the future, we should unite FFWPU, UPF, WFWP and YSP and march forward for world peace. I hope today is such a blessed day! 



You Have a Providential Role to Succeed In

True Mother delivered this message to CARP members from the United States at Hotel Chinzanso Tokyo, in Tokyo's Bunkyo Ward on July 2.

Did you have a delicious lunch? Did you also read some hoondokhae to feed your soul? Which one was more delicious? I said yesterday that Korea, Japan and the United States should become the leaders of the global providence. They should play the leading roles in the heavenly providence. America received the blessing of the mission to ensure a safe environment for the return of the Messiah to the fallen world. "I will return." This is certain.

In the Last Days, if humans fail once again, will they find salvation or not? If this planet is destroyed, humanity will cease to exist as well.

I said this yesterday, but the people

involved in the two-thousand-year history of Christianity did not understand Jesus' true nature or the heavenly providence. How did communism—the ideology that proclaims God is dead, does not exist—arise out of the people who said they believed in God?

God chose the United States to create the environment needed for the Second Coming of the Messiah. The United States emerged without a monarch to lead them, but instead as a democratic country led by its people, its citizens. So the US should have made the correct foundation for the return of the Messiah, but instead the family endured disruption, young people faced social issues, hippies and

diseases ambushed the American society. Moreover, they were unaware that communism was threatening them. Because as True Parents we understood Heaven's providence, we came to the US in 1972, because we knew that if we saved this country, we would save the world too. In 1960, the providence of True Parents appeared. Only ten years after our appearance, Korea needed us and was important, but the foundation in Korea was not strong.

The great effort expended to save America

Why did we head to America? We sacrificed over forty years there. It was to revive America and the world,

but they did not welcome the returning Lord and wanted to chase us out. We invested an unimaginable amount of effort into America for the global providence. Washington D.C. is known as the world's capital, but only one newspaper was there, the *Washington Post*, but that newspaper was liberal. Therefore, we poured a lot of financial investment into the creation of the *Washington Times*. Our influence was growing too powerful, so they said we did not turn in a few thousand dollars and sent Father to prison. Does that make sense?

However, as the True Parents, we established America as the eldest son. The eldest son! Most of the CARP students here were born into American-Japanese blessed families. All of our members in the world sacrificed themselves to help revive America. Kodan, too, is group of Japanese blessed wives, mostly from American-Japanese blessed couples. We thought that saving America would help save the world; when we look individually at these Japanese wives, we see it must have been so difficult.

First, they did not have the same language and culture, so it must have been challenging to live in America, but they worked together with True Parents on the projects we led until the very end. I am so proud of those

in our first generation. You [second-generation members] should know this.

During yesterday's rally, a first-generation member told me that I only complimented those in the second and third generations. This person came out as we did *og mansei* and said, "Please praise the first generation, too!" It's not that I didn't praise those in the first generation. It is because first-generation members lived so well that those in our second generation are growing into strong, responsible people. I am grateful for this. America is a country full of blessings from heaven and God.


Blessed countries need to fulfill their responsibilities. Responsibilities! If those responsibilities go unfulfilled, they will require indemnity. Indemnity! Thankfully, I am still on earth and while I am still here, if you are able to fulfill your responsibilities, you will be spared the indemnity. The kingdom of heaven on earth is a free, peaceful world without indemnity. A world without indemnity!

Be strong and do well

We are heading toward that world and working hard to become the protagonists in that world. That's right. Can you, 360 CARP members from America, remain firm in your resolve? After Father's seonghwa

ceremony, I promised I would accomplish our Heavenly Parent's dream and desire while I am on earth. While I am still alive, you from Korea, Japan and America—especially as the eldest son nation, should become loyal, filial sons or daughters in front of True Parents. You young people from America should go forth with conviction. Do you understand?

From now on, there will be no failures, only success. There will be only victory. What are you afraid of? There can only be miracles when you unite with the only True Mother and True Father. I did not know this, but my voice is really soothing and pleasant. I didn't know this either, but I'm told that I have a million-watt smile. Should I show this smile to only you? All of you, please grow up to be beautiful and strong for God. Heavenly Parent and True Parents' dream all humanity's the wish is to build a peaceful kingdom of heaven on earth by centering on God as one family.

Can you see that happening? Or can't you? If you can, shout, "Let's run forward on that path! Let's become CARP members at the frontline!" To see the US movement surpass the Korean and Japanese movements would be spectacular. Aren't you proud of this? Can you believe in that? Good. Thank you. I adore you. 

To Mother's left are her daughter, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, the chief of her Secretariat and head of the Cheon Il Guk International Headquarters; to her right are the chairman of the North American Regional Group, president of FFWPU-Japan, executive director of the FFWPU-Japan Headquarters and the head of CARP-Korea.





On Our Common Foundation, Let's Work Together

Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon delivered the founders' keynote address on August 3 in the Renaissance Hotel in São Paulo, Brazil, at the 2018 Latin America Summit.



True Mother speaking as a co-founder of UPF in São Paulo Brazil, a city of 21.65 million that grew around a Jesuit college with twelve Catholic priests founded in 1554 at a time when various tribes of indigenous Tupi people abounded in the area. Her speech touches on Brazil's religious history and True Parents' Latin America providence.

Former Uruguayan president Sanguinetti, former Paraguayan president Franco, other distinguished guests from the political and religious fields throughout Latin America and Family Federation members, it is my great pleasure to meet you today.

I came here a few days ago and I strongly felt that Heaven loves this continent. God has blessed this continent, South America, as well as North America. In the seventeenth century, King James of Great Britain had the Bible translated from Hebrew and Greek into English, and ordinary believers, being able to access God's word by themselves, departed to find religious freedom in a new place, North America. Latin America, on the other hand, is a continent with a Catholic background and has had people that pursued material things. In that case, if North America represents the heart, Latin America is equivalent to the body. In order to solve all the problems in the world, the mind and the body must unite as one. If the mind and body follow their own paths, we cannot achieve eternal freedom.

Was Jesus welcomed?

Jesus Christ was not born to be crucified. He came to realize God's dream and humanity's wish for all human beings to become sons or daughters of God. He came to guide and lead people to become God's children. Where did the theory that states that believers can only receive salvation through the crucifixion and blood of the cross, come from? They did not understand Jesus' true nature. Human beings have institutionalized salvation through priests and bishops, resulting in many problems during the past two thousand years. However, the Protestantism did not express understanding of Jesus' true nature. Protestants did not know why Heaven's providence led to sending the Messiah. Jesus died on the cross and said he would return. He would return to host the marriage supper of the Lamb.

After waiting for two thousand years, was Christianity prepared to welcome Jesus? This is the issue. Fallen humanity cannot directly return to God. That is why fallen humanity needs the Messiah. The Messiah is humanity's true parents who can resurrect, revive and guide humanity to become God's children

once again. Heaven's providence must reach its conclusion; therefore, the providence has advanced even with endless waiting and numerous difficulties. Thus, for the fulfillment of the providence, Heaven has prepared a foundation for True Parents to be born. The central figures are the True Parents and I am God's only daughter, the True Mother.

While waiting for the returning Lord in his Second Coming, Christianity's mission was to find and raise God's only daughter. That they still do not understand the providence is phenomenal. I can no longer delay the providence. Six years ago, I proclaimed a new era by announcing that I am God's only daughter, for whom Heaven has been searching and the returning Messiah has been waiting.

The importance of the family

At the beginning of this year, I hosted the Africa Summit in Senegal. As you know, Senegal is an Islamic country. Our church has not established a strong foundation there. However, I chose Senegal because I know Heaven's providence. So I proclaimed my identity there and the highest reli-



A group of prominent UPF-related figures with True Mother and Sun Jin Moon: To Mother's right are Cardinal Kelvin Felix; Anthony Carmona, president of Trinidad and Tobago, 2013–March 2018; and Federico Franco, president of Paraguay 2012–2013; to Dr. Walsh's right is Julio María Sanguinetti president of Uruguay 1985–90, 1995–2000

gious leaders said, We welcome God's only daughter, the True Mother of humanity.

However, the Christian realm is not sleeping either. Many leaders—in particular leaders with eight million or ten million followers—have been accepting me as God's only daughter. These Christian leaders are taking the lead and hosting heavenly tribal messiah blessings.

The path to the kingdom of heaven on earth, which we desire, has to be through the family. The basic unit in which to enter heaven is the family. Christians believe by believing in Jesus, you can ascend to Paradise by yourselves, but you cannot go alone. It is through the family. There can be no perfection in ignorance. That is why I am educating others everywhere I go. I am teaching the truth to guide people to make a decision and join the providence of their own volition. Times have changed. That is why I hope Latin America, which is in the position of the body, can fulfill its God-given responsibilities after Heaven has blessed you so.


Natural preservation and peace

Two decades ago, my husband and I went to the remote parts of the Ama-

zon and to Paraguay; the Amazon is like the Earth's lungs and heart. By preserving the Amazon, we can see a future for humanity and have an active providence in this Amazon region. However, there are those who do not understand the providence. People guided by their own selfishness are causing difficulties in the providence. All of you here today, my hope is that you can understand this providential truth and become leaders who can handle the truth from Heaven. We need to preserve and save our beautiful planet, which its original owner, God, created. We can no longer be bystanders. We should not live only for today. We should live for the past, present and future.

Everyone! As leaders, all of you here are in a parental position. When I think about the future with a motherly heart, the reality is that the world today does not bring hope for our beloved children's future. So what should we do? We need to rectify what went wrong. Until now, we can see that men have heavily influenced the global providence. However, the mother is the one who gives birth and nurtures with a maternal heart. Now is the time for women to take the lead!

Therefore, I hope all of you here today will pledge to support this International Peace Highway to advance communication and peaceful equality from Santiago, Chile, in South America to Alaska in North America through Eurasia to Korea and the rest of the world. Later this year, we will have the second Africa Summit in South Africa. I want to lift a shovel for the groundbreaking of the International Highway from the Cape of Good Hope through Africa all the way to Europe, Asia and Korea. I will lift a shovel to ensure that humanity can communicate and unite centering on God while True Parents are here.

We have assets in many Latin American nations. I want to establish the HJ Magnolia Foundation to oversee these assets and open the path for Latin America, indeed every country in the world, to enjoy common prosperity. Will all of you here at the summit support this initiative? If this abundantly blessed continent can support and unite with God's only daughter, the True Mother, you will all be in the position of a great ancestor for eternity! I sincerely pray and hope that you will become such a person today. Thank you. 

The 2018 Family Festival in Latin America

True Mother delivered this speech on August 4 in the Allianz Parque Stadium, in São Paulo Brazil.



Esteemed excellencies, in particular Latin American religious leaders, political leaders, academic leaders, and peace ambassadors, blessed families from the Family Federation, members of YSP and CARP, who are the hope for the future, and second- and third-generation members, I love you all!

When we look at the many issues arising throughout the world, whether a bright future is in store for humanity is difficult to say. This is because human knowledge and effort alone cannot solve today's issues. Due to human beings' ignorance, our beautiful Earth is currently sick—in its land, its air and its water. In these challenging times, how can we stand by and watch? We must initiate a global movement that attends the Creator, God. To do this, you must clearly know who God is. God created the whole universe in his image, his external form. He created the plants having stamen or pistil, the mineral kingdom having plus and minus, animals as male and female and lastly, men and women to be the ancestors of humanity. In particular, God bestowed a growth period on human beings. They were to grow, unite and absolutely attend God. When God had deemed them mature enough, he would have blessed them as the first ancestors of humanity. However, during their growth period, they allowed self-centeredness to lead them to the Fall. That is fallen origin of humanity today. However, God, the Creator, must have the same beginning and end. God is omniscient and omnipotent. He gave a portion of responsibility to humans and as a result, he cannot abandon fallen human beings but must re-create them. Thus, God initiated the sorrowful and lonely providence of restoration through indemnity.

As the Bible tells us, God chose those in the nation of Israel to be the chosen people and sent Jesus Christ after four thousand biblical years—not forty years or four hundred years. It took four thousand years. So, what happened to Jesus? The intent was that Mary and Zechariah (who gave birth to Jesus), Judaic figures and the Israelites would support Jesus and his mission. The chosen people of the time were nowhere to be found as

Jesus went the way of the cross. Thieves to the left and right of Jesus accompanied him. At that time, the thief on the left mocked Jesus, but the thief on the right rebuffed the one on the left, saying, "We are hanging on the cross because we have sinned, but this man is sinless." What did Jesus say then? To the one on the right, he said, "Today, you will be with me in Paradise."

The development of Christianity

What is Paradise? It is not the kingdom of heaven. That is why Jesus prophesied that he would come again. He said he would return to host the marriage supper of the Lamb. Jesus was born to become humankind's true parent. Following Jesus' crucifixion, many faithful believers, despite having to endure persecution, have been anticipating the day when Jesus would return. After the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles at the Pentecost, Christianity began. Three hundred years after Christianity's founding, the Roman Empire officially recognized it, and Christianity expanded rapidly from the Italian Peninsula throughout Europe to the British Isles.

However, during this period, people could not understand Jesus' true nature and they led Christianity based on human understanding and structures. This became Catholicism. At that time, under the direction of King James of Great Britain, the Bible translation into English from Hebrew and Greek took place and the Protestant Reformation seeking freedom of religion began.

In the seventeenth century, Puritans, also known as the Pilgrim Fathers, sought to worship God directly within their families and homes. The place where they sought religious freedom we know today as North America. Many Catholics immigrated to South America in pursuit of material freedom. I said earlier that South America and North America are like the body and mind, respectively. The mind pursued faith and the body pursued material comfort. However, the mind and body must unite and become one. No value comes from separation from one another. So, my husband and I made numerous efforts to create an environment through which Latin Ameri-



ca could unite with North America.

Purity and harmony

More than twenty years ago, True Parents initiated solutions for the food shortage crisis and for preserving basic natural resources, such as clean water and air, which are essential to human existence and are disappearing due to human ignorance. We started providential projects to safeguard the Amazon basin and the Paraguay River basin. However, now people are feeling desperate; their concerns about the environment are genuine. That is why, today, thirty-three Latin American nations have come together with the opportunity to work together and to stand at the forefront with the fifty US states to protect and preserve our God-created Mother Earth. The many nations all over the world will have no peace or future if each values their own nation over others' and pursues selfishness and extreme individualism.

For over seventy years, the UN has been striving to realize a unified world, but the world remains as divided as ever. That is why barriers can no longer exist between religious, political and ideological spheres; the only path for humanity to unite is the one of serving our parent in heaven, our Heavenly Parent, the Creator God.

Jesus said he would return and host the marriage supper of the Lamb. What does this mean? In Christianity,



Many members, longing to see True Mother, rushed up to be near her.

the returning Messiah must have a bride, God's only daughter. The only daughter must be born into a Christian cultural environment. In 1943, I was born as the only daughter, whom God had sent.

The Holy Wedding

After liberation from Japanese occupation, Korea divided into north and south. My hometown ended up being in North Korea. God had to protect me during my growth period. However, externally, severe situations were developing. With the division into North Korea and South Korea, the communist North Korea was already prepared militarily to invade democratic South Korea. However, South Korea had still not prepared to defend itself. Nevertheless, God had to give me time to mature, so I had to head to South Korea. Two years later, when the Korean War erupted, Heaven mobilized the UN Forces, which comprised soldiers from sixteen countries, to protect Korea and me. If this isn't a miracle, what is? For six thousand years, God strove endlessly and yearned for the day when he could embrace fallen people as his children. However, until the victorious parents appeared on earth, fallen humanity was unable to return to God's bosom. That is why realizing our Heavenly Parent's dream required the birth and maturation of God's only daughter. Heaven protect-

ed me until I could actualize God's wish. Thus, in 1960, I ascended into the position of a True Parent, which is why fallen people can now be reborn as God's children through the blessing. Until now, all people, whether Catholic, Protestant or a member of some other religion, wished to return to God as his child, which is possible through receiving the marriage blessing from True Parents.


This is the best answer to overcoming religious, racial or any other type of barrier. As in the time of Jesus, Christianity could not create a welcoming environment for the Messiah and Savior who ascended to the position of True Parents. Christians today still do not know what the correct path is to attend our Heavenly Parent. They do not understand God's true nature. Nor do they comprehend Jesus' true nature.

They did not realize that True Parents were the saviors they had been awaiting. As a result, we had to endure tremendous persecution; but times are different now. No path exists to solving all the problems in the world with human effort. No everlasting solutions arise without knowing or attending God. By receiving the marriage blessing, you will be able to move to the position of God's true child. Fifty-eight years have passed since that time [True Parents' Holy Wedding]. Our Heavenly Parent is still working hand-in-hand with

True Parents and is ushering in a new era of Cheon Il Guk through Foundation Day. Through the Africa Summit in Senegal this year, countless African religious leaders participated in the Blessing Ceremony.

Pursuing the dream

In November, I received a report that our South African members will hold a 100,000-person blessing rally. This is the dream that humanity has been yearning for. How can we actualize the dream of one human family? By aligning with and attending our Heavenly Parent and True Parents, all the people and nations in the world can become siblings and realize the dream of one family under God. Our blessed second- and third-generation members are blazing this path! They give us hope for the future. These young people are actively marching forward in the world to become future heroes.

At this time, we have proposed the International Peace Highway, which can tie the world together. This highway will connect Santiago, Chile, through North America, to Alaska and continue toward Eurasia and even Korea. We can complete this highway in a short time by working together. Will you join me in this project? Families should communicate well with one another. Families who are far away from one another cannot feel great mutual affection. The International Peace Highway is essential for humanity to unite as one family and to foster communication. When we look at the globe, the Americas stand in an important position, like the Earth's spinal cord. I hope the Americas will unite with True Parents and together give hope to humanity and the world. We must protect the Amazon. More than twenty years ago, my husband and I initiated many projects to prepare for this. Therefore, I will launch the HJ Magnolia Foundation, because I want to create an American continent that can provide food and life as an embrace for the rest of the world. These are not empty words. If we join hands and work together, this is definitely possible. When that happens, this blessed continent will become a Heavenly Latin America that can fulfill its responsibilities and attend God. Thank you. 



I Am Proud of You; Work Hard

True Mother delivered this speech on August 6 in the Citibank Hall, São Paulo, Brazil, at the Victory Celebration for the 2018 Rallies to March Forward Toward a Day of New Hope.



Do you love me? How much? As high as the sky? As wide as the land? Infinitely? Is that true? All of you are my beloved sons and daughters, right? If that is true, you should speak the same language as your mother. Are you trying hard to learn Korean? It will not be easy, but because you are young, once you put your mind to it, you can do it. If learning the grammar is difficult, start by singing many Korean songs. In that way, you can learn by remembering the meaning of each word. My daughter, Sun Jin, also has difficulties speaking Korean because she was born in the United States. However, because she is trying, she is getting better every day. Being able to express yourself is very important. If something is in your heart but you cannot express it directly in words, it will take longer for another person to understand you. Our hearts are full of love, but we struggle at not being able to say I love you. Precious time is wasted. So, after you wake up, please start learning one Korean word every single day. Will you do that?

Speak out boldly

We are one family. You are True Parents' children! That relationship is unshakable and stands strong like a beautiful tree. Isn't that so? Nobody can tear us apart from one another. Regarding this rally, I heard that some Christians could not understand us, which caused some setbacks for this rally. However, and I have mentioned this several times, the time has come when we need to reveal the truth. We can no longer wait. Therefore, all of you must courageously tell the truth to everyone you know.

At the summit luncheon, to the religious leaders, whether they were Catholic, Protestant, Buddhist or from another religion, I mentioned that there is one conclusion. The problem until now has been that they have never known the truth. They did not understand God's heart.

Alone and misunderstood

Even the Christians could not fully understand why Jesus Christ had come. They did not understand Jesus' true nature. Even Mary, who

gave birth to him, did not understand him. How could Mary, who gave birth to Jesus under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, fail to aid Jesus with his mission? It is truly regrettable. As I said yesterday, if Mary and Zechariah, Judaic figures, and the people of Israel had cooperated to support Jesus in his mission, centering on the Roman Empire, Jesus would have achieved a peaceful world under our Heavenly Parent in his lifetime. How is it possible for the Savior, who came to realize the kingdom of heaven on earth, to go through crucifixion?

Consider Jesus on the cross, for example. Where did all the central figures, including Mary, go? They were all hiding. The thief on his left and the one on the right accompanied Jesus in his last moments. Even one of the two thieves, the thief on the left, mocked Jesus. At that time, the thief on the right said, We are hanging on the cross because we have sinned, "but this man has done nothing wrong." What did Jesus say then? He said, "You will be with me in Paradise." It was Paradise. Paradise is not heaven. Paradise! Because it was not heaven, Jesus prophesied that he would come again. However, neither the Protestant Church nor the Catholic Church knew why he would come again, because they did not understand Christ's true nature.

Cheon Il Guk stars


But you are in our second or third generation and were born from parents blessed by True Parents, right? In this fallen world, you are pure water. I am giving you some responsibility. You must mature well. Grow well! All of your eyes and your actions should be one with our Heavenly Parent, True Parents and God's only daughter, True Mother! In that regard, I have heard several reports about you that fill me with pride. Those in our second and third generations here have matured so well. You are so precious and beautiful. Every day, I hear your stories. While I am still on earth, all of you are studying and working so hard on the front line to realize our Heavenly Parent's dream. Isn't that so? Aren't you trying your best? Aren't you fulfilling your responsibilities? I want to boast about you. I am very

proud of you. Aren't you happy? Because of who you are, you have to catch and rectify all the problems in the world, one by one with your own hands. To do that, have experiences and become the best in all aspects of life.

Once you set a goal, can you go forward boldly without hesitation? What is our goal? Tribal messiahship! Restoring nations! To create the kingdom of heaven on earth by becoming one family centered on our Heavenly Parent! Do not forget that True Mother, God's only daughter, is alive on earth. After you say, "I will absolutely accomplish that goal while Mother is still on earth," become proud Cheon Il Guk heroes!

In reality, Latin America has been falling behind other regions. Latin America was not doing very well. However, thanks to you, I see a new revival and great hope for this continent. In that regard, once again, I am so proud of you. Please read the message I gave yesterday every day; engrave it in your hearts, and share it with your colleagues, neighbors and relatives, so that Brazil and your other nations can change.

Promoting unity

Because the thirty-three nations in Latin America must be born anew, I told Rev. Kim Sang-suk yesterday that we would reorganize into five subregions. We now regard South Korea and Japan as regions, and they have five subregions. In addition, I have divided North America into five subregions. Therefore, should Latin America, which is in the position of the body, have five subregions too? Or should it be different? The same? Therefore, in order to reduce the time needed to complete the providence, I am going to restructure Latin America so we can march forward toward that day. Once again, I know that you have worked hard and done your best. However, absolutely we must realize our goal. We must complete it. In our present situation, we have to work ten times, a hundred times harder, and if we unite, we will accomplish our goal faster. Thus, to promote cooperation and unity between everyone today, you can play a traditional Korean game called Yut. 

2018 Hyojeong Culture and Peace Festival in Okayama with a Prayerful Wish for Recovery

Sun Jin nim represented True Mother at the Zip Arena in Okayama at a time when at least two hundred people had perished in devastating floods and in hundreds of landslides in fourteen Japanese prefectures. Two million people have evacuated their homes. Seventy thousand rescue workers are searching for survivors and dealing with massive amounts of mud, sediment, driftwood and debris washed in from the sea. Hundreds of thousands of homes are without electricity or clean water. Sun Jin Moon, representing True Mother, spoke from her heart and clearly wished to bring comfort. In reading True Mother's message, she conveyed God and True Parents' heart to an audience of ten thousand.





Ten thousand people came to the Zip Arena for this event despite the devastating storms, flooding and destruction in western Japan.

Minasan konnichiwa! [Good afternoon, everyone!]
Dear Beloved brothers and sisters of Japan, we are gathered here today in Okayama. Words cannot express my sorrowful heart that deeply grieves for all the people who have lost their lives and those suffering from tremendous loss from the recent catastrophic storms. I was devastated to hear and see all the heartbreaking news of the anguish and the travail of families, lost and struggling to recover their communities and their homes. In the face of such tragedy what moved me the most were the people of Japan and the first responders who rushed immediately, selflessly and lovingly to assist those in need. This is the hope for the future of Japan because you understand what it means to live for the sake of others and practice true love.

Unfortunately, the tragic events we have witnessed here are occurring more and more across the world, and many still have not been cared for and are left to suffer. We must start to ask, Why? We must work to bring an end to such suffering, not only in Japan but all over the world. Human-

ity and creation are suffering due to the effects of climate change and the destruction of our planet. Humanity has lost touch with its true conscience. Ignorance and self-centeredness are widespread. We are endangering many of our animal and plant species, polluting our air, our oceans and our earth. Each year, we experience a new record-breaking tragedy and millions are left struggling to survive.

We are not meant to live in a world darkened by suffering, war, loss or destruction. We are meant to live in peace, love, joy and harmony as one family under God. We were to live in balance, gratitude, practicing good stewardship for all the abundant gifts we have received from God and creation.

A world without a connection to God is a world that is orphaned, unable to experience true love, true life and true lineage. Only when we reconnect and follow the true compass of our conscience can we make a pledge to change, to live in harmony for the good and the wellbeing of all life on this planet. That is why I would like to ask that we all gather our hearts, mind and souls at this

moment to make a divine connection to our Heavenly Parent and begin this event with a moment of silent prayer. A reverent prayer for the peace for all the souls that were lost and a sincere prayer for the light of hope to shine on Heavenly Japan, reigning in a new era of global peace, and realizing Heavenly Parent's dream of one peace-loving global family under God. Let us all together offer our heartfelt prayers to Heavenly Parent for the salvation of Japan and the world. Aju. Please, brother and sisters, please join me in silent prayer.

Silent Prayer

As I stand before my Japanese brothers and sisters, I always feel humbled and deeply grateful. I know that in many ways, you are a central pillar of our worldwide movement. Your generosity, your sacrifice, your sincere true love, absolute faith and dedication are unparalleled and unsurpassed. You are all heavenly champions. In so many ways, I look up to you as my elders, my teachers, my heroes and true saints. You have cleared a path for so many to follow. I



- ① The Fubuki Dance Company performed a dance about the ancient Kingdom of Kibi, which had existed in the Okayama area. "Fubuki" means "Storm."
- ② President Tokuno spoke of Mother's concern and her donations for victims and reminded the audience of the moral dangers the Japanese family faces nowadays, because peace begins with a true family.
- ③ Proclaiming the Okayama Peace Declaration, which many people in the area had signed. Executive Committee Chairman Aoki led the declaration.

offer my eternal love and humbly bow to you and your great nation. [She does a standing bow.]

For this reason, our True Parents have the deepest love and respect for the members in Japan and can call you their true sons and daughters. Thank you all. Gamsamnida. Arigato gozaimas!

I have been asked by our beloved True Mother to deliver her precious words on this occasion, during the year of the sixtieth anniversary of the inauguration of our Japanese movement. I feel an awesome sense of responsibility and am unworthy to represent our True Mother. However, I will do my very best.

Brothers and sisters, I will now read True Mother's message. Knowing our True Mother's love and her heartfelt care and concern for each one of you, I ask that you give your full and sincere attention. These are precious words from our True Mother. She is absolutely one in heart and purpose with our True Father, working to fulfill Heavenly Parent's dream. I will now read our True Mother's message:

Excerpts of what Sun Jin nim read

Distinguished guests from home and abroad, leaders from all levels of society, parliamentarians representing the political realm, peace ambassadors, blessed families and members who have gathered for 2018

Hyojeong Culture and Peace Festival in Okayama with Prayerful Wish for Recovery. I am pleased to meet you today.

Today's world is afflicted with countless complex problems and the limitations of human power to solve such problems are becoming evident. The Japanese people have endured many difficulties and tragedies during your long history. I know that recently many areas of Okayama Prefecture were devastated by floods that took the lives of more than two hundred of your fellow citizens.

I would like to extend heartfelt words of encouragement to the people of Japan, in particular the citizens and blessed family members in Western Japan who have suffered from the recent torrential rains. I pray for the quick recovery and relief of all citizens in the afflicted areas.

Heavenly Parent loves Japan and is always with Japan; I pray, for and I am certain that Heavenly Parent will greatly bless this nation.

I am sure the people of Okayama will rise and meet this challenge, just as you have met and overcome challenges of the past. Heavenly Parent and True Parents are always with you. You are the Mother Nation and you set the standard for the world. The world needs to imitate your standard of attendance. Words cannot describe the suffering caused by

human ignorance that is afflicting today's world. Due to excessive pollution, the future of humanity and even the future of planet earth cannot be guaranteed. This is why we must find the focal point that can unite all of humanity. In today's world, if one nation does well but the surrounding nations do not, eventually, everyone will suffer the consequences.

When can we usher in the peaceful world of freedom that humanity yearns for? There is only one answer to this question. A world of peace cannot be accomplished centering on human beings. God, the Creator and owner of the universe is the true owner. Only when humanity properly understands the true owner and lives according to the owner's will a peaceful world be possible.

Sun Jin Moon's Closing

Brothers and sisters this concludes our beloved True Mother's message. Thank for your steadfast love and support, and sacrificial attendance to our True Parents. We love you forever and always. Please give one more round of applause, so loud that True Mother will hear you from Cheon Jeong Gung!

Go-say-cho, arigato-gozaimashita. (Thank you very much for listening.)
Minasan, aishitemasu. (I love you all.)
Issihoni gambari-mashow. (Let's work together!) ㄸ

A Brief Ceremony, Intense Preparation

This is a behind-the-scenes view of the interreligious ceremony in São Paulo on August 5 in Allianz Parque Stadium.

The interreligious ceremony in São Paulo Stadium was short and looked simple but was actually beautiful and meaningful, representing the religious diversity of Latin America. Behind these five minutes of interreligious harmony were hours of stress, months of intense campaigning and years of friendship with Cardinal Kelvin Felix. Christian Lepelletier and Rémy Taupier, who had brought the cardinal, tell us the story behind these few minutes.

Christian Lepelletier

The organizers of the August 4 Family Festival in São Paulo decided include an interreligious ceremony, in which each representative of a religion pours water into a common large container. Just after the Football World Cup ended, on July 16, I received the mission to prepare the list of religious leaders who would have to be onstage. I requested the list of guests coming from the thirty-three countries for the Latin America Summit (LAS) organized by the Universal Peace Federation. I found the names of about forty religious leaders, mostly Catholic and Protestant, plus three Muslims and a Buddhist.

I sent invitations to my interreligious contacts in São Paulo in order to have greater religious diversity, which represents Brazil's reality. I also received names from brothers and sisters from other regions who had joined a mobilization team at our movement's headquarters in São Paulo. Since the beginning of 2018, several teams have been visiting schools, associations, churches and temples in order to fill the stadium.

Three people confirmed to me that they would participate, and three others to Hector, a brother who was also involved in contacting religious organizations. The rest we would begin confirming from August 2, when the guests of the LAS would arrive at the hotel.

Small details, great anxiety

On Monday morning, July 30, I received a message from the secretary-general of the LAS, a new and rather challenging task. "We need two types of frames, five for normal peace ambassador certificates and three for good governance awards, which are much bigger, of the same size as the framework given to the president of Senegal, Macky Sall. We need all that by the end of the LAS, Saturday, August 4."

I rushed immediately to a store to order the frames. The normal delivery time is a week. I had to negotiate and insist on having them ready by Friday afternoon. I also had to go to a printer to see if they could print the large A2 (16.5 x 23.4) award certificates. On Wednesday August 1, at 11:45 PM, I received a WhatsApp audio message: "The three good governance awards will be presented in True Mother's presence on Friday morning. Please manage to bring the three frames for the August 3 session at 10 AM. A new big blow of stress fell on me!"

So, on Thursday morning, the day the LAS began, I had to make several calls to ask to speed the production of the big frames. I asked if I could have them that same evening. This was not possible,



In 1970, 90 percent of Brazilians were Catholic. The 2010 Census shows a decline to 65 percent. Evangelical Protestants or secular non-atheists had risen to nearly a quarter of the population. Numerous other religions are active. In this photograph of the water ceremony, Cardinal Kelvin Felix is at the far left.

but they promised they would be ready the next morning at 7:45 AM when the store opened.

That morning at 7:00 AM, I asked my son Jocelyn who was on the staff as a translator to help me call an Uber taxi, in order to pick up the frames and be back by 8:00 AM in my hotel room, where I already had the printed diplomas. I managed to mount the three big diplomas and bring them around 9:00 AM, in time for the 10:00 AM session. I then felt relieved of much of the stress. One of the people selected to receive this prestigious diploma was Cardinal Kelvin Felix, who came from Dominica in the Caribbean. Cardinals do not often attend our conferences.

Gathering the faithful

However, I now had to focus on my very first mission and find religious leaders to come onstage the next day at the stadium. Throughout Friday, I thought of the possibility of inviting the cardinal; I spoke to Rémy Taupier, who knows him well. Nevertheless, it was still a little early to tackle the subject. I had met and invited the Buddhist monk who had come from Japan and Dr. Sima of the Bahia faith who had come from Uruguay. She was very kind and asked me if she would be able to read a prayer, at the end of the ceremony.

The Saturday morning session of the LAS was the inauguration of the Latin American chapter of the Interreligious Association for Peace and Development (IAPD). The interreligious ceremony, with the pouring of water, was on the program. Having the cardinal being involved would be great, so I tried to prepare him.

On Saturday morning, after the inaugural session of IAPD, the cardinal was a target of attention from many participants who wanted to take pictures with him. I had to wait for him and inform him that in the afternoon there would be the water ceremony at the stadium and invited him to participate. He agreed.

I then left the LAS and headed to the stadium, with my provisional list, my ticket to enter the stadium, and some cards on which I would write the name of the religious leader and the religion he represents. These I would give to the master of ceremonies onstage at the time of the ceremony.

Physical barriers

I knew the road to the stadium but did not know that once there, reaching the stage was complicated; I did not have permission to pass a barrier a good distance from the stage; only those on the production and media team could. It took me half an hour to find someone to help me enter the VIP area near the stage to get ten badges so that my guests can cross the barrier and reach the stage. In less an hour four hundred VIPs would arrive at the stadium, where we had reserved ten chairs for religious leaders. I met my first guest, Mr. Afonso, a leader in Spiritism. Afterward, I received a message from Mr. Cristino, an indigenous leader, saying that he had entered the stadium, but we met only an hour



Cardinal Kelvin Felix receiving the gold medallion and one of the certificates that Christian Lepelletier had scrambled to prepare on time.

later, because of the vastness of the place, the barriers and the impossibility of using phones due to the volume of background music through the sound system.

Gradually, the VIPs, coming directly from the LAS, filled their section. I met the cardinal and I reconfirmed he would participate. Then the director of the company who installed the entire decorative structure for our festival, Mr. Fernando, came to see me and asked, "Do you have someone from Judaism?" I told him no, it's Saturday, their Sabbath, finding a Jew who would accept would be hard. He told me, "I am not a rabbi, but I am Jewish and I would like to participate representing Judaism. I will find a *kippah*; you can put my name on the list."


An imam came to sit near the cardinal, not the one we had invited, but given the shortage of time, we welcomed him. I was looking for a Protestant. I asked Remy Taupier for help. He asked Juan Edghill of Guyana, bishop of Outreach Ministries in Georgetown, Guyana, who accepted. I was able to fill in ten names on my list. All we had to do was wait for someone to pick us up and get onstage.

The ceremony itself was the easiest part; everyone was sitting comfortably. I gave all the names to the MC, who called the religious figures who poured water into the container one by one.

Rémy Taupier

I will provide a few words about Cardinal Kelvin Felix. Before becoming a cardinal, Bishop Kelvin Felix was the archbishop of Castries, Saint Lucia's capital city. I have known him for a long time. Fourteen years ago, I met him when I gave a PowerPoint presentation for all the leaders of the Catholic Church on HIV/AIDS prevention and abstinence.

We saw each other subsequent occasions. I invited him to international conferences in Korea or the United States. Six years ago, he retired and returned to Dominica, his native country. Four years ago he was named a cardinal by the Pope Francis, an Argentinian. I have been to Dominica several times to help the Japanese missionaries there. Each time we went to visit the cardinal.

In June, Dr. Yang asked me to come to Dominica with him to visit the prime minister. During that visit, we met the cardinal. He was not yet sure that he would, but he was interested in attending the São Paulo conference. To give him confidence, I told him that a person from Saint Lucia that he knows very well would travel with him. That woman is a very good Catholic and her father (who is the same age as the cardinal) is a deacon in the church and a great friend of the cardinal. She is also a good peace ambassador and participated in a UPF International Leadership Conference in Korea seven years ago. 

Christian Lepelletier is a national messiah to Brazil; Rémy Taupier is a national messiah to Saint Lucia.

2018 Rally for a Hopeful March Forward of FFWPU for a Heavenly Japan





- ❶ True Mother speaking at the Saitama Super Arena on July 1
- ❷ A view from the back of the hall; twenty thousand people attended the event.
- ❸ Kajikuri Masayoshi, president of UPF-Japan, and his wife presented flowers to True Mother
- ❹ Oyamada Hideo and Kuboki Tetsuko, chairs of the *Cheon Eui Won* [the Cheon Il Guk legislature] in Japan present a gift to True Mother
- ❺ Sun Jin Moon, international president of FFWPU, introduced True Mother
- ❻ Mr. Yano Harumushi was the master of ceremonies and President Tokuno greeted the audience and delivered opening remarks. Ms. Ishii Koji, a third-generation Japanese Unificationist spoke of her family, while standing beneath a photograph of her grandfather and father from whom she inherited her faith.
- ❼ The North Tokyo Youth Choir provided pre-program entertainment



True Mother Meets CARP USA in Tokyo, Japan



- ❶ In the course of her speech True Mother appealed to the young people present from various nationalities and she reiterated what she has said recently, that from the quality of second- and third-generation children, she recognizes the investment and sacrifices of their parents or grandparents.
- ❷ American CARP members offering flowers to True Parents.
- ❸ Dr. Yun Young-ho, secretary general of the Cheon Jeong Gung International Headquarters spoke to the young, Korean, Japanese and American CARP members about True Mother's tremendous recent successes in Africa.
- ❹ Dr. Kim Ki-hoon, regional president of North America Region 1 and chairman of the North American Regional Group has spent decades working in the United States and is likely moved to see True Mother's deep connection to America's young members.
- ❺ Among those at the podium, the most experienced of the three is Naoko Hiraki, a member of Los Angeles Kodan who has broken through in witnessing in that notoriously difficult city.
- ❻ True Mother's adoring fans



“Prayer for Revival” 2018 Hyo Jeong Culture and Peace Festival



- ① Sun Jin nim delivered True Mother's speech, which included True Mother's sentiments toward the people of Western Japan who have recently endured so much.
- ② Kim Man-jin, the advisor to the Executive Committee led the crowd of ten thousand in cheers of Eog Mansei.
- ③ President Tokuno welcomed everyone and testified to True Mother. Member of the Japanese Diet Ichiro Aisawa from Okayama's District 1 was moved by the large number of people who had come. Mrs. Baba Akiko prayed. Kadowaki Fukunobu was one of two university students that gave a speech; his topic was "youth."
- ④ A view of the crowd, many in T-shirts; they had gone through a *chanyang* session to liberate spirits.



Hopeful Rally for March Forward of Heavenly Latin America





- ① Sun Jin Moon escorted True Mother to the podium.
- ② True Mother deliver the keynote address; the Portuguese wording behind her translates into English as Peace is a refrain that we should sing together!
- ③ José Alberto Afano Gimenez and his wife presenting flowers to True Mother.
- ④ A ceremony symbolic of interreligious harmony
- ⑤ Front row, left to right: Pres. Tokuno Eiji; Pres. Lee Gi-seong; Kim Sang-suek, president, FFWPU-South America; Prof. Yeon Ah Moon, In Sup Park and his wife Sun Jin nim were among those seated onstage during True Mother's speech.
- ⑥ Left to right: The MC for the entertainment before the rally welcomed everyone on behalf of the organizing committee and introduced himself as Rosenaldo; Cesar Zadusky, an ex-president of FFWPU-Brazil was the rally MC. He began by announcing an unscheduled speaker and introduced the third man, Anthony Carmona, ex-president of Trinidad and Tobago, who spoke.
- ⑦ The professional Brazilian *sertaneja* (country-pop) duo Fernando and Soracaba performed at the beginning of the event.



Honoring a Sacrificial, Public Life

The Life and Legacy of Nelson Mandela

July 18 marked a hundred years since the birth of Nelson Mandela, the human rights champion, president of South Africa (1994–1999) and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate. Shortly before the celebrations began in Mvezo, South Africa, his birthplace, his grandson Chief Mandla Zwelivelile Mandela, spoke in a televised interview of UPF's participation in planning and carrying out the celebrations. He added, "As you can see, gathered here are young people who have come from all across the world, brought by the Universal Peace Federation to come and be part of this historic moment." This speech was delivered during the celebrations to a large audience of Mandela's family and compatriots.

By Yun Young-ho



Honorable President Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa, Former President F. W. de Klerk, Former President K. Motlanthe, Former President Jacob Zuma, His Royal Majesty Nkosi Zwelivelile Mandela, the Royal House of Mandela, International Former Heads of State, Prime Ministers, Parliamentarians, Honorable Ministers, Religious Leaders, Civic Leaders, Traditional Rulers, and Invited Guests:

Warm greetings from Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon in Korea. Your Excellences, ladies and gentlemen! I stand before you today to venerate a man who epitomized the words extolled by Dr. Sun Myung Moon and Mrs. Hak Ja Han Moon, that is, "live for the sake of others." The life Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela lived was never self-serving; he always lived for the betterment of the collective whole. I am deeply and profoundly honored to deliver this message on behalf of the founder of the Universal Peace Federation, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon.



Today, as we celebrate the centennial birthday of President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, let us be reminded and indeed reflect on his selfless service not only to the Republic of South Africa but to the entire human race. We call on all peace-loving citizens in the world to observe this day in particular and this centenary year of Mandela with appropriate activities and ceremonies that honor and give thanks to this icon of humanity. Madiba's life was devoted to securing the democracy and blessings of freedom that South Africa and much of the world enjoy today, and he deserves our respect and unending gratitude.

Honored guests, President Mandela's greatness did not only come about because of his long years of incarceration in the dungeons of oppression and injustice, nor only because of the grievous torture and humiliation wrought by the apartheid oppression; his greatness also lies in his audacity to defy the masses, who demanded brutal and unmitigated justice, by

forgiving and reconciling with his oppressors. In his visionary mind, Madiba acceded to the words found in the Holy Book that implore us to forgive our enemies and echoed the words of Dr. Martin Luther King who declared that "no one is free until all are free."

He placed his life on the line

Let us remember and honor Madiba's valor and the sacrifices that he made for the cause of peace. It is worth noting that Madiba, in his magnanimity, always pointed out and reminded us that he did not fight the struggle single-handedly. We therefore want to remember and honor his comrades, too numerous to mention by name. Suffice to mention Mama Abertina Sisulu, Oom Beyer Naude and Ahmed Kathrada. Because of their selfless dedication and sacrifices, we enjoy freedom and democracy today.

Let us remember the words President Mandela uttered during the Rivonia trial in 1964, "I have cher-

① Sec.-Gen. Yun, Chief Mandla Zweliwile Mandela, and South African President Rhamaphosa

② Kathy Rigney looks on as Chief Mandela and President Rhamaphosa cut the birthday cake.

③ Musicians helped celebrate the centenary

④ Five hundred people came to this phase of the celebrations, which was held in a large domed structure.

ished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal that I hope to live for and to achieve. But if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die." As we celebrate President Mandela's centenary year, let us reflect on his legacy of nation building, national reconciliation and social cohesion. South Africa has achieved so much under Madiba's astute leadership, but we must also realize that the long walk to freedom is far from accomplished.

Madiba helped open the doors to freedom and democracy and laid the foundation upon which we can build. In pursuit of his ideals, the Royal



House of Mandela is partnering with the Universal Peace Federation to celebrate his life and legacy in a way that is worthy and indeed iconic in this historic venue, Mvezo, the birthplace of our dear president. Mandela's name and legacy is cherished, loved and owned by those who believe in peace, justice, prosperity and human rights for all. His legacy is invoked in international and global forums, and his words of inspiration are on the lips of those fighting for freedom and democracy around the globe.

Lives with holy purpose

Your Excellencies, Ladies And Gentlemen: it is worth noting that President Mandela was born in 1918 and another global icon was born two years later in 1920. These contemporaries, in my view, were raised by divine purpose to bring peace to the world. Dr. Moon and Mrs. Moon are the co-founders of the Universal Peace Federation. The Universal Peace Federation is an international and interreligious network of individuals and organizations, including representatives from governments, religions, academia, civil society and private organizations dedicated to the promotion of world peace. UPF supports the work of the United Nations,

particularly in the areas of interfaith peace-building, peace education, and the strengthening of marriages and families. UPF, inter alia promotes the following principles: Stand on the common ground of universal moral principles, promoting reconciliation, overcoming barriers and building peace; promote co-operation beyond boundaries of religion, race, ethnicity and nationality; practice "living for the sake of others" as the guiding principle for building a global human community; form a network representing the diversity of the human family and all disciplines of human endeavor.

Your Excellencies, Ladies And Gentlemen! Is it not quite remarkable and profound that the ideals that President Mandela stood for and indeed "was prepared to die for" are in resonance with the principles espoused by Rev. and Mrs. Moon? One wonders what the world would have become had these colossal human beings met and worked together!

UPF is presently working with the Royal House of Mandela to actualize this, starting with today's celebration. His Majesty Nkosi Zwelivelile Mandela was with us in Dakar, Senegal, and again in South Korea earlier this year. We are together in Mvezo and I

- ① Nelson Mandela, president of South Africa 1994–1999, was a non-violent opponent of the race-based apartheid system. Many know him as the father of South Africa, but his influence and his leadership has inspired people around the globe.
- ② The media broadly covered the event
- ③ President Ramaphosa (center) speaking with his predecessor ex-President Zuma (2009–2018)
- ④ South African President Cyril Ramaphosa and Demi-Leigh Nel-Peters, Miss Universe 2017 from Sedgefield, South Africa, cut the ribbon to begin the celebrations.

would like to use this opportunity to remind you of our joint hosting of the second Africa Summit to Celebrate the Centenary of Nelson Mandela's Birth. May the legacy of President Mandela—of peace, reconciliation and justice for all—live on as we navigate our way through these trying times. Let us not defer Madiba's cherished dream of a democratic and free society, in which all live together in harmony. As South Africa works to realize President Mandela's ideals of peace and prosperity for all, rest assured that UPF intends to join you in your long walk to freedom! Siya bulela mawethu! Enkosi. [Thank you my friends! Thank you] ㄹ

Dr. Yun is secretary-general of the Cheon Jeong Gung Headquarters.

UPF Delegation to Niger

By Paterne Zinsou

A delegation from the Universal Peace Federation comprising Dr. Thomas Walsh, chairman of UPF International, me, in my capacity as sub-regional director of UPF for West Africa, and Mr. Seka Philbert, president of Youth and Students for Peace-Africa is visiting heads of state on the African continent. Given what was at stake in meeting government figures in Niger, I had to go to Niamey on June 12, a few days before the arrival of Dr. Walsh, who was both the head of the delegation and a special envoy representing our Mother. I had to coordinate all the steps and orientate the main figures in relation to the results expected for this mission in Niger.

Niger's minister of Justice, Marou Amadou, who would be out of the country during the UPF mission, along with a group of parliamentarians and ambassadors for peace welcomed me. Dr. Walsh arrived on the morning of June 15 and received a warm welcome to Niamey, the nation's capital, population 1.21 million. A car with a PRN registration plate, signifying the office of the president and one with a PAN plate associated with the National Assembly were available to us during our stay.

Member of the National Assembly (MNA) Kassoum Yacouba Maiga and a retired colonel, Abdoul Ramane Seydou (minister of Youth and Sports 2005–2008) were able to mobilize and involve the government of Niger in organizing various activities in the country. A committee headed by MNA Yacouba assisted by a youthful team of our members led by Anara Zéinoudine, national leader of FFW-PU-Niger, implemented the various initiatives and decisions made. Indeed, all the arrangements made displayed total national commitment. All stages of the mission in Niger were a great success.

June 16, a historic day

The president of the Republic of Niger, Mahamadou Issoufou (2011–present), postponed until the following day the audience we were to have had with him on the evening of June 15. To Brigi Rafini, prime minister of Niger (2001–present) who accepts UPF and True Mother's vision and to MNA Yacouba, who attended the Dakar Summit and the ILC in February, President Issoufou explained his reasons for preferring to meet with us on June 16.

First, the president preferred having the meeting at the Presidential

Palace, where he lives, rather than in his office because we would have more time there. He also felt that in the same way that MNA Yacouba is a member of the UPF family, he is too. With that in mind, he wanted to receive the UPF delegation with his own family. He added that because UPF focuses on the family, he prefers to welcome the delegation into a family environment.

President Issoufou expressed the wish that we hold the official launching of the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace before our audience with him. Therefore, he instructed the prime minister that not only should the launching of IAPP be a great success, but he stressed that leaders of all major institutions throughout the nation ought to attend the launch in the National Assembly building.

Launching IAPP

On Saturday, June 12, we conducted the official launching of IAPP Niger in Niamey at the National Assembly of Niger under the patronage of Ousseini Tinni, Speaker of the National Assembly. Nearly two hundred people attended this launch held in the presence of Prime Minister Brigi Rafini, various leaders of institutions

in Niger, fifteen government ministers, the parliamentarians, the members of the Youth Parliament Bureau, several ex-ministers and ex-parliamentarians, religious leaders, traditional chiefs, woman leaders and artists.

Thirteen television stations covered the establishment of IAPP-Niger (including two that broadcast internationally) as did four national radio stations. Amina Balla Kalto, fifth vice-president of Niger's National Assembly delivered the welcoming address. MNA Yacouba, national coordinator of IAPP and chairman of the Organizing Committee followed him. I then spoke, explaining the history and function of IAPP. Dr. Thomas Walsh, international chairman of UPF gave the keynote address.

Then the officers of IAPP-Niger, thirteen in number, officially presented themselves to Prime Minister Rafini and to the Bureau of the National Assembly of Niger. They took an oath that the president of IAPP-Niger, Mr. Iro Sani, first vice-president of the National Assembly, read out.

Nana Fassouma Oumarou, one of more than two dozen women in Niger's National Assembly, then made public the IAPP Resolution by reading it aloud to the assemblage. Esteemed figures in society joined the parliamentarians in signing it.

The launching of IAPP Niger expressed the mobilization of a people and its government, members of which attended the launch. UPF appointed several dignitaries as ambassadors for peace on this occasion. For each of them, a road map for their future activities read like a mandate for a new mission. These were the president of the National Assembly, the prime minister, the minister in charge of Relations with Institutions and the minister of Tourism and Craftsmanship, as well as MNA Yacouba and the first vice-president of the National Assembly, who is in charge of the coordination of IAPP Niger. All the other parliamentarians, members of IAPP Niger bureau received this distinction during the gala evening held on the same day in the garden of the National Assembly. All the participants appeared satisfied with the ceremony.



Dr. Walsh, speaking at the founding of the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace in Niger in the nation's unicameral National Assembly

The parliamentarians seemed delighted by the establishment of this parliamentary institution, which they will officially register among the Parliament of Niger Networks. All major authority figures in the country were present at the National Assembly.

Meeting the president

The president of the Republic, Mahamadou Issoufou, received the special delegation of the founder of UPF led by the international chairman, Dr. Thomas Walsh, at the president's residence, the Presidential Palace on June 16. This meeting lasted about forty-five minutes, was friendly and took place in a family atmosphere. Barkai Issouf, the minister in charge of relations with state institutions accompanied the delegation. Several ministers had received invitations to greet the UPF delegation. The staff offered snacks to the delegation and to the government ministers and dignitaries that President Issoufou had invited to this family meeting. After the reception, the president entered and we moved to the VIP room. On hand were the UPF delegation, MNA Kassoum Yacouba Maiga, who became the first vice-president of IAPP-Niger, in charge of the coordination of IAPP activities; an ex-minis-

ter—Colonel Abdul Ramane Seydou, the FFWPU-Niger national leader Anara Zénoudine, the minister in charge of Relations with Institutions and the minister-director of the Cabinet.

After a photo session and some national television media coverage, MNA Kassoum presented the delegation to President Issoufou. He reported about the participation of the highest authorities of the nation headed by the prime minister at the IAPP launching. After thanking the president, Dr. Walsh presented the Heavenly Africa Package True Mother had initiated to help and to support the leaders of some African countries, including Niger, to achieve the goals of interdependence, mutual prosperity and universal values.

After his explanation, Dr. Walsh introduced me to present some specific points to President Issoufou. I had to hand over a package of documents prepared for this occasion to the president who asked that the media cover this, given the importance and significance of the act. Thus, the minister-director of the Cabinet called on the national television journalists to film the delivery of the documents on projects to the president. Mahamadou Issoufou thanked the founder of UPF,



From left to right: Kassoum Maiga, first vice-president of IAPP-Niger; Dr Patrice Zinsou; Mr Barkai Issouf (the minister who relates with institutions), Dr Thomas Walsh, Philbert Seka (YSP Africa) Ahmed Boto, minister of Tourism and Craftsmanship, and former minister Abdul Ramane Seydou.

Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, for her great love for and interest in the development of Africa in general and Niger in particular. He also praised the summit held in Dakar, Senegal.

He explained his new Cultural Renaissance program and his vision for the modernization of Niger's economy and politics. His vision is similar to that of UPF. He said that he fully supports the vision of the founders and is willing to work together with UPF for the realization of all projects. The president was interested in the agricultural project, education, the promotion of family values, health, infrastructure, well drilling and all the other projects for which he hopes for active cooperation.

Informed of the holding in South Africa in November 2018 of the second African Summit and global events in February 2019 in South Korea, President Issoufou has shown great interest in all these meetings in which he wishes to take part. He asked that we send official invitations to him as soon as possible so that state-level planning can begin.

President Issoufou referred to a portion of one of the documents referring to the four high-growth industrial states in the second half of the twentieth century, namely South

Korea, Hong Kong, Singapore and Taiwan. Speaking of South Korea, he said he hoped that the Korean special representative (Dr. Yun Young-ho) would be present because for him, Korea embodies a model of development and change of mentality necessary for Niger to prosper. In a friendly atmosphere, we took part in an official photograph with President Issoufou.


Niger government-UPF MOU

On Saturday, June 16, after the audience with the president, the UPF delegation went to the prime minister to sign a Memorandum of Understanding between the Niger government and UPF. Thanks to Mr. Brigi Rafini, prime minister of Niger, representatives of the two parties signed an agreement committing themselves to implementing the projects contained in the Heavenly Africa Package in Niger.

The two parties exchanged the official agreement and the partnership document during a simple ceremony held on June 16 in the meeting room of the prime minister's office. The signing of the MOU took place in two stages: between the minister of Foreign Affairs, African Integration, Cooperation and Overseas Nigeriens

and UPF on the one hand and between the minister in charge of Relations with the Institutions, who replaced the Foreign Affairs minister, who had been called away for an emergency, and UPF. This ceremony, which sealed the official link between the state and the government of Niger and UPF, took place in the presence of another Government representative, the Minister of Tourism and Handicrafts.

Gala dinner

The National Assembly put on a gala dinner to thank UPF's founder and the UPF delegation on the evening of June 16. It took place in the garden of the National Assembly and included several government ministers and vice-presidents and other members of the National Assembly. Performances of a national band added to the graceful atmosphere. The members of the IAPP office received the attributes of ambassadors of peace on this occasion. Several other dignitaries and ambassadors for peace were invited to this meeting, which concluded this historic day during which several acts of a providential scale took place. 

Dr. Zinsou is sub-regional director of UPF for West Africa.

Laying a Foundation in Togo

June 18–19

By Paterne Zinsou

After going to Niger, the UPF delegation went to Abidjan and took the flight to Lomé, Togo, on June 17. Togo is a nation of eight million people situated between Benin and Ghana. In terms of total area, Togo is nearly identical with Europe's Croatia but Togo has nearly twice Croatia's population. Togo is small but in terms of population density ranks tenth among African nations or twelfth if you include Mayotte and Réunion, both legally regions of France on the African continent.

At our arrival in Togo, the UPF delegation comprised Dr. Thomas Walsh, chairman of UPF International, Adama Doumbia, regional UPF secretary general for Africa and me. The meeting with the president, Faure Gnassingbé, scheduled for June 18 could not take place because, according to the information we received, Togo's president could not make himself available. We focused our hope for this meeting on the following day, the date of departure for the UPF delegation.

The following day however, President Gnassingbé was still busy, and he instructed that the prime minister receive the delegation from UPF. Thus, the prime minister of Togo,



Left to right: Rev. Adama Doumbia, Dr. Agbeyome Messan Kodjo, an ex-prime minister of Togo; Dr. Walsh, Komi Sélom Klassou, the prime minister; the writer, Rev. Paterne Zinsou; the prime minister; the writer, Dr. Paterne Zinsou; and the director of the PM's cabinet.

Komi Selom Klassou (2015–present), received the UPF delegation led by Dr. Thomas Walsh on June 19 at 11:00 AM, shortly before we needed to leave for the airport. Dr. Agbeyome Messan Kodjo, prime minister of Togo (2000–2002) was also present during this meeting, which given our need to be at the airport lasted around twenty minutes. In that time, Dr. Walsh delivered a presentation on the contents of the Heavenly Africa Package, after which Prime Minister Klassou agreed to work with UPF in carrying out these projects. He expressed his respect for South Korean initiatives before mentioning the cooperative ties established a few weeks ago between the Korean Saemaul Undong Foundation and the

government of the Republic of Korea. [TPmagazine note: Togo has long ties with North Korea.]

We gave him the documents related to the Memorandum of Understanding, stating that it was an administrative prerequisite in order to substantiate the principle of cooperation reached with President Gnassingbé. The prime minister promised to go through and study the projects for a Heavenly Africa that had been sent to him in order to make the appropriate arrangements for signing the MOU. Following the meeting, the Togolese press interviewed Dr. Thomas Walsh. *TP*

Dr. Zinsou is sub-regional director of UPF for West Africa.

Summertime!



From June 15 to 24, the 2018 East Europe Second Generation Department together with FFWPU-Belarus conducted the sixth annual 2nd-Gen Belarus Summer Workshop in Korolevo, Belarus, for ten to fourteen year old members of our second generation. It was the sixth and the largest workshop in terms of people taking part—we welcomed seventy-five participants from Russia, Belarus, Moldova, Estonia, Latvia and we had twenty-one staff members.

The workshop included diverse programs, such as Life of attendance through following the main traditions, for example, hoondokhae, closing the day with prayer, jeonseong conditions by teams, serving etc. The participants received daily internal guidance and they got into the habit of setting daily internal goals. We had programs on identity as members of our second generation and on habits and influence. They received Pure Love education, studied True Parents' life courses, and considered what vision our second-generation members might seek.

We had practical simulation of diverse behavior models of second-generation members using modern psychological methods. We

spent a Day with True Father during which we tried to relate to hard work in the Hungnam Labor Camp and Father's steps on the way from North Korea to South Korea. They also had fun, learned teamwork through quests, through challenges and through sports. We provided some specialized education, such as introductory classes in psychology, entrepreneurship, design, science, medicine and first aid.

All of this helped children focus on growing internally in their relationships with God and True Parents, in preparing to "find themselves" and in fulfilling their purpose for

- ① Employing teamwork to overcome an obstacle
- ② Inheriting an FFWPU tradition, playing yut
- ③ Carrying bags of earth to glimpse what True Father went through in prison in Hungnam, North Korea
- ④ Staff members and children at the workshop

having been created through immersion in one or another specialty. Crucially, it helped them make strong connections with second-generation members from other places. The special program "A Day with True Father" caused a wave of enthusiastic responses from the children, everyone shared that they could understand Father's heart.





The second-generation Unificationists who attended the summer workshop in Belarus (with perhaps one or two workshop instructors) surround Jack Corley, regional president of FFWPU-Eastern Europe (Eurasia).

Meanwhile the children listened to older second-generation Unificationists speak about their experiences in prayer, and give their testimonies about meeting True Parents. Six older members of our second generation took on the role of a team leader's assistant in each of the six teams and showed themselves to be truly helpful right hands for team leaders and best friends for the participants:

"I could feel the True Parents' hearts through my team. They were for me like all humankind are for the True Parents. I really wanted to teach them a lot, help them to become a real 2nd-gen. I feel a great responsibility for their growth. It is very difficult to be a mentor, team leader, also because if the team fails, I consider myself guilty. Because True Father experiences similar feelings to all people on earth, I feel that I understand him more than ever."

Understanding the importance of an older 2nd gen as a one who set a standard and should become a role model for the younger brothers and sisters, we are happy to see them taking this responsibility with a sincere heart and devotion. *TP*

This article emerged from the East Europe Second Generation Department and FFWPU-Belarus.

Reflections

On our challenge day we were carrying bags of soil. When I was carrying the third bag, I suddenly realized that True Father was walking in front of me.

At the workshop I had a dream about True Mother. She had a headache and asked me to cure her. I was very shy, but still put my hands on her forehead. I felt the warmth and love radiating from her. Her pain was gone, and she gave me a hug. I will never forget this dream.

I used to think that Rev. Sun Myung Moon was just a good man, but the older I get, I come to realize that he is not an ordinary man, he is a son of God.... I endlessly admire True Father. I really want to become such second-generation child so True Parents can look at me and think that everything they went through was not in vain, that we can change the world and create a kingdom of heaven on earth and in heaven.

From Glamor to Blessing

Good points I learned in Nepal

By Laurent Ladouce

In Nepal, the place where I felt God the most closely was the house of Jitendra and Nila Shreshtha. I wanted to witness how the invisible God can manifest in the union of a couple and reach out to others.

We associate Nepal with physical ascensions to the highest mountains on the globe, as well as with spiritual elevation. This predominantly Hindu country, which is also the birthplace of Gautama Buddha, has helped people reach illumination through detachment from earthly concerns. In my last evening in Kathmandu, I observed how high spirituality can descend deeply into the valleys of the heart and from there flow horizontally to many, instead of separating from them. Jitendra and Nila did not teach me anything. They simply shared their joyful experiences in tribal messiahship.

Cheon Il Guk where two are one

Jitendra Shreshtha (forty-two) and his wife Nila (thirty-four) are building a nest of love with their two children. Their beautiful residence is where shortly before True Father's seonghwa in 2012, this couple had the first breakthrough in heavenly tribal messiahship in Nepal. Since then, many other couples have also com-

pleted blessing their 430 couples.

A key to their victory is their marital spirituality, making God the center of the couple. False love dragged our first ancestors into a crime called the Fall. Therefore, we had to climb back to the original position. Much of religion until our age was about ascension, detachment, asceticism, even celibacy for the clergy. In the present age, however, God's true love and the true word are descending from heaven to earth and are to stay at home. Cheon Il Guk is where two become one. These two are the husband and the wife. Jitendra and Nila enjoy a conjugal bliss that acts as a magnet, pulling hundreds of couples onto the path of family and tribal happiness. We exist indeed in a religious logic by which this couple minds deeply about saving their country. They are public, selfless, dedicated, but instead of living in detachment, or in a permanent campaign or mobilization, they simply try to live in togetherness with their loved ones, sharing the blessings horizontally. This comes from the heart, not from duty.

Jitendra and Nila Shreshtha are both Newari, the dominant tribe in Kathmandu. Jitendra has faithfully assisted Ek Nath Dhakal for eighteen

years. Ek Nath Dhakal, the former national leader of FFWPU, became a parliamentarian and served twice as a government minister. Jitendra has been selflessly loyal to his leader, in order to facilitate that political ascension. At home, Jitendra attends his wife and has helped her build her victory in tribal messiahship. I think of him as a spiritual Sherpa, who completely serves others until they reach the summit.

The home, where God resides

In the living room of their house, I felt the presence of God immediately but also a high human quality. I was wrapped in an atmosphere of warm heart, hospitality, smiles, kindness, togetherness. I felt that this harmony was channeling a natural spirituality.

Exposition of Divine Principle contains much guidance about family ethics, but less about the house, the home. In the chapter on Christology, we read that "Christ is the head of the church, and we are his body and members." This means that the blessing entails a whole life of attending the living God in our households. The interior design, the cleanliness and the good vibrations everywhere touched me. I felt that the living room was both simple, cozy, and rich in



As a natural expression of who Nila is, 430 couples meant her family members, loved ones she grew up with and with whom she shares a common ancestry, and their spouses.

spiritual presence, as if the designer had wished that everything welcome visitor. It is a typical Unificationist interior, where a family attends God and True Parents with love. The personal or intimate, and the public, do not oppose each other, but work in harmony.

True Mother insists that we should know the True God, but more importantly, we should attend God in spirit and in truth. This means that we should be living together with Heavenly Parent and True Parents, every day, in our natural environment—our home, our community, our tribe, our nation. This is what Jitendra and Nila have been trying to do. As I was remembering my evening with them, I came across something Father said that describes my impression:

“If you create the environment in which you can engage with strangers as if they were your parents and siblings, you will link to the spirit world immediately. This is how you should live in your home.”

Like three generations

When Nila greeted me, her beauty, her elegant manners, her perfect English diction, her melodious voice struck me. She conveyed something “glamorous” and her closing words

confirmed my first intuition. Nila is endowed with various spiritual gifts and her husband has been attending his wife in her vision of tribal messiahship, so that the couple could grow, serve their family, their tribe, the Unificationist community and the nation. Sometimes, when a person is gifted, it remains within the self, but she has been able to reach out to her husband and their entourage, who became supportive.

“We were living for over ten years with Robert Kittel and his wife Teresa. We always did the hoondokhae together, with joy,” she explained. I asked, “How was the communal life between a young Nepali family and an elder American couple?”

“Normally, two blessed families living under one roof can be challenging, but we got on well. It was like three generations: the Kittels, who are significantly older than we are, my husband and I, and our two children. When I was preparing meals, Teresa was often with me. We talked about internal matters. She made me listen to good stuff and was feeding me spiritually. She always corrected my English and was training me and coaching me, with heart.” Later, as I was writing this article, I came across these remarks of True Father that

confirmed how this lifestyle had been the foundation for tribal messiahship. “Your grandfather and grandmother stand in the position of ancestors; your father and mother stand in a position representing the present and you represent the future. These three generations encapsulate the tribal messiah’s textbook of love.”

Blessing loved ones

Teresa Kittel and Nila decided to start home groups and to study at home with close friends. One day, Nila had the idea to highlight the Divine Principle in Nepali with the three colors. They had the English colored edition, but they did not have a Nepali colored version. While coloring it, an inspiration appeared in her mind. “That is the root of everything and it explains where we are now,” she said. “I wanted to start the tribal messiah mission, but not do it far from home, with strangers. With my husband and the Kittels, we agreed to divide the tasks.”

Nila’s role was to make a close relationships with all her beloved family. Jitendra would prepare the decorations, the logistics, the food, the photographs, and Dr. Kittel would fulfill his role as educator. “I wanted to invite twelve of my relatives, and their spouses, but finally, seventeen came,” Nila said. “They had to come to my birthday party. If I had invited them to something else, it would not have worked.”

Finally, in the house where two blessed families were living together, they gave the blessing to Nila’s closest relatives, who took the holy wine and did the indemnity stick ceremony. All, without exception, did the forty-day separation and the three-day ceremony.

So at a time when Father was still living, Nila blessed her close family members on her own birthday. The experience helped bring them much closer together than before. She is now working with them to improve their future.

“One of the couples had big difficulties,” Nila explained, “They wanted to divorce. I absolutely wanted them to be there. Dr. Kittel’s lecture was the electroshock that saved them. Since then, they have completed their mission as tribal messiahs in turn.” Nila’s brother was at first rather



The Shreshtha family, who welcomed the writer into their gracious home during his visit to Nepal

hostile. He received the blessing but failed to observe the forty days of abstinence. They decided to hold a new ceremony at the FFWPU headquarters, and she set many conditions for him.

Broader horizons

"I then wanted to start restoring my more remote tribe. The Newari tribes are often extended with many ramifications, even within the urban life of Kathmandu."

They were performing small blessings at a time but had reached seventy-five couples in 2014. Little by little, they gained confidence. "Something clicked when I felt that I was just at the beginning of a new phase of my life and that I had to learn everything. And then, the desire to do bigger things started to grow. My husband and I accepted to put a lot of pressure on ourselves and in 2015, we organized a blessing of 575 couples in my hometown. For a month and a half, twelve couples were meeting every day in order to succeed. We had a former prime minister, several MPs, many school directors."

Probably guessing my thoughts (I was thinking to myself that this couple is living some sort of fairy tale), Nila suddenly looked at me with

a smile full of grace and her conclusion was so surprising.


"From a young age, I have been cherished. I was destined for a glamorous life and I liked that. Many wanted to see me in the entertainment industry, movies, singing and dancing. Everyone thought that I was very beautiful. If I had followed this path, I would have destroyed my life. God helped me make the right choices. And I have chosen the life of seeking God's blessing instead of a glamorous life."

Today, Nila is beaming. She has not opted for a career but has invested everything in spiritual growth and the creation of a beautiful couple and family. She shares her dream with her husband; they have been able to work together in harmony for a higher purpose in which both are growing. She went deeper and deeper and further and further into the relationship with her siblings. More than anything, this happiness motivates people to receive the blessing.

Living together, (other-and-I consciousness)

The lifestyle of this family is a form of Unificationist culture that explains many victories of our movement in Nepal. We often advocate that we

have to live for the sake of others (*ta ui sa sang*), but what I learned from Nitendra and Nila is rather living with others (*tta ah ju ui*), exactly in line with Father's teachings.

Up to this point, we have been talking about living for the sake of others. From now on, we need to talk about living for the sake of others and the self at the same time. Who are others? "Others" includes "me." We say we have to live for the sake of the Cain world, but that is not exactly so. We must bring them to us because those others and I are actually one body. It is no longer the time for teaching the principle of living for the sake of others; rather, we should teach living for the sake of "others and me." We have to bring our partners to the point that they become one with us, and in so doing, we make something greater—"us." Then we can go to the kingdom of heaven together. There should be no barriers, only equality, peace, unity and freedom. Thus, we are not merely living for the sake of others. Our heart and body have to be united based on a greater heart through the principle of "others and I." (*Cheon Seong Gyeong* 4.3.3.7) 

Mr. Ladouce is the French news presenter for PeaceTv.

The Mute Shall Sing for Joy

*This article originally appeared under a different title in
World Family, a publication of FFWPU for a Heavenly Japan.
The name of the member and
witnessing contact are pseudonyms.*

By Shintaro Kido





Left: The city of Niigata and the Shinano River; Above: FFWPU-Japan holds *shosha* festivals for sometimes thousands of people, who choose quotations from True Parents' speeches to write out in calligraphic style. Doing this had a profound effect on the woman who is the focus of this article.

Last October, Ms. Yokoyama (unmarried, thirty-nine years old) visited our church through a personal invitation, and Mrs. Ando has been taking care of her since then. When she was in elementary school, Mrs. Yokoyama suddenly lost her voice and although she visited many doctors, they were unsure of the exact cause. In spite of all the medical treatments that she went through, thirty years passed without any effect. Ms. Yokoyama could hear what others said, but since she could not speak, she did all of her communication by writing. However, perhaps because of tension, Ms. Yokoyama's hands always tremble. For her to write each word took a lot of time and her handwriting was barely legible.

Mrs. Ando admitted she felt irritated at not being able to understand what Ms. Yokoyama wanted to say. Ms. Yokoyama also had a strong desire to speak in her own voice and to overcome her malady. She willingly accepted Mrs. Ando's suggestion to start *shosha* [writing out quotations from True Parents' speeches]. Later, they began to communicate through Line, a message app popular in Japan.

At the end of last year, Mrs. Ando received a Line message from Ms.

Yokoyama saying, "I need to talk to you," so she visited her home and they had a long conversation, one speaking, one writing. When Mrs. Ando told Ms. Yokoyama about the *shosha* festival scheduled for February, she replied, "I would love to participate in it." Since then, she eagerly awaited the festival and worked even harder.


On the morning of February 16, the day of the *shosha* festival, Mrs. Ando greeted Ms. Yokoyama at the meeting point and said, "Good morning." Mrs. Ando heard a whispered "Good morning," but she thought she had misheard and dismissed it. Then, pointing at the car Ms. Yokoyama had come in, Mrs. Ando said, "That's a nice color." Again, she heard a whispered "Thanks." For an instant, she could not believe her own ears. She said in amazement, "You were speaking just now!" Ms. Yokoyama said in a small voice, "I suddenly found my voice this morning."

Hearing herself speak for the first time in thirty years, Ms. Yokoyama said disappointedly, "My voice used to be higher." That day, Ms. Yokoyama spoke fluently as if she had never lost her voice. She said, "Is this happening for real? My mom will be surprised to death. It's so nice to be able to speak,"

as she shed happy tears.

She also said, "Every time I finish writing good sentiments for *shosha*, I feel so refreshed. The time doing *shosha* is a very precious time for me." When Mrs. Ando asked her what she had been wishing for as she wrote out quotations, she answered, "I was thinking about my friend and about world peace." This was how Mrs. Ando realized that most of the wishes Ms. Yokoyama wrote out did not concern herself.

Later, Ms. Yokoyama visited her parents' house. She greeted her mother saying, "Welcome home!" So surprised was her mother to hear her daughter's voice, she screamed, "What happened? Your voice is back!" and embraced her and cried. She called Ms. Yokoyama's younger sister on the phone right away and told her the news. Ms. Yokoyama and her sister enjoyed their first conversation in three decades.

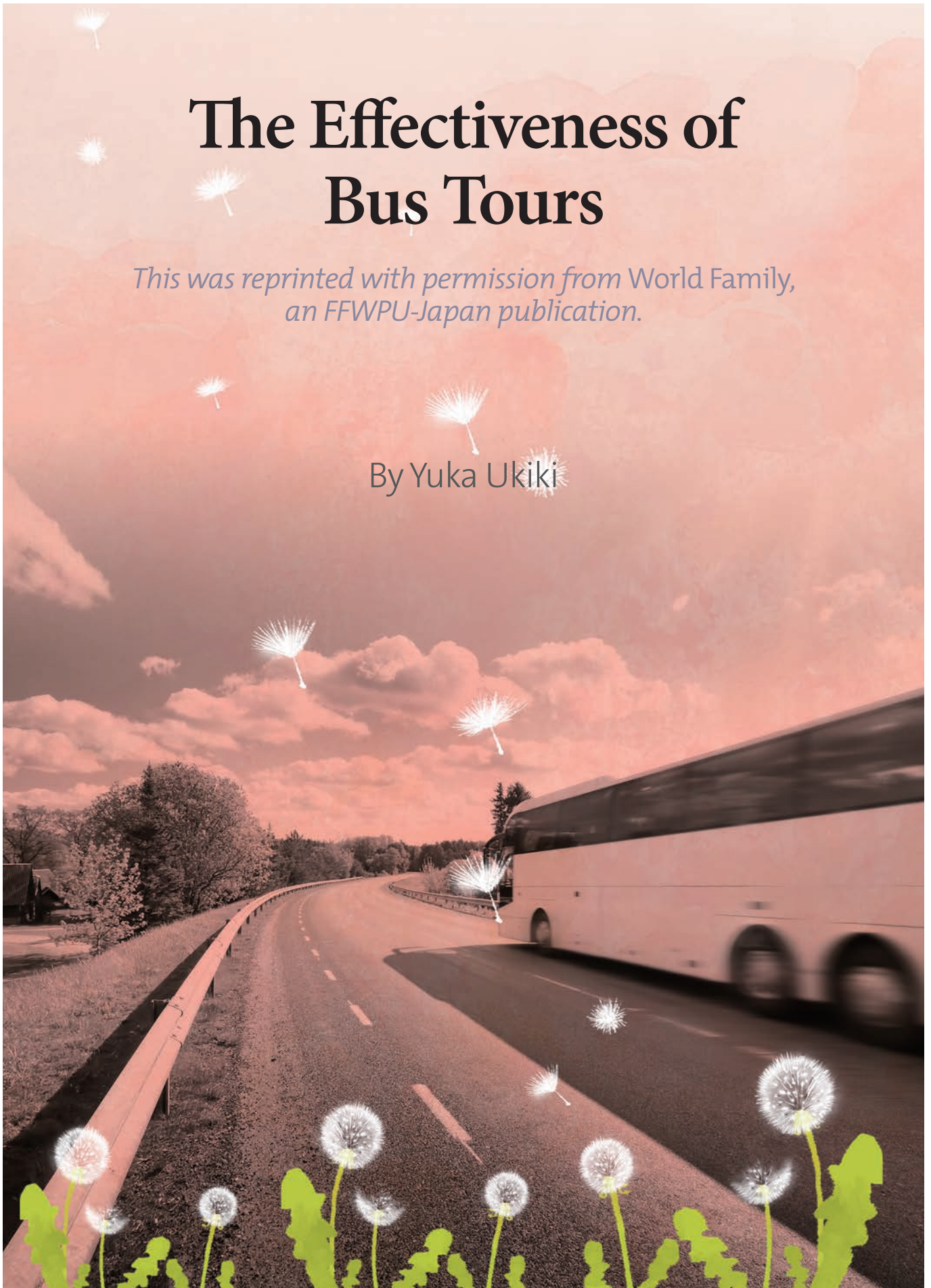
Ms. Yokoyama is now learning the Divine Principle. Day by day, she is relishing the joy of being able to communicate with her family. We will continue looking over her. 

Rev. Kido is director of the Witnessing and Education Department, Niigata Family Church, FFWPU-Niigata District.

The Effectiveness of Bus Tours

*This was reprinted with permission from World Family,
an FFWPU-Japan publication.*

By Yuka Ukiki





Simply spending a pleasant day together as Unificationists with non-members can be the starting point of deepening relationships with people. This is a group photograph of a bus tour to go strawberry picking that the Family Church in Inuyama Japan organized.

The Inuyama Family Church holds a bus tour as a part of our projects to promote interaction. Last year, we went on a bus tour to the Kantenpapa Garden in Nasu City in Nagano Prefecture as one of our activities to mobilize members and guests to the Hyojeong Culture Festival Aichi Rally on November 16. At the Kantenpapa Garden, people were able to gain energy through the rich and plentiful natural surroundings and gain knowledge on art and health. The first bus tour we had was for the church members in April. This revived the members and they wanted to go on another bus tour as a means of mobilizing guests for the rally. The next bus tour we did in April. Many of the members invited their family members or close friends and twelve among fifty participants were new guests. Most of the guests who took part in this bus tour participated in the Aichi Rally.


The good part about the bus tour is that the participants could become close at heart by spending the whole day together. At the beginning of the day, there are people who have a questioning look on their face, or

those who have had negative images toward the Family Federation from the first place. When we ask all participants to introduce themselves in the bus in the morning, such guests refuses. But when we ask them to give their impressions in the bus back home, they answer rather willingly. The greeting message given by the church minister reaches the guests in a natural way and some guests say it was very helpful. Also, unlike other bus tours, the participants listen carefully to comments given by each other and clap their hands and speak to each other. One aspect or another touches most guests and they say that unlike the general image held by the society, the members of the Family Federation are good people."

This year, we held the bus tour on March 13th under the title "Bus Tour for Strawberry Picking and Handa City Sightseeing." Since the church members had been looking forward to it, the bus tour reached its capacity as soon as we made the announcement. This time, there were ten guests including repeat guests. Moreover, there were six couples and five families among the participants, making it a "Family Federation" like bus tour in

a literal sense. Although it was held on a weekday, some members participated by taking a day off.

One of the guests started to come to the church after participating in the bus tour saying, "I have been interested in the Family Federation for some time." The guests who participated as a couple said, "We want to become like the harmonious couple we saw at the bus tour," pointing at one of the blessed couples, and recently, their son has been connected to the son of that blessed couple. We have realized that the bus tour can lead our guests to the next step in witnessing.

There are still many improvements to make, but the fact that we can deepen our relationships with our people we have contact with simply by spending time together and having fun without being so eager to overtly "witness" to them is in itself very new to us. We are grateful to True Parents for letting us march forward with joy and hope corresponding to the era of the Family Federation. 

Ms. Ukiki is director of the Department of Witnessing and Education in the Inuyama Family Church in North Aichi.

Families Unite for Local Revitalization

This article originally appeared in World Family, a publication of FFWPU-Heavenly Japan and was among many testimonies from churches throughout Japan submitted to their national Witnessing and Education Department.

By Mrs. Hitomi Hazamate





Left: Because they heard that the Golden-Rayd Lilly (*Lilium auratum*) is True Mother's favorite flower, the six active families (pictured above celebrating the New Year) began the Golden-Rayd Lilly Club as the main vehicle through which they host activities to infuse spiritual life into their fellow residents in the city of Takeda.

My husband and I run a lodge where we serve light meals on Mount Kurodake, one of the mountains belonging to the Kuju Mountain Range in the western part of Oita Prefecture, part of Subregion Five. The lodge is located at the 830-meter elevation. We close it during the winter months; we run it for nine months a year from March to November. We set up a space to introduce *As a Peace-Loving Global Citizen* in a corner of the lodge and have distributed it to mountain climbers and tourists who visit our place. We have already distributed more than a thousand of the autobiographies, and we intend to carry on this effort.

Last year, on October 1, the district headquarters acknowledged my family as a family church. There are three family churches so acknowledged by the district headquarters in the city of Takeda, where our home is located. Among them, one "family" is a second-generation couple. Centered on these three families, a total of six families work in the Takeda area. At the end of the year, representing the district's overall effort, the Oita dis-

trict announced a policy for the acknowledged family churches and the other church members to work together to hold "one-hundred-person rally" for regional vitalization.

The Takeda area decided to hold a New Year's party entitled "A New Year's Friendly Gathering" at a restaurant run by one of the members. Among the forty-two participants, twenty were newcomers. Neighbors and other families we meet daily, a man who received True Father's autobiography, former colleagues, etc., came. We ate home cooked food, enjoyed bingo games and listened to a harmonica performance by a famous musician who performs in all parts of Japan. At the end, we sang together a Japanese folk song "*Furusato*," meaning "Hometown," all together. From beginning to end, the party exuded a happy atmosphere.

On holding the party, the three family churches held a series of meetings to decide on the members' roles such as food provider, emcee and sound-person. Actually, the Takeda area has continuously held small-scaled but consistent activities for regional vitalization as the Golden-Rayd Lily Club since 2013. We

have carried out town cleanup activities, participated actively in town events and widely notified Takeda residents through the Internet. As programs to enjoy the beautiful nature in Takeda, we have held cherry blossom viewing picnics, fishing events, mountain climbing, etc. We made a slide presentation introducing our activities and plans for the New Year's party. Many participants expressed their interest in attending our next event, which is the cherry blossom viewing picnic.

Centered on the three family churches, six blessed families in the Takeda area are working together to plan and carryout activities as the Golden-Rayd Lily Club. I truly feel that Heavenly fortune and spiritual guidance are with us when we work together in unity. The members of the Takeda area will work hand in hand to deepen our relationships with the newcomers who attended the New Year's party and love them so we can lead them to accept the blessing. *✠*

Mrs. Hazamata received the blessing among the 400-million-couple blessing group.

