

# True Peace

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SEPTEMBER 2018





# Building a Brighter Future

By Richard Buessing



This year marks six years since the ascension of our True Father into the eternal spiritual world. It is hard to believe that so much time has passed. Yet under our True Mother's leadership, we have seen growth and development in many wonderful ways. Everything is blossoming, and we are truly in the springtime of the providence.

Since assuming the responsibility of the True Parents on earth, True Mother emphasized to us that we must return to the roots of our faith and revive our early sense of excitement. Blessed families worldwide should be teaching the truth, and we should all be filled with our Heavenly Parent's spirit. True Mother also began to emphasize the education of our youth and started to divert great resources for this purpose.

In America, we have been blessed to welcome True Mother on many occasions in the last few years. She always brings a spirit of love, hope, renewal, and commitment to all of our family members throughout the country. The Peace Starts with Me rally at Madison Square Garden last year set the providence in America on a new path, with our membership nationwide, and especially with our associates and friends such as Christian ministers and ambassadors for peace. Our youth also came together in large numbers through the Hyo Jeong workshop in New York. They had a chance to experience True Mother on a very personal level.

In the past few years, we've seen great development in programs for our youth. CARP USA has been growing rapidly. They hold an annual pilgrimage to Japan and Korea to meet other CARP students and visit providential places. In 2016, forty CARP members joined this trip; in 2017, a hundred and twenty young Unificationists, some new to our movement, joined this special pilgrimage. This summer, three hundred and sixty young Unificationists participated in the Hyo Jeong Pilgrimage tour to Japan and Korea. For many, it was their first direct experience with True Mother, who welcomed the group in Tokyo. CARP now has nineteen chapters on college campuses around the country. They have been accepted in these colleges and are able to conduct their activities openly and proudly. This breakthrough is essential for the future development of our movement in America.

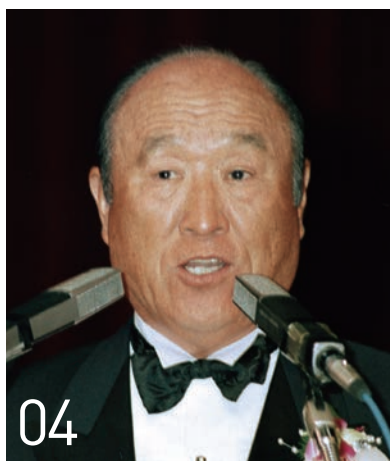
Our gap-year program, Generation Peace Academy (GPA) is a stellar program for young people before entering college. GPA is dedicated to educating our youth through the living practice of the word. They are not just about raising funds, though they do it very well. Their internal education of principled life has given GPA graduates tremendous spiritual strength, and fortified their commitment to True Parents. They also engage in overseas service projects, which allow young people to gain many friends in different countries, witness to new people, and even teach the Divine Principle. They learn about different cultures, and see the influence of True Parents on an international level. They come back renewed through their experience overseas.

True Mother continues to expand our minds and hearts as she challenges us to follow her example. When we visit the Hyo Jeong Cheon Won complex in Korea, it is like the kingdom of heaven on earth. Everything about it makes us feel we are in the kingdom of heaven, where we can live in perfect attendance to Heavenly Parent. True Mother's touch is felt and seen everywhere. It is a showcase for the whole world to see True Parents' glory. Everything is meticulously planned for those in future generations to come for education, relaxation, meditation, prayer and to experience our movement's history and nature's beauty.

We are all witnessing this historic moment unfolding before our eyes. True Mother is reminding us again and again that we are inheritors of Cheon Il Guk. This is our time to become heavenly tribal messiahs by loving our 430 couples and giving them the blessing of eternal life. The kingdom of heaven is coming not from the clouds, but from within us, as we receive the holy marriage blessing and share it with our tribes and our ancestors. Our vision for 2020 needs to become a reality. True Mother told us that if we unite with her, we will see miracles happen. Indeed, in America we've seen miracles happen all the time in the form of great breakthroughs with Christianity through the American Clergy Leadership Conference, with higher education institutions through CARP, and with our own families with the ever growing number of us who recommit ourselves to fulfill our mission from True Parents and Heavenly Parent and become victorious heavenly tribal messiahs. Our future is looking brighter every day. *TP*

*Rev. Buessing is the president of FFWPU for a Heavenly United States.*

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# Becoming Leaders in Building a World of Peace

*Father delivered this speech on August 24, 1992 at the Little Angels Performing Arts Center in Seoul at the Congratulatory Banquet for the First World Culture and Sports Festival (WCSF).*





The banquet took place in the palatial Little Angels Performing Arts Center, with tables on the ground floor and on the balconies.

**D**istinguished chairpersons of the first World Culture and Sports Festival, guests and participants from Korea and elsewhere around the world:

As founder of the World Culture and Sports Festival, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to you for gathering here in such large numbers to pray for the success of this festival. I would like to speak to you this evening on the topic, "Becoming Leaders in Building a World of Peace." The history of conflict originated from the fall of Adam and Eve. During the mid-1930s, when I was sixteen years old, I received a special mission from Heaven through Jesus. I am seventy-two years old now, and in the intervening years there has not been a single second when I did not think of God's will and his commands.

I lived my boyhood and youth under imperial Japan's colonial rule. I know only too well the painful and tragic circumstances suffered by the

world's weaker and smaller nations. Being sensitive to God's heart, I felt unspeakable pain and sorrow as I witnessed, first, the cruelty of a more powerful nation as it plundered a weaker nation, Korea and later, the terrible carnage of the Second World War.

Immediately after World War II, in a development that compounded our already difficult situation, the Korean peninsula was divided between north and south. In 1950, the Korean War broke out and Koreans found themselves in a fraternal conflict. Various of the world's countries on the left and right chose to support one side or the other. I witnessed this tragic history directly, and I know in my heart of hearts how the lack of peace in the world has brought much pain and sorrow to God and humanity.

How do you imagine God has felt since the time of the Creation? God had to watch while repeatedly brothers set themselves against one another, beginning with Cain, the older brother, taking the life of Abel,

the younger. In their essence, all wars in human history have been struggles among brothers. The Bible teaches us this through its record of Cain's murder of Abel in Adam's family. Why do such conflicts among brothers occur repeatedly on the levels of family, tribe, society, nation and world?

The reason lies in the sin Adam and Eve, the parents of Cain and Abel, committed. Adam and Eve were humankind's original ancestors, placed in a position to represent all the men and women who would come after them. They were to have brought God's ideal of creation into reality. By breaking God's commandment, however, they forfeited their position as the good True Parents for all of humanity who would be born after them. Instead, they became fallen, evil parents. This evil is the original sin and the fundamental root of all crime and unhappiness in human society.

The original sin by the first ancestors was that Adam and Eve broke

God's commandment and engaged in an illicit sexual relationship. In this way, they formed a blood relationship with the devil and became fallen false parents, passing on false love, false life and a false lineage to the entire human race. There is only one way for humanity to escape this world of evil and struggle, and that is to be reunited with their True Parents and be reborn through them. It has been revealed to me that accomplishing this is the true way to cast off original sin.

### **The WCSF is dedicated to God**

After I received my calling at the age of sixteen, I spent years searching for the answer to precisely the problem of how to bring salvation to humankind. The result of that lonely search for truth is the new expression of God's truth that you refer to today as the Unification Principle, Godism or head-wing thought. On August 15, 1945, the day Korea was liberated from imperial Japan, I began proclaiming this truth on earth. For proclaiming these teachings, I faced tremendous persecution and attack. Think for a moment about the fact that in my life I was imprisoned six times. This alone is enough to tell you how harsh the attacks against me have been.

The first World Culture and Sports Festival, which is being held during the 47th year since I began proclaiming the Unification Principle, is a holy celebration. It is an occasion to let the entire world see, and to offer to God, the harvest reaped from the seeds I have sown and nurtured for the liberation of God and humanity and for the realization of world peace. Everything I have striven to achieve during my life has been to confirm the fact that all people in the world are brothers and sisters before God, our common parent. When we center on God, our common ties as members of the global family transcend our differences based on race, nationality and international boundaries.

### **Activities for world peace**

The primary institution in which my teachings are practiced is the Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity; that is, the Unification Church. The Unification

Church exists in every country in the world. The Unification Church has sunk roots in all races, nationalities and countries. The international wedding of thirty thousand couples we will hold tomorrow in Seoul's main Olympic Stadium is certain to testify to the fact that humanity is one great family centered on God.

With the Unification Church as the root organization, I have founded many other organizations for projects in a wide variety of fields. These organizations are for building a world of peace in which we, the human family centered on God, can rejoice in our freedom, ideals and happiness. For the World Culture and Sports Festival, I have gathered the most prominent of these organizations here in Seoul. During the festival, a new unified structure will be founded to facilitate stronger mutual ties and closer cooperation among these organizations.

The International Conference on the Unity of the Sciences, the Professors World Peace Academy, the World Media Conference, the Summit Council for World Peace, the Assembly of the World's Religions, the Interreligious and International Federation for World Peace, the Women's Federation for World Peace, international performing arts groups, and the World Collegiate Association for the Research of Principles will meet during this time of the international marriage blessing. They will provide forums to enlighten us and reaffirm our devotion to the cause of world peace.

The international marriage blessing of the Unification Church, which I will be conferring during this time, is the blessing of resurrection. Through this ceremony, human beings are able to cut clear from original sin and recover God's true love, true life and true lineage. Within the context of this ceremony, we can give birth to peace, by realizing the ideal of the great family of humanity that transcends race, nationality and international boundaries.

As the founder of these organizations and groups, I wish to reaffirm here this evening that their purpose is to bring about world peace, according to the ideal of God and humanity. They are not created for the benefit of any particular group or political

faction. They do not serve the narrow interests of any particular nation or state. Rather, they exist to bring happiness, peace and freedom to God, the Creator of the universe, and to all humanity. Our movement, therefore, brings salvation to all families, all nations, all continents—ultimately to the entire world. It is a movement to save the family, save the nation and save the world.

### **The true love movement and role of women**

The illicit relationships and decadent lifestyles that have accompanied the disappearance of sexual morality are destroying our families. Every nation is suffering the agony of the destruction of its moral standards and the accompanying increase in crime. There is no solution in sight to the conflicts between political factions. Poverty and ignorance continue to plague us. No sign indicates that we may be nearing solutions to the world's international border disputes, to the prejudice between religious groups, or to the conflicts between the various races and ethnic groups. World peace is under constant threat from the selfish actions of the world's countries and peoples.

Environmental pollution also is destroying our planet, and we are approaching a crisis effecting humankind's future. We may all find ourselves on a common path of destruction, unless we are able to resolve the crisis we face through a love that transcends all national boundaries and ethnic differences and encompasses all the world's peoples. Let me emphasize again that any successful resolution of this crisis will be based on an effort to build a unified world through a movement of true love such as that rooted in the Unification Principle, or Godism.

In early July this year, I spoke in five cities around Korea at rallies held by the Women's Federation for World Peace. There, I declared that my wife, WFWP President Hak Ja Han Moon, and I are the True Parents of all humankind who are together the Savior, the Lord in his Second Advent, and the Messiah.

Why would I stand in front of woman leaders of Korea and make such an astonishing and fearful



In conjunction with the World Culture and Sports Festival the 19th ICUS, the 5th PWPA Congress, the Assembly of World Religions, the WFWP Convention, the Han Madang Sports Festival and the 30,000-Couple Blessing Ceremony took place as True Parents endeavored to save people from all spheres of the satanic world.

announcement? The reason is that God has been carrying out the providence to send the returning Messiah, the second perfected Adam. He subjugates Satan in order to establish a perfected Eve who will represent all women. God has to do this, because it was when Satan caused Eve to fall that sin permeated the origin of human history.

Women are the central point of the love, peace and spirit of service that protects our families. The healthy family is the starting point in our work to build world peace. The establishment of God-centered family ethics and the education of our children are at the innermost core of my teachings. The family is the holy sanctuary that cleanses this defiled world.

That is why I, as the Messiah, had to make my declaration to woman leaders gathered around President Hak Ja Han Moon, my wife, who is in the position of perfected Eve. This declaration is an exhortation and notice to all who follow my teachings to join Mrs. Moon and I in our attendance of God on the path of sacrifice and service for the world's salvation.

A proposal to establish the House of Unification for World Peace This evening, I would like to propose that we establish "The House of Unifica-

tion for World Peace." I see it as an organization dedicated to the peaceful unity of the world that will enable us to carry out all of our activities for world salvation more effectively.


To avoid any possible misunderstanding, particularly regarding the title of this organization as given in the Korean language, let me state clearly that I am not proposing to create a political party. The House of Unification for World Peace that I propose is not a political party. It will not have the function of political parties to seek executive or legislative governing power in a given country. It is, rather, a "house," a structure to reinforce the concerted actions of the world's countries, foster a unified foundation and support a common effort for world peace.

If we say that heaven symbolizes man, earth symbolizes woman. A house is the stage on which a woman conducts her life. It is filled with love for all the family members, centered on the mother. The family, with the mother at its center, is the basic unit of the nation and the world. I use the word "house" in the title of the organization I am proposing, because this word contains the meaning of "exalting the earth, centering on the mother." It also signifies "to teach." The word "house" in this title, there-

fore, signifies a center for women's education.

Through this organization, we can provide new impetus to our work, giving opportunities to people of all countries and all walks of life for meaningful exchanges and education on a God-centered vision for world peace. Political leaders, scholars, religious leaders, journalists and educators, as well as leaders of women and youth are needed to make this work successful. This vision of world peace centers on those families whose mothers accomplish mind-body unity through love. They are representatives of all women of the world.

Let us become central figures for peace in the twenty-first century. If you embrace my proposal and join me in this task, within the remaining eight years of the twentieth century our efforts are certain to bring the world of peace, the object of God's desire, to all of humanity. We who have gathered here this evening will be the leaders in opening the gates to a peaceful world for the coming twenty-first century.

I pray you have a pleasant visit during the time of the festival and that God will bestow boundless blessings and protection upon your work. Thank you. 



# Soaring Advancement

*True Mother spoke at the Hyojeong Special Assembly for FFWPU-Heavenly Korea Public Personnel, which True Parents hosted on September 5 at Cheon Jeong Gung. This is what she said that day.*

**A**fter hearing you read aloud the resolution, I should gain back some energy and strength, right? Before I speak, I have a piece of good news. After Jesus' crucifixion, where did Christianity begin, according to the disciples? It started on the Italian peninsula, didn't it? Early this morning, True Parents' youngest daughter, Jeong Jin, gave birth to a daughter. [Applause] Because "shin" is the common Chinese character in all the names of those in our third generation, her daughter's name is Shin Bi. "Bi" means "soaring" or "exceptional."

By bringing me this chair, you're telling me to sit down. [True Mother sits.] Christianity's beginning point! The Holy Spirit and the Apostles started it. The Italian peninsula was

its center and Greece was in that region too. They compiled the Bible there. It came from the regional unit Corinthia. Corinth is in the southernmost area of Greece. It was the Apostle Paul's missionary area. For two thousand years, Christians had developed the area as a holy place and they build a large church there. They expanded the faith, but their faith did not convey Jesus' original nature. Moreover, they did not know God, the Creator's characteristics.

Who was able to bring completion after six thousand biblical years? The conclusion is that the only daughter of the Heavenly Father saw the completion of True Parents. God's only daughter's birth can occur only after Eve's responsibility of establishing all indemnity conditions has been actually fulfilled.

Once she [Eve] has accomplished those things and was in a position of having completed them, the only daughter would be born as God's daughter. However, not one of you knew this. You did not recognize who I was. God's ideal at the time of the Creation was parents. Parents do not mean only the father. If a mother is not present, a child cannot be born. Because of this, in the history of the providence of restoration based on indemnity, a figure must appear to complete fallen Eve's mission. The returning Messiah cannot come and chose anyone by saying, You are in the foundation stage, and you are in the growth stage.

Only with the birth of God's only daughter can the returning Messiah's actions commence. When you look at that point, I am sure you are in a





- ❶ Leaders of FFWPU-Heavenly Korea recite a pledge to True Mother expressive of the determination they gained during a three-day Cheongpyeong workshop.
- ❷ Leaders that had publicly made the pledge and those carrying boxes of pledge cards signed by blessed family members pose for a photograph with True Mother.
- ❸ Victory! Victory! Victory! The assembled leaders of FFWPU, Heavenly Korea expressed their determination to unite and succeed.

fortunate and lucky position. You are extremely lucky. Several people have suffered and worked harder than you here have. However, they have not met me. Nevertheless, you did. [Applause]

It has not been many years since you have been certain of me, right? Be honest. I will forgive you. Now things have to be different. All of you know the truth. In that case, what should you do? You should become true filial sons or daughters of True Mother, the only daughter of God. Do you understand?

#### Learn from one another

Have I provided you such a place where others can honor your efforts and achievements permanently and where your descendants can receive praise and respect and love you? You are responsible for whether or not you advance to that position. I have taught you everything. You must swear to invest yourselves and commit your lives completely to reaping high results. Do you understand? I spoke to the director of Subregion Five about how their sincerity and enthusi-

asm should expand across South Korea all the way to North Korea for the creation of a new, unified, Heavenly Korea.

For example, in the 1970s, there was an American TV show entitled, "Bonanza," about pioneering the American West. In the opening scene, a map burns from the bottom toward the top. It catches on fire. Catching fire does not mean everything disappears. Those pioneers worked hard, and according to their efforts, the territory they were aware of grew larger as well.

So, did Subregion Five resolve to do the same thing? If that's so, can the rest of you piggyback on Subregion Five's results? You should take the lead and not follow, right? If you want to do that, everyone in the Republic of Korea, even three-year-old children, must know the only daughter of Heavenly Parent, True Mother. That is the only path for this nation and people to fulfill their responsibilities toward Heaven. Do you understand?

#### East and West moving ahead

Today I heard the news about my

youngest daughter and was so happy. My son-in-law is Italian. My daughter's mother-in-law truly loves me. She respects me. Thus, the history of the providence at the end of the day is truly extraordinary. Even so, Christianity spread from that place. Heaven will remember those who worked hard. God wants to bless them because he is grateful and happy. We must right all wrongs immediately. Isn't that so? While I am still alive on earth, you must reach the position in which you have accomplished your responsibilities. Furthermore, God protected this country and people for this time. This nation has experienced many difficulties in its history. External military forces constantly invaded it. Korea was unable to spread its wings even once.

However, at this time, due to True Parents, this country is able to spread its wings before the world. Do you understand? So that's why my granddaughter's name is Shin Bi ['soaring advancement']. There's no need to say anything more. It's up to you to resolve any problems. You're going to do that, right? Okay. Thank you. ♪



## Scripture Books for Our Descendants

*True Mother called those who work at producing scriptures texts to a meeting at Cheon Jeong Gung on September 15 for a special luncheon. This was her message to them on that day.*



All of you are blessed members, right? You are the chosen people. Jesus said to John the Baptist, "...among those born of women, there is no one greater than John," [Luke 7:28] but as a central figure, John could not fulfill his responsibilities. How did Jesus evaluate John as not being responsible? He said, "Yet even the least person in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he!" [Matt: 11:11] After Father's seonghwa, I wanted to compile his way of life in books.

When I thought about our descendants, I noticed the books were incomplete. It was the same with the Divine Principle.... I agonized over this frequently.

There weren't any [worthy] books to present. So, *Pyeong Hwa Gyeong's* contents are the official speeches during our world tours. Due to a lack of time, we were not able to make a finished book. So, I placed a selection of it and the Divine Principle [in his tomb]. My worries became very severe. There are currently six hundred volumes of Father's speeches, but because you had a close connection with Father in True Parents era, you will be able to understand his speeches well. When thinking about the future or the past, those who have attended True Parents—families, individuals or intellectuals have a matter to consider. When the speeches are published in a book, there should not be any errors. It is not the same as writing in a journal. If the phrase has a subject, clearly, a verb must follow, and there must be clear explanations for this process.

### Don't add stumbling blocks

If there are errors presented to the world's intellectuals, it is embarrassing. Our messages can be evaluated. Father would say, "Let's do hoondokhae," and continued with these books. I was very distressed. Hoondokhae will not stop in this era but will continue eternally. However, some things should not be edited in that way. You might not understand that feeling. When we look at how God created, he created all things in heaven and on earth and one man and one woman. Creation means giving birth. A father alone cannot bring about the birth of a living creature. The Divine Principle also expresses God in this way. God is a



Editor-in-chief Kwon O-moon presents flowers to True Mother.

harmonized existence! However, she is expressed only as a father. How is life born through only a father? Without a mother, birth cannot happen. Since all of you are blessed members, you probably have children. No matter how much sperm a man possesses, birth cannot happen without it meeting a woman's egg. This simple principle was not present for the past two thousand years of the Christian providence.

It is the same with the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit. Let's talk about the Trinity. If there is God the Father, there is God the Mother. The united body of the Trinity is True Parents, who are the fulfillment of the purpose of creation. In that context, God's creation could not fulfill its purpose, and Adam and Eve's fall produced fallen humanity. They created the fallen world. God had the ability to wipe away everything and begin the Creation anew, but he made all things in creation to be everlasting, which is why God had no choice but to carry out the exhausting providence of restoration based on indemnity. So God chose the people of Israel and prepared for not forty years or four hundred years but four thousand years in order to send her only begotten son to the fallen world.

Heaven worked hard to find a family who could give birth to Jesus.

### Duties must be carried out

This is the conclusion: They did not fulfill their responsibilities. God even sent important people like John the Baptist, but they did not complete their responsibilities either. At that time, they needed to be fully aware of their duties. In what God created, if a figure like his only son appears, he must find God's only daughter. God is prepared. When Jesus died on the cross, he said he would return. When Jesus hung from the cross, there was

only a thief on his right and another on his left. Where was Mary? Where were all the central figures? How frustrated God must have been! Nobody was there.

After saying he would come back, the Messiah has to return. But for the returning Messiah, Heavenly Parent must prepare for the birth of God's only daughter. Protestantism entered Korea in 1843. I was born in 1943. Heaven had to have me be born on a Christian foundation. It had to be like this for the beginning and the end to fit well together. For the Cheonji Sunhak Won, together with the Institute of History Committee, we are making materials that we will release to the world. Since Jesus said he would return, many people have said they were the Messiah, but the first qualification to be the Messiah is to take responsibility. The Messiah must follow God's commands with absolute faith, absolute love and absolute obedience.

### Preparing gems

Secondly, if he could not meet the only begotten daughter, he would not be the only begotten son. You need to know this. This is our Heavenly Parents' providence. The returning Messiah does not give birth to the only begotten daughter. For me, it is like this. No matter what, fulfilling God's will is primary. Due to this, I have endured many things. I have endured much. Despite knowing everything I endured, I waited for the right moment. I knew the time that God had prepared. Because of this, I told myself when I was a child, "I have to shoulder this responsibility." I knew this, so I silently endured everything. Not one single person could understand my heart. Now, I have to reveal this historical truth. In that respect, you who compile the speeches, must carefully select the passages based on this principle. I have already said this. Father's messages are like a diamond in the rough. They must be washed and polished for their value to shine. The Old Testament, New Testament and Completed Testament eras belong to the past. Those eras have passed. This is the Cheon Il Guk era! So please bear in mind what I have said today and unite in heart and in the determination to complete your responsibilities. ☞



# Hyojeong Special Assembly Hosted by True Parents for FFWPU-Heavenly Japan

September 23, 2018



**D**id you reflect and repent a lot over the past three days? You must have thought about and worked hard on how you will complete your responsibilities to restore your country. Japan did not know Heaven's providence and lived in a society oriented toward individualism. As you know, Japan made many mistakes regarding Asia and Korea, which became a central nation in the providence.

In 1941, Japan attacked Pearl Harbor in the United States, right? Japanese people are amazing. Even Russia and China, which one could say are Asia's great powers, are afraid of the US, but Japan tried to face the United States. So what was the result? In 1945, what fell on Hiroshima? When you think about that historical fact, Japan must not only remember that tragic occurrence but think about the reason it happened. You need to repent. You need to think about what went wrong and repent. Even in the middle of that chaotic history, there were good people who through religion, revered God the Creator. However, those people cannot explain how history came to be this way. That is the reality of religions today. In particular, Christianity has been waiting for two thousand years for Jesus Christ, who died on the cross, to return.

Heaven chose a new people to raise and cultivate. This is the Korean people. When this nation becomes visible to the world, it must be prepared and be in the right environment to accept Heaven's providence. In 1843, this country encountered Protestant Christianity. A hundred years later, the appearance of the Messiah ensured the existence and appearance of the only daughter of Heavenly Father's. The only daughter was born in 1943! In 1945, Korea was liberated from Japan, but in the end, the country separated into North Korea and South Korea. The struggle began between democracy and communism.

In this nation's history, several righteous people risked their lives. They did not know Heaven's providence, but they protected this country with single-hearted devotion. Why? Ultimately, it was because Heaven raised this nation.

Now I will talk about you. We have



Senior leaders of FFWPU, Heavenly Japan vociferously read out their pledge, following a Cheongpyeong workshop, prayer offerings and vigil prayers to atone for past mistakes.


to demonstrate, teach and elucidate the way a dignified Japan must go. If you truly want to be a person who loves Japan and makes a mark in history, first, within the family, you and your spouse must unite. And before the Japanese people, you should demonstrate that you and your spouse are an example. Because of this, you must teach the Japanese people to receive the blessing from the Family Federation. From history, we know what will happen. If a nation or people who are supposed to fulfill responsibilities cannot do it, they will pay indemnity. We have seen and are aware of this. If that's so... Everybody! All of you are responsible for Japan because you love Japan. You must bring Japan to fulfill its responsibilities, starting from the top leaders.

Now let's talk about our newspaper in Japan. Our newspaper should teach people around the world. Please make *Sekai Nippo* into a newspaper that politicians and academic scholars look through first. You must apply practical methods and now act boldly. Once again, Japan cannot become a nation that disregards its past. As the mother nation of the providence, Japan has responsibilities. If Japan does not unite with Korea, that is not acceptable.

Let's discuss the near future. When we look at the current reality and problems arising across the globe, we find that answers will not come from human efforts or intelligence. We cannot miss the right moment. Time is pressing, but on the other hand, your hopeful victories can be fully enjoyed by bestowing the blessing at this time. All of you have to make miracles happen.

Miracles! Do you understand?

In that respect, all the five subregions in Japan are actively working, right? No matter what, the five subregions must restore Japan. Is that clear? Good. Everyone likes the sun, right? Only with the presence of the sun can we see all of creation and can life grow. However, the day after tomorrow, there will be a full moon. Let's talk about the moon. When observing the sun and the moon, we feel differently. Externally, the sun feels good, and the moon is still and quiet. When people who have left their homes reminisce about their hometowns, they usually do so under moonlight rather than sunlight. You may think about your parents and shed tears over the good and bad moments. [Please think] while my parents are alive, I must quickly succeed and return home to attend to my parents. You must offer even more love to your parents. In short, everyone becomes a poet. Thank you Heavenly Parent, the true Owner and Creator. If you intend to live your earthly life like this, it will exhaust you. Several problems are arising which you need to resolve. It will be exhausting. However, each of you has a family. If your family members are strongly attached to one another, you can sing of love as you enjoy the moon during Chuseok. Is that clear? Do you understand?

If so, here is the conclusion. How many more times do you think you and I will be able to see the moon and celebrate Chuseok? How many times would you like to see it? Tell me honestly. Would it be great to see it several times? To do this, you need to fulfill your responsibilities. Responsibilities! Do you understand? Can you do that for True Parents? 

# Let Us Fulfill UPF's Profound Mission

*On September 19, during her inauguration as president of UPF-Korea, Yeon-ah Moon presided over a meeting to solidify the resolve of UPF members and supporters to move forward with vigor. In doing so, she referred to statements made by True Parents about UPF's raison d'être from Pyeong Hwa Gyeong Book 4, Speech 11.*

Respected domestic and foreign leaders, ambassadors for peace, ladies and gentlemen, thank you for coming to the HJ Cheonwon complex here in Cheongpyeong despite your full schedules. Today I would like to extend my greetings as the newly appointed president of the Universal Peace Federation. This marks the beginning of a new structure in line with the peace vision of Rev. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, the parents of humankind, along with Advisor Yoon Jeong-ro, who also received the responsibility of advising UPF, and newly appointed Secretary-General Ryu Kyeong-euk.

I would like us to give a round of applause in gratitude and respect to President Song Kwang-seok, who worked night and day for the advancement of UPF these past four years. As they say, you never know what you had until you lose it. [She is referring to UPF's loss of ex-President Song.] With the foundation of the wisdom gained during that time, President Song will continue to advance and take responsibility for IAPP and Peace Road activities.

Though I have insufficiencies, together with you leaders who love and support UPF and with twelve institutions that will launch a new UPF structure, I will do my utmost to bring about the true Peace UN structure that True Parents have wished for and proclaimed to the world since UPF's founding.

Peace-loving leaders, today I wish to look back, together with you, on True Parents' true purpose for creating the Universal Peace Federation. I hope you can all open your hearts and listen.

I dedicated my life entirely to bringing about the kingdom of God, the kingdom of the peaceful, ideal world. I have always prayed sincerely that the United Nations, founded after the Second World War, would be an institution for peace and that it would uphold God's will for the realization of eternal world peace. However, today the number of member states approaches two hundred but the offices of these states do little more than represent and even insist on their own interests. They seem inherently unable to resolve conflicts and achieve peace. With these realities of the UN, and when we see the situations occurring throughout the world, we feel there is no hope for the future.

When we see the situation today, there is no center. Small nations and large nations only think of their own nation's interests. Our good original nature wishes for one world, a united world of peace and happiness. However, we face so many barriers. Concerning the history of war and barriers, we are in conflict on many levels, beginning with the war between mind and body within each individual and extending to wars between nations and even to the global conflict between materialism and theism.



- ① In her inaugural address, Yeon Ah Moon quoted extensively from the speech delivered in nations all over the globe as True Parents went through a one-hundred-city world tour in 2005 to establish national UPF chapters.
- ② Leaders celebrated the revival of the Abel UN with this symbolic water of harmony ceremony.
- ③ They pledged to inherit True Parents' determination and to reunify Korea by 2020.





The inauguration of Yeon Ah Moon as president of UPF-Korea and a Determination Rally to March Forward toward a Heavenly, United Korea took place at the time of the third inter-Korean summit between the political heads of North Korea and South Korea.

Extreme selfish individualism, drugs and free sex enslave young people. Advanced countries seem to believe that material goods are all that matter. They recognize only their own interests while ignoring the misery of those who die of starvation every day. Who can untie this ancient knot? Peace among nations can never come when those entrusted with the task have not resolved the Cain-Abel relationship between their own mind and body. Therefore, the time has come to launch the Abel-type sovereignty for a peaceful, ideal world that will set its course according to God's will. The Abel UN means the Peace UN. The current UN, which puts its own member nations' interests first is the Cain-type UN. It is the UN of conflict. On the other hand, the Abel-type UN is a UN that exists for the sake of others and practices true love. UPF will cooperate with its elder brother, the UN. They will create a tradition of harmony and will work to solve the problems of the world. In order for the siblings, the Cain-type UN and the Abel-type UN, to unite they need a parent which will become the center. They must complete their heavenly mandate to realize eternal peace on this land by uniting through the practice of true love taught by True Parents centered on God. They should perform their mission as a furnace of true love, eradicating without a trace the walls between races, religions, nations and cultures, and establishing the kingdom of peace under the banner, One Family under God.

Respected distinguished guests, ambassadors for peace, ladies and gentlemen,  
As mentioned earlier, Rev. Sun Myung Moon founded the God-centered Universal Peace Federation to create a world of peace. In alignment with the founding purposes of the UN he made every effort to realize world peace and the happiness of humankind that heaven wishes for.

In 2012, after the ascension of Rev. Moon, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon has continued working without ceasing or resting to realize a world of peace. In particular, she saw the desperate need for global politicians and world leaders to come together in cooperation and respect centered on the UN. In order to achieve world peace completely, we cannot only have the knowledge and action of politicians and diplomats, representing the body and the physical world, but must also combine the wisdom and efforts of religious figures, representing the mind and the internal world. In this regard, the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace, launched in 2016, and the Interreligious Association for Peace and Development, launched in 2017, are uniting centered on God's ideal of peace as the central pillars managing the worlds of the mind and the body.

Respected ambassadors for peace, leaders of all fields, ladies and gentlemen,  
UPF will unite with the Citizen's Federation for the Unification of North Korea and South Korea, WFWP, the Religious Council, Youth and Students for Peace, the Aewon Service Group, the World Tongil Moo-do Federation, the Universal Ballet Company, CARP, the Korea Sunhak Institution, and the Hyo Jeong Academy and will advance toward the goal of realizing one human family under our Heavenly Parent. I ask for the heart-felt encouragement and the active participation in UPF at this new starting point toward the long course of accomplishing a Heavenly United Korea. ㄸ



# Witnessing on the Religious-Group Level

*This is a report of an important development in the providence in Korea. It retains the original local reporting style, somewhat repetitious but with ever-increasing detail. TPmagazine has translated it so that members in nations around the world will learn of this development and perhaps find ways to replicate it.*

**O**n September 2, at 10 AM, under the blessing of a bright autumn sky with white clouds of various shapes, in Iksan, which is in our North Jeolla church district, Subregion Four of FFWPU-Heavenly Korea held a Blessing Ceremony for a religious group in line with True Parents' heavenly directive.

After True Mother blessed Jeolla Province as the Jeolla "nation" within Heavenly Korea in the sixth year of Cheon Il Guk, she visited Yeosu on May 29. On that day, while visiting the Ocean District Headquarters, True Mother gave the directive to "Open the doors of Christian churches." After hearing this, the church leaders and other members of Subregion Four began to offer devotions to realize this mandate. Due to their substantial devotions and efforts the Iksan FFWPU pastor, Na In-hwan, and members of his congregation focused on the Juhyeon Kyobu religious group, they were able to realize such precious results.

For a long time, through interreligious activities, the members of Juhyeon Kyobu and the members of our Iksan church cultivated friendships and continued cross-communications. The leader of the religious group, Lee Kyo-bu, attended FFWPU

lectures and workshops and came to have a deep understanding of True Parents and the Divine Principle. Through this, he accepted from True Parents the mission of a heavenly tribal messiah and decided to integrate his organization with FFWPU and to hold this Blessing Ceremony.

During the ceremony, which has become the starting point of FFWPU's efforts to hold blessings of religious groups, Rev. Lee Kyo-bu, as head of the Juhyeon Kyobu, received a plaque and an appointment as a Religious Group Heavenly Tribal Messiah. It was a formal and gracious event. The participants faced the ceremony with reverence and wore holy robes.

## The ceremony

Our Iksan church leader, Na In-hwan, was MC and Lee Gi-seong, president of FFWPU-Heavenly Korea and his wife officiated the 2018 True Parents of Heaven, Earth, and Humankind, Juhyeon Kyobu Religious Group Hyo Jeong Cosmic Blessing.

The program proceeded as follows: Founder Lee gave a pre-ceremony speech. A video presentation followed this and marked the beginning of the ceremony proper. We all then sang the Cheon Il Guk anthem. District Leader Kim In-shik prayed and then attendants entered, followed by

the officiators, President Lee Gi-seong and his wife. Everyone pledged to become heavenly tribal messiahs. Founder Lee received his religious group's Heavenly Tribal Messiah Mission Appointment plaque. FFWPU President Lee spoke. He and his wife conducted the Holy Wine ritual. Everyone recited the Blessing Vows. President Lee gave the benediction prayer and declared the event to Heaven. Sub-regional leader Lim Jong-hyeok gave the congratulatory address and Deaconess Lee Myeong-suk of FFWPU-Iksan presented flowers to Founder Lee. They cut a cake. Our Iksan choir sang a congratulatory song. FFWPU-Iksan presented a gift to the newly blessed couples and Founder Lee presented True Mother with fifty bags (one ton) of rice. The Iksan church also offered a gift to True Mother. The officiators led those assembled in three cheers. Everyone participated in a group photograph, announcements followed and ended with the event being declared complete.

## Neighbors found joy

We also had had pre-ceremony entertainment with the support of the local community, beginning with traditional music (*samulnori*) by a farmers' band made up of citizens of Madong,



① FFWPU for a Heavenly Korea President Lee and his wife with the founder of the Juhyeon Kyobu religion following a Blessing Ceremony for him and the members of his congregation  
 ② President Lee performs the Holy Water rite during the Blessing Ceremony  
 ③ A group photograph following the milestone Blessing Ceremony

the neighborhood Juhyeon Kyobu is located in, and other guest singers.

**A John-the-Baptist figure**

Before the main ceremony, Lee Kyo-bu, as leader of Juhyeon Kyobu said, “I lived my life by putting the name of Juhyeon Kyobu on the line to realize harmony in this nation, the unification of North Korea and South Korea, and unification of the world. The work of religion founder Lee Kyo-bu and the work of the Unification Church’s Sun Myung Moon and Hak Ja Han Moon are the same. Therefore, I promise to unite the religious groups and work together to realize that goal. It is not through lectures and education that I know the Unification Church; it is via a connection of the heart. During their lifetimes, Rev. Moon and Mrs. Moon established branches in 194 nations, established numerous apostles of peace, and lived for the world. They are the ones who created the nation we have now. No one else has been able to do the work that they have done. Rev. and Mrs. Moon are elders who gave love to people in all places, such as Africa. They gave love to everyone, to all hungry people, using their own money to protect people’s lives by giving them food. The time of achievement has come. Let us realize

a united world, a world of peace, together!” During his speech, the religion founder Lee Kyo-bu, explained the significance of the event and appealed to the participants to unite with FFWPU.

**Religious Leader Lee’s pledge**

Pastor Na In-hwan of Iksan Church began the main event by declaring that it had officially begun. After singing the Cheon Il Guk Anthem, District Leader Kim In-shik offered a prayer. He prayed, “Let us think of the Parable of the Ten Virgins in Mathew chapter 25. Religious Leader Lee and the members of the Juhyeon church have met the Messiah, who came late in the night to hold the wedding banquet. May the grace of salvation through the blessing, which leads you to eternal life as you are reborn as True Parents’ true children—be with you.”

President Lee Gi-seong then entered as the officiator and all participants attended with reverence in white holy robes. After the entrance of the officiators, President Lee received from Lee Kyo-bu, leader of the Juhyeon Kyobu, his pledge to be a Heavenly Tribal Messiah and gave him a plaque appointing him as a Heavenly Tribal Messiah.

The MC asked, “Do you pledge to do your utmost to accomplish your

Heavenly Tribal Messiah mission to realize the ideal of one human family centered on the True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind, who have realized the dream of the Creator, our Heavenly Parent?” Religious Leader Lee replied affirmatively.

President Lee Gi-seong then said, “I appoint you as a Religious Group Heavenly Tribal Messiah for making the resolution to realize the ideal of one human family centered on the True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind, who have realized the dream of the Creator, our Heavenly Parent.” He then presented the plaque of appointment to religion founder Lee Kyo-bu. President Lee then gave him the three great Cheon Il Guk holy scriptures as a gift from True Parents as congratulations. Following this, President Lee gave the ceremonial address.

**President Lee’s ceremonial address**

“Today is the day that you who attend religion founder Lee receive the greatest blessing Heaven can offer. Religious Leader Lee Kyo-bu, participated in a twenty-one-day Divine Principle workshop given by True Parents long ago in the 1980s. At that time, because he already knew the path that people must go and the truth, life, and love of the path of one’s

life, he said, 'Do not follow me, go to the Unification Church.' Numerous people said no, scorned and slandered him, but Heaven knew religion founder Lee Kyo-bu's pure heart."

"Jesus came to this land as the next Adam. Jesus proposed the path to being reborn. In order to be reborn, there must be a parent. Therefore, Jesus too must come to earth as a son and later become a father. Jesus came to this land as the only son of God but could not meet the only daughter of God and died on the cross."

"Rev. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon came to this land as the True Parents and centered on the True Parents' love began the blessing through which all people can be reborn. Three couples received the blessing, then thirty-six couples, then seventy-two couples, 124 couples, 777 couples, 1,800 couples. How many people do you think I received the blessing with? I received the blessing with 6,000 couples, at a place where people from eighty-four nations had gathered. After that, the blessing spread throughout the world. Recently, 4,000 couples received the blessing and 280,000 couples received the blessing through internet broadcast."

"The greatest grace Jesus could give us was becoming an adopted child. The direct bloodline remained unconnected so he returned, and the returning Messiah gave the blessing. Through this Blessing Ceremony, not only people who are living but ascended spirits can receive salvation. This is why we call it the Cosmic Blessing Ceremony. Therefore, all humankind in heaven and on earth will be reborn."

"A longtime missionary in Tanzania was shot and martyred. However, a Tanzanian prophet named Paul Vendera had a surprising experience and met a woman representing Heaven. For four years, he searched for this woman and one day he came to a Blessing Ceremony to give the congratulatory address. While he was there, he watched a video and realized the woman in the video, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, was the woman that for four years he had been searching for. Once he learned this, he completely changed and received the blessing. In this way, a new history is unfolding. Today, the time is too short for you to be able to understand all of this. I

pray that when the time is right you will deeply realize the meaning of the blessing."

#### **President Lee's benediction**

President Lee told those in attendance that through attending and receiving True Parents' blessing they would be reborn as true children. The Holy Wine Ceremony followed this. Three representative couples came to the stage and participated in the holy wine ceremony. After the Holy Wine Ceremony, the officiating couple led the Holy Water Ceremony. Then through the Holy Blessing Vows, the participants pledged to follow the traditions of the blessing.

During the benediction, which followed, President Lee prayed, "I am deeply grateful for your grace in holding the Juhyeon Kyobu Religious Group Hyo Jeong Cosmic Blessing and for establishing religion founder Lee Kyo-bu as a heavenly tribal messiah. Under the parent of a tribe, we are tied together as brothers and sisters of one family centered on Heavenly Parent. I sincerely pray that Religious Leader Lee of Juhyeong Kyobu and those participating today can realize a united Korea centered on Heavenly Parent and become children who can be entered into the Cheon Bo Won."

#### **Brothers in heart**

Religious Leader's solemnity during Lee Gi-seong's prayer left a deep impression. The officiator's declaration of the Holy Blessing of the participants went out to the entire world marked the conclusion of the Blessing Ceremony. A representative couple from the Blessing Ceremony participants presented President Lee Gi-seong and his wife with flowers. President Lee then passed the flowers to Religious Leader Lee in congratulations and they took a commemorative photo together.

Lim Jonghyeok, subregional director of Subregion Four, gave the congratulatory address. He congratulated Religious Leader Lee Kyo-bu on receiving the blessing as a Religious Group Heavenly Tribal Messiah.

#### **The congratulatory address**


"I think it was a very difficult decision for Religious Leader Lee, while being responsible for a religious organiza-

tion, to declare he would go forward together with the Family Federation. Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon has been making declarations to realize the ideal family. The Family Federation membership is rising at a fast pace."

"We judge based on our physical eyes. However, the substantiation of God, cannot judge without following the conscience. Now you all are the sons and daughters of the eternal Heavenly Parent. We have become brothers and sisters. Religious Leader Lee Kyo-bu saw the name Heavenly Korea in a book. He has been following a path toward realizing this new Korea and because the Family Federation is also walking toward a Heavenly Korea, which attends Heavenly Parent, I believe it is Heaven's blessing that these two religious groups met."

President Lee Gi-seong, his wife, and Religious Leader Lee then cut a celebration cake. After cutting the cake, the time for gift giving had arrived. For permitting this Blessing Ceremony, Religious Leader Lee offered True Parents a gift of fifty bags of rice (one ton) and the Iksan Church offered a humble donation gift to True Parents. The Iksan Church choir then sang congratulatory songs to praise the Blessing Ceremony and its participants. Lastly, President Lee Gi-seong led three rounds of Eok Mansei and concluded the event.

Though this blessing was inadequate, it holds significance as the first results after True Parents gave the directive to "open the doors of the Christian Churches" on May 29 at the Ocean District Headquarters in Subregion 4. The day on which this was written is also the day that the North Jeolla District Headquarters Church completed their thirteenth forty-day period of devotion.

I feel this proves True Parents teachings that in line with Heaven's planned, if we receive True Parents' directives and go forward offering devotions with all our heart and all our strength, there is nothing we cannot realize. Though this event was insufficient, it was conducted on the foundation of the gathered devotion of all the members toward achieving True Parents' expectations, which were the first steps toward substantiating the word as expressed our True Parents. I offer the complete glory of today to True Parents. 

# Protecting Blessed Families

*On the sidelines of the Seonghwa Festival, commemorating the sixth anniversary of True Father's ascension, an important meeting took place, the central focus of which was protecting True Parents' legacy from erosion. This was the HJ High Noon Summit, which covered the topic of sexual integrity and the dangers of pornography addiction and its prevalence among blessed couples. The summit was a joint effort by High Noon International and Youth and Students for Peace-Korea. TPmagazine approached High Noon's director with several questions to raise awareness of the threat to blessed families and of resources to eradicate that threat.*

By Sam Uyama

The framework of High Noon was founded in 2013 as the Blessed Marriage Project (BMP) with a \$100,000 donation by David and Mitsue Wolfenberger, who are in the 2,075-couple blessing group. Its original focus was to provide marriage enrichment for blessed couples, its main offering being the Energize! Couples Retreat. The programs were led by Unificationists working as professional marriage educators and facilitated by three second-generation blessed couples. Since its inception, the BMP has served hundreds of blessed couples across America.

In 2015, the BMP began responding to what was revealed to be a major threat quietly decimating blessed couples—internet pornography. The more we explored the topic, the more it became apparent how much pornography has infiltrated the blessed family community. High Noon was formed to offer support and resources to individuals and loved ones dealing with pornography issues. The Wolfenbergers currently donate \$250,000 per year to address the pornography epidemic facing blessed families.



Mr. Sam Uyama, director of High Noon and a certified Matching Supporter, speaking at the High Noon Summit, September 1-2



A cross-section of the Unification movement attended the HJ High Noon Summit.

High Noon exists to create a culture of sexual integrity, in which people experience congruency in thought and action in alignment with God's sexual values. This creates an environment of joy, openness and true sexual intimacy.

High Noon provides sustainable pornography recovery, marriage enrichment and heavenly sex education based on Unification Principles.

### 1. How does High Noon understand pornography?

Porn has alarming effects on a person's psyche and this is magnified with the introduction of the internet. Internet pornography is a sudden phenomenon that has had unexpected consequences. Porn used to be something difficult to get hold of: You had to leave your house and look for it. Often you had to pay for it and once you were done with whatever you had gotten hold of, you had to start over and do it all again.

The internet allows people access to porn from the comfort of one's own bed. It's free and has become unlimited. This combination offers a form of super-stimulation that the brain was not designed to handle. It wasn't until

recently that people thought to take a moment to examine what kind of effect it is having on people. As more research comes out, it is becoming more evident that a) pornography harms individuals, relationships and has societal repercussions b) A staggering number of people are using pornography and experiencing its side effects.

Internet porn affects the brain in ways similar to other addictive substances or behaviors—alcohol, cigarettes, drugs, gambling, etc. Porn has also been proven to shape sexual expectations and preferences. This is especially alarming given the typical age people begin using pornography (the average age being eleven years old). Imagine an entire generation that has over a decade's experience with hardcore porn by the time they graduate university. We make huge efforts to protect young people from anything that can cause them harm during their formative years (putting age restrictions on substances and activities), but porn has had open reign.

The blessed family community has not been immune. Pornography has broken blessings and created

apathetic husbands and wives with little interest in creating a thriving marriage. The effect on young people has ranged from being wrought with guilt, not being able to figure out how to break free, to becoming jaded, entitled and fully expecting to continue their porn habit into marriage. Neither is a good recipe for a vibrant blessing.

Explaining the concept of sexual integrity and sharing the effects of pornography is a great way to introduce non-members to the Principle in a way that is relevant and provides value for their lives. We fully expect to go in this direction in the future, but for the time being High Noon's priority is blessed families. We are facing a crisis regarding young people's readiness to receive the blessing and capabilities in creating a healthy marriage. Furthermore, we believe we must first become healthy and whole in the area of sexual integrity before we can offer it to other people.

### 2. What is the main content of High Noon and what are your methods to resolve the issue?

High Noon has three focuses:



① Q and A: Sam Uyama, director, High Noon; Crescentia DeGoede, director, US Blessing and Family Ministry and Yu Cheong-sun, director, Multicultural Welfare Center  
 ② Concerned or simply curious, many people came to learn about a recently exposed threat to the core of the Unification movement, blessed couples and blessed children.  
 ③ David Wolfenberger, founder of and benefactor to High Noon; Lee Hyeon-yeong, president YSP-Korea; Tyler Hendricks, educator; Kim Ki-hoon, international vice-president, FFWPU; Robert Kittel, president YSP-International; Andrew Love, a trained sexual integrity mentor, who is involved in High Noon's community outreach efforts, and Marjorie Buessing, supervisor of blessing interviewers

### Pornography education and recovery support

We travel around giving talks on the effects of pornography, creating healthy conversations within communities around a topic that has previously been taboo. We help people feel comfortable discussing these issues, remove the stigma from having struggles with porn and convey the importance of addressing this topic on a continuing basis.

On the other side, we invest a lot of energy into creating resources that support people in breaking free from porn. Currently we have a ninety-day online recovery program, basic training for parents and others who want to know how to effectively talk about porn and support someone through recovery, and a spousal support program for the spouses of those dealing with porn addiction.

### Sex and purity education curriculum for parents

Rather than continuing to respond to people struggling with porn, our ultimate goal is to prevent it entirely. "School of Love" is the name of our

curriculum for parents to teach their children about purity and sex. Parents can learn what kind of conversations to have with their children from childhood to adulthood in order to educate them on their growing bodies, the value and sanctity of sex and to prepare them to receive the blessing and begin a sexual relationship.

### Heavenly Intimacy Education

After receiving the blessing, our responsibility is to fulfill the blessing by creating a radiant relationship with our spouse. The most foundational aspect of this is creating a healthy sexual relationship that both sides are satisfied with. After all, the sexual union of a man and woman is where God comes to dwell on earth. However, there has been sparse education for blessed couples on how to create a fulfilling sexual relationship and few couples have been able to do so on their own.

### 3. Do you use different approaches when instructing men and women? Do both

### males and females participate in the same session of Ascend? Is this strictly a male issue?

Porn is commonly thought of as a male issue. However, there is a surprising (and growing) number of women who also struggle with pornography. While the approach to addressing a porn habit is the same for men and women, we are strict on separating the two groups. Men support men, women support women and the two genders go through recovery entirely separately.

**For more information on this vital topic, please contact members of the High Noon staff.**

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*Mr. Uyama is the director of High Noon International and the author of several books.*

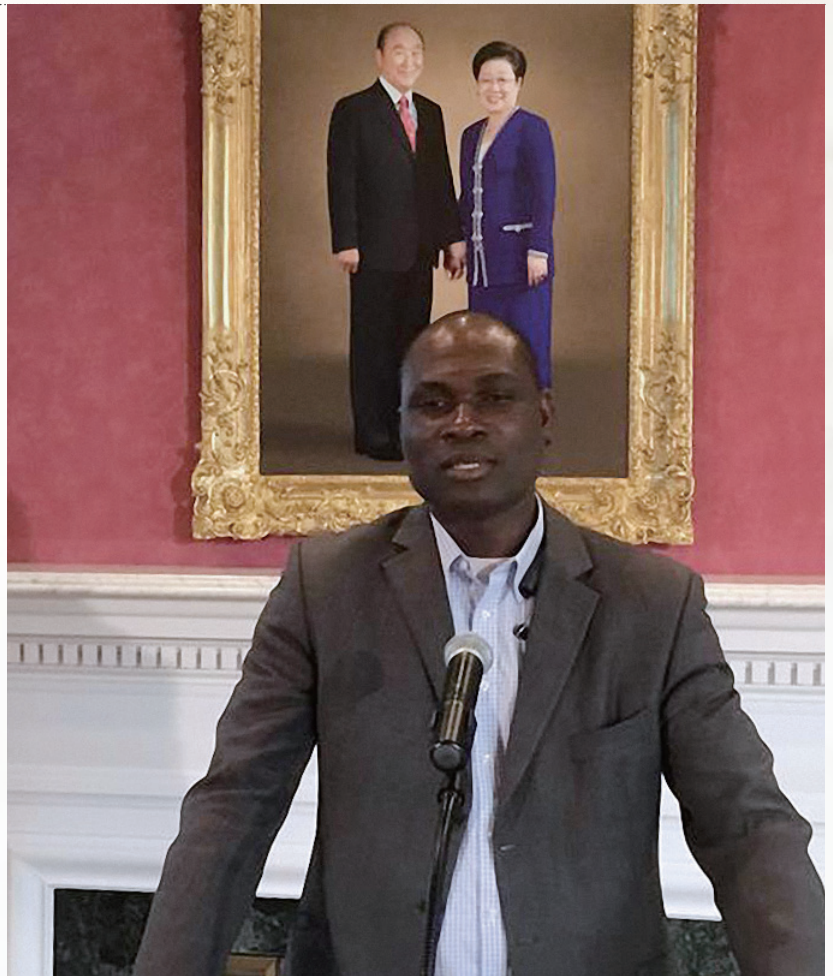
# Linking Heavenly Africa and Heavenly America

*This is an edited version of a report on a special collaborative conference that brought African educators to the United States, August 11–22, for a Youth Leadership and Educators Conference.*

By Philbert Seka

In Senegal, just after the Africa Summit, True Mother strongly recommended that America support Africa to grow well as a newborn baby. Following that desire of our beloved True Mother, Heavenly Africa as a younger brother had to go to meet Heavenly America as our older brother and learn from institutional elements of the foundation that True Parents built over more than thirty years in America. With such a motivation, Youth and Students for Peace-Africa made a connection with the US chapter of the Women's Federation for World Peace to host the first Youth Leadership and Educators Conference in collaboration with the US chapters of the Family Federation for World Peace, Universal Peace Federation and Youth and Students for Peace.

To lead twenty-seven people, held in high esteem in their respective nations, to America to learn about character education, youth leadership, leadership by women and entrepreneurship was a wonderful experience. The participants came from four nations, twenty-three from Côte



The writer is president of Youth and Students for Peace-Africa and was one of the initiators and organizers of the conference that this article covers.

d'Ivoire, including the secretary general of the National Commission of UNESCO in that nation and twenty-two local regional directors of education. From Kenya came two County Assembly members. From Senegal, the secretary general of the National Youth Council of Senegal attended as did a youth leader from Guyana.

### The UN and pursuing good character

The Organizing Committee of the conference comprised Dr. Alan Saunders, Character Education trainer; Denneeze Nelson, with WFWP-New Jersey; Alain Tamelessio, secretary general, UPF-New Jersey; and me, Philbert Seka, president, Youth and Students for Peace-Africa. The opening ceremony of the Youth Leadership and Educators Conference in New York and Washington DC took place at the Africa Union (AU) Headquarters at United Nations in New York City. Taj Hamad had secured the venue at the UN and the Nigerian representative, who is the AU ambassador to the UN, greeted the group. She spoke about character education, service learning and leadership skills training. For the first time ever, we heard a high-level ambassador refer to character education. Taj Hamad and I were the emcees for the ceremony.

Dr. Saunders took over for days two and three of the workshop and did full lectures on character education and leadership training with the support of Prof. Alain Tamelessio, Dr. Kone and me. The participants received the interactive lectures well. We, who given our responsibilities as educators and leaders, continually give orders to other people, suddenly became big students. We attended the workshop like students in school; we came in the morning, took a break at noon, resumed our studies in the afternoon and ended in the evening. We sat listening carefully to all the presenters and took notes of the lectures. It was an amazing experience for us but seemed satisfying as well for the lecturers. We learned new things in our lives and committed to implementing new ideas in our work.

Dr. Saunders is truly a passionate teacher of character education. He devoted his full time, energy and resources to expressing his profound

love and to connecting with the participants' hearts. All the participants requested that he travel to Africa for the training of trainers.

### Forms of human interaction

Dr. Kone Idriss, professor of Theology, Personal Development and Conflict Resolution at the Unification Theological Seminary in New York City, spoke on conflict resolution, giving some recipes on how conflicts start, develop and become greater and how to manage and find the appropriate solutions to resolve them. He naturally advocated developing character education in French speaking African countries, such as Senegal and Côte d'Ivoire.

Miilhan Stephens gave a presentation focused on a Crane's Club-driven conference and workshop. He explained the different types of entrepreneurs, how they start out and how they become successful. He showed us very simple tools that most of the successful entrepreneurs use to build relationships in business areas and strengthen their networks. We appreciated the section on strategy. The participants enjoyed his presentation and would like him to give an entrepreneurial workshop in their respective countries.

I spoke on using social media as the best way to get the attention of young people. They are means of reaching out to a large community of people to teach them character education. Social media are also useful for raising funds for community service projects.

### African and gender connections

The Participants later attended a presentation on African culture and leadership at Essex Community College in Newark, New Jersey, by Dr. Khalifani, professor of African Studies and president of African Studies Association, USA. The lecture was excellent and the participants stayed there for several hours. We connected with his focus on the roots of African culture and the importance of educating youth, black youth, in the ways he advocated.

On the last day, Katerina Connery, vice-president of Women's Federation-USA and a Mathematics teacher at Bridgeport High School in the State of Connecticut, gave an excellent presen-

tation. The women especially appreciated it. They stated that they would have preferred this presentation at the beginning of the workshop, not at the end. She explained the important role of women and different types of leadership.

### The "students" get to work

We had organized the Youth Leadership and Educators Conference to achieve the following goals: 1) To connect Africa and America, following True Mother's recommendation in Dakar for America to support growth in Africa. 2) To substantiate True Parents' vision by raising future global leaders using character education and to strengthen the providence in the nations. 3) To build a strong foundation for YSP Africa to achieve its mission 4) To bring together our providential organizations such as UPF, WFWP and YSP to work as one body as True Mother stated.

At this end, we can say that the conference fulfilled all four points. The program brought twenty-six high







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- ① Miilhan Stephens, secretary general of FFWPU-USA's Northeast Subregion, receives a memento of his experience with members from various nations of FFWPU, Heavenly Africa and one from the Caribbean
- ② Taj Hamad and Philbert Seka were MCs for the Opening Ceremony at the UN African Union Headquarters
- ③ Dr. Khalifani, professor of African Studies at Essex Community College, speaks to the participants
- ④ Dr. Spurgin, President Buessing, WFWP's President Selle and Dr. Saunders with the "oversized students"

level educators and youth leaders from Africa and one person from Guyana, in the Caribbean, to America to learn from resources built up within True Parents' foundation in that nation.

The training impressed and inspired the participants. In their testimonies, they have resolved to take the following actions:

The twenty-two educators from Côte d'Ivoire all have resolved to speak to the minister of education about including character education in the Ivorian educational system. They will lead character education training for teachers across the thirty-one local regions of their nation. They are already working on a strategy.

The two participants from Kenya, members of County Assemblies, have decided to hold a leadership and character education workshop for 1,025 youth and woman leaders

across all Kenyan cities, April 9–14, 2019, at the University of Bungoma, where they have already met with the university's vice chancellor and the governor of Bungoma. They scheduled a meeting with the Senate Speaker and plan to seek an audience with the deputy president and invite me to talk about YSP and the upcoming youth leadership workshop in Kenya. It will be an occasion to launch YSP at the national level.

The participant from Senegal, a young woman who is secretary general of the Youth National Council of Senegal has already set up a workshop for eighty-five key woman leaders from all parts of Senegal, September 14–16 and October 5–7. The National Youth Council will help to launch YSP in Senegal and organize the leaders of the seventeen thousand youth associations under its governance to receive training for trainers

in character education.

The participant from Guyana is an aviation engineer and a youth leader. He has resolved to meet with the head of the government Youth Ministry to organize workshops and service projects in communities.

With these programs, we may be able to establish YSP's credibility in Africa and demonstrate our capability in leading transformative projects that affect people's lives and garner nationwide attention.

Finally, seeing the good collaboration between UPF, WFWP and YSP in preparing the program and sharing a common base of interest was remarkable. YSP Africa brought the participants all the way from Africa to the United States. WFWP USA hosted the program, sending invitation letters for visa requests and deploying an operational team in the field. UPF helped with logistics and contacts.

December 20–26, YSP Africa will lead a retreat workshop for 120 schoolteachers from Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo and Benin in Cape Coast, Ghana.

The Youth Leadership and Educators Conference was not just a conference or a series of lectures but a real workshop where participants and lecturers had the necessary time to interact, exchange, go through presentations in full and have time for questions and answers. The lecturers gave exercises for group discussions. The benefit of the training was two-way, lecturers as well participants learned from each other. It was as if professional educators and youth leaders were attending summer university courses.

Next year, the Youth Leadership and Educators Conference will cover all of Africa, drawing 120 participants. We will hold it at the International Peace Education Center (IPEC) in the US city of Las Vegas. Preparations have begun and people have already manifested interest.

Note that the Youth Leadership and Educators Conference is a step ahead in building an international institute of character education and leadership in Africa to raise future global leaders. *✍*

*Mr. Seka is a prolific writer, educator and president of Youth and Students for Peace, Africa.*

# Sharing Spiritual and Intellectual Resources

*Nigeria still has a place in the national messiahs' hearts*



The books arriving at the Peace Embassy in Abuja, the capital of Nigeria

Dr. Ki-hoon Kim, Regional Chairman of the Family Federation, Heavenly North America, recently contributed \$3,672.62, on behalf of the American Unification movement to ship three thousand books to Family Federation for a Heavenly Nigeria. This is one of the ways that the American Unification family is seeking to fulfill True Mother's desire for us to contribute to the providence in Africa and around the globe.


Rev. George Ogurie, president of the Southwest Region for a Heavenly Africa, along with the Family Federation for a Heavenly Nigeria headquarters staff received the books at the Peace Embassy in Abuja, Nigeria, in August. They then cleared out an office and dedicated it to housing about half of the library in eight large bookcases. The other half, consisting largely of elementary educational texts, they will keep in storage for eventual use in a church-based school.

When the Unification youth of the early Nigerian blessed families began to reach school age, there was a growing need for a Family Federation school, because local public schooling was inadequate. Blessed families had to place their children in private schools, if they were able to afford them. The others did their best to supplement their children's education at home despite full time missions and jobs.

With that need in mind, Dr. Michael and Maria Kiely, Abel National Messiahs for Family Federation for a Heavenly Nigeria, began to assemble books for the school. Maria and the couple's daughter had been elementary school teachers and had amassed a

# AN EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE

What follows is a transcript of a statement by George Ogurie, president of the southern West Africa Region for a Heavenly Africa.


This is an expression of our appreciation of Dr. Ki-hoon Kim and our American members for graciously undertaking the shipment of books to Nigeria for the purpose of establishing a mini-library. These books, which are already on display here were donated by Dr. Michael and Mrs. Maria Kiely and their family some years ago and we are to use these books to create a mini-library. We are grateful for them for embarking on such a project, a very important project, because here in Africa, reading materials, especially materials belonging to our organization, are very scarce. Among the books contained in this shipment are some important providential materials, such as the speeches of our True Parents and our True Parents' books, Divine Principle publications and other important providential materials. These are very important to us. Also contained among this shipment are many books for children. Our children will find them very useful. The idea to send these books began with a plan to establish a school here in Nigeria a few years ago. I hope, in the not-too-distant future, that that plan will come off the drawing board and we can indeed have a school where these books can be used. Once again, I want to thank the Kiely family for persevering for four years, paying [storage] charges while waiting for these books to be shipped. We are very grateful for their perseverance. Once again, we thank Dr. Kim for coming to our aid and helping to ship these books down here to Nigeria. Thank you and God bless you all. 



- ① A small sample of the many books the Kiely family donated to FFWPU in Nigeria; this screenshot is from a video presentation to express gratitude for the gift and for those who made effort to get it to Nigeria.
- ② President Ogurie is the man in the hat.

substantial library of teaching materials. When the Kielys became empty nesters, they sold their home and moved. They downsized in part by placing the library in storage, intending to ship it to Nigeria in 2014.

After four years of fruitless searching for a way to ship the library to Africa by sea, Dr. Kim kindly offered to do it as a way for the Family Federation for a Heavenly USA to support the African providence. With substantial help from Rev. Sebastian Huemer, the pastor of the Albany Family Church, the books were loaded onto pallets and trucked to the port of Bayonne, New Jersey, for ocean shipment.

The new Peace Embassy library consists of Divine Principle books and other Family Federation publications, True Parents' speeches, and works on theology, philosophy, church growth, history, finance, psychology and personal development, parenting, non-profit administration, and more. There is also a complete *Encyclopedia Britannica*. Family Federation for a Heavenly Nigeria plans to create an online index for the library to make it more accessible to local Unificationists. But the elementary school is still a long-hoped-for dream for future development. 

*Various Unificationist internet postings contributed to this article.*



# Photographing the Course of Salvation

*Ken Owens' mission as a Unification Church photographer took him to fifty-four countries. He is now visiting Korea to help assess and organize the massive photographic record of True Parents' global salvific mission. This interview took place in the Sun Hak History Committee's Photographic Archives.*



## What was your experience in Vietnam?

I was a Navy radioman on the USS Preble. We were stationed mostly off North Vietnam but around Christmastime in 1972, our captain requested that we go down to the gun-line, the DMZ. He hadn't gotten his combat ribbon yet and you can't go from a commander to a captain without it. He volunteered us to go down. We stayed about a month and a half or two months. We got shot at and our ship was hit [by North Vietnamese artillery shells]. We were there for the last months of the war and were the last ship to get hit in the war. That's an interesting distinction.

I went home around late February to Hawaii, where my ship was stationed and about a month later, I went to San Francisco on leave to visit my family, my folks, and to see an old friend from high school who was then at UC Berkeley.

I lived in San Francisco for seven years. I did not see any members, no church, nothing. I went away, got some experience in war, started searching internally, went back to San Francisco and members were everywhere. While I was at Berkeley looking for my friend, I saw this group of people with a sign that said "Unified Principles" on it, inviting students to a talk. I took their picture. Little did I know I would be with them within a week.

I went back to San Francisco and went to a library to get books and a girl from St. Louis stopped me. We went to Page Street, had a little lunch, had a little prayer. When



The staff of New Future Photo, which along with New Future Film, recorded True Parents' holy mission in the United States and toured with them elsewhere. Having recently come from MFT, Ken is the only one with a tie on.

she invited me to a talk, I walked out into the parking lot, trying to decide what to do. A voice came and said, You'd better check this thing out! It's going to change your life.

#### How was it?

I went that night, little knowing that she, Carmela Acohido, was struggling but because I was there, she ran down the stairs and we listened to Papa san Choi's lecture [Choi Bong-choon, the first missionary to Japan]. I couldn't understand a word he said. We went into the big empty kitchen and she gave me very simple lectures. It was basically what I was already thinking at the time. Later, we talked more and did some leaf-letting. They had a little church center on Eight Avenue on nearly the same block as where my grandmother lived.

I had to go back to my ship in Hawaii. I had two more years left in April of 1973. She and her spiritual sister are the spiritual children of Phyllis Kim, Peter Kim's wife. So when that sister Carmela graduated from the 120-day training, with Bruce Brown, they went to Hawaii, where she's originally from and found a place, a simple center. She then wrote me at the ship and I came over one night. She gave me a taco dinner and I moved in the next

day. Then they gave me Principle and I joined.

It was very informal. Especially when Bruce and I were in the brothers' room for the final lecture: We were in our T-shirts, our cutoff jeans, in bare feet, sitting on the floor. He had his notes all over the floor. That's how I found out. I didn't have any problems. I was already in it.

#### How did you get into photography to begin with?

My dad had a small camera and I used to take pictures at Christmas parties when I was about thirteen, fourteen, and then I bought a simple camera and two lenses when I got into the Navy. After our Vietnam tour, we all got combat pay, so when we went back to the Philippines, I had \$750, so I bought a Nikon F camera, which a friend of mine also had. I bought the same one; actually, it was a Nikon F2 with another lens. I had my name engraved on it. That was my first real camera.

After I got out of the Navy, I went to Barrytown for forty-day—one twenty, and then when I went to the Parents' Day celebration in 1975 at Belvedere, I met the photographers. They asked me, since I had a nice camera, to photograph someone speaking, giving a little testimony.

Won Pil Kim was there, and he gave a speech. Years later, it turned out that my photograph of him was on the cover of his famous book. That was my first cover, and I didn't even know until later.

Then, because I was there for training and eventually MFT [a mobile fundraising team] I let them use the camera, for safekeeping. I did four years of MFT and in 1980 they asked for me like crazy and I was able to get into New Future Photo in May 1980.

#### How long did it take you to get used to aperture, ISO and shutter speed?

Ah, That's a good one! It took a while. It needs constant training, especially if you start with film. You realize why things are overexposed or underexposed. Trying to look through the viewfinder is one thing but trying to get the right exposure, I had to learn. It was on-the-job training. I was not too knowledgeable. I had the camera and the lenses and I was very trainable. That's what Robert Davis said. Little by little, I was able to learn more and more, so after a couple of years, I was able to go to the youth seminar, the world tour and of course did the conferences, helping mostly with the simple stuff, the



overall pictures and gradually I learned from there.

### What was your most difficult photo shoot?

**E**motionally or technically?

#### Emotionally, I suppose.

**E**motionally, one of them definitely was when I was here in Korea with True Parents on the VOC tour in late 1983. We were in the last of the cities, in Kwangju, and unbeknownst to us during the speech, Heung Jin nim had had his accident. We all drove back to Seoul that night. They had already heard about it, but there was a special conference the next day at the Little Angels School, so they had to stay for that. Immediately after that was finished, they went straight to the airport and went back. They just told us he had been hurt badly in the crash. It was Un Jin nim's birthday, too.

They held a ceremony in Belvedere for him. Robert Davis took those pictures. It was a very small room. We thought that when Heung Jin nim was brought back to Korea for the Wonjeon Ceremony that True Parents went too. They had a simultaneous ceremony in Belvedere just to support it with prayer. Robert for

some reason said, I can't do it. I'm busy. So he sent me. I went there in jeans and a suit jacket he gave me. There was no time. I had to catch the van that went there. And there were True Parents and most of the True Children, sitting there. Only Hyo Jin nim and Ye Jin nim went to Korea.

The girls of course were teary eyed. Mother was teary eyed. Father was holding it back, but through the lens, a very long telephoto lens, I could see him close up and there were sparkles in there. It was emotional, very deep. It was hard, actually.

The other time was when Father went to Danbury. I had to photograph not only while Father was eating his last meal before his speech, but for some reason, he said it was all right for members to stand behind him and pose while he was eating. I thought that was awkward but I took the pictures anyway.

Then True Parents went up and got ready to go and all the children were up there. I am sure they said a special prayer, good-bye. But then they asked me to go in and take a group picture. I had to actually go deep into the bathroom in order to get it wide enough so I could get the shot. Those were hard, the emotional times. At Father's Seonghwa Ceremony, I wasn't close, but Mother's face was puffy. She didn't have

make up on. Those three were all emotionally hard.

### What about technically?

**L**et's see—one or two. One of them is big events, like blessings at the arenas, stadiums, especially when I had also to go around the whole place and take overall photos. The other was the palace opening, because that was not one event, it was one, two, three four events starting in the morning. When you look at the palace you have these two wings on the left. On one, they had put ladders up the side of it so we could get up there and get more of a side shot. I did that twice. At the end of those four events, I barely was able to walk back to the bus. It was hard. Then, I had to work half the night because (of course) the leaders wanted pictures before I got on the plane the next morning.

Another time, after a Blessing Ceremony and the usual huge banquet, I physically stopped. I ran out of gas. I was sick. I took a few pictures I think of Father speaking but then I just couldn't do it anymore.

### At what point did you go from film to digital?

**B**asically around 2001, during the fifty-state tour. Digital cameras were brand new toys



- ① Ken was asked to act as an additional "shield," behind Dr. Pak, to whom Ken is similar in height, at the 1976 Yankee Stadium rally, where the crowd was a bit unruly.
- ② In the week before he joined the movement, Ken took this photograph of clean-cut young people inviting students to a talk.
- ③ Ken Owens onstage, side-by-side, with True Father during his career as a Unification Church photographer.

then. I bought an Olympus, a simple one, and then within about three cities, I had to buy a newer, bigger model Olympus. I used both at the same time. I was relying more on digital as I went along. In about a year or so, with more speaking tours, I completely abandoned film. Once I got the nicer camera, I just focused on it.

**In the years that you were with True Parents, what changes did you see?**

They got more intense. They became busier, especially Mother. She gave her first public speech in 1981 at the science conference [ICUS] at the Lotte Hotel. She spoke to the wives and some female participants. She wore a Korean dress and had a big smile. But after that, from 1992 with the Women's Federation inauguration speech she gave in the rain, Father gave her more responsibility and she



went out throughout the rest of the 1990s and she's still doing it.

**What are you doing nowadays?**

Photography-wise I don't do anything with the church now. When Father ascended, they paid my way here and I helped take pictures. I'm focusing more on veterans now. I'm with the veterans associations, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Vietnam veterans and Korean War veterans. When Dr. Pak brought two Korean War veterans groups on tours here, I did both of those. I feel totally at home. I just feel more relaxed with veterans. I'm trying to help them out. They know what I'm doing and who I'm with.

**What are you doing here in Korea at this time?**


After the History Department formed under Michael Mickler, Rev. Jenkins spoke about getting the photo archives digitized. Now that they are here, they became more serious about it. Graham Carmichael asked the committee to find a way to get me over to Korea. The committee talked to the Sun Hak Committee over here. They said, Yes!

I can only do it in summertime, because I'm a school bus driver. I arrived on July 11 and I work about six and a half days a week.

I had tried to find everything and put it in alphabetical order. Some of the slides are organized and some are not. Most of them are duplicates anyway, so that's not essential. I have a spreadsheet, which Robert Davis' wife, Donna Davis, started in the mid-eighties. I had tried to keep it up and worked on it more. Since I've been here I am updating the spreadsheet.

**You said that some New Future Film material is still in the US.**

Yes. We were surprised. They are from some of the major events in the 70s and other stuff. I realized they are not here. Yesterday I sent a three-page report to everybody—what's here, what's not here, what I did. I sent it to the leaders here and to the History Committee in America. Many people know.

Another thing I did was make a video endorsement. My camera does video and I have a shotgun mike to go with it. I recorded for about three minutes, said what I'm doing and tried to inspire members to write their testimonies and experiences and save a copy for their descendants, because when I wrote my book, [*Memoirs of a Unification Church Photographer*], my daughter said, Why didn't you ever tell us these things? 

# Moving toward Resolution

*Hopeful Signs in an African Situation Similar to the Division of the Koreas*

By Simon Amare





Looking back at the origin of the conflict, the Eritrean–Ethiopian War, it was one of several conflicts in the horn of Africa region, which took place between the two countries from May 1998 to June 2000. Thereafter, they entered into a state of cold war. The disputed border region named Badme overlaps northern Eritrea and southern Ethiopia. The story behind Badme region seems complicated to comprehend. The point is that the population of the region, called Tigrinyas, are living on both sides of the borderline and both nations claim Badme and its inhabitants.

From a political viewpoint, some people had begun to compare Eritrea with North Korea because of their rather closed political regime. However, in his boldest move since coming to power last April, Dr. Abiy Ahmed, prime minister of Ethiopia, offered in June to make peace with Eritrea after twenty years of conflict in which an estimated eighty thousand people have died. The conflict separated a great number of families—parents and children, brothers and sisters, and relatives divided as occurred with the two Koreas.

In fact, Eritrea and Ethiopia have the same culture and the same religions and speak the same languages since long ago in history, to the extent that they are bound together through marriage ties. Unfortunately, just because of a borderline issue, many families found themselves disconnected on either side of the border, not even able to communicate with one another due to all means of communication being completely cut between the two countries.

The Ethiopian side launched several peace initiatives within those twenty years but always in vain. However, Dr. Abiy's attempt was such a surprise this time. No one could believe it until the moment Isaias Afwerki, the president of Eritrea, dispatched a delegation to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia's capital city, and the African Union also began to understand Dr. Abiy's intent more clearly.

#### A family reunion

The Eritrean delegation that came to Addis Ababa was met with a great welcome. Just a few days later, Dr.



A map showing disputed territory, notably Badme, where families have been divided for decades as they are today in the Koreas. *Title page:* The writer is in a jacket and tie and his wife is in the green dress.

Abiy went to Asmara, capital of Eritrea, where the prime minister and his delegation received such a welcome that according to Mr. Estifanos, the Eritrean ambassador to Japan, “No other head of state had been welcomed in such a way in Eritrea.”

Eritreans lined Asmara's streets with Ethiopian flags to welcome Abiy with a deeply heartfelt warmth, some shedding tears, wanting even to embrace the prime minister in their arms. Ethiopians could watch the arrival of Prime Minister Abiy in Asmara on local TV news.

At the end of the visit, the two leaders signed a five-point agreement ending twenty-year war and restoring relations between them. The summaries read as follows: 1) The state of war has come to an end. 2) The two nations will forge close political, economic, social, cultural and security cooperation; 3) Trade and economic and diplomatic ties will resume. 4) The boundary decision will be implemented. 5) Both nations will work on regional peace.

“The state of war that existed between the two countries has come to an end,” Eritrea's information

minister, Yemane Gebremeskel, wrote on Twitter. Hence, in the second phase of this peace agreement, President Afwerki arrived in Ethiopia for a historic visit to cement peace on July 15, which was less than a week after both nations declared peace. For their part, Ethiopians were lining the main road from the airport to the city, dressed in white traditional clothes and waving palm fronds. During his three-day visit to Ethiopia—a horse, a shield and a spear—the prized possessions of an Oromo traditional warrior, were gifts handed to the visiting Eritrean leader Isaias Afwerki.

#### Parallels to the Koreas

This deeply emotional reunion between the two countries has seen residents able to communicate to each other via telephone for the first time in twenty years as lines of communication reopened. Furthermore, Direct flights resumed within the same week. It's always touching and moving to see families reunited after a lengthy separation during which no one knows whether the other was still alive or not.

Both the African Union and the European Union agreed that the



The key figures leading the way out of the dim past and toward a brighter future: *Left:* Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed; *Right:* Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki

normalization of relations between the two countries is a boost for peace and security in the Horn of Africa region and on the whole continent. On July 9 in Addis Ababa, the chairperson of the Commission of the African Union, Moussa Faki Mahamat, stated, "The ongoing normalization process between Eritrea and Ethiopia is a milestone in Africa's efforts to silence the guns by 2020."

It's interesting to notice that the situation between Eritrea and Ethiopia is quite similar to that between North Korea and South Korea, whether it be the polarized political systems, the populations, the border-line issue, the war followed by the state of cold war, the total separation of families and no-communication between the two countries, or Ethiopia's rapid economic development. All this seems quite comparable to the situation on the Korean peninsula. Needless to say, this is quite attention-grabbing.

#### **Momentum is building**

To conclude with my viewpoint, I would like to recall that we have been

witnessing many events and miracles just within this year, such as the successful Africa Summit in Dakar, Senegal, and the Summit in Europe the meeting between Kim Jong-un Moon Jae-in of South Korea as well as with Donald Trump. We also heard some good reports that North Korea would grant freedom of faith. Many other events occurred and others are still happening.

As I see it, these are not happening accidentally. They are all thanks to True Parents' *hyojeong*. True Mother never stops praying and offering devotions for us all and for humanity. Furthermore, we often hear True Mother say that if we unite with her, we will see miracles will happen. Despite our weaknesses toward becoming True Parents' filial children, we can still see signs of Heavenly Parent's and True Parents' handiwork in restoring the world. Many Ethiopians have already testified on local television news that they see this peace agreement between Ethiopia and Eritrea as something from Heaven, saying, "This is definitely God's work and God is using Dr. Abiy to make this peace happen." John 14:

12 says, "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I go to the Father."

Even though True Father went to the spirit world and is with our Heavenly Parent, Jesus, all the saints and all the founders of the nations of the world, we have to remain confident that True Father is always standing next to True Mother and guiding her toward the fulfillment of Cheon Il Guk on earth and in heaven.

It's truly a blessing that we have with us True Parents on earth at this crucial time. They are guiding and leading us to the fulfillment of Cheon Il Guk. Therefore, if we deeply believe in our hearts and act accordingly, if we unite all together in attending our True Parents, surely we will do even greater things than these, as Jesus said. Even the unification of the Koreans, which we have been longing for since we joined our movement will surely come true, very soon, before 2020. *FP*

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*Rev. Amare is the national leader of FFWPU-Ethiopia.*

# The School that is Growing Well

By Laurent Ladouce



**E**ast of Dakar, the capital of Senegal, lies Pikine, the country's second largest city with over a million inhabitants, where in the Keur Massar District the Mbeubeuss open-air dump extends over several kilometers, releasing stench and toxic gases. Every day, more than two hundred trucks take turns unloading garbage cans there. Some observers have described the visual and olfactory impression as an image of hell on earth. For others, the place is a blessing. More than a thousand people live on and off this dump. Some young people spend their childhood and adolescence there, because their parents cannot afford to send them to school. They find whatever they can and try to sell things.

In 2008, a Senegalese Unificationist family opened the Yonent Mame Ibrahim School not far from this dump, to educate dozens of children and offer them another future. In 2015, the school nearly closed because of lack of funding. Yet, it survived and celebrated its tenth anniversary this July. How could the school survive and keep growing?

Surprisingly, the terrorist attacks in Paris in January 2015 are among the factors that indirectly revived the project. But there is also the internet, networking among Unificationist families, crowdfunding techniques, the goodwill of the second-generation members of Europe... and sack gardening. This is the story behind the revival of a school.

## A dream come true

The Yonent Mame Ibrahim School is a dream come true, a dream involving the prophet Abraham. Ambroise Diagne is a Senegalese Unificationist from a Catholic background living in Dakar. He and his Filipino wife Delaila received the blessing among the 30,000 couple group. One night, Ambroise dreamed of a man in the desert carrying twelve branches and trying to give them out, but some people tried to stop him. Ambroise knew intuitively that he was looking at Abraham, ancestor of the three monotheistic religions. Though Senegal is 95 percent Muslim, it has an influential Catholic minority. Moreover, Jewish communities existed in Senegal and Mali in the

past. After the dream, Ambroise thought of building a school that welcomes children of all religions.

In 2004, Ambroise and Delaila moved to Korea to raise the money needed to finance the school. For four years, Delaila gave English lessons while Ambroise learned Korean and sought support to buy the school grounds and erect the building. In 2008, the school opened and welcomed fifty pupils. A Korean NGO provided financial support for several years but suddenly stopped. Delaila then prayed and desperately started to look for financial support through Facebook. Her prayers were answered in an unusual way.

## Responding to terror

January 2015: For three days in a row, terrorist attacks shook Paris. On Sunday, January 11, more than 1.5 million people marched in Paris, with forty-four heads of state in the procession. This tragedy was a revelation for Bénédicte Suzuki. She and her husband, Unificationists from the 1,275-couple blessing, were living in Roubaix, in the north of France, a city plagued by socio-economic problems



Bénédicte Suzuki (in the gray blouse) with her knitting club, which makes clothes to fit specific premature babies. *Title page:* One objective of Bénédicte's twenty-one-year course is to make the school in Senegal self-sufficient. Part of that is sack gardening to produce vegetables that fetch high prices in Senegal.

and tensions among communities. Bénédicte was active in her community and in the Women's Federation for World Peace, but the terror attacks in Paris prompted her to do something more. She launched an association project entitled *Femmes au Secours de la Paix* (Women Rescuing Peace). Her association honors the memory of victims of terrorism each year and provides comfort to bereaved families. A knitting club prepares specific clothes for premature children born into poor families. While Bénédicte was launching her association, she saw the call for donations from Delaila, in Senegal. Moved by the project, Bénédicte made an action plan, focusing on specific projects and funding. The financial and humanitarian help to the school in Keur Massar has become the international component of Femmes au Secours de la Paix's charity work. The money for which mostly comes from crowdfunding.

**Combining internal and external goals**  
Bénédicte Suzuki has an internal vision behind her actions. Besides fulfilling some traditional goals of any other NGO, her NGO also serves providential goals. "In our church, we give much education through lectures and seminars," she said, "and when our volunteers work in the school, they receive internal guidance and do lecture practice, as in any other summer workshop. But we also need concrete projects that substantiate

Cheon Il Guk. A school helps create a better environment for witnessing. Moreover, I want to help Ambroise and Delaila Diagne to accomplish their 430 couples. Through prayer, I understood that by laying this foundation away from home, I laid a foundation to accomplish my 430 myself in my city."

At the beginning of 2015, she and her husband Hideo talked about starting a twenty-one-year course. "It seemed realistic considering that, twenty-one years from then he would be eighty-one years old and I seventy-nine years old. This discussion with my husband was another seed for the creation of my association. Before we go to the spiritual world, we should leave a legacy, a project that can have positive consequences for the future."

#### **Financial autonomy and sack gardening**

Bénédicte wants the school to be autonomous in 2020. "We launched the project of sack gardening with the idea of sustainable growth for the school, because we can't always depend on crowdfunding. Last year, we gave sack gardens to poor families but without training, they did not manage to take care of them. This year I decided to put big gardens in the schoolyard and turn this into a community project. Vegetables are expensive in Dakar." (Regarding sack-gardening, see [\[ing-sack-gardens\]\(#\)\)](http://www.goalglobal.org/stories/post/sustainable-garden-</a></p>
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Another plan is to build a brick bread oven in the schoolyard, bake bread and sell it to make an income. Ambroise had a small store built on the ground floor of the school that generates some income through rent from a woman who sells fries and chicken. In 2017, the goal was to buy the land in front of the school for a playground. Ambroise borrowed the money from his brother who works in Canada and took a job to reimburse him (€12,000). He works hard at tuna processing in the port of Dakar for a Korean company. (He speaks Korean fluently). The director of the company, a Korean Christian, knows that Ambroise is a Unificationist and respects him. Last year, he donated 120 packs of canned tuna to the kids at the end of the school year. Delaila has had to take a leading role in the school's management. People in the neighborhood see her as a true Senegalese who invests her soul into the school.

#### **The 2018 summer project**

From July 17 to August 1, for the fourth consecutive year, Bénédicte brought volunteers to work in the school. Ambroise took a week off from work. His wife Delaila, Bénédicte and Christopher Jones, the national messiah to Senegal from the UK, were the senior staff. Some second-generation European members came—Victor Vanalderwelt, from the same community as Bénédicte in France, Harue Penham-André from Austria, Bene-



Above: The logo for the charity Bénédicte Suzuki formed to support projects such as the school in Senegal (pictured right), which Ambroise Diagne, a former national leader of Senegal, and Delaila, his wife, who is from the Philippines, founded to educate children in desperately poor families.



dict Vitai, from the UK, and Melanie Komagata from Switzerland. Second generation Senegalese members also took part—Monica, Emilio and Joseph, who are Ambroise and Delaila’s children, and Seijin, Kathy and Gabriel. Two non-Unificationists, a different Ambroise (from France) and David, a guest of Christopher Jones, also helped. Those from Europe arrived earlier and prepared for the program. A beautiful ceremony to end the school term took place on July 20. The best students received prizes. At a Family Festival, eight couples received the blessing and four people became ambassadors for peace.

For two weeks, the volunteers focused mostly on two projects. One was the tiling the large meeting room floor of the primary school building. The more exciting project was learning about sack gardening. In order to install the garden sacks, they had to collect pebbles from the sea for ten sacks; they installed three large ones in the school and seven miniature ones for salad and cabbage. They will install seven sacks next to the school on the property of a vegetable producer, who is inspired by this kind of culture and who helped them greatly with small plants for the sacks. They planted cabbage, salad, onions, okra, cucumbers and zucchini.

#### Educational activities


The participants were also involved in several educational activities, making them more familiar with some Senegalese issues or with some concepts of the culture of peace.

On July 24, they received Mr. André Lambert, the president of the association Babacar and Bénita, which works in Dakar to help orphan *talibé* (child-students of the Quran) poorly treated by *darahs* (a term meaning “imams”) and to help the *darahs*, who are generally good people but to whom the parents just give their children without giving the money to feed them. Mr. Lambert explained who the *talibé* children in Senegal are and why often they are sent to beg in the streets. Two months ago, a little boy died suddenly, after receiving a severe beating for not having brought back enough money. Bénédicte bought some products made by handicapped children and will sell them in France.

On July 26, they visited the eco-peace village of Pout ([international-sufi-school.org/en/content/iss-centre-pout](http://international-sufi-school.org/en/content/iss-centre-pout)). They learned about a peace village and peace citizenship. The International Sufi School has acquired ten hectares of land in the Village of Pout. The land is a space where the adherents to the school’s philosophy of nonviolence are presently experiencing the conditions for the making of a global peace village in the twenty-first century based on Sheikh Ahmadou Bamba’s teachings of non-violence and service.

On July 27, they visited Gorée Island, where True Mother offered a prayer for the liberation of Africa on January 19, 2018. There was also a

cup-stacking competition for fifty-five students of Grand Yoff High School in Dakar. Cup stacking is an individual and team sport that involves stacking nine or twelve specially designed cups in pre-determined sequences as fast as you can. Participants in the sport stack cups in specific sequences, by aligning the inside left lateral adjunct of each cup with that of the next. Sequences are usually pyramids of three, six or ten cups. Proponents of the sport say participants learn cooperation, ambidexterity and hand-eye coordination. Koreans are excellent in this new sport. ([en.wikipedia.org/wiki/sport\\_stacking](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/sport_stacking)) Femmes au Secours de la paix launched this sport in France, where it had not previously existed. It helps project a dynamic image of the association. They also visited Miss Aisha Deme, chairperson of the Music in Africa Foundation at a cultural music center, where she received them with great enthusiasm. [www.musicinafrica.net/about/board-members/aisha-deme-chairperson](http://www.musicinafrica.net/about/board-members/aisha-deme-chairperson)

Of course, they did not forget tourism and entertainment. Thanks to a generous donation of €2,000 from Christopher Jones, the whole party spent two days in Sobo Bade Resort. They also visited Pink Lake and the Monument to African Renaissance in Dakar. 

The writer, iPeaceTV’s French presenter, has based this in part on information received from Bénédicte Suzuki.

# Home Life as Tribal Messiah Outreach

*As part of the Seonghwa anniversary event, the FFWPU International Headquarters held a workshop in a room above the main hall at the Cheongpyeong Training Center for new leaders and seasoned leaders in new posts. One of the speakers was David Earle, who with his wife Patricia, practices a lifestyle of tribal messiah outreach. This article is an edited transcript of parts of his presentation that day.*

By David Earle

**M**y wife is not here, so, I'm at 50 percent power. We have been doing tribal messiahship for many years and we work as a team, as a couple. That's part of our "secret." Patricia is from Belgium. Everywhere we have gone in our mission and travels, she always did home church—in London, in Manchester, in Massachusetts, in New Jersey and in Birmingham. Mother said, "Tribal messiahship is like an extension of home church."

Though we have been working as a couple, we feel that we are all working together—we are working with you and you are working with us. I hope that through my presentation,

you can connect to my city, Birmingham, and feel that we are working together.

Sometimes, the national leader can be a lonely position. If you feel connected, it's not so lonely. Tribal messiahship is the same. You can hear 430 couples or some other goal and you feel that it is difficult, unless you feel connected to each other. That is behind my presentation. I'll share just a few points about motivation and a little about methodology. We have been working at tribal messiahship for about twenty-seven years. I hope some of the things I say will be helpful to you.

Birmingham is a city of one million, one hundred thousand people, but it is almost 25 percent Muslim. Imagine! There are a hundred and sixty mosques in a West European city. The whole world is in Birmingham. We have many Afghanis, Africans, people from Syria, different places. My wife and I find that exciting. A religious leader came to Birmingham last year from Ghana. He is a wonderful person and unusual because he was Sunni and he became Shia. That's not simple. He's open-minded and he loves the Family Federation; he loves UPF. He loves our work. We were able to give the blessing in his mosque, which had been a dream of ours for twenty-five years—not just to bring people to the blessing but to take the blessing into a mosque. I will tell you more about that later.





Above: David Earle delivering the presentation that is the source of this article, at the Cheongpyeong Training Center; Title page: Lord King (1937–2013) and his wife Mohinder, whom the Earles met through helping a non-Unificationist community service group

### Connect in heart

I went to Dakar, Senegal, in January. The main thing in Senegal I did was meet Dr. Sakena Yacoobi, a co-recipient of the Sun Hak Peace Prize. I felt I had come to Senegal to meet this person. I invited her, "Please come to Birmingham to speak," and she said, "Yes, I'll come." She's already come twice to speak in Birmingham. She is like the Mother Teresa of Afghanistan and the Middle East. She spoke to more than two hundred people in our home and spoke on a radio show.

She was an incredible choice by True Mother. When she finished speaking in our home, she wanted to record a special message to send to True Mother. She sent this message to True Mother straight away, because when she first met True Mother, she connected deeply in heart with True Mother.

### The driving force

I'm coming now to my main topic, motivation. I used the words, "our responsibility" and "calling." If you were born into our movement, perhaps it's not simple. Certainly, most of us in the first generation to join our movement feel God called us. We had deep experiences to have this sense of a calling. To feel a sense not of having to do this, or being told to do this, but that this is my calling is important for tribal messiahship. God needs me to do this. When

Father was lifting bags of fertilizer in Hungnam, he said in his autobiography that he was born to do that. That creates a different approach to what you are doing.

Father talked a lot about tribal messiahship in the early 1990s. We were in America at the time. In Belvedere, we were sitting on the grass, and Father was speaking about hometown. He said, If you feel you should go to your hometown, you should go. We had a deep feeling inside that we should go to our hometown.

This made no sense: I had just gotten a green card [legal US residency]. I'd spent three years and a lot of money for legal fees to get a green card. I had a good job. The green card was waiting in London. All our future was in America, and then we heard Father. We felt we should go.

We felt a calling and we prayed deeply. It was not an easy decision; we had three small children, but we decided to go back. We've never regretted that decision; for us tribal messiahship is a calling. Our fundamental motivation is that we felt called by God through True Parents.

### The warmth of a home

When we arrived back in the UK, we had just brought some toys for our children and our children's clothes. We had nothing, but within a year, we had a house. Why is that remarkable? When my wife joined, her parents kidnapped

her; they handed her over to deprogrammers. They disinherited her. We came back to the UK following God's calling and within a year, her father bought us this house. And this house has been the basis for all of our tribal messiahship. We feel that someone inviting us into their home is something beautiful and it's a privilege for us to invite someone into our home. That aspect of godliness is in home church.

As the number of guests has increased, we've had to make the house bigger. We had to extend the house four times. We had to extend our kitchen three times. This is the center of our work. Making people feel part of our family, our Unification family, and to treat each other like brothers and sisters is part of our motivation. If we go to a mosque or a church, we want to feel as if we are part of their family. Everything else follows that. If people feel part of our family, they will want to do things with us. They want to go to the blessing or come to Korea because they feel a heart connection. That for us is the bottom line, a heart connection, a sense of trust that we can build. Whether it is us going into a church or a mosque or welcoming people into our house, we want to take care of people as members of our family.

In our living room, we can seat around a hundred and twenty people. We had to build an extension from what used to be a garage for cars. We made it into a meeting room. Over the last twenty-five years, maybe ten thousand people have come through this room. Sometimes we have forty or fifty nationalities in the room. It is a fantastic feeling.

We began at zero and it went up steadily over the years. When we have study evenings, we meet in the kitchen before we go to study the Principle in the other room. Sometimes the kitchen meeting is more important than studying the Principle, because people begin to feel that sense of family. They meet somebody, they start to chat and they eat together. Sometimes I have to ring a bell to get people to go from the kitchen into the other room. People are so happy, talking and making friends. Then they look forward to coming back to meet their friends.

### Make an offering

The second important aspect for us is to offer everything upward. That's part of our motivation. My wife and I are not so interested in personal tribal messiahship—whether it is forty, 430 or four thousand. We never counted the number; we just wanted to bless people. We just want to keep blessing people. It is important to offer everything upward. Rev. Song Yong-cheon was like a brother to us. We wanted to offer results to him to inspire him so that he could inspire True Parents and ultimately they could inspire God. Offering things upward is part of

our method, if you like.

We do not take ourselves too seriously. It may seem like we have blessed many people but it's just a drop in the ocean. We never saw tribal messiahship as a purely personal thing. I like the idea that we are doing it together. If you do it in your community or nation, have a sense of togetherness; we are in this together. We can rejoice over each other's happiness.

Of course, we want to bring the people we meet to the blessing, a unique event when they can receive grace from God through True Parents, but we feel that before and after the blessing are also important. We commit ourselves to these couples and go on an eternal journey with them. That is our commitment to a couple as we bring them to the blessing. It's exciting, but it means we have to grow with that couple.

### The journey

We've known some of these people for more than twenty years. One such gentleman, when we first met was not important; today he is the national co-chair for an interfaith group in Britain. He is in Korea at this time at the leadership conference. We've kept in touch with him. We always send him a Christmas card and we phone him sometimes. He came to Korea representing a national organization.

We commit to going on a journey with each couple or family because we want to arrive at the same destination together. I feel the same about you. I want to be at the same destination with you. If you aren't there, I'll come back to get you. If I'm not there, I hope you'll come back to get me. So the blessing is an important event but its not the only event. Before and after the blessing are parts of the journey.

Connected to going on a journey is the need to grow. If you start out at one point and later bless 430 couples, in the process, you should grow; you should be different people, because of your investment and your heart. Father said, "I have prepared a mountain of treasures for you. You will inherit them once you become a

Dr. Sakena Yacoobi spoke to more than two hundred people in the Earle's home, which has been renovated to serve as a key component of their tribal messiah work. More than ten thousand people have been in this room over the years.







Patricia Earle (*foreground, in pink*) consistently made the necessary effort to do home church activities in the various places her family has resided. In Birmingham, in a home provided by her father, the Earle's home life and church life appear synonymous.

messiah," and just before Father passed away, he said, "I give you the name 'tribal messiah.'" We have to grow into that responsibility. "God will not help you, nor will I, my children or other church members. Still, follow me. Walk the same path I walked in the past. Afterward, you will have freedom."

### Small acts of kindness

Another thing I like about tribal messiah work is that by relating to all of these people, you gradually become freer; you have fewer barriers. My children are also free, having grown up with all of the people you've seen in my house. They know people from Africa, the Middle East, everywhere. In the caring professions, they don't have any barriers to caring for people. It hasn't been easy for them because we've had public lives. It was a bit hard for them because our house was public.

In terms of how we work, we have a secret ingredient: Do small things consistently. Everyone can do small acts of kindness—a birthday card, a telephone call, visiting somebody in the hospital—but to do them consistently is not easy. Small acts of kindness done consistently and treating others as family builds trust. We send our Christian friends an Easter card. In Islam, they say the ones who feed those who are fasting get ten times the blessing. We visit hundreds of our close Muslim friends during

Ramadan. It's an effort, in the evening when you're tired, but once you're there, it's a beautiful experience. That's the foundation for our work. Our children have inherited that, too. They will bake a cake and take it to our neighbors. That is the magic ingredient to our work—not something theological or big. My wife's favorite quotation is from Mother Teresa, "Not all of us can do great things but we can all do small things with great love."

### Bringing extremes together

Another thing we like to do is to connect to and serve people from the top of society to the bottom of society. In the UK, we have a good foundation in Parliament. We have had perhaps two hundred meetings in the British Parliament. We meet members of Parliament at the top. One problem in our work today is that often politicians forget the people at the bottom, not necessarily deliberately; they are so involved in meetings in Parliament. Likewise, the people at the bottom don't trust the people at the top. In your work as national leaders, if you meet your president or prime minister or religious leaders, don't forget the people at the bottom. If you are working at the bottom, try to connect that to the top. I will give you some examples.

I organized street cleaning in Birmingham and through that, we met a member of Parlia-



Birmingham's Interfaith Peace Blessing 2017 attracted people with roots in Iran, Pakistan, Poland, Somalia, India, Kashmir, etc., and whose faiths included Christianity, Sikhism, Arya Samaj (Indian Hinduism) and Islamism. Some Non-Unificationists were active in carrying out the ceremony.

ment. Not long ago, my wife joined a women's group and went door-to-door, helping raise money with a Sikh organization. You might ask, What value is that to us? The value was that we met Lord King. We were raising money for the elderly. They lady in charge told my wife, You bring some white elderly people. I will bring some Asian elderly people. We have black elderly people.

The guest speaker at the event was Lord King, who became the foundation for all of our work in the British Parliament. He was one of two people, chosen by Mother, who spoke at Father's Seonghwa Ceremony. The point is, try to connect the bottom and the top. He is an incredible person but we met him from the bottom.

Another point is to utilize women's unique qualities. Father said, "In the Last Days women need to take the lead in overcoming conflict, strife and division with their motherly love and create a new history of reconciliation and unity." For my wife and me, the age of women is the age of the couple. Yet, women have a unique role to play in blessing and in tribal messiahship. If you make a connection to the women, you can reach the husband, the children, the community. Women are of course concerned about their children's education, purity and future. Women are usually looking to be peacemakers, to reconcile and bring others together.

We have regular activities connecting to people and doing little acts of kindness. We have regular activities that we can invite people to and build friendships: peace meetings, family evenings, where we share the Principle, interfaith worship and the Interfaith Peace Blessing, which we hold at least once a year. We hold those four activities on a regular basis. We invite brothers and sisters and we invite our friends.

#### Events that draw people

We have speakers from all over the world. Someone will come to speak about Syria or Afghanistan or Turkey. We will hold a discussion and we will see what we might do help

practically. At a typical family evening, people come to study the Principle—old, young, black, white, oriental. We hold interfaith worship services in a Muslim educational institution.

We have Family Federation, UPF and the Women's Federation. Through these, you can connect to just about anybody. We've found that when these organizations work together, amazing things happen. Even if you are not part of UPF or Women's Federation, keep up with their activities because that gives you the capacity to talk to people about what we are doing.

Not long ago, I was in London so my wife had to take a taxi to a meeting. The driver was from Afghanistan. Patricia spoke to him about Dr. Yacoobi, and at the end of the journey, she asked him how much it was, and he said, You're my guest. You don't need to pay. She wanted to pay, but she gave him our card and he came to our next family evening and he came to the blessing with his wife. She had something she could connect with him about.

#### Floodgates are opening

In Western Europe, we are trying to take the blessing to the mosque or church. So we need to connect to the good work being done in society. If we go into communities, work with those communities, recognize their goodness and devotion so they feel comfortable with us, it's possible to bring the blessing into those communities. It takes a bit of time and we sometimes have to change our mind-set a bit to do that.

The women in one mosque completely accept Patricia. They all face Islamophobia and many difficulties. We have helped that mosque to reach out to their local community. Last December 23, their young people wrapped two thousand roses and on each rose put a label with a saying from Prophet Mohammed on one side and one from the Bible on the other. On the city streets in Birmingham, they gave the roses to members of the public as a gesture of peace and goodwill. We can do this with them because they trust us.

For two or three years we considered how to



At interfaith Blessing Ceremonies, the Earles display symbols of various faith so that each couple, from whatever faith, might feel comfortable, recognized and respected.

bring the blessing into this mosque. We began giving blessing presentations to elderly people. Some of their people had come to the interfaith peace blessing, but we were thinking of how we could bring the blessing to their mosque. Seven or eight weeks ago, it happened. They were having a national meeting, all the ladies in one room, all the men in another. My wife had had a dream the night before that we were giving the blessing in a religious place. She didn't know if it was a church or a mosque.

We prepared holy juice and brought a hundred cups. People had come to the mosque from all over the UK. When she got there, she realized it is possible to give the blessing today, but there were about two hundred and fifty people. She called me to ask me to bring more cups and holy juice. My phone was on silent. When I got the call, I had thirty minutes to multiply holy juice, get more cups and rush to the mosque. They had just finished their prayers. Five ladies went around with the juice on trays with them. There was such a beautiful, holy feeling! They took it with such devotion. They all took the holy nectar.

Since people had come from London, Leicester and other cities we can take the blessing into their communities. Patricia already has gone to Peterborough. She has laid the foundation to take the blessing to those cities. One lady there is the wife of their president in Europe, so we have the possibility of going to Europe.

It's all on the foundation of trust—at Ramadan breaking fast with them, making friends. You know True Mother's expression "create the environment for witnessing." We feel this is doing that; going to where people are and building friendships and trust, being with them and becoming part of them.

We feel it's important to provide education before giving the blessing. People who receive this education tend to come even if they are involved in other activities. We have a nice slide presentation developed by Tim Miller. We try to give this one-to-one in our home or to groups of people, in this case in a mosque. We tell people, You are renewing your relationship as a couple

so it is a personal experience. As a couple, you are going to become part of a new lineage, create a new future, but you are doing this with people from all over the world. This blessing is taking place in Korea, in Turkey, in Afghanistan. People are so inspired, in our experience, because it's personal but it is connecting them with brothers and sisters all over the world.

We've held the blessing in a church, in a Hindu temple, in a Christian community center; in the Hindu temple in 2017, we had made plans for a hundred and fifty people. People started coming and coming and coming. Over three hundred people came. The floodgates opened. I am confident that wherever you are in the world, the gates are opening for the blessing. In whatever your country, the gates will open.

#### A summary

This work has allowed Patricia and me to bring our family together—the concept of the Cain-type tribe and the Abel-type tribe... There was fighting in our family, but we could bring them all together on this foundation. In summary, consistently invest in people—directly or by telephone, whatever. Commit to going on a journey with people; that's an eternal commitment. Discover the beauty of sharing the Principle. Try to make the Principle relevant to their particular day-to-day lives. Give them access to True Parents' lives; give them the autobiography. Share your personal testimony. UPF, Women's Federation... Share all our activities with them. From the top to the bottom of society, bring people to the blessing and beyond. Whatever you do, wrap everything in love.

Develop an unconditional heart. Of course, that's a constant challenge, a never-ending journey. Let's keep moving forward together, you and me, Birmingham and Kyrgyzstan, Birmingham and Afghanistan. Let's do it together. *PE*

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*David Earle, along with his wife Patricia, is the leader of FFWPU in Birmingham, in the United Kingdom.*



# 천지인참부모님 주관 신한국가정연합 공직자 효정 특별집회

천일국 6년 천력 7월 26일 (양 9.5)

천정궁 채플실

신한국가정연합