

True Peace

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OCTOBER 2018





Toward True Global Liberation

By Lee Ki-sung



I am so happy that my beloved brothers and sisters around the world are working hard to spread true family values in your respective regions. On October 14, 1950, True Father was liberated from the Hungnam concentration camp in North Korea. Sixty-eight years ago, Father was freed. Sixty-eight years later, we can see the tremendous advances that have been made in the providence and we know that the time has come for the providence to advance toward the realization of heavenly nations and a heavenly world. I feel gratitude when I think of members on the frontline who are offering your internal and external support. I am grateful for your jeongseong, but one person, more than anyone else today, has been preparing for this day. She is the only daughter of our Heavenly Parent. She is the substantial Holy Spirit. She is the

True Mother of Heaven, Earth and Humankind.

Korea has built a reputation as the homeland of filial piety, of patriotism and of dedication to one's work. Beyond any worldly accomplishments, however, Korea derives its eternal value as the birthplace of our True Parents. That we know and can attend True Parents is a blessing. The True Parents that we attend each day are the fulfillment of the purpose for which God created the heavens and the earth.

Due to the fall of Adam and Eve, Heavenly Parent has had to lead the painful course of restoration through indemnity. God sent True Parents to earth to realize the ideal he envisaged at the time of the Creation. As a result of True Parents being born on earth, all humanity can be born again based on True Parents' Holy Wedding. All of humanity can now attend True Parents as the center and we can all form one family under God.

But the path that our True Parents have taken is not an easy one. They had to fight with numerous demons; they had to overcome unspeakable calumny, misunderstandings and persecution. True Parents' path has been one covered in blood, sweat and tears; nevertheless, today we can see that True Parents have laid a foundation in all continents and nations in the world. Our True Parents are the most amazing people ever born. Therefore, no matter what political or religious opposition has come against them, they never gave up but persevered until they had established a global foundation.

True Parents may have begun their global mission in a difficult position, but they believed that if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you can move mountains. True Parents have provided the solution necessary to realize world peace and to solve all the problems of society from teenage delinquency to the breakdown of the family.

Beloved brothers and sisters, True Parents love your nations sincerely. They demonstrated their love in numerous world tours. To this day, True Mother continues demonstrating love for nations as members all over the world work hard to bless their tribes and to create the conditions by which True Parents might come to their nations again.

We can see that True Parents are the most amazing people who bring heavenly fortune with them. That is why despite their having been subjected to the most painful ordeals in society and in the public sphere, they were able to establish great victories. I hope that day by day you can inherit their incredible heavenly fortune. The way to accomplish that is to unite absolutely with our True Parents.

When you unite with True Mother, God's only daughter, amazing things will happen in your families and amazing things will happen in the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification. The Family Federation is now experiencing miraculous developments around the world. At this very moment, we are witnessing the realization of God's will. Heads of state in nations around the world are inviting True Mother to come to their countries. There are nations that are hosting Blessing Ceremonies at the national level. My hope is that all members in the world can inherit the miracle-causing inner life of True Parents, that you can march forward in unity and that blessings rain down on you and your families. *TP*

Rev. Lee is president of the Family Federation for a Heavenly Korea.

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The Starting Point for Victory

October 14, 2018 marks sixty-eight years since Father's release from the Hungnam Prison. The text below is from Book 3, Chapter 1, Section 4 of Cham Bumo Gyeong, collected references Father made about his Hungnam experience at various times. The photos are from God's Day 1989, on which Korean reunification was a focal point.





True Father speaking on January 1, 1989 at the Cheongpa-dong Church, where he so often spoke on Sundays and holy days.

In the spirit world, Jesus had to go to the bottom of hell for three days after his crucifixion and overcome a path of suffering there, to make the starting point of victory both in spirit and in flesh. Unless he was able to open the way to liberate those in hell, Satan would be able to accuse him; therefore, he had to make a way for them. This is the reason Jesus went to the spirits in hell and pioneered a way for them. Because I knew this principle, when I went to North Korea I was willing to go to prison there. Even while they led me away in shackles for incarceration in Pyongyang Prison, I received a promise from the spirit world that I would meet certain people in prison. In other words, I was promised, "If you go there, you will meet people who are like Jesus' three disciples." If this were not so, it would not be in accord with heavenly laws that govern the realm of fortune and restoration. That is why even the path of shackles and imprisonment can be the path of the greatest hope. In other words, I actually went to prison with hope and expectation. I knew that I would meet some person. I did not go to prison in despair. Since I went to prison with that hope, in the prison I made my own way, and through the merit of

that hard labor I enabled that door to open naturally. To do this, I had to make a total indemnity condition. I knew that while I was living in prison I had to become a sacrificial offering. This is why I took on the most difficult tasks while I was there.

After Korea's liberation, I began to propagate the word in North Korea, even though it was overflowing with my enemies. I started on that path in prison. When I went to Pyongyang Prison, I knew that I would not die. I even knew whom I would meet there. When I needed something, the spirit world would sometimes instruct other prisoners—for instance, ignorant thieves, robbers or murderers—that in a certain prison cell was an inmate with number 596, and that they should bring a certain thing to that person. When winter came and the weather grew cold, and I had no clothes to put on, they received instructions to bring me clothes. And when I was hungry because I'd had nothing to eat, the spirit world sought out people who had never met me and after telling them my name and my number, compelled them to bring me food. Such things happened, not once or twice but many times.

Since I knew that there were people prepared for me to meet in

Pyongyang Prison, where I remained until May 20, 1948, I had hope. It feels as if it were only yesterday that I saw the willow leaves brushing against the prison window. I can still recall it vividly. I met people there who had promised to follow God's will. With those meetings, Heaven's secret meetings began in the deepest valley in the land of the enemy. From there, I started to recruit Heaven's soldiers. Since families and society had cornered and driven me away, I had to start my work in this way from prison.

Moving to Hungnam

My transfer in shackles from Pyongyang Prison to Hungnam Prison took seventeen hours. What do you think was on my mind as I rode in that vehicle? I felt so miserable, thinking of God, who would have to see me in this situation. He had no one but me to restore through indemnity the six thousand years of his providence, yet I ended up in this kind of situation. I was the only one who knew what should be done for God. Can you imagine how serious I had to be as I looked at the fields and mountains through the window? At the time, I was shackled in the vehicle together with a violent thief. As I sat there, I



The 1989 motto was, "The Unification of Korea," which is still the deeply longed for objective of Heavenly Parent and True Parents.

wondered with deepest seriousness how I could survive in those circumstances.

I spent two years and eight months in Pyongyang Prison and Hungnam Prison in North Korea. This corresponded to the three years of Jesus' public life. While there, I was able to restore more than twelve people. By doing so, I restored all the conditions that Jesus had lost. Even though most of them did not follow me to the end, when I was freed from prison I put other people in their positions. Since I had completed all that I had planned to do, heaven directed the United States, the archangel nation, and UN troops to attack North Korea in order to liberate me. That was how I came out of prison. Four people continued to follow me at the time. The UN troops protected South Korea. This set a global condition for heavenly fortune to come back to the democratic world, and the work of restoring Christianity could be launched.

When Jesus had to take the path of death, the people of Israel and even his three beloved disciples betrayed him. That is why, according to the principle of restoration through indemnity, when I was in prison I had to restore through indemnity the number twelve, the same number as the twelve disciples that Jesus had

lost. Since I was in such a position, even though I did not witness at all while I was in Hungnam Prison, people in the spirit world, who belonged to the realm of the Second Israel, witnessed to twelve inmates, persuading them to follow me and fulfill that number. Such was the historical connection I experienced. Even while the communists had me under the strictest surveillance in prison, secretly, God took responsibility for preparing people who united in heart with me. All this was unknown to anyone else. While there, I could not witness openly. Yet, even when I stayed silent, the spirit world witnessed to people for me.

Existence in Hungnam Prison

October 14 is the day I came out of Hungnam Prison. Can you imagine how miserable I felt when I entered that prison? I had to survive it by any means. To survive, I had to go through a course in which I was willing to die. We did hard forced labor, and I became the prison's model worker. That was the secret of my survival. There were not just dozens of workers; there were close to ten thousand workers there. Even from among that number, the jailers chose me as the worker with the best results. Do you think that was easy to

accomplish? That is how I survived. By operating in that way, I was able to proceed toward the fulfillment of the will.

Where is the leader who will overcome the obstacles of restoration, filled with bitter sorrow? I took responsibility to digest everything—the sorrows of the people, God's bitter grief resulting from the failures of world Christianity and all the difficulties related to those. As God's co-worker, I stood on his side and re-created my path. I organized the ideal Christian cultural sphere that could resonate with my mission from God.

I was the champion laborer at the fertilizer factory in Hungnam. Because of that, all the prisoners followed me around. Every morning, the guards organized us into teams for work. They did not allow us to work with the same people every day. So, when the time came to organize teams, if I had gone to the toilet, for instance, others waited for me to come back and then lined up behind me. In this situation, all the best workers ended up joining my team and I became their leader.

I made a science out of how to tie a bag, carry it and load it onto the train. I designed the most efficient method to accomplish these tasks. Therefore,



True Parents praying on January 1, 1989.

when I worked I did not have to think about what I was doing, but was free to think of other things. I was making plans for the future, thinking about the nation and the world. While I formulated plans, I often lost track of time and the working hours flew by. Consequently, even though I was sweating as much as the others were, I did not feel exhausted. Working in this way was mentally empowering. Every time they gave out the awards, I received the award for being the model worker. That is how I survived there.

Liberation and a long trek

On August 1, 1950, during the Korean War, American B-29 bombers launched an all-out attack on Hungnam. I knew this would happen. I foresaw it. Additionally, I knew that God would protect me, providing a circle of safety twelve meters around me during the attack. I told those who were close to me to stay near me. As the bombs were falling, I meditated silently. I was not thinking of the bombing but was rather thinking about the ideal world in the future.

Ultimately, the most worthy people are those with a clear vision of the ideal. If a person were carrying out a mission of providential restoration,

sending that person to the spirit world would be a loss for God and for the cosmos. So, God desired to protect me at any cost, and in fact, he had no choice but to do so.

A few days before the UN bombers attacked, the communists began to lead some of the prisoners away. One day they started to collect hemp strings, like ones used for corpses. I intuitively felt that some kind of final reckoning was imminent. I offered a serious prayer. The guards called the prisoners one by one and explained that they were transferring them to another place. The prisoners did not realize it, but I knew it was their final call. They threw each of the prisoners upside down into a well, killing them. The next day, my turn would have arrived, but that very night, at 2:00 AM, the UN troops launched an all-out attack, and thanks to them that I was able to leave Hungnam Prison alive.

The UN troops bombed North Korea in 1950. The first place they bombed was the Hungnam area. The place they bombed was close to Hungnam Prison, where they were holding me at the time. Thanks to the UN troops, I was able to walk out of prison. There are many behind-the-scenes stories of how this came about. From Hungnam, which is located on the east coast, I returned to Pyong-

yang on foot. I walked from the shores of the East Sea all the way to Pyongyang, which is in the west. Once I arrived in Pyongyang, I informed every person who had followed me previously that I had returned. I searched for all my disciples. Even though most of them did not come back, I was able to gather a few people together.

I was set free on October 14, 1950, and after following the coast of the East Sea for a short distance, I walked to Pyongyang, accompanied by four followers who had been in the labor camp with me. When we reached the border between North Pyong-an Province and South Pyong-an Province, we discovered that the North Korean soldiers who were fleeing over the mountain passes were executing anyone whom they believed harbored defiant thoughts toward communism. Our path brought us directly through just such a mountain pass. They were lining up dozens of people and killing them, but we were not in our prison uniforms, so the North Korean soldiers did not recognize us as the enemy. Four times during that journey, we faced such life-and-death situations. *☞*

The text has been edited for inclusion in TP magazine.



Recognize and Fulfill Your Destiny

True Mother gave this speech at the Cheongshim Peace World Center on October 14 as the keynote address at the 2018 Rally of Hope for Hyojeong and True Families in Chungcheong Province, which is Korea's Subregion Three.



True Mother spoke affectionately to members from Chungcheong Province who had come to the Cheongshim Peace World Center to offer the results of their prayerful hard work to Heavenly Parent and True Parents.

Distinguished guests, leaders from various backgrounds, peace ambassadors and blessed families from

Sub-Region Three: I love you all! I thought about the Chinese character “chung” [忠 loyalty]. It is a combination of the characters “jung” [中 center] and “shim” [心 heart]. This is why I love Chungcheong Province. The character “chung” is closer to a heart wanting to live for all ordinary citizens than one that wants to be loyal to one leader. Those people will also be the ones whom God, the Creator and owner of the universe, wants to embrace, people who have lived attending Heaven and longing for Heaven in the center of their hearts.

When we look at the world today, however, we conclude that we cannot become one when we think, judge and act from a human perspective. The center of the universe is Heavenly Parent, our Creator. He created everything in his image. From the mineral world to the plant world and the animal world, he created them—plus

and minus, male and female, stamen and pistil. Finally, he created a man and woman to become the first human ancestors.

He gave a period of growth to the man and woman, whom he had created to be the first human ancestors. They had to grow while maintaining their oneness with God. They had to practice absolute faith, absolute love and absolute obedience. Unfortunately, the man and woman God created to become the first human ancestors (called Adam and Eve in the Bible) began to think centered on themselves and to feel selfish desire, [as if thinking,] I can also become like God! This has resulted in today’s fallen human race, which has no relationship with God.

Working to save us behind the scenes God, the Creator, has the same beginning and end. God is omniscient and omnipotent. How then could he passively observe fallen humanity? Heaven, therefore, began the providence of salvation and the providence of restoration through indemnity in

order to find every lost human being. As described in the Bible, God chose the people of Israel as his people and continued the providence until they were able to establish a national foundation. How difficult must this effort have been that it took Almighty God four thousand long years!

Finally, his only son, Jesus Christ, whom he could call, “my son,” was born. Yet, what happened? The people of that time betrayed Heaven repeatedly, afflicting pain on God. God sent Jesus Christ, his only son, to become humanity’s first good ancestor, in accordance with God’s principles involving the Creation, yet the people of Israel were unable to form a protective fence around Jesus. Jesus, therefore, had no choice but to take the path of the cross.

When crucifixion befell Jesus, his disciples, Mary’s family and Zachariah’s family, the Jewish leaders and the people of Israel, were not by his side. The only people with him were the thief on his right and the thief on his left. . . . As he died on the cross, Jesus promised to return. He said he would



①



②



③



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come back to hold the marriage supper of the Lamb.

After Jesus died on the cross, the Holy Spirit brought about rebirth, and Christianity could begin through the disciples. For two thousand years, however, Christianity did not know the true nature of Jesus' mission. They could not clearly explain God. As a result, they created many problems. How can the communist doctrine, which asserts that God does not exist, emerge from within the Christian sphere, among those who believe in God?

That is because they do not know of Heaven's providence and the truth. God, however, continued to carry out his promise. He, therefore, chose a new people amidst whom he could send his only daughter as the wife of Jesus, who had promised to return and conduct the marriage supper of the Lamb. That people was the Korean people.

Korea is a blessed land

In other words, the Korean people are a people whom Heaven has blessed. The Korean people suffered

many ordeals and hardships throughout history. Not a day passed in comfort. Being a people whom God had chosen, Koreans needed to bear all these ordeals to receive greater blessings.

Next year, we will be celebrating the hundredth anniversary of the March 1 Independence Movement [in Korea]. Why do you think they initiated such a movement? That was because the time had come for the birth of God's only daughter, who is the key to bringing Heaven's providence to its ultimate completion. God's only daughter had to be born on a Christian foundation and under circumstances in which the payment of all indemnity was complete.

The Vatican recently revealed a letter of gratitude that a Pope wrote to King Chung Suk (1294–1339) of the Goryeo Dynasty. This is evidence that God had been preparing for his only daughter to be born in this nation. All religions, in particular, have entered and borne fruit in this nation. All religions, however, should also be able to explain clearly what their destination or end is.

- ① A recently blessed, intergenerational couple, Ok Jin-yeob and Moon Yoon-hye, who gave their Hyo Jeong Testimonies onstage as part of the program that day present flowers to True Mother.
- ② Rev. Lee Ki-sung president of FFWPU for a Heavenly Korea gave a welcoming address.
- ③ Song In-young, subregional leader of North Chungcheong Province (subregion 3)
- ④ A Sun Moon University professor conducted the choir.
- ⑤ Among several fine performances was one by the Sun Moon HJ Culture and Arts Group.

The dream that the most omniscient, omnipotent and absolute Heavenly Parent and Creator wanted to achieve through the providence was to embrace all 7.6 billion people on earth as his children. Humanity's hope may have not been clear, but to this day, humanity's desire to advance toward the absolute and central being has resulted in the birth of religions.

The starting point of each religion in each area may be different, but they are all heading toward the same objective just like separate streams that meet and form one big stream moving toward the ocean.

This also means that you must put on new clothes after you get rid of all



A view of the 2018 Rally of Hope for Hyo Jeong and True Families on Sunday October 14 at the Cheongshim Peace World Center

the habits you have insisted on and lived by, and get rid of the clothes you have worn until now. Heaven has prepared the environment that will enable this people to complete their final responsibilities.

From freedom to division

In 1943, God's only daughter, who was to become a True Parent, was born. Around this period, Korea was facing difficult circumstances. This was a time when Korea was not a nation [because Japan had annexed it]. The standard desired by Heaven, however, was for the True Parents of humanity to emerge on a national foundation. Koreans could not create such an environment, though.

Korea's liberation came in 1945. Soon after, it divided into North Korea and South Korea, one communist, one democratic. North Korea already had an established system that was fully equipped and ready to invade South Korea. South Korea, however, was still in the preparation stages. Five years passed under such circumstances after which the Korean War finally broke out.


God, the Creator, gave Adam and Eve, whom he had created to become the good ancestors of humanity, a period of growth. Likewise, God's only daughter, following her birth in 1943, needed a period of growth.

South Korea, back then, had no power to fight against North Korea. Heaven therefore mobilized the United Nations forces. Soldiers from sixteen nations intervened for Korea and shed blood in a good cause in this nation. You need to understand that this was due to none other than God's love and blessings to achieve the providence through this people.

A new era is opening through True Parents' emergence. Now, not only Koreans, but all of humanity is passionately welcoming God's only daughter, the True Mother. Early in November this year, a twenty-thousand-person rally will take place in the United States centered on pastors. This is what they say. They have lived their entire lives centered on the Bible, but now some wonder how they had lived without understanding some-

thing as natural as the concept of God's only daughter. Some deeply repented and have expressed how much they love True Mother, God's only daughter. They are conducting the Blessing Ceremony in their own churches.

Will you be responsible?

Blessed families and other members of our Chungcheong sub-region, whom I especially love, will you as people who live in this area beautifully named with the characters "chung" and "cheong," and located right in the middle of all five sub-regions, stand at the center of the providence in attendance to our Heavenly Parent and True Parents and take the lead in realizing national and global restoration? [Yes!] That is why today I proclaim Chungcheong to be Heavenly Chungcheong. Citizens of the Heavenly Chungcheong nation, I sincerely hope that you become leaders in the nation of Chungcheong—in the center of national restoration—and testify in front of the whole world about our Heavenly Parent. 



The Role of Japanese Missionaries in Korea

True Mother invited all Japanese members in Korea, all of whom she considers missionaries, to the Cheongpyeong Heaven and Earth Training Center to speak to them on October 19. This is what she said to perhaps four thousand people that day.



Japanese members came from all throughout Korea when True Mother called them on short notice. This was during the mountain hiking season when many hiking clubs had rented buses, causing many Japanese members to find alternative means of getting to the Cheongpyeong Heaven and Earth Training Center to see True Mother.

October is the season of bearing fruit. Isn't it the harvest season? The results of your hard work in obedience to Gods' will for the past thirty years made you who you are today. It is something for which to be grateful. When children come home from school and open the door, who do they look for first? Mom! Mother! Did you also do that?

I know that among you, there are people who have had to endure indescribable situations. You experienced unimaginably difficult conditions; however, this was not because you personally did something wrong but because you are in a position that requires you to indemnify historical and collective failures of responsibility.

Are you happy to see me today? Let me then convey to you even more joyful news. Those who are celebrating their birthday today, please raise your hands. Those with birthdays today, please come forward. How many are there? I heard there was only one person. More people are coming forward.

You all have husbands, don't you? Have you ever received a birthday present from your husbands? [Only one of the eight women answered the questions clearly.] No? Have they ever said congratulations to you? No. Did they ever say, Happy Birthday? Oh, you didn't even get that.

Now that I reflect on it, I also never heard the words, Happy birthday! I love you! because for the past fif-

ty-eight years Father and I celebrated our birthdays on the same date. I would like to present you with birthday presents on behalf of your husbands. I was estimating about seven people today. We have one more person. Eight is a good number, the number of "restarting." I'll take a photograph with all of you.

Because you received Korean husbands... Men in Korea particularly are not charming because of the Confucian ideas that they have long maintained. Hence, today, I would like to give to you eight people what you haven't received until now. You are indemnifying everything. It would be great if I could finish everything nicely in this manner. Would you listen, however, if I say a few words that you may not like? It is all for you.

Unexpected restoration

The history of Heaven's providence of restoration through indemnity was something that our Heavenly Parent, the Creator, did not expect. Each person, however, has to fulfill a portion of responsibility based on the principle of creation that Heavenly Parent established. As a result, God has never been able to relax for even a moment due to his constant concern for humankind. He had to wait patiently for True Parents to emerge. From the perspective of Heavenly Parent, True Parents were supposed to begin their course on a national foundation, a position where the nation welcomed them.

When it comes to solving problems arising within or between countries, no matter how great a deed an individual or NGO group does, they will still have a long way to go without a national foundation to support them. However, if on a national level they reach agreements one-on-one between countries such initiatives will multiply easily.

The loss of Jesus

In order to restore all human beings that have fallen, Heaven needed the long period of four thousand years until he could find that one son from among all people, to whom he could say, "You are my son." The painful history God had to endure in order to restore fallen people, who could not be trusted and who habitually betrayed him, I cannot express in words. Sadly, the right environment for the people to receive God's only son could not be established. We also know that on several occasions throughout his thirty-three years of life, Jesus spoke to Mary about his need to marry. And Mary was responsible for finding a wife for Jesus.

Even though she had conceived Jesus amidst Heaven's protection and had received a revelation related to this, she still did not know the true nature of Jesus' mission. She was unaware of her own responsibilities. In the end, the circumstances within which Jesus could fulfill his responsibility were lost to him. As a result, he could not avoid going the way of the cross. Mary was not by Jesus' side



when he died on the cross. Neither were his disciples. Nor were the people that he had prepared through offering many devotions with him. Just a thief on his right and a thief on his left were with him.

How appalled would God have felt upon seeing this? When Jesus died on the cross, he promised to come again. He promised to return and conduct the marriage supper of the Lamb. Christianity began through Jesus' disciples, based on the rebirth brought by the Holy Spirit. Yet, these same disciples did not understand the true nature of Jesus' mission. They did not know why Jesus came and why he had to die, which is why they believed that salvation was possible only through the precious blood Jesus shed on the cross. This is the path has Christianity believed in and followed for two thousand years.

The returning Lord

Since God has the same beginning and end, what he had already begun he had to finish. What the returning Messiah needed was for God's only daughter to be prepared without fail. Hence, God found and established a new people among whom his only daughter could be born. The birth of God's only daughter needed to occur on a Christian foundation. With the passing of the last two thousand years, the world came to divide into four main religious spheres. There is

no clear historical record as to when Christianity first settled in Korea.

Heaven's providence needed the birth of God's only daughter to come on a Christian foundation through the Korean people, and observers recorded exchanges between Korean people and those in the Christian cultural sphere beginning around the twelfth or thirteenth century. However, in the later era of the Choseon Dynasty, Koreans persecuted Christians due to the Choseon Dynasty's closed-door policies. Previously, however, Korea had been quite open, which enabled all religions that had come into this land, such as Buddhism, Confucianism and so on, to put down roots. These religions had one purpose. Their purpose should have been the same as that of Christianity, but their ignorance of the providence, meant they were unable to receive any further explanation.

When we look at the circumstances of this age, we see it is now time for them to realize these things. They must make the effort. And they must learn. Since this nation has already learned a lot about True Parents, they will welcome you if you confidently go forward and convey your message. Is that true or not?

People say many things, but they offer no substantial method to address and resolve all the difficult religious, ideological, economic,

- ① Mother presenting birthday gifts
- ② True Mother leads cheers of Manseil
- ③ Secretary-General Yun explained global developments; Chief of Staff Chong-McDevitt and President Lee gave welcoming remarks. Uda Etsuko, president, international Family Assoc. prayed, both Lee Yeon-ah, chair, Foreigners Conference for Korean Reunification and Missionary Nakata Michiyo testified.

political and other kinds of problems happening around the world. Everyone is self-centered. They put their nations first. They cannot unite.

That is why I am conveying the following message: There is a limit to what human effort or power alone can be do. Things cannot work when our methods are human-centered. We can only unite when we attend Heavenly Parent, God the Creator, who is the Center of this universe. Blessed marriage given by the True Parents is the only way to eternal life and salvation.

Preparation for God's only daughter

For the past two thousand years, Christians—both Catholic and Protestant—have not accurately understood God's providence. They did not know the true nature of Jesus' mission. As a result, they committed many mistakes. What you need to know is that God was finally able to send his only daughter to earth, through this people, after six thousand years as reckoned by the Bible.

God's only daughter! I was born in 1943. Korea's liberation came in 1945.



True Mother with Japanese missionaries in a group photograph at the conclusion of the Special Convention for the Japanese Missionary Spouses of FFWPU for a Heavenly Korea on October 19.

Alas, it then divided between democracy and communism. The Korean War broke out in 1950. North Korea, which already had a well-established communist system, had been preparing to advance on South Korea. The relatively democratic South Korea, in contrast, had not yet reequipped itself. When the Korean War broke out, it had no chance against North Korea. You need to know that sixteen member nations of the United Nations intervened in the Korean War because God had to protect me, his only daughter. What was deemed impossible happened.

God gave a period of growth to Adam and Eve in accordance with his principles of creation. I was born in 1943. And for me to uphold God's will, I needed to grow to an age when I could make decisions on my own and discern everything with common sense. The issue, however, was that the Korean War broke out in 1950, a few short years after Korea's liberation from Japan. I was only eight years old at that time. Heaven, therefore, had to allow me a period to grow. The United Nations forces mobilized and shed their good blood here to form a foundation that could welcome the True Parents in this nation. You need to know this.

Christianity's role

Next year will be the hundredth anniversary of the March 1 Independence Movement. This nation is the one in which the True Parents can at last appear. Hence, the people of this nation, particularly in the Christian cultural sphere, needed to prepare a national foundation upon which the True Parents could appear though those in that sphere did not know about God's providence. Thus, many

became patriotic martyrs. They had come from Christian backgrounds.

It is unclear as to whether or not they knew about the providence, about God's will. What is certain, however, is that because the time had come for the coming of the True Parents, God allowed a movement to unfold through righteous people in order to recover this nation.

Japan's role

You may not relate directly to that background. Japan was an obstacle in front of God's providence. Heaven, however, gave Japan the time to set up the necessary conditions and to achieve results to indemnify past mistakes in the long run, under True Parents' name.

Finally, Japan also went to war against the United States during the last World War. At that time, they took away whatever they could from Korea as supplies. On the day I was born, [in a vision] all those supplies were piling up in the front yard of the house in which I was born. Dae-monim, the one who had this vision, probably didn't know what this meant at that time. Many occurrences that would have been impossible to imagine did actually happen around me as visible incidents.

Invest all your effort

Who was it that opened Cheon Il Guk? It was True Parents' heartfelt wish. The realization of the completed providence must happen substantially first on earth. Only when the establishment of the kingdom of heaven occurs on earth centered on True Parents will the kingdom of heaven in heaven open. Do you understand?

Please remember that all blessed families should work with a heart

that invests everything, even in life-or-death situations, to realize Heavenly Parent's dream of embracing all 7.6 billion people and establishing one great family under God. Only when you do so can you become eternally proud, blessed families and true, devoted sons or daughters in front of Heaven. Hence, you must take bold steps forward.

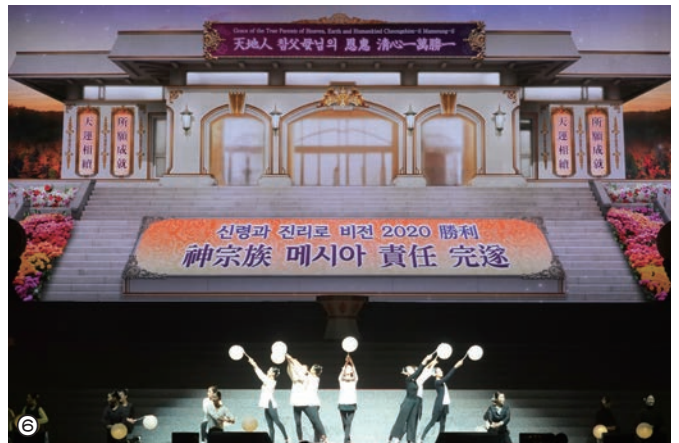
Talks between North Korea and South Korea are making headway, but there are still many problems to solve. A movement that attends True Parents at its center is essential in this process. Thus, I am asking all of you, Japanese missionaries, to educate this nation, which is the homeland of God, our Heavenly Parent, of True Parents and of the True Children, so that a proper center is established in relation to God's will within this nation.

In order to do this, Japan and the United States must become one and completely root out all conditions that can create an increasingly distant relationship from Heaven's providence. At this time, the Pacific Rim Civilization Era centered on True Parents is beginning and we are carrying out activities to expand the dream of one family under Heavenly Parent throughout the world. Things will go well if the three nations take the lead and fulfill their responsibilities.

The politicians of this nation do not know the providence. It is the same with regard to the unity of the two Koreas. We must therefore create the environment that supports God's providence. It is essential to show all people of the world that this is the way to become one. Will you do this work? Seeing all of you today, I feel hope. ㄹ

Autumn Great Works and Hyojeong Offering Ceremony





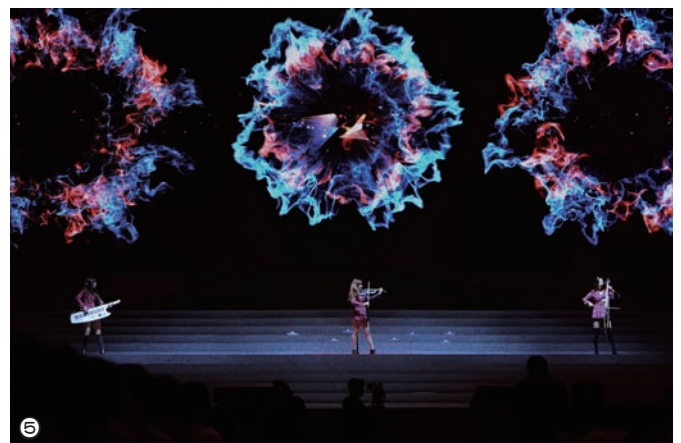
- ① True Mother speaking on Saturday October 20 at Cheongshim Peace World Center during the 2018 Autumn Great Works and Hyojeong Offering Ceremony for the Inheritance of Heavenly Fortune
- ② Dedicated members who attended the Autumn Great Works simply walked to the Cheongshim Peace World Center to conclude under True Mother's guidance.
- ③ Resolution Ceremony for Accomplishing the Heavenly Tribal Messiah Mission
- ④ Sixteen leaders offered the Hyo Jeong Wish Papers, which are a way of affirming our resolve to Heavenly Parent and True Parents.
- ⑤ Rev. Lee Ki-sung of FFWPU, Heavenly Korea and his wife melting Hyo Jeong Offering Papers in water within crystal bowls
- ⑥ A Hyo Jeong Dance followed
- ⑦ A thirty-minute chanyang session prepared the members to receive True Mother and the grace of the offering of their prayer-wish papers.



Segye Times 30th Anniversary 2018 Drone Expo



- ❶ President Jeong Heui-taek of the *Segye Times* presenting flowers to True Mother
- ❷ True Mother gave a brief Founders' Address commemorating the thirtieth anniversary of the *Segye Times* calling on the paper to be youth-oriented and to become a compass to the nation and in keeping with its name to become a compass to the world.
- ❸ True Mother, the President Jeong and distinguished guests took a commemorative photograph before the drone exhibition.
- ❹ The Drone Robot Man Flight Show, allowed the audience to imagine what might be possible with drones, which are opening the fourth industrial revolution.
- ❺ A fusion performance by TLA Electronic String Team, which was introduced as electronic commandos.



Youth and Students for Peace Second World Assembly



- ① Chief of Staff Chong-McDevitt gave words of encouragement, Secretary-General Yun gave a congratulatory address and led everyone in singing and dancing to *Mujo-geon*, President Kittel gave the speech on page 20; Vice President Matsuda gave his acceptance speech; Vice President Jaehyun Kim gave his acceptance speech; Julia HJ Moon was the judge of performances in the Young Sound of Peace competition, in which everyone won a prize.
- ② Peace Designers, Jo So-ee gave a project presentation and Masahiro Muraki gave a case study presentation.
- ③ The YSP Leaders' Resolution Ceremony
- ④ The contestants in the Young Sound of Peace performance competition
- ⑤ The first person to sing, won first prize, Wija Ghoms, who sang, "Superwoman."
- ⑥ The Hyo Jeong Offering Ceremony for the Inheritance of Heavenly Fortune was part of the Cheongpyeong Autumn 2028 Great Works



The Importance of a Heart of Filial Piety

The writer delivered this speech on October 20 to a large multinational audience in the Peace World Center at the International Association of Youth and Students for Peace Second World Assembly.

By Robert S. Kittel



Today I have two tasks: 1) to share the basic vision of YSP, and 2) to introduce the two newly appointed YSP international vice presidents.

First, YSP's basic vision: There are four loves learned in the family. We know them—children's love, sibling love, conjugal love and parental love. We need to nurture and mature each of these loves here on earth. This is the purpose of our physical life; it is also the center of our responsibility.

Building good character and healthy human relationships based on these four loves is essential for a prosperous and happy life, not only on earth; these are equally important in the spiritual world, which is where we live forever after we pass away. The mission of Youth and Students for Peace, as I see it, is to focus primarily on the first two loves, children's love and the love of brothers and sisters.

A recent realization

Actually, I have a confession to make: For years, more like decades, I have been teaching about the importance of pure love focusing on sexual purity. My thinking was that since the Fall was caused by the misuse of love, I needed to maintain my sexual purity, teach sexual purity and emphasize sexual purity when raising

Anyeonghaseyo Namaste! I just finished a national tour of Nepal, which is why I said "Namaste." We went to all seven provinces and taught as many as 2,105 elected officials the importance of the family as our True Parents have taught us. In attendance were chief ministers (governors), Speakers of Parliament, mayors and

deputy mayors (and their spouses) from village, municipal and provincial governments. In essence, we covered the entire nation sharing True Parents' hearts and thoughts about the importance of marriage and family.

I'm so grateful to our True Mother. She is leading this global providence. We are here at the second YSP World Assembly. This is a special meeting.

my children. True Mother showed me I was wrong, and I am so grateful. Buddha taught that we need to be grateful for someone who points out our mistakes. He said, "Look upon the person who tells you your faults as if he told you of a hidden treasure.... Follow that person.... Let him admonish and let him instruct and let him restrain what is wrong." *Dhammapada 6:76-77*

What was my mistake? I did not understand the importance of filial love. Nor did I appreciate its role in maintaining purity. True Mother is emphasizing the importance of children's love over and over again. In fact, she coined a new term to describe it. As you know, it is "hyo jeong." Translated, it is "the heart of filial piety," the heart of a child who loves his or her parents unconditionally. It seems as if True Mother is putting the initials HJ on everything. It is even in the YSP logo.

The central type of love

A filial child thinks, My parents' happiness is more important than my own happiness. My life exists for the sake of my parents. I will live and die for the sake of my parents. I will marry for the sake of my parents.

That is the heart of a filial child. A filial child does not think, My parents have to be perfect in order for me to follow them. Instead he or she thinks, If my parents make a mistake, I will take responsibility for it. A child of true filial piety will never separate from, accuse or blame his or her parents.

If the children's love is strong and clear, the other three loves— sibling love, conjugal love and parental love—will follow naturally. Please allow me to explain. Related to sibling love, a filial child thinks, I will love my brothers and sisters, not as I want to, but in order to make my parents happy.

True Father said the loyal subject is not the one who loves the king the most, but the one who loves the people as the king would. Therefore, filial love is at the core of sibling love. A filial son or daughter thinks, I will treat my siblings like my parents would. I will care for my siblings in ways that make my parents happy. I will learn from my elders how to help raise younger family members.

Obviously, having sex before marriage would not make anyone's parents happy. This is where I learned the role of filial piety in sexual purity. Filial love also connects to conjugal love. When a filial child gets married, he or she will think, I will love my spouse, not as I want to, but in order to make my parents happy.

This would include no violence or infidelity. Surely, it is one of the greatest joys of parents to see their child married and happily in love with his or her spouse. When couples who have practiced filial piety become parents and then have their own children, they would think, I will love my own children, not as I want to, but in order to make my parents (the child's grandparents) happy.

In this way, the family where three generations are living together substantially strengthens the culture and tradition of filial piety because everyone seeks the happiness and well-being of the grandparents. Now to the second part of my address: I am so grateful to True Mother for appointing two wonderful brothers as vice presidents of Youth and Students for Peace.

Senior YSP international vice president

Mr. Koji Matsuda is the new senior



international vice president. He was born in Hiroshima, Japan, in 1965. He joined the unification movement when he was eighteen years old. He dedicated himself in CARP activities. He graduated from the Department of Education, Faculty of Psychology, of Hiroshima University in 1988. He completed a master's degree in Religious Education at the Unification Theological Seminary, in New York State, in 1996. He engaged in service and educational programs as a missionary in Jardim and the Pantanal in Brazil from 1996 to 2001. He served as

vice president of World CARP-Japan in 2001 and as president of the Youth Federation for World Peace-Japan in 2013. He was president of Youth and Students for Peace-Japan in 2017. He has launched and managed service projects and learning programs in eleven countries. He speaks four languages and is the father of four children.

YSP international vice president



Mr. Jaehyun Kim is an international vice president. He joined our church when he was in middle school. He attended Sun Moon University (2000–2004) and graduated with BA in North Korean Studies. In 2016, Mr. Kim studied Non-Government Organizations at Kyung Hee Graduate School. He was president of the Korean CARP Student Council and director of the Unification Department of the Sun Moon University Student Council and director of the Na Noom volunteer group. Within the Sun Moon University Alumni Association, he is the team leader for general affairs and planning. He was a director of the Cheonan volunteer-run Café Marie.

He has been a pastor for young adults, university students and seonghwa students at Cheon Bok Gung, the main church in Korea. He was the director of the Universal Peace Academy and of the FFWPU International Headquarters' Youth and Student Department. His wife is Japanese; they have two children.

Both these men are talented and experienced. They worked together to organize this second YSP Assembly. Please let us give them our full support and cooperation. God bless you and thank you very much. 🙏

Dr. Kittel is president of Youth and Students for Peace International.

Witnessing in a Communist Country

*A book, tentatively titled, **The Wind that Shook the Iron Curtain**, aims to tell the story of the arrest and incarceration of the early members of the movement in Czechoslovakia in their own words with a minimum of added narrative for historical context. The book is enhanced by letters from the first missionary and by the written court judgment from the Bratislava district court where, in 1974, eighteen members were sentenced to prison terms. Overall, including others sentenced in trials in different cities, twenty-five members received prison sentences.*

By Julian Gray

A NOTE ON CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Czechoslovakia came into being as a country at the end of the First World War after the Austro-Hungarian Empire disintegrated, formed from the so-called Czech Lands, Bohemia and Moravia, in the West and Slovakia (formerly part of Hungary) in the East. The Czech and Slovak republics, with their similar languages and culture, then existed side by side under one sovereignty as Czechoslovakia until the early 1990s. They officially completed their amicable separation into the Czech Republic and Slovakia through the Velvet Revolution on January 1, 1993.

A grave personal risk

Fifty years ago on October 30, Emilie Steberl, a young woman from Austria who had joined the movement in Vienna two years earlier, stepped over the border into communist Czechoslovakia. She was the first person in our movement, since True Father himself went to North Korea in 1946, to go to the communist world with the purpose of bringing the Divine Principle. Though of Germanic descent, Emi was originally born in Czechoslovakia. Her family had been forcibly evacuated to the West after the



Emilie Steberl accompanied by Paul Werner (*left*) about to cross alone into Czechoslovakia from Austria; others worried about her, but she was determined to go ahead with her mission.



Early members visiting Svojanov Castle, where Marie Živná (*in the hooded coat*) grew up. She died in prison, aged twenty-four. Her father was the castle's caretaker. Ahead of her, (*in back, in a white jacket*) is Juraj Lajda, who spent thirty-eight months in prison. In front of him is Ján Glonda, who describes his brother Michal's arrest in this article.

Second World War.

Communism was at that time a global power, still moving from strength to strength, seemingly unstoppable. The aftermath of World War II had seen the Sovietization of most Eastern European nations, and communism as a political force was gaining influence in large swaths of the world. In Czechoslovakia itself, valiant attempts by reformist first secretary Alexander Dubček to soften the grip of communism on his nation had already met with resistance in August of the same year, with several hundred thousand Soviet-led Warsaw-Pact troops entering the country to quell a rebellion against Soviet domination (one that wasn't actually happening).

Undeterred by the civil unrest, Emi began her life as a student of the Slovak language and quietly began witnessing to fellow students. Within a few years a dozen people had joined, so when Emi could no longer extend her visa, the native members stepped forward to take on the mission in their own country. By 1973, they had pioneer outposts in some twenty-four cities, and close to a hundred members—one of the largest national

Unificationist groups in Europe, even in the world, at that time.

Pursued and captured

Their bold witnessing work had not gone unnoticed by the communist authorities, who worked over months and years to gather intelligence on our members' efforts. In the late summer of 1973, they arrested the main leaders and all active members, and jailed most of them. Then began long months of questioning by the secret police, after which judges handed down prison sentences of one year to more than four years during trials held in various cities. It was during the interrogation period that one young member, Marie Živná, died in her cell. Although her death has never been adequately explained, Father named her a martyr and mentions her in his autobiography.

Our brothers and sisters, and the early missionaries, have given their first-hand testimony about how they worked together to build the movement in Czechoslovakia, about how the young movement collided with the communist authorities, and about how they dealt with life in prison and afterward. Although it is a tale of

caution for missionaries and members working in unwelcoming environments in the present time, it is also a story that evokes the spirit of the early days of our movement. The following is a brief extract from the combined testimonies of the members from the chapter in the book entitled "Arrests":

MICHAL GLONDA: At the beginning of September Laco finished his military duty. Since he had received a secret warning, he went to warn other members that were in danger. Laco fulfilled his mission; he warned the brothers and sisters about the impending danger. Meanwhile Jozef Vojtek buried and burned all written materials at the barracks. On September 10, Jozef was already back in civilian clothes when he was stopped by the general of his division, who said, "I cannot let you go right now. There are some things we don't understand." Lieutenant-Colonel Jan Kříž imposed a disciplinary punishment upon him of twenty-one days in solitary confinement under the severest of conditions. They dragged him to the military prison in Ostrava, where they put him into solitary confinement. The car that took him to prison did not have door handles on the inside. A



Emi Steberl (*at the back*) on a visit to Western Europe in 1969 with True Parents. *Below:* Early Czechoslovakian members sharing a meal before all the troubles began.

guard with a loaded machine gun sat next to him.

In the military prison, another guard with a loaded machine gun accompanied him, even when he went to the bathroom. Every day until September 18, a military counter-espionage officer interrogated him. It was clear that they knew everything. After eight days, they moved Jozef to prison in Olomouc, where he was charged. After Jozef's detention, the secret police began a wave of roundups and caught almost half of the most active members of the Unification Church in Czechoslovakia in their web.

JURAJ LAJDA: I had been made regional leader in western Slovakia. I had been in this position for about a month. During the summer of 1973, we were aware that something was going on and we were hiding materials. I asked my cousin, "I have a suitcase; could I leave it with you?" His family did not know anything.

Aside from our brothers in the military, the first to be arrested was Ján Gl'onda. This was September 13. Then, one week later Betka Danišková and Dorota Šebestová (today, Šimeková) were arrested. On the 24th the leader of the Prague center was arrested, and I was

arrested October 8. Marie Živná was arrested later.

MICHAL GL'ONDA: My brother Ján was arrested in Ostrava as he boarded a tram to go to work. They ransacked his apartment, including the attic and the coal-cellar, where they even turned the coal upside down. When he was asked to point out his partitioned-off room in the apartment, he pointed at the one of his neighbor who had recently passed away. However, a zealous neighbor who was observing the scene cried out, "Jano, don't lie! This one is yours!" There, they found everything. That is how many important materials ended up in hands of national security, and how they could also learn about our principles.

ANTON UHNÁK: We received the news of Jano's arrest. Betka quickly gathered the missionaries and city leaders from around the country. She said, "Now we are facing a time of persecution; maybe we will go to prison. Something will happen." Yet we did not worry about going to prison or persecution. In our hearts, we had absolutely decided to build a better life. We therefore could not think that we were doing something dangerous.





From left: Juraj Lajda, who did archival research on those imprisoned and whose wife Erika Lajdová contributed her testimony of that fraught period to TPmagazine's April 2015 issue; Researcher Julian Gray who undertook to record the overall history of that period, and Anton Uhnák, an erstwhile national leader of Czechoslovakia, who served three years and eight months in prison

No! We wanted to save our nation through our philosophy. Absolutely no one among us was worried about the danger.

We had prepared some Divine Principle texts. When the persecution began we felt we had to hide the books. I therefore left Bratislava for another city, taking with me the books and papers. But the police were already following me. For one week, I saw them observing my every step. I could not pass off the materials therefore. They watched me and the other brothers and sisters constantly.

MICHAL: I dreamed that two strangers were dragging Betka and Dorota out. The next morning, this happened exactly as I had dreamed it. They were arrested at number 5 Agátová Street.

JURAJ LAJDA: I was in the city of Trnava. It was October 8, a Monday. They were already after me—when I left my house I could see people following me. There were two or three of them. They had walkie-talkies, talking to each other. At the time I was going to the municipal office to legalize my temporary address. At the municipal office, at around 1:00 PM, they arrested me. They waited until I had received the

seal to legalize my new address. Then as I came out, they showed me their identity cards and said, “We are the police. Please come with us. We need some explanations.” And then I knew, Okay. The time has come.

They were with the civil police, not the secret police. They were quite okay. They put me into a nice car, and brought me to Bratislava, to the jail. They put me in a cell. I was alone. I remember that first night. It was the most difficult and terrible night. I was in a cell that was cold and dark. But I felt that the darkness was not only physical, but also spiritual. I felt it was not just physically cold, but spiritually cold. I felt lonely, completely alone, like Jesus on the cross when God left him. I had to summon up all my faith and my internal power just to survive that night. The next morning the sun was shining into the cell. They gave me papers to sign that explained that I was being held and why. I asked them “How long will I be here and what is going on?” The policeman said, “We don’t know; maybe three to five months.” I was shocked. “Three to five months!... Why?”

They said, “Don’t think that you will be going home tomorrow.” It was so shocking at first to be incarcerated.

Gradually I had to get used to the idea that I must stay in prison. We were still naïve. We were not aware of the seriousness of what was happening.

Book editor’s note

Czechoslovakia is not the only country where members of our church suffered state-level persecution, imprisonment or worse. Not infrequently early missionaries under communist regimes and other authoritarian states experienced arrests and expulsion or incarceration, and in rare cases even torture or death.

The testimonies of the early missionaries and of the other early members—who formed the root of the movement in their nations—constitute a record and a source of wisdom to be kept for all time, from which those in future generations can draw inspiration and wisdom.

It is hoped that many more of our elder brothers and sisters will step forward to pass on the deep heart they have grown through service to God and humankind in the mission field. *✍*

Mr. Gray is a researcher in the FFWPU International Headquarters Mission Department.

Fifty Years Later

Early members reflect on the church and what members went through in what was then Czechoslovakia.

By Juraj Lajda



The root of the movement in the Czech Republic and Slovakia, Mission Butterfly missionary, Emilie Steberl

That half a century has already passed from the moment the first missionary crossed the border from Austria to the former communist Czechoslovakia is unbelievable.

On the occasion of this anniversary, FFWPU Slovakia held a special celebration to remember this important event as a part of the national Unification Family Meeting in Dunajská Lužná, near the capital of Slovakia, Bratislava, on October 6. The celebration had a rich, intense and colorful program. We had speakers, video messages and written greetings. A full hall of over a hundred people included members from both Slovakia and the Czech Republic, which when our national churches began were one church in one country, Czechoslovakia.

Rev. Miroslav Rybár, national leader of Slovakia, began the celebrations. The MC was Mr. Miloš Klas. Dr. Dieter and Ana Schmidt, the sub-regional presidents, participated and delivered an inspiring speech. Dr. Schmidt compared human life and the different generations to a tree. Each tree has roots, trunk, branches and leaves. Each of these parts has

its own function and role so that the tree can exist. All these parts of the tree have to cooperate. The tree without roots will decay soon. On the other hand, we cannot expect that the trunk has the same role as the leaves. We should never forget our roots.

A strong factor was the presence of the first national leader of Czechoslovakia Alžbeta Danišková who during the persecution in the 1970s spent four years and four months in prison. She spoke about the first years when she joined the movement as a twenty-one-year-old student and soon became national leader, without any prior experience. Until now, despite many physical and health difficulties, she is loyal to True Parents.



Above: Dr. Young-ho Yun's message helped put their history in perspective. Below, Center-front: Dr. Dieter and Ana Schmidt, the sub-regional presidents. Foreground: Betka Danišková, whom, upon her leaving, Emilie Steberl appointed the central figure. After visiting missionaries in December 1972, Betka was in a car accident that left her immobile. Maria Zivna cared for her. The two were arrested together and imprisoned.

Distant participation

In a video message, Mrs. Martine Masnerová, national leader of the Czech Republic, greeted the participants, wishing them a joyful celebration. Mrs. Christel Werner the wife of Paul Werner, who sent the first missionary (Emilie Steberl) to Czechoslovakia, wrote about how Rev. Werner was hesitant to send Emi into a dangerous environment (at the time, Soviet-led troops were occupying Czechoslovakia). But Emi was determined to follow her calling and bring salvation to Eastern Europe. Paul brought her to the border. He later wrote, "As I saw her disappear, tears came to my eyes and I prayed to Heavenly Father for her protection and guidance."

Gertrud Koch, national Messiah to Slovakia, greeted the participants and wished that we maintain our pioneering spirit. She wrote about the blessing of the first members in 1982, who were unable to participate in the ceremony in Korea. Her husband Peter Koch held a Holy wine ceremony with them in a secret place in Brno, today the second largest city in the Czech Republic.

Mr. Julian Gray sent a video message from the FFWPU International Headquarters; he has compiled a book about the Czechoslovak mission [see page 22]. A few years ago, True Mother appointed him to collect and record the testimonies of the earliest members. This text is a good reference for the history of the Czechoslovak mission.

Mrs. Brunhilde d'Alberti, a missionary who visited several times from Germany after Emi Steberl had to leave Czechoslovakia in 1971, expressed her surprise at how the young Czechoslovak people at that time were eager for truth and love. They had a great desire to bring about change. It was love that brought them to True Parents.

Dr. Michael Balcomb sent a video message from Kosovo, where he was participating in the Peace Road activity. He mentioned that True Mother deeply thinks about the sacrifice and hard work of all those from Europe and especially Eastern Europe and how they worked in the old days. She said that those members' blood, tears and sweat and their love for True Parents have protected Europe. The next few years are important, and if we unite with True Mother, everything is possible; this was his conclusion.

Dr. Young-ho Yun, secretary-general of the FFWPU International Headquarters sent an important message, saying that True Father was the first missionary to the communist world, in 1946. Communists persecuted and tortured him. Even though the first members in Czechoslovakia had no chance to meet True Parents, they overcame their difficulties and went out onto the streets to witness and bring God's love to the people. Dr. Yun expressed his hope that we succeed in fulfilling Vision 2020.



Members today of FFWPU in Slovakia and the Czech Republic recognized fifty years of faith and perseverance.

Local speakers

Dr. Lubomír Morbacher, an ambassador for peace and a special advisor and researcher, spoke about the persecution of people and groups under communist regimes. He mentioned the case of the “Principled People” (as the police called the members of our unification movement) as the biggest case conducted by the communist secret police, for they sentenced such a large number of people to prison terms. He mentioned that, at that time, the secret police were upset that it took them two years to discover our movement.


After his speech, Mrs. Alžbeta Danišková received a letter of apology from the president of Comenius University in Bratislava. In the early 1970s, due to her activities with the movement, the university expelled her. Other brothers and sisters whom the university expelled received similar letters.

Local voices

As one of the first members, I gave a short history of the movement. I described the events of 1968 when the Prague Spring started as a reformation movement in the country, which prepared the way for the first missionary to come. I pointed out the courage of Emi Steberl, who came in spite of the fact that Soviet troops then occupied the country. After five years of quick development, the persecution started and twenty-five members were sent to prison. We had twenty-four church centers and altogether we were witnessing every day to four hundred to five hundred people. After our prison terms ended, few members remained with the church, and we had to work underground.

Anton Uhnák, another of the first members spoke about the members’ determination to bring about change in society. The truth of the Principle was strong and inspiring, so that the first members were ready to sacrifice everything. We should have this spirit even now to build up Heavenly Slovakia, Heavenly Czech Republic and Heavenly Europe.

Then we heard three more testimonies of the first members. Dorota Šimeková and Erika Lajdová shared their motivation for joining the movement. Štefan Jakubáč explained some historical parallels in the past fifty years. Finally, our brother, Martin Slezák, who joined the movement in the early 1990s, shared his inspiration from reading the historical compiled by Julian Gray.

The celebration was successful and could bring the older and younger members and second-generation members together. It brought back the spirit of the early years and inspiration for the future to fulfill Vision 2020. 

Dr. Lajda is the secretary general of the Universal Peace Federation in the Czech Republic.

The Decline of the West

By Barbara Grabner

Exposition of Divine Principle defines in the chapter “Period of Preparation for the Advent of the Messiah” three stages of the maturation of religion, philosophy, politics and economy. Surprisingly even the modern interpretation of history, historiography, went through three stages: In the twentieth century, three scholars answered the “why question” on consecutive higher levels—Oswald Spengler, Arnold Toynbee and Sun Myung Moon. Each of them made outstanding contributions, explaining the driving forces behind history.

To learn from history is possible only if we know history. If we read history books or attend history classes, usually we learn many details but not why this or that happened. Many students try to find the whole truth, which is alas not revealed by scholarly books. As a student of history at Vienna University, I learned mainly facts—when, where and what happened. But the question about the driving force behind events remained unanswered. Only Christian scholars elaborate on the divine providence. The German dictator Adolf Hitler used to shout, “The providence has chosen me” albeit he was the tool of the evil providence.

The quest for meaning in history

For ages learned men asked, Does history have meaning, structure or direction, beyond the individual events and actions that make it up? Historians tried piecing together the forces that underlie historical developments, but their answers may be as wrong as in the case of Karl Marx. The subject matter, Philosophy of History, asks if there is any design, purpose, directive principle, or finality in the processes of human history. We can also call True Father, among other things, a philosopher of history. Why? Because his teachings explain or interpret the cause of historic events, not only of biblical matters.

In the twentieth century, two outstanding historians were researching the driving force for the rise and fall of empires—Oswald Spengler and Arnold J. Toynbee. The former was mentioned by True Father in his autobiography in Chapter Seven, “Global Harmony Starts on the Korean Peninsula”: “The historian and philosopher Oswald Spengler put forth a cyclical theory of the rise and decline of civilizations...” and a few sentences later “Looking at today’s Western culture, it appears that some of his thoughts were prophetic.” In Exposition of Divine Principle, Chapter 6, “The Second Advent,” at 3.3.5 (The Culmination of All Civilizations) we too read about the influence of geographical locations on the development of specific civilizations and the comparison of the life cycle of a civilization with that of human beings from childhood, youth, middle age and old age as well as the seasonal sequence of cultures, all in line with Spengler’s opinions.

Once the famous Henry Kissinger was asked by the New York Times, “Which philosophers have influenced you most?” Kissinger replied, “Spinoza, Kant and Spengler.” The German



She titled her presentation "Europe – Decline or Revival." Barbara gave it in numerous cities, mostly at UPF events, and to appreciative audiences. In these time of heightened tensions and criticism of the status quo, people are seeking a clear perspective.

Oswald Spengler (1880–1936) published several remarkable books. But when his book *The Decline of the West* came out in summer of 1918, it was a wild success. Soon it was translated into various languages around the globe, including Japanese. Perhaps people in the Far East associated the decline of the West with the rise of the East? At that time, it was imperative to read Spengler, to sympathize or revolt against him. He opens his two-volume work with the words, "In this book it is attempted for the first time the venture of predetermining history, of following the still untraveled stages in the destiny of a Culture and specifically of the only Culture in our time and on our planet, which is actually in the phase of fulfillment—the West European-American." Spengler contended that because most civilizations pass through a life cycle, not only can the historian reconstruct the past but he can predict the spiritual forms, duration, meaning and product of the still unaccomplished stages! However, the decline of a civilization he perceives as a natural process like the withering of flowers. Spengler said that the Atlantic civilization had already passed through the creative stage and now stagnates in reflective mood and material comfort.

His style of making predictions reminds me of making a weather forecast: Data from the past is merged with present observations requiring the forecaster to remember a previous weather event that is expected to be mimicked by an upcoming event. Spengler predicted that about the year 2000, Western civilization would enter the period of a pre-death emergency! Shortly before his death in 1936, he prophetically remarked in a letter to Nazi-leader Hans Frank that "in ten years, the German Reich will probably no longer exist." Exactly nine years later the predicted fall of the Third Reich was reality.

Worrisome trends

Spengler defined thirteen symptoms typical of the decline stage, among them sensual lifestyle and craving for entertainment, loss of faith and the breakup of traditions, extreme materialism and breaches of taboos, wars of extermination like World War I, the madness of bureaucracy, urban life instead of the bliss of rural life, voluntary childlessness and ramping immorality, etc. The lifespan of a civilization he dated as a thousand years. Indeed, there are some cases like the Holy Roman Empire lasting from 800 until 1806, or the Byzantine Empire, which fit in this count. He also found parallels in flagship personalities and compared Confucius in China with Kant in Germany, Alexander the



The pictures accompanying this article were of Barbara Grabner's talk in Prague in the Czech Republic in June.

Great with Napoleon Bonaparte. The Divine Principle similarly compares Moses with St. Augustine, King David with Charlemagne. Oswald Spengler was convinced that his findings produce a "Copernican turn" in historiography sweeping away old views. His theory inspired prominent historians like Arnold J. Toynbee in Great Britain and publications like *The Clash of Civilizations* by Samuel Huntington.

Toynbee's take on history

Arnold J. Toynbee (1889–1975), author of numerous books and hundreds of articles is celebrated for his twelve-volume *Study of History*, examining in depth the rise and fall of twenty-three civilizations. The most famous quotation of him is "History repeats itself." Though Toynbee quoted Spengler many times, he drew a different conclusion and formulated the Law of Challenge-and-Response: The decline or rise of empires depends on the response to extreme challenges. (Note: today's extreme challenges could be climate change and mass migration). The key for success lies in the hands of the creative minorities; civilizations start to disintegrate when their creative minorities fail to respond sufficiently.

Contrary to Spengler, Toynbee perceived the possibility that the doom of a civilization can be suspended if it is grafted onto a new religion. For example, the ancient Greek-Hellenic civilization survived by engrafting onto Christianity. The Byzantine Empire was the continuation of the Roman Empire in its eastern provinces and lasted until ad 1453 when the Turks conquered it. During most of its existence, the Byzantine Empire was the most powerful economic, cultural and military force in the West!

Toynbee predicted in his *Civilization on Trial* (1948) that our secular Western civilization, although headed for destruction, will first bring about the political and cultural unification of mankind. The coming world-embracing civilization will be essentially religious. Asked about the character of this future universal religion, he made only vague predictions such as that it will combine elements of all creeds equally. In his last book "Mankind and Mother Earth," he warns about the impending collapse of Planet Earth, though in 1973 the state of the biosphere was better than today. Toynbee was convinced of the necessity to create a global nation (!) because the individual states cater only to their interests and sacrifice the common good for selfish gains. Unlike many leftist historians now and then, Toynbee refers to religion as the great regenerative force.




With her background in history Barbara is able to make draw on the past to make points relevant today.

Decline or revival?

Not surprisingly, leftist intellectuals and journalists disparage Spengler and Toynbee because both define “humanization” as having the abilities of creativity and spirituality and not with man’s ability to wield a tool! It is virtually impossible to describe all findings of Spengler and Toynbee here. Since their names are mentioned in some of our publications, I always felt attracted to learning more about them. Because True Father proclaimed forty years ago the arrival of the Pacific civilization and True Mother in her recent speeches takes up this topic too, I felt obliged to inform the public.

For that reasons I created the lecture “Europe–Decline or Revival,” which I have presented (at time of writing) eight times in the cities of Vienna, Prague, Munich, Bonn and other places, mostly at UPF events. The lecture includes all the points mentioned in this article and more. Parts of the “Last Days” in Exposition of Divine Principle are also interwoven and it ends with the famous quote of Rabin-dranath Tagore, “In the Golden Age of Asia, Korea was one of its lamp-bearers and that lamp is waiting to be lighted once again for the illumination of the East.” I anticipated some criticism in Munich or Bonn, since Germans are an intellectual audience, but all went well. On the contrary, quite many people shook my hand and thanked me warmly. They asked me about the future of Europe—will everything decline? I replied that the old civilizations serve often as fertilizer for the new one. Though the Roman Empire declined in Western Europe in the fifth century, the Latin language, Roman law and architecture, the arts and sciences remained and combined with Christian elements during the Renaissance bore new fruits.

For my PowerPoint presentation, I used quotations from Father’s autobiography, which say that the central civilization consistently moved West, that the Pacific era has finally arrived, that Asia is the cradle of world religions and that Korea’s geography reminds us of ancient Rome and other input from “Global Harmony starts on the Korean Peninsula.” I put messages from True Parents into my presentation as much as the respective audience might digest. Recently I felt that a historian like Oswald Spengler would hugely appreciate talking with True Father. Therefore, I registered him for liberation during the Hyo Jeong Festival. I pray, that he can teach the History of Restoration to the multitudes.

Oswald Spengler said that the decline stage of a civilization would last ninety to a hundred years. When we count the date 1918 as the beginning, in 2018 as the end of the Atlantic civilization is at hand. When he was asked which civilization will follow, he could not tell. We are lucky to know due to True Parents’ proclamations that the Pacific era has begun. The word “pacific” means “peaceful.” The Atlantic civilization was characterized by conflict and wars; that should be over. Additionally, the Pacific is related to female aspects whereas the Atlantic is associated with the male character. (Search via Google for “pacific synonym.”) 

Barbara Grabner is a freelance journalist and author of Mission Butterfly.

Our Course to Harmony

By Kobayashi Keiko

The author delivered this as a spoken testimony onstage at the Cheongshim Peace World Center On October 7. Reportedly, when True Mother heard this testimony, she wept. True Mother called for all Japanese members in Korea to meet with her on October 19.





Mrs. Kobayashi giving her deeply personal testimony in the Peace World Center

Good morning! I am from Jangseong in South Jeolla Province. I received the blessing among the 360,000 couples. When I was young, I was a good student; I studied well and I was good at kendo. From the age of ten, I began to wonder why I was born. What is the purpose of life? After I am dead... Is there life after death? I was always wondering. When I was nineteen, I was a government employee. A friend told me that if I visited the Unification Church, I would hear answers to all of the questions that I

had. That is why I decided to join the church. When I joined, I was so happy. I cried for an hour because the Holy Spirit had moved me.

As time passed, I prepared to receive the blessing with someone from another nation; I began to offer prayers and jeongseong. One day while praying, I was told, If a person with no name [a nobody] and no fortune but with a good lineage comes, you should be ready to welcome and marry him.

I came to the Cheongpyeong training center, where I experienced a

wonderful spiritual phenomenon. I saw that I had two characters within myself, one was my own feminine character and the other was a woman with much resentment who was threatening to kill me. I kept asking her please to forgive me.

Spiritually, I saw something—a car was dragging the woman; she was trying to run away but a Japanese soldier had arrested her. She was a comfort woman trying to escape. She was naked and the soldier tied her to a car. She shouted at me, saying, I died so painfully and miserably. I will never forgive the Japanese.

But the person doing *ansu* on me said to the woman, True Parents love you. God loves you and wants to save you. God will bless you. When she heard this, the resentful woman arose and she left out of the back of my head. After she left, I was so hot, as if on fire; for some moments, it was unendurable.

Our family reborn

I received the matching with a man from Kimhae, from the Kim clan in Kimhae. He was in the seventy-seventh generation of Kims in Kimhae; one of the largest of the various Kim clans in Korea. We started our family life in August 1998. And just like with any other couple, I looked forward to a happy honeymoon. But we couldn't have a sweet, happy honeymoon period because my husband was suffering from epilepsy. This disease leaves one with no power or interest, uninspired. In daily life, he is calm. Usually, he was quite passive, but when things didn't go his way, he had many complaints and his facial expression and voice would change. When I saw that, I thought that I had to divorce him and I had to return to Japan.

God's deep love

I held on to God. That was my only possible solution. One day, suddenly, I heard a voice, My beloved daughter, I love you and I hope you understand that I love my son, your husband, as much as I love you. I cannot do anything. I am sorry because your husband is suffering so much. Can you please take care of my son, your husband, and make him happy on my behalf?

I heard God's voice and I repented,

asking God to forgive me. I also remembered the spiritual phenomena I'd experienced in Cheongpyeong. I remembered the resentment of the comfort woman, and I felt it is only through love that we can get rid of the historical suffering and resentment between Korea and Japan.

When I began to love my husband, Heaven granted our family a son. However, even after giving birth to a son, I couldn't buy the milk or even the diapers my child needed. On many days, I cried. That is why one day I began selling vegetables to various restaurants while carrying my son on my back.

A turning point

In December 2004, I participated in a forty-day workshop in Yeosu. This was an opportunity to see Father from a close distance for the first time. I was sitting there, wondering why God had made me go through so much pain and sacrifice and when I lifted my head, I saw Father staring at me. My eyesight completely connected with Father's and I felt, My daughter, I understand these difficulties you are going through. I love you my daughter.

This comforted me. Through the ocean providence training in Yeosu, I received True Parents' hearts; I could wash away my past negative thinking and received blessings. But because my husband and I, personally and as a family, had so many heavy problems, we both started bowing and doing hoondokhae. My husband went through a forty-day workshop three times and he completed the liberation of his ancestors to 210 generations. We also gave Cheongpyeong the amount necessary to receive a spirit house.

I lived for my husband with the hope of erasing from his heart all of his resentment. Over time, he began to change. He found a job, and no matter how difficult it was, he never complained. He worked hard. Even his weak body became stronger. His relationship with others improved and our financial circumstances, which had always been difficult, stabilized. He would play with our children and his face became increasingly brighter. This year is the twentieth anniversary of our blessing.

Let's bring victory

As a mother, as a wife in a blessed



family, the harder, the more difficult, life is, the more I can feel that True Mother is lifting and carrying the providence on her shoulders. Mother is going through so much pain and suffering, carrying all of our blessed families and God's providence overall on her shoulders.


Since Mother has been achieving tremendous victories around the world, I realize that I need to become a victorious daughter to True Parents. Beloved True Mother, you are the hope of the new millennium. I love you. We will be victorious in realizing

① Kobayashi Keiko and her husband at the time of their blessing

② Mrs. Kobayashi carrying her son as she visited restaurants to try to sell them vegetables.

③ A recent photograph of her happy family

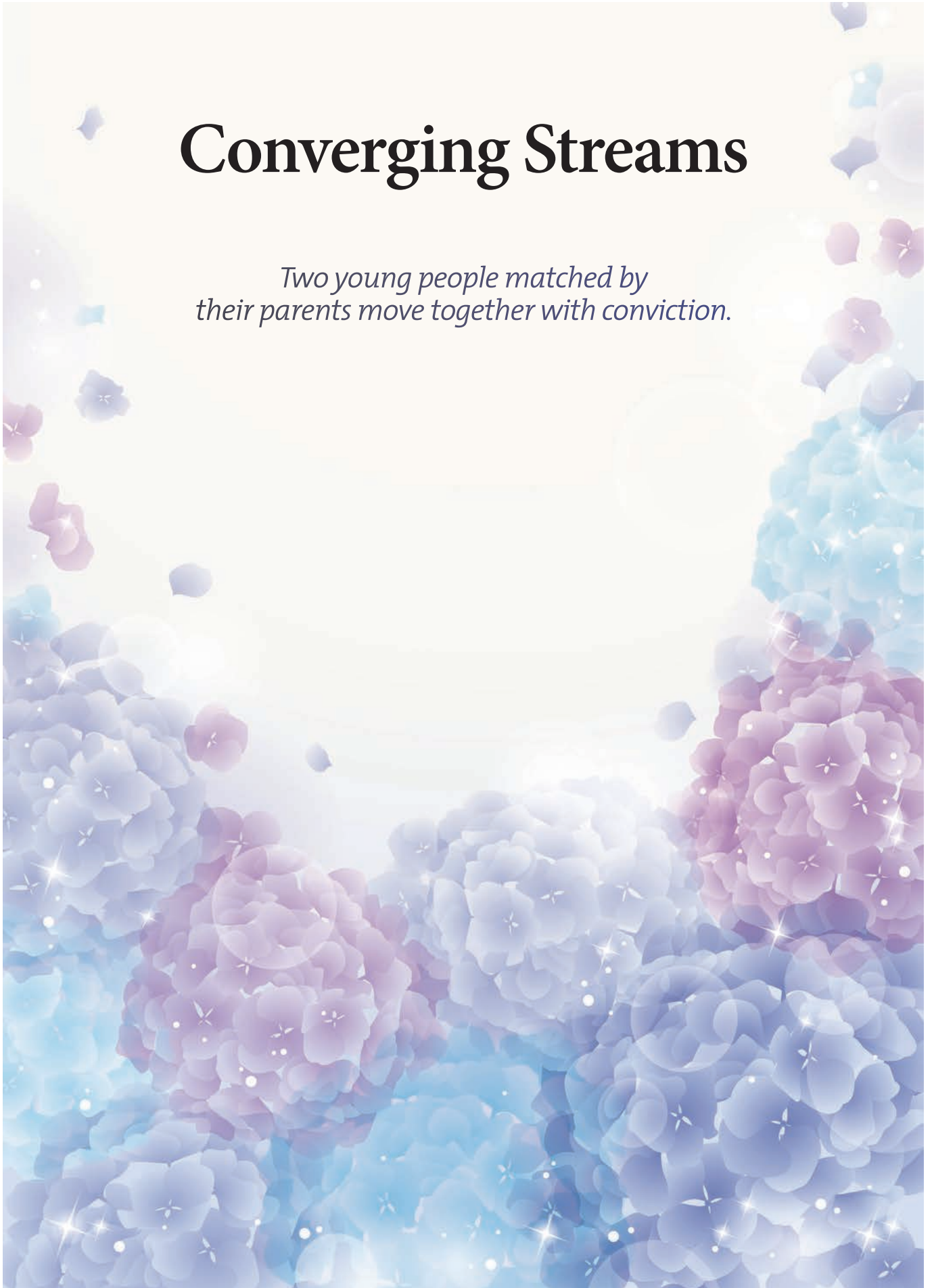
Vision 2020.

Thank you for your attention. 

Mrs. Kobayashi gave this testimony at the 2018 Korean Subregion Four Rally for the Hopeful March Forward of the Harmonious Unification of Heavenly Korea.

Converging Streams

Two young people matched by their parents move together with conviction.





This young couple, who are pictured giving their joint testimony, went through the parent-matching process.

He: My name is Han Wan-sang and when I was young, whenever I was told to go to church, I would go and when I was told to go to workshops, I would just go. I was an obedient son. But when I entered middle school, I began to doubt my identity as a second-generation Unificationist. From that moment, I began to search; I studied Exposition of Divine Principle and As a Peace-Loving Global Citizen. When I was in grade nine I became interested in Hyo Jin nim's music. I love Hyo Jin nim's music. I taught myself to play the guitar. I told my parents that I would like to major in Music, but my parents said they hoped I would play music only as a hobby. They opposed me. After that, my high school life became meaningless.

I attended the Global Top Gun Youth Workshop. During that time, I came to understand the preciousness and value of our True Parents. A big moment for me was during the fourth anniversary of True Father's seongh-

wa, I sang 바람개비 [Pinwheel, a children's song] for True Parents. At that moment, following Father's ascension I could feel how painful True Mother's situation must have been. I wanted to return glory to True Parents, so I decided I would become a leader in a public mission. Furthermore, I attended the Hyo Jeong Cultural Camp. I have been able to share Hyo Jin nim's music with people from many countries. I have been working to pursue my dream of sharing Hyo Jin nim's music all around the world. Because I am lacking in faith, I joined Sun Moon University's Department of Theology.

She: Good morning, everyone! My name is Kang Young-shim. I am the first daughter of Kang Gong-gyu and Mrs. Yuko. They are pastors in Chungnam. We have a large family with seven members. My father was a pastor. I grew up naturally inside the church and as a result, I lived in a safe and stable environ-

ment. However my parents moved around a lot and there were many difficulties because my parents were transferred to different churches frequently.

Sometimes I would complain and I would get angry with my parents. At that time, I went through many difficulties. I could not understand with what heart my parents were doing public work. At one point, I attended a workshop for the children of pastors. When I met older brothers and older sisters there, they shared with me the difficulties of their own parents and that is when I became interested in public work.

I slowly began to understand that the pastoral work of my parents is something they are truly proud of and grateful for. As I entered high school, I began to be interested in public work. Last year, I entered Sun Moon University, in the Department of Pure Love and Theology. I studied the Divine Principle and True Parents' teachings. I learned about their paths,



1

- 1 Han Wan-sang enjoyed participating in the Hyo Jeong Cultural Camp.
- 2 Kang Young-shin with her family at the Rock of Tears in Busan; she is second from the left.
- 3 She went to Malaysia last year
- 4 The couple attended the Blessing Ceremony at the Peace World Center with couples from all over the globe.



2

their love and the providence. I increasingly felt our True Parents' hearts. It took me until I was in high school and college for me to begin understanding the hearts of our True Parents.

Last year, I went on a brief mission to work in Malaysia. I also did fund raising in Malaysia. I was able to feel our True Parents' hearts there. During the fund raising period, there were many difficulties. In order to overcome these difficulties and challenges, each time I would communicate with God. What I felt is that this experience helped me grow and I felt connected with our Heavenly Parent and True Parents. In order to become mature children I am preparing to be a Cheon Il Guk youth missionary next year.




3

He: Last year in November, our parents matched us and this year in September we went through the Blessing Ceremony hosted by True Parents.

She: Therefore, our coming here this morning is all because of the love and the grace of Heavenly Parent and True Parents.



4

In unison: Henceforth we will do our best to grow, to learn and to become a model couple in the presence of Heavenly Parent and True Parents. We will become a true son and true daughter with filial piety toward Heavenly Parent. Beloved Heavenly Parent and True Parents, thank you very much. We love you. 

The couple gave their testimonies on-stage during the October 7 Subregion 4 Rally at the Peace World Center.

The Expanding Grace of the Blessing

The story of an inter-generational couple





- ① Ok Jin-yeob giving his Hyo Jeong Testimony onstage at the Cheongshim Peace World Center on October 14 giving
- ② Jin-yeob with his family (far left)
- ③ He could feel True Parents' love when participating in The Great Festival of World Youth and College Students for Reunification between North Korea and South Korea

Hello everyone, my name is Ok Jin-yeob. I attend Kookmin University. Over the summer, I participated in a fund raising effort to support bi-cultural families. From morning until late at night, we shared the stories of bi-cultural families; we sang on buses and we participated in countless service projects. Even though it was hot and it was challenging, it was truly gratifying because we were living our lives for the sake of others. As a result, together with five hundred students from sixty-five nations, we also participated in the Global Top Gun Workshop. Although our languages and cultures may have been different, we all gathered together to sing, to share our hearts, to pray for one another and to support one another. I witnessed amazing miracles when we came together for a special concert to promote the peaceful reunification of the nation. The fact is that I could feel the love of our beloved True Parents and through these experiences, both internally and

externally, I was able to grow and I was able to receive clear guidance about my dream, which is to form a happy family as my parents did. My grandparents received the blessing among the 124-couple blessing group. After that, my parents and my older brother and sister all received the blessing in their twenties.

Recently, a wonderful nephew was born into my family; now four generations are living together. If my grandfather and grandmother live a bit longer, I believe five generations will be able to live together under the same roof.

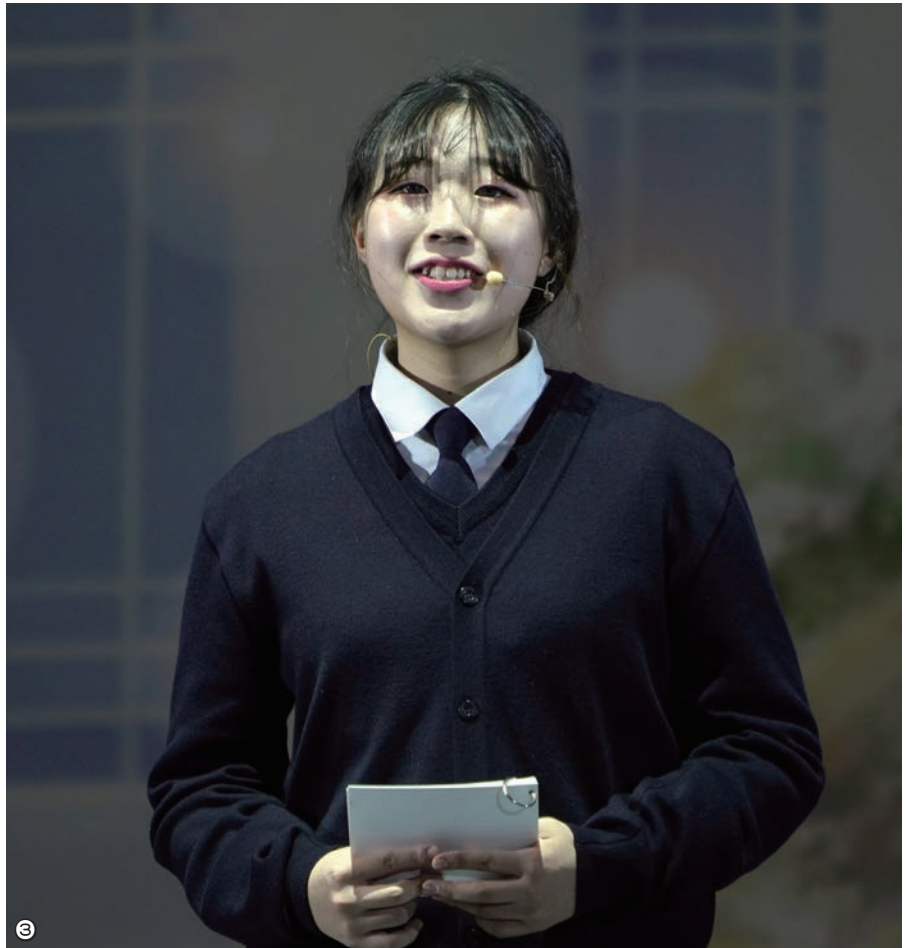
However, when we look at society today we can see that due to individualism and due to extreme selfishness, the family is breaking down. The family is no longer the holy abode of true love because it is breaking down. On the other hand, true love is giving and giving and forgetting that one has given. The best place to learn true love is in the family. That is why by practicing love we multiply love. The place to learn this and to multiply

love is within the family. We pledge that through the family we will seek to understand and respect each other. We *can* form happy families. I learned how to live for the sake of others in my family. I dreamed about forming a family. After forming a family, I hope that I can practice true love and share this true love with other nations of the world. The reason I could dream these dreams, the reason I could grow, the reason I could hope to form a happy family is because of Heavenly Parent and True Parents' great blessings.

Those in our second and third generations are truly blessed. We have received True Parents' love unconditionally through of True Parents' grace. Centering on Heavenly Parent and True Parents, we should realize one family under God. I wanted to receive the blessing quickly, form a family and share true love throughout the world. All of us—students with a dream of true love centered on True Parents—let us march toward a world of hope.



- ① Moon Yoon-hye is from a bi-cultural family. Her father is Korean and her mother, who taught her the secret to happiness is Japanese.
- ② She has six siblings
- ③ She gave this talk onstage at the Cheongshim Peace World Center
- ④ Yoon-hye presenting flowers to True Mother at the Rally of Hope for Hyojeong and True Families



His wife tells her story


Good morning everyone. My name is Moon Yoon-hye and I am a freshman in Sun Moon University. I was born into a Korean-Japanese family. My parents received the blessing among the 360,000 couple group. I have five siblings. From when I was young, I remember my mother telling me that there is a secret to happiness. We were attending my grandmother. She said that whatever you hear in the family. Don't say no. Say yes first and then listen. I began to practice this. For me to say yes and then listen to whatever my parents said to me was difficult to actually practice. I tried

and tried. In the beginning, it was hard but later this became a habit. Later, I became more polite and I became a more positive person. So, I must thank my mother; she is a great role model in terms of filial piety. I learned that my parents were matched and blessed when the relations between Korea and Japan were difficult.

True Parents' profound intention for matching and blessing a Korean and a Japanese moved my heart. Even though their languages and the cultures were different, they learned each other's language and culture and strove to understand and support each other. They made a tremendous effort to unite, which is why even now they seem like a couple on a honeymoon.

I was born into a bi-cultural family and I am grateful that I was able to experience the culture of two nations together. As a result, the experience and the worldview that I was able to acquire from being in a bi-cultural family are precious. When I went to

Japan I could see that my mother was a filial daughter. From my mother, I learned the importance of filial piety and I could see how my mother had won the hearts of her mother-in-law and father-in-law. So in the families of my grandparents on both sides do not have any anguish or resentment about the nation of their child's spouse.

I my experience, I see that interreligious marriage is a way to break down the barriers of race, nationality, and historical resentments. I could see how great, indeed how amazing our True Parents are. I was able to experience this profoundly. That people all around the world can unite as one and we can all form one family under God is my hope. We can form one family happily living in peace. That is why I want to share with you that my resolve is that I wanted to receive the blessing become a daughter who practices filial piety and who will help form an ideal family and help realize a world of peace. Beloved True Parents, thank you! We love you. 

The Hyo Jeong Cosmic Blessing Ceremony in Germany

By Sarah Zimmermann



The couples blow out the candles on the Blessing Ceremony cake.

Three second-generation couples who were unable to travel to Korea and one first-generation couple—a woman who came into the church as a child with her parents and her husband, who comes from a traditionally Muslim family from Turkey, followed the live streaming of this year’s Hyo Jeong Cosmic Blessing Ceremony at their local FFWPU center at 3 AM on the morning of August 27. On August 31, they came again to our seminar center, Neumuehle, in Camberg for a program of education and a blessing event, which they could share with their family and friends.

On arrival, there was an introduction to the meaning and significance of the blessing, which was followed by an opportunity to pray at the holy trees planted by our True Parents on the hill behind the house. It was a lovely warm day, which was inviting them all to stay and to speak to their Heavenly Parent before the ceremony to take place the next day.

A second-generation family with three children came to share their testimony of the blessing and of living a blessed life. Hearing this life experience was valuable to the new couples.

In the evening, local members decorated and prepared the Main Hall beautifully with small tables for a candlelight dinner. After eating, we held a video session on communication from the “Marriage Course” by Nicky and Sila Lee, which included many couple exercises and opportunities to talk to each other.

The next morning started with the holding of the Holy Wine Ceremony. First Patrick Hanna gave an introduction and explanation and then my husband Karl and I conducted the ceremony. After lunch, the guests began to arrive and take their seats in the transformed hall, which now looked like a wedding hall. Each couple entered down the aisle as their names were read out and the ceremony began.

The couples stood at the front for the sprinkling of Holy Water and the reading of the Blessing Vows and then we showed True Mother’s benediction prayer on the screen. The couples then exchanged rings and Lerio and Nicole sang a modern love song. Christian Hausmann then



rounded up the event with a congratulatory talk including plenty of humor and practical marriage tips.

A note on Seminar House Neumuehle

In 1972, the German movement bought a training Center, Seminar House Neumuehle, fifteen kilometers from Camberg, then in West Germany. Years later, a visiting deputy mayor of a nearby town explained that initially those in the surrounding area were displeased that Unification Church had purchased the property, less on any religious or doctrinal grounds than simply because the members had closed off to public use a road running through the property that gave easier access to the village. He went on to say that the villagers are now pleased that not only is the road open again but people other than our members are welcome to rent the facilities for their conferences and meeting.

According to Fritz Piepenburg (1953–2015), as of late 2014, “True Parents had stayed in Neumuehle on four separate occasions—in October 1975, in June 1981, when they conducted a matching and a Blessing Cere-

① The couples preparing for the Holy Wine Ceremony

② Here, they are practicing for the Holy Wine Ceremony. All the couples had also watched the Hyo Jeong Cosmic Blessing Ceremony broadcast from Korea as preparation for their Blessing Ceremony in Germany.

mony; in November 1989 and in April 1990, having come straight from the historic World Media Conference in Moscow.” When they came to match and bless European members in 1981, three of True Parents’ children accompanied them. Wolfgang Waldner, one of the sons of Otto Waldner, a Unificationist artist-sculptor who had a studio on the grounds, interviewed In Jin nim and Heung Jin nim, then sixteen and fifteen respectively.

Again in the words of Fritz Piepenburg, “Thanks to True Mother’s generous grant and the successful sale of the other seminar house in Schmitten, Seminar House Neumuehle is now almost completely restored and ready to function as a center of education especially for those in our young generation.” *FP*

Mrs. Zimmerman is a member of the German Blessed Family Department.



2018
호정
국제청년
평화뮤직콘테스트
2018 YSP Hyojeong
International Youth Peace Music Contest

