

True Peace

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JUNE 2019





A New Day Dawns in Heavenly Africa

By Bakary Camara



History will remember June 2019 as a month Heaven blessed Africa in a tremendous way. We are so humbled by the outpouring of love from our beloved True Mother! Thanks to her, a son-like prophet, Samuel Radebe, could be found in a country like South Africa with almost no foundation of our own.

True Mother's strategy of allowing us to hold the Africa Summit on June 7 at the Hilton Hotel before the blessing helped us to mobilize the cream of African leaders to attend True Parents at this time. Having twelve former heads of state or government and a first lady was quite an achievement. I am particularly grateful to Mrs. Katherine Rigney and her team at UPF-Africa who did a tremendous job in collaboration with all the secretary generals. Now, we have someone like the former president, Goodluck Jonathan, heading the International Summit Council for Peace in Africa!

The opening plenary of the Africa Summit and Leadership Conference saw eleven government ministers, six vice-presidents of their respective legislatures, thirty-five MPs, 130 traditional rulers, 101 religious leaders, ten foreign media personnel and more than a hundred woman leaders and civil society leaders.

The signing of the declaration to launch the International Summit Council for Peace-Africa was an important and significant event. True Mother offered her heart to each of the former heads of state or government representatives as she gave them medals. This historic ceremony captivated the audience. All the personalities affectionately called her, "True Mother" or "Mother of Peace."

The euphoria continued in the afternoon with True Mother's visit to the Hector Pieterse Memorial, built in memory of the 566 South African youths who died on June 16, 1976 fighting against oppression and injustice. Six hundred youth members of Prophet Radebe's Revelation Church of God (RCG) made the visit memorable. True Mother prayed and blessed the site, which is now a holy ground for Africa. She could not hold back her tears for her African children. Our youths felt a sense of hope for South Africa through this visit. "They all aspire for a better South Africa," a representative said. The wreath Mother laid had the message: "In loving memory of Hector Pieterse and the youths who died for South Africa"—Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, True Mother, June 7, 2019.


The next day, to see all the different congregations and religious communities of Inkululeko Yesizwe (IYA, Freedom of the Nation Association) entering the Orlando Stadium for the blessing was inspiring. The blessing was the fruit of Prophet Radebe's commitment and determination to offer his foundation to True Mother. With his team, he wanted to offer the best welcome to True Mother. More than fifty thousand couples received the blessing in South Africa in preparation for June 8. A few of these couples came from Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

True Mother's entrance into the stadium was warmly welcomed. She came in as the Queen of Queens, having her praises sung by the Imbongi (a praise singer). This was historic! When True Mother stepped out of the car to head toward the stage, the blessing participants' cheers started again and continued until she reached the stage.

The purpose of this festival at the Orlando Stadium Soweto was to heal the wounds of the past and support the South African peoples' endeavors for peace and reconciliation. True Mother Moon prayed for a peaceful and prosperous South Africa. She said, "The light of the blessing will spread from Africa to the entire world and make it shine."

Thus, during the blessing ceremony, which our beloved True Parents officiated, more than a hundred thousand people attended, thanks to the partnership we had forged with Prophet Radebe, the founder of RCG. Thousands of people filled Orlando Stadium in Soweto, Johannesburg, all in the name of receiving the blessing from True Mother for the sake of peace, prosperity and development.

Then there was the introduction by Prophet Radebe, "True Mother is the mother of humanity." This came from deep in his heart. Majestically True Mother performed the blessing. To seal the blessing, True Mother offered a heartfelt declaration prayer.

Starting from now, through this blessing in which thousands upon thousands have received new life, they can rise as Heavenly Parent's and True Parents' children. Now Heavenly Parent can call each one his son or his daughter. This is a miracle. This is a happy time for Heavenly Parent and True Parents. True Mother declared that the future is finally here in Africa. "Africa will become the light of the world. The last shall be the first and will shine." 

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A Life Devoted to Others

Above: True Parents with Uruguayan President Alberto Lacalle; Father gave this speech in the National Theater in Montevideo on the tenth anniversary of CAUSA's founding, April 27, 1991.



I am most honored to be with you here in Montevideo, Uruguay's beautiful capital. I feel heartfelt gratitude toward Uruguay's citizens, who have so warmly welcomed me, especially those who prepared such a wonderful occasion today.

I would like to congratulate you who have devoted yourselves to your homeland for ten years now, culminating in this tenth anniversary celebration of CAUSA-Uruguay's founding. Personally, visiting this country in the center of South America that plays a key role among Latin American nations moves me.

Technological standardization

This is the first time for me to visit your beautiful country, although I toured various South American nations twenty-six years ago. Since then, I have never forgotten Latin America. I have worried about this region's future for years. I have been especially concerned about the Latin American people's spiritual salvation.

We are on the threshold of the five hundredth anniversary of the European discovery of the Americas, a historic and pivotal point at which we must think seriously about the origin of this continent's culture, our present reality and our future.

I believe the Americas remained unknown to Europeans until the end of the fifteenth century not by chance but because of God's providence. God had prepared these continents for a role in his providence. Many of the first Europeans to cross the Atlantic and settle in the New World were deeply devout, seeking a land where they could freely worship God and bring Christ's message to the New World's native peoples. Certainly, God desired unity and friendship to blossom between the native peoples and the European settlers.

The New World of America was supposed to be a model of harmony under God for all people. This did not take place as God had hoped. Along with good, devout people, many selfish ones came to the New World. They abused the natives and took their wealth. Slavery and racism added to these woes. Thus, God couldn't always bless the foundation of this new culture. In some cases, they established nations based on greed rather than on the model of

Christian love. This unfortunate beginning developed into a selfish and exploitative tradition that remains to this day.

If Latin America wishes to be an example to the world of peace and reconciliation, it needs to abandon past customs and make a fresh start. Since its liberation from Spain and the other colonial powers, Latin America has nurtured a great dream of unity as a neighborhood of countries.

Simon Bolivar, with his idea of *Patria Grande*, Jose Artigas, who brought about Uruguay's independence, and other Latin American patriots, all envisioned Latin American unity. Today, the world's nations seek greater unity via cultural, economic and political endeavors. That the vision of one world, with the Latin American dream as a precursor, is shining with ever-greater luster is clear.

Sharing this vision, I have supported and promoted Latin America's dream through organizations such as CAUSA, AULA, PWPA and the Global Summit. Through these organizations, for several years I have called many ex-presidents and ex-prime ministers together. We have studied how to promote the cooperation and unity of all countries. For just this purpose, fourteen Latin America countries' ex-presidents met under AULA's auspices here in Montevideo in 1986. Your homeland, Latin America, still has serious cultural, economic and political problems. Building a peaceful and abundant future requires your effort to resolve them. Latin American countries have the same responsibility in world reformation as do the developed countries. For the ideal world's establishment, you need to extend technology distribution and free exchange of ideas to all nations.

These serious problems face all humanity, as do ignorance, hunger and disease—products of deeper, underlying spiritual causes that responsible citizens everywhere urgently need to address. We're living through a transition in history. In the past, many movements—religious, cultural and political—arose upon noble ideals in pursuit of a better world. Despite great accomplishments, the movements and the institutions they established often departed from

their originally intended standards.

Religious and cultural movements, political parties and social systems often fall into division, contradiction and disharmony within themselves, and even fight with one another. In the world today, wrongful political and religious zeal and narrow-mindedness still induce antagonism and hatred. These are clearly not desired objectives of people of faith and good conscience. We must not bequeath such mistaken traditions to our descendants. What is the direction we ought to take? What is the proper tradition to bequeath?

God's ideal begins from the family

For us to understand more about the direction humanity must take to achieve harmony and peace, to understand God's ideal for the creation is necessary. For God, who is absolute and eternal, why was creation necessary? What could God have absolutely needed? Material goods, knowledge or power? These are available to God anytime. True love alone is what God cannot create by himself, because one can achieve true love only with a reciprocal partner. Without a counterpart, even God cannot realize love. For this very reason God needed the world of creation.

What is true love? We know Jesus sacrificed his life to love his enemies. This is true love, love you give to others even at the risk of your life, a love given without any thought of reward. Only through true love can we obtain eternal life and eventually become citizens of the heavenly kingdom. As we observe the mineral, plant and animal worlds, we see they were created to participate in relationships of subject partner-object partner pairs that can respond in harmony, based on love.

Likewise, a harmonious love exists between a husband and wife for each other and for their children. We find these relationships on each level of the creation.

Humankind is at the center, created to be on the highest level, the closest to God. We are the partners of God's love. Thus, men and women are the object partners of God's true love. Without them, God cannot reach his goal of true love. God established true love, the ideal for the creation, as the



The original hotel was built in 1960. Under True Parents, a second tower was built and they converted many first tower rooms to offices to take advantage of the hotel's prime location on Montevideo's Independence Square.



Father throws the first shovelful of dirt onto the initial construction work for the new tower.

highest and absolute value. Even the absolute God likes to surrender absolutely to true love. Since even God is this way, true love attracts all people and all things. From this, we can readily see how high a value each person has, as God's own object partner in true love. God initiated the ideal of creation with love for the sake of others. He gives and gives, without keeping any tally. Thus, God realizes true love. God began creation investing without limit. Likewise, all people are to harmonize, exist and live eternally through God's principle of investing for the sake of others. Man came into being for woman's sake, as did woman for man.

In God's ideal for the creation, which is giving true love, both man and woman are born to love and become husband and wife. By doing so, they become the object partner of God's vertical love. This is the very purpose of their existence. God, true love's origin and humankind's parent, wished to bequeath this absolute, unchanging true love to human beings. Since in true love we realize perfect harmony and unity, God can perfectly bequeath his true love to his children, who are his partners. Not only that; because of true love's attributes, God also bestows upon man and woman the right to live together with him and the right to share abso-

lute value with him. Parents want to see their children become more successful and better than they are. We also know that all men and women seek a spouse who is better than themselves. By this same principle, God created human beings as his children and gave his blessing to them to become better than God himself! This is true love. From this perspective, God made human beings to live with him as his children and to have the same value as God himself.

Furthermore, God made human beings, based on his true love, to be able to share their inheritance among themselves, live together and have equal value. Thus, in the ideal world all human beings, based on God's true love, would possess true individual ideals and happiness and would transmit these to their spouse and offspring. God originally intended this ideal world.

Why we must seek True Parents

Today's world, however, is far from what God intended. Contrary to its original purpose, the world has degenerated into hell, full of sin, struggle and pain. In religious terms, we call this sick, broken human world the fallen world. To bring the fallen world to its originally planned condition and order, God wages a salvific dispensation. Thus, I teach that God's

work of salvation is the work of restoration, synonymous with the work of re-creation.

God's purpose lies in the transformation of the world into the original ideal family, and beyond that to the establishment of the ideal world. This centers on God's true love and the worldview of true parenthood. When we understand the Messiah's mission as a mission of true parents realizing God's love in the world, we understand that God calls us, too, to pursue and accomplish this mission. The Messiah's mission is thus a cosmic mission that all men and women of faith ought to undertake. As the Bible describes it, Adam and Eve, God's first son and daughter, were to grow in God's true love, receive the blessing of marriage and give birth to sinless children. Thus they, like God, would have become True Parents and could enter heaven. In this way, the world was to become heaven on earth, where God's ideal family was to expand to realize a world where only God would reign.

However, Adam and Eve engaged in illicit love before becoming mature. The archangel became Satan. Adam and Eve became evil ancestors and the world of spiritual death began. The world has become one where people spring from an evil lineage. Satan became the god of licentious-



The then-president of the Banco de Credito, Mr. Gonzalo Soto, on behalf of the bank's board of directors, presented a special wool tapestry to True Parents. Dr. Pak Bo-hi attended True Parents as their translator.

ness. God hates licentiousness the most. Because of licentiousness, today's America and Europe face the fate that befell Sodom and Gomorrah and Rome. The world needs to find the True Parent who can liberate all people from Satan's love, life and lineage. This person is the Messiah.

God is calling every human being to take the same messiah's path, loving God and all humankind with true, unconditional love and giving all of oneself for the sake of God's eternal ideal of love, peace and harmony. This path of love is a universal path for all men and women of faith and good conscience to follow. God wishes for each of us to become a messiah for our community. With a true parent's heart, each person has to love God and his or her community. This is the mission God calls every man and woman to fulfill.

The urgent need for true values

Presently, we are experiencing the winding down of the cold war and a new era of peacemaking between East and West, North and South. Overcoming confrontations and divisions, we are heading toward the age of unification through harmony, as one world family of brothers and sisters. The decade leading up to 2000 is a precious time that God has allowed us to return to the originally

intended world, a golden opportunity.

I have proposed establishing the Federation for World Peace. Thousands of leaders in the United States, the Soviet Union and other countries are responding enthusiastically. I have established the Interreligious Federation for World Peace, which more than eight hundred of the world's most prominent religious leaders actively support.

This concerns all conscientious people. The roles of religion, politics and culture in realizing ultimate world peace is therefore indispensable. Accordingly, all men and women of all fields of human endeavor now need to begin to tear down walls of sectarianism. We need to prepare to act with unified power in accordance with God's desire for the greater goal of realizing world peace.

It is time to reflect upon the fact that we have not contributed enough to world peace. It's time for each person to develop true love, the origin and basic element of world peace. We all must come to the point of interacting with one another in true love, knowing that this is the shortest route to world peace. Any one of us who insults or is hostile to our neighbor cannot contribute to world peace or God's providence.

Today's world is awash with problems. To stop the rush toward corrup-

tion and immorality and ingrain goodness in people, we need to establish a true sense of values and a corresponding standard of universal morality. We must call together all people of conscience and deep faith and teach them to be workers with our eternal God's true love, workers who can practice true love of God and of True Parents. Regardless of age or gender, many people throughout the world today are starving for true love. In other words, they are waiting for true people, those able to live for others' sake, to emerge.

If we establish the true love tradition, all religions will unite, God and all humanity will unite, and our new hope, God's originally intended ideal of creation, will emerge. Let us push forward to establish the ideal world, which Jesus also sought. Let us show the world and our young people that a new age of peace, an age of true families, and an age of the blossoming of true humanity is dawning. Finally, I would like to express my gratitude again to you for so warmly welcoming my family and me. May God bless you, your family and your country, Uruguay! Thank you very much. *TP*

This text from Book 1, Speech 5 of Pyeong Hwa Gyeong, was edited for inclusion in TPmagazine.



Be Exemplary People

True Mother delivered this, the founders' address, at the Opening Session of African Leadership Conference 2019 at the Hilton Sandton Hotel in Johannesburg, South Africa, on June 7.



World Leaders from all Walks of Life Attending this African Summit Ladies and Gentlemen!

We believe in God. And God particularly loves Africa. The Lord Jesus Christ said, "Love your neighbor as yourself." [Matthew 22:39] Nevertheless, the six thousand years of human history has been chaotic, with endless wars and conflicts. After Jesus went the way of the cross, looking at the Christian environment, even though he taught us to "love one another," the countries that arose in the Christian sphere did not understand his true meaning.

When we consider the current reality, the endless conflicts in every part of the world and all the problems that arise, no one knows which direction to take. For this reason, I want to state that the only way forward is through knowing God, the Creator. Those in the Christian realm did not understand Jesus' essence. Originally God created all things in his image. From the mineral world to the plant and animal kingdoms, God created everything in pairs. Ultimately, he created a man and a woman to be humanity's ancestors.

God gave human beings a period of growth. God's dream was to become humanity's parent through perfected human beings. But because the first human ancestors, Adam and Eve fell, Heavenly Parent's dream went unfulfilled. Fallen history brought bitter pain to Heavenly Parent, of course, and for human beings.

Since God endowed with eternity what he created, God had to save humanity by leading the providence of restoration through indemnity. How difficult must this historical providence of indemnity have been! After four thousand years, he established the chosen people, Israel.

It took him four thousand years before he could send his only begotten son Jesus Christ. Mary, in whom he was conceived, and the Jews, the Israelites, should have understood what kind of person Jesus was. However, the Israelites failed to provide an environment for Jesus to accomplish the will. So what happened after Jesus went the way of the cross? After four thousand years, Heavenly Parent, the Creator, wanted

to realize his dream through Jesus. But once again, due to our mistake, it became a story of bitter pain.

Jesus' tragic death

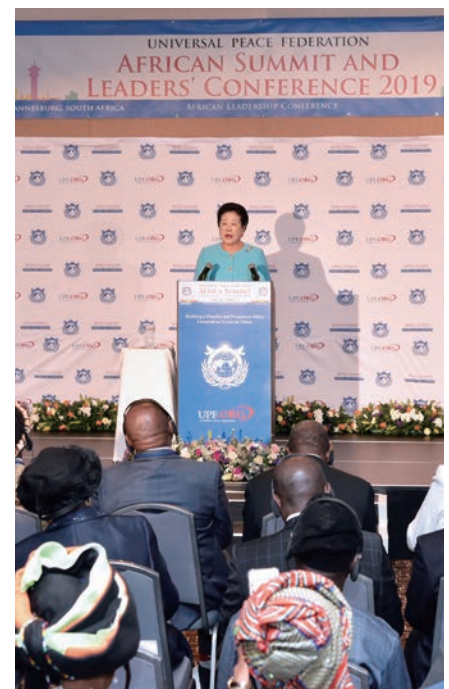
During Jesus' crucifixion, a thief was on his right and another was on his left. When the thief on the left derided Jesus, the thief on the right said, "We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." [Luke 23:41] What did Jesus say at that moment? Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise." [Luke: 23:43] Here's something you need to understand: he said "Paradise," not the kingdom of heaven. Originally, God, the Creator, prepared the kingdom of heaven for perfected human beings. After living as true families on earth, they would enter the eternal world. This world is the kingdom of heaven.

Jesus came alone and went alone. That is why he said he would return. Christianity began with the Apostles, guided by the Holy Spirit after Jesus' crucifixion. In the beginning, it was much persecuted, but in 313, Rome officially recognized Christianity. From the Italian Peninsula, it expanded to Europe, into England and from there it spread to the world. Nonetheless, they too did not understand Jesus' essence.

[In Mark 12:31], Jesus instructed us, "Love your neighbor as yourself," yet as they set out into the world, they created a culture of taking, instead of giving compassionate love. The African continent in particular went through much hardship because of that. Jesus taught us that God is love and preached about love, but ignoring its essence, fallen people pursued selfishness (giving priority to one's national interests) leading to the present fallen humanity. Jesus said he would return.

The daughter is the key

It is written that he would return to celebrate the marriage supper of the Lamb. What should the Christian world seek? Creation consists of male and female. Two thousand years ago, the only begotten son was born, but there was no only begotten daughter,



so the Christian world should have searched for the only begotten daughter. God could not send the only begotten daughter to a people that didn't fulfill their responsibilities—the Israelites.

So, God chose a new people. In 1943, in Asia, in the nation of Korea, the only begotten daughter was born, with a Christian background. God had waited six thousand years for the only begotten daughter's birth. Without fail, God must fulfill the purpose of the Creation. The Second World War had come to an end, but Korea was divided into democratic and communist countries. My birthplace is in North Korea, a place with a strong and important foundation in spiritual Christianity. They North Koreans didn't expect the Lord in his Second Coming to appear on the clouds; we had spiritualist groups who expected the Messiah to be born, to have a physical body.

Since some believed the return of the Messiah would happen in Pyongyang, we didn't think of going south. However, according to the principles of creation, God had to give his only begotten daughter time to mature. Given that there would be many dangers on the communist side, we went south. Two years after going to South Korea, the Korean War broke out.

South Korea did not have the necessary strength to face North



True Mother with African luminaries on whom she has bestowed the International Summit Council for Peace medal

Korea. Miraculously, God mobilized allied forces and protected South Korea's democracy. Who do you think that was for? God gave the only begotten daughter, born after six thousand years, time to mature and receive the divine will.

Even though I was a young girl, I knew God's providence; in 1960, I rose to the position of True Mother. Heavenly Parent waited six thousand years for True Parents. The Christian sphere waited 2,000 years for True Parents. Christianity, however, did not understand the providence. As a result, they could not create the right environment for True Parents.

However, True Parents know God's providence, God has been wanting to embrace humanity, knowing [and understanding] that love from God, for the past 60 years, we carried out the blessing movement, which gives birth to blessed families that can stand in God's presence.

As fallen human beings, we can't come into God's presence.

The blessing of marriages is the act of passing through a ceremony of rebirth and resurrection by True Parents. It is a miraculous gift of love that God gave to us.

After nearly sixty years of conducting worldwide blessing campaigns, now, about 150 countries, have pledged to support the only begotten

daughter, True Mother, advancing True Parents providence, transcending religious barriers and race and aiding true family movements. It is the only way to achieve God's dream, the dream of one human family.

A closer look at true love


All the countries in the world, as one great human family under Heavenly Parent, should take care of each other with love. The blessing movement is the only way for us to become one. Surely you have children. As parents, your love towards your children is unconditional. You want your children to do well. This parental heart doesn't say that since I sacrificed for you to be successful, you must now make all your efforts to repay the debt.

Heavenly Parent's love, True Parents' love, is a love that gives and then forgets what it has given; it is true love. If all humanity can create true families that fulfill their duty of filial piety toward God and if they solve all the complicated problems that are currently emerging on this planet, it will return to the original state which God, the creator had intended, and we will be able to live in the kingdom of heaven on earth, attending God.

Even though the physical body limits humans, God's providence is

eternal. We must educate our children well and establish one world centered on God's providence. We must continuously be exemplary people.

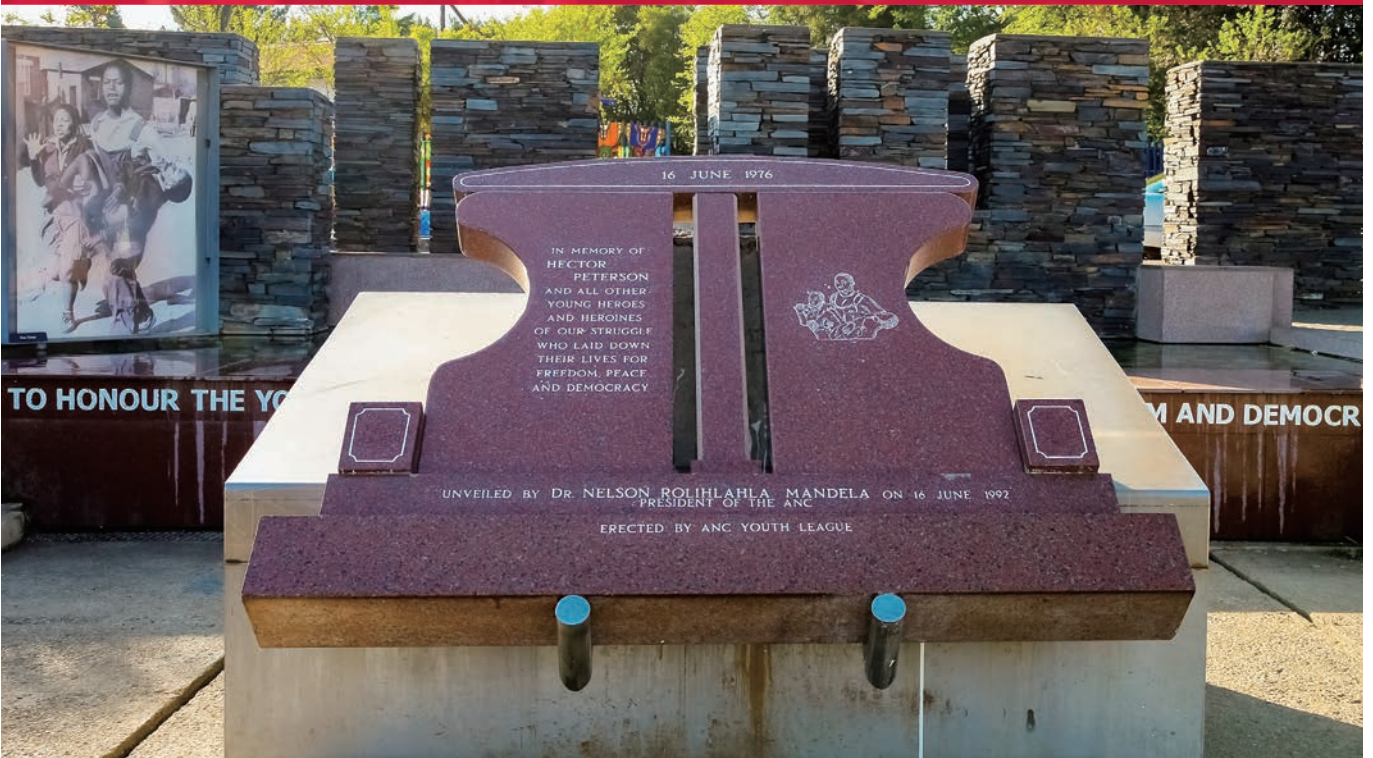
This is the point we are at. I want you to understand that. We, the people of today, don't just live for the present. All our ancestors, and our descendants too, must gain liberation through True Parents. Especially you, top leaders of different countries who gathered here today, must be responsible for the future. There is only one path—the true family movement!

Only through the blessing movement, can we solve all the problems and unresolved issues that need solving. In that position, our eternal Heavenly Parent works with us. Understand how blessed we are to be in this position. It is written in the Bible, [Matthew 19:30] that "The first shall be last, and the last shall be first". From Christian sphere's viewpoint, Africa is among the last. But from True Parents' perspective, as heavenly Africa, this is the first continent. The more you share joy and blessings, the greater they become. Will Africa settle for the African continent alone, or will you go out into the world? I pray that you will be an Africa whom God can love and be thankful for, of which God can say, "On the African continent I have sons and daughters that I truly love!" 



True Parents' Prayer and Liberation Ceremony in South Africa

True Mother conducted a prayer and liberation ceremony at the Hector Pieterse Museum, in Orlando West in Soweto, South Africa, on June 7. Hector Pieterse was just twelve years old when a bullet snuffed out his life on June 16, 1976. True Mother prayed for the liberation of South Africa, which is still emerging from a centuries-old struggle for equality. For more on Hector Pieterse, please see page 34.





In front of God, the Creator, there is no color. There is only one color. Because of the Fall, humankind had a long history of indescribable suffering and bitter pain. Yet for God, to save fallen humanity, he led the history of the providence of salvation and established a chosen people. Until God could send his only son to fulfill the purpose of his creation, took four thousand years.

Once again, his dream could not come true as the people who had to take responsibility did not create the right environment. After that, Jesus Christ had to take the path of the cross. How can anyone understand Heavenly Parent's painful situation? As Jesus Christ went to die on the cross, he promised that he would return. He promised that he would return, yet the providence of restoration, which began with the Apostles, took two thousand years.

Nevertheless, Christian countries did not understand Jesus Christ's heart. Even more, they did not understand the heart, the essence, of the Creator God. Jesus Christ said to "love your neighbor as yourself." [Matthew 22:39] But the people who went out as missionaries all over the world, in Jesus Christ's name, did not understand Jesus' essence. They had such selfishness, only thinking about themselves. Instead of thinking of

giving love, they actually took love from those nations, but today, in Soweto, in this nation, in the name of Christ, we stand here.

All those people who came in the name of Christ were missionaries. In front of God, humanity is one family; we all are brothers and sisters. How can it be that in history, human beings selfishly discriminated against one another? How will we ever receive forgiveness for murdering that young boy, ending his future? The youth... How will they ever receive forgiveness for doing that, especially in the name of religion?

However, Heaven is with us. As humanity is seeking equality, peace, freedom, we seek historical truth. It is hence a miracle once again that Heaven could bring True Parents to earth. Through sixty years of history on earth, the earth has known this truth.

Our beloved Heavenly Parent, Finally, your painful history will now be healed. All Your past sorrow and pain will be healed in this place. You will bless this land and open a new path of blessing here. Heavenly Parent! Thank you very much!

This blessed youth who sacrificed his life here, had a beautiful dream, Heavenly Parent's dream, humanity's dream of one family under God. And

- ① True Mother and Prophet Radebe entering the Hector Pieterse Memorial site
- ② True Mother received flowers from Antoinette Sithole, Hector Pieterse's older sister, who now works as a guide at the memorial park.
- ③ Six hundred young-members of Prophet Radebe's Revelation Church of God danced with joy and filled the air with their singing and ululating.
- ④ Several young people gave speeches honoring Hector Pieterse's unintended sacrifice.

the blood that he shed here, will clean the earth, this nation and usher in a new history centering on Prophet Radebe.

Especially with the responsibility of political leaders and other religious leaders, and centering on Heavenly Parent and True Parents, they will proclaim True Parents. And we will be able to establish and move towards the day of creating a great hopeful future.

Please remember this day, Heavenly Parent! All those who have led lives of suffering, please remember them, resurrect them. May this country, the African continent, be one that can fulfill Heavenly Parent's dream. May this continent become the leading light of the world.

Heavenly Parent, please bless this continent.

In the name of our True Parents, we pray. Aju 7



The Role of the Chosen People According to Divine Providence

True Mother delivered this speech at the American Clergy Leadership Conference's Unity Banquet on June 21 at the Tropicana Hotel in the city of Las Vegas, in the US State of Nevada.



After vociferously welcoming True Mother, the ACLC audience listened to her intently.

Good afternoon, everyone. How are you doing?

After the fall of Adam and Eve, God allowed religions in different regions of the world to pursue goodness in order to create the conditions for him to embrace humanity again.

God originally created heaven and earth and everything in creation in his image. Finally, he created a male and a female, who would become the (good) human ancestors. He gave humans responsibilities to fulfill during their time of growth. However, as they grew up, Adam and Eve fell into a position separate from God. God, in his desire to embrace humanity and fulfill his dream, established fundamental principles of creation, so he had no choice but to lead the providence of salvation.

Thus, he establishes a chosen people and has been leading the providence of restoration through indemnity from the individual level to the national level. You gentlemen, by means of the Bible, know what kind of lives the Israelites led and how difficult the course of redemption must have been that it took Heaven four thousand years until he could send Jesus Christ, of whom he said, This is my beloved son [Matthew 3:17]. Then, after such a long time, God sent his only son, his son who could fulfill the purpose of the cre-

ation as God wished. But the Israelites did not recognize Jesus. They did not know Jesus' essence.

In short, they did not know what kind of being God is either. Thus, Jesus could not fulfill the whole purpose for which he had come. Before he went through the crucifixion, he announced that he would return. And what happened to the Israelites for leading Jesus to crucifixion? They paid a tremendous price for it.

Christianity arose with the Apostles, who while waiting for Jesus' return, gained rebirth through the work of the Holy Spirit. At first, however, they were severely persecuted. Later, having received official recognition in Rome in 313, Christianity spread from the Italian Peninsula to Europe and crossed into England.

At that time, England went out into the world and people said [of the British Empire] that the sun never set on it. They went out into the world ostensibly doing missionary work. However, being ignorant of God's essence and Jesus' essence, they finally ended up with a culture of looting, of selfishness, of prioritizing their national interests. And although they managed to be an economically rich and powerful country, in the inner aspect, on the spiritual side, they created many difficulties. From among believers in Christianity communism arose,

with some asserting that God had died. Jesus said [Matthew 22:39] "Love your neighbor as yourself," but as a result of living a life opposite to that and when being in the situation of not being able to progress further, in the seventh century King James had the Bible translated from Hebrew to English thanks and this gave rise to The Puritans. The migration of these Puritans, desiring to worship God without the restrictions of the old system, gave birth to what is now the United States. God wanted to create the foundation for the Lord's return through this democratic country.

The beginnings were good, but when the United States had economic abundance, abundance in every respect, it turned away from God and was in a situation of family disintegration, juvenile delinquency and communism was threatened it; in a situation of not being able to do anything to prevent it, and since to save the world it was first necessary to take America to God's side, we crossed over to the United States and performed providential work there for forty years. I am speaking of the True Parents.

Jesus' hope was to be a True Father. To do so, he had to find God's only daughter, who had not manifested at that time. God chooses another people among whom he can give birth to his only daughter. So



Success or failure often hinges on clearly understanding one's role. True Mother is helping us to deepen our understanding of what part we have in God's work to restore the original parent-child relationship he intended us to have.

God's only daughter was born in Korea in 1943 through the Christian foundation that God had prepared for four thousand years. Those days were before the end of the Second World War.

World War II ended in 1945. Korea had been under the Japanese government. Its liberation came in 1945 but the Allies divided it into North and South. Divided with the northern part being a communist country and the southern part a democracy. The North had completely Sovietized and was preparing to invade the South. At that time, I was born in the North when the history of Christianity there had been brief. But from all over the world, those worshiping in spirit and in truth, knew very well about the Messiah. All Christians expected the return of Jesus Christ coming over the clouds, but these spiritual groups knew that only by being physically born could the purpose of the divine Creation come to fulfillment. This is how I was born, amidst God's special protection through these spiritual groups. God had to protect me for me to grow up safely. Because of the faith that the Lord's return would occur around Pyongyang, my family could not think of going to the South. But God, foreseeing the future, put us in the situation of having to go to the South. Two years after arriving in the South, the Korean War broke out. At that

time, the democratic system in South Korea had not yet stabilized. How could God not do anything when seeing that situation? Although it was a country unknown to the world, sixteen UN member nations mobilized and protected democracy in the South. Why do you think that happened? Because of my mission, because I was the only begotten daughter. God's hope is that the only begotten daughter would grow up, find the one who came to take on the only begotten son's mission, and both would become True Parents.

Seeing the world's situation, I could not continue to doubt and although I was still close to being a child, in 1960 I came into the position of True Mother. In 2020, sixty years will have passed since that day. Since its inception, the work of the blessing is to give rebirth to fallen humanity through True Parents. We started with three couples and today there are thousands and thousands; we created countless blessed families. I told you that the title was the "Role of the Chosen People." The chosen people! People God had chosen! Who are the chosen people in the twenty-first century, in the age of the True Father? It's you. All of you here today, as chosen people of the twenty-first century, have responsibilities to fulfill. In the past, for not fulfilling theirs, the Israelites paid a tremendous price. You, today's elect, must

fulfill your responsibilities. What will they be? You must be the messiah of your congregations and of your tribe. Only through the blessing in marriage is it possible for you to become messiahs. Are you willing to do that? I want to talk about you to God with pride. Enduring infinite sadness and pain in search of his lost children for six thousand years, God waited all this time for True Parents to emerge on earth and take control of his situation. He wanted to fulfill his Will two thousand years ago through Jesus Christ, but because the chosen Israelites did not receive him, it took two thousand years for the birth of the only begotten, the True Mother, to fulfill humanity's hope, God's dream of the united human family. If the 7.6 billion people who make up humanity attend God, God can embrace them and become true sons and daughters of loyalty, of filial piety there will be no more wars, conflicts or obstacles that prevent unity. All the clergy gathered here today are messiahs of their clans and congregations. A messiah has to save people. Right? That is achieved through the blessing, through the Movement of True Family. Will you do it that way? I hope you will work very enthusiastically for America to fulfill its filial duty to God, who has waited so long for this country to embrace the world. 7

African Summit and Leaders' Conference 2019





- ❶ True Mother speaking at the Africa Summit and Leaders' Conference
- ❷ Many significant leaders had come to hear True Mother speak.
- ❸ Kwassi Klutse, prime minister of Togo 1996–1999, and his wife, present flowers to True Mother,
- ❹ True Mother, accompanied by Young-ho Yun, deputy chief of True Mother's Secretariat, signing the resolution to launch the African chapter of the International Summit Council for Peace (ISCP)
- ❺ With the assistance of a UPA graduate, True Mother presented the official ISCP medal to each head of state or government.
- ❻ King Thulani Zulu, King Willard Mswati Gomane V, King Jobe Radebe and Kathy Rigney, chair of UPF Africa, gave welcoming remarks; Prophet Radebe, Gwede Mantashe (on behalf of President Ramaphosa); Mahamane Ousmane, ex-president of Niger; and Goodluck Jonathan, ex-president of Nigeria (2010–2015) gave speeches; Dioncounda Traore, ex-president of Mali, introduced True Mother.
- ❼ True Mother appointing Goodluck Jonathan president of the International Summit Council for Peace-Africa chapter



2019 South Africa Hyo Jeong Family Blessing Festival





- ① True Mother offering the newly blessed couples to Heavenly Parent.
- ② The vast crowd in Orlando Stadium, Soweto, a suburb of Johannesburg
- ③ True Mother bestowing the blessing upon representative couples
- ④ True Mother received flowers from a representative couple.
- ⑤ Prophet Radebe introduced True Mother at length in a local language; this gentleman substituted for Gwede Mantashe, head of the ANC, in speaking on behalf of Cyril Ramaphosa, president of South Africa; Goodluck Jonathan, ex-president of Nigeria, congratulated the brides and grooms on their having received the blessing.
- ⑥ These gentlemen represented a church to which True Mother gave a donation.
- ⑦ Two other recipient organization received a donation from True Mother.
- ⑧ True Mother presented Prophet Radebe with a Family Federation flag and plaque.
- ⑨ Prophet Radebe presented to True Mother perfume that his organization created for poor families to sell.



ACLIC Unity Convocation 2019



- ❶ True Mother speaking to the religious leaders, many of whom have been supportive of True Parents' work for more than a decade
- ❷ A view of the audience during True Mother's speech
- ❸ True Mother receiving a bouquet of flowers
- ❹ Ki-hoon Kim, vice-president of FFWPU International; True Mother, Dr. Luonne Rouse, national co-chair of ACLC; Sun jin Moon and Kwon Jin Moon during a toast
- ❺ Rev. Ki-hoon Kim welcomed everyone; Bishop Idahosa of Nigeria offered the innovation; Prophet Radebe reported that the people in South Africa are already missing True Mother; Bishop Noel Jones said he believes God created Mother to reveal that religious people can work together to make the world a better place.; Dan Burton, in introducing True Mother, called her the "Princess of Peace and the Mother of Peace."
- ❻ Everyone assembled for a commemorative photograph



Peace Starts With Me Unity Festival on June 22 at the MGM Grand Hotel





- ① The audience responded to True Mother with loud applause.
- ② Demian Dunkley made opening remarks; South African Prophet Samuel Radebe gave the opening prayer; Dr. Ki-hoon Kim, chairman of FFWPU North America elaborated on unity and our common desire for it; Archbishop Stallings prepared the audience for the blessing and introduced Crescentia DeGoede, who led them through it; Bishop Noel Jones, pastor of the City of Refuge Church in Gardena, California, introduced True Mother (see page 26)
- ③ True Mother speaking to the massive audience at the MGM Grand Hotel
- ④ Many children gave flowers to True Mother following her speech.
- ⑤ Representative couples onstage
- ⑥ ACLC National Co-chair Dr. Luonne Rouse and his wife Marie officiated the blessing ceremony.
- ⑦ CARP members performed "Unconditional."
- ⑧ Various performers, many from the gospel sphere, brought joy to the audience.
- ⑨ Bishop Hezekiah Walker sang two of his hit songs with a 500-voice choir.



Reflections on True Mother's Presence in South Africa

True Mother's Smile

By Myoga Molisho

Last year in Cape Town, we had a summit. I was excited to see True Mother and I think my excitement got the best of me. I was not able to prepare myself internally. I was part of the registration team. We worked until the event began. Seeing True Mother was an exciting moment for me. However, when I saw the Nepal summit via PeaceTV, I saw True Mother was very happy compared to when she was here in Cape Town. That broke my heart completely; I felt that I was not able to make my Mother smile. I was truly disappointed because I missed the only opportunity that I believe I had to make True Mother smile.

This year, when I was told that True Mother was coming again, I vowed to do my very best to ensure that True Mother smiles when she arrives here. I felt that I was responsible for her smile. I was privileged to welcome True Mother at the entrance of the hotel where she was staying. I felt extremely nervous and my heart was beating fast because I felt that I was not ready to welcome True Mother. After True Mother came, we listened to her speak and then we had to continue the preparations until the day of the events.


Hearing Prophet Radebe and various other religious leaders and former presidents speak so highly of our True Mother made me realize that I was sleeping and



needed to wake up. I am a second-generation Unificationist, but I never had the courage to proclaim True Mother's value in the way they did. This made me miserable and sad because I failed to fulfill my responsibility.

Getting to the stadium for the blessing and seeing it fill with people receiving the blessing, I felt a sense of pride but embarrassment as well because I could not do that for our True Parents. During the blessing I felt that my goal of seeing True Mother's smile came true. I felt that she was happy and that alone gave me peace but also pricked my conscience because I felt that if my dream is to see True Mother smile all the time, why have I not done anything to make her feel that way? That made me reflect deeply.


I realized that with reflection comes action and I must take action to ensure that True Mother is always smiling. If True Mother smiles, surely Heavenly Parent smiles, True Father smiles and so does the whole spirit world. I promise to try my best to make this goal come true.

I am deeply sorry I have not been involved for so long, True Mother. As difficult as it is, I should have pushed harder. I am sincerely sorry. Thank you, True Mother. I love you True Mother. 

How Quickly Others Understood

By Thomas Nzenzo



My testimony was an observation as a blessed couple in Orlando Stadium Soweto. I watched members of Prophet Radebe's Revelation Church of God chanting loudly and with joy, "True Mother the only begotten daughter of God!" without even strongly understanding our Divine Principle teachings! It touches me so much and brought tears to my eyes. I could understand now that we didn't do enough for True Parents. We have wasted so much time on futility. The foundation is there, we have just to go and tell the world that True Mother is here, and she is the only begotten daughter of God. This is the most important gospel the world wants to know. And the rest will just follow suit. 

Someone We Can Believe In

This is Bishop Noel Jones' introduction of True Mother at the Peace Starts With Me Unity Festival on Saturday, June 22 at the MGM Grand Hotel in the city of Las Vegas in the US State of Nevada.

By Noel Jones

From a theological perspective, it is significant to understand that when God created in the heavens and on the earth and he made all of the animals. One of the things that is critical is that once he made man in his likeness and in his image, God had to give man dominion. The reason he had to give him dominion is because when he looked at the earth, he wanted to see the image that he had made not subjected or under the rule of a four-footed beast or a bird of



The expectant crowd waiting for True Mother to take the stage



The reverend Noel Jones, a Pentecostal bishop and senior pastor of the City of Refuge church in Gardena, California, introducing True Mother with spirit and eloquence at the Peace Starts With Me Unity Festival


the air, not under the rule of any creature, because man is in his image and in his likeness.

So, automatically, he gives us the responsibility of caring for the things that he created because we are in his image and in his likeness. He has to give us dominion. It is critical, however, that even though he gave us dominion over the earth, he never said for us to love it. Indeed, and in fact, he said, "Love not the world neither the things that are in the world," because one could get caught up in the love of the world and the love of the things in the world.

Then the love of the Father is not in you. When Jesus... This might be the first time you are hearing it like this, but the meanest animal in the zoo is not the devil. And I pause on that for you to absorb it. The meanest animal in the zoo is not the devil. The devil has never been regarded as the root of all evil. And Jesus did not equate serving God as being opposed to serving the devil.

He said you cannot serve God and mammon. [Matthew 6:24] The meanest animal in the zoo is the love of money. It is not having money. It is not not having money, but it is loving money. Because once you love money, you begin to become cruel to your brothers and your sisters. The meaning... The whole drug business—love of money. The whole not sharing is the love of money. They whole one percent of our country making 16 trillion more dollars while the bottom fifty percent lost 900 billion. The love of money becomes critical because wars are because of things. And it gets really bad when the pulpit is included, because when the pulpit loves money, they [religious leaders] distort the truth of God and they enslave nations with the Bible.

I was in Africa and I was on national television and they asked me a question. They said, Honorable bishop, before we became Christians or before we followed Islam, we had the land. Since now we have the Bible and the Koran, we don't have any land, because oftentimes missionaries went in for personal aggrandizement and selfish reasons and used religion to enslave and hold people back.

When I look at this wonderful lady that I am going to introduce, that I am about to introduce, that I am introducing, there is one thing all of us can note: She is not reaching to any one of us for anything. She is not serving mammon. She is serving God. [Loud applause] And her greatest joy is to do what God would have anybody do because the best way to spend your money is blessing people who are in the image of God. How can you say that you love God who you have never seen and don't love all of his images that we're looking at every day? [He sweeps his hand across the audience to indicate everyone present as God's images.] I bring you the indubitable Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon. Receive her! 

Bishop Jones is the pastor of the City of Refuge Church in Gardena, California.

Blessings Abound When Connected to True Parents

This is a transcript of the reflection of the national leader of FFWPU for a heavenly United States at the victory celebration in Las Vegas at the International Peace Education Center (IPEC) on June 23.

By Demian Dunkley

Mother, this morning, you asked if men like to go shopping. I think men like to go shopping but why husbands are many times resentful is because the women's clothes are so much more beautiful than the men's clothes. [Laughter] And Mother, you are exemplifying that today. I don't know how you do it but every year you look younger and more beautiful. Doesn't she? [Applause] I also want to take this time to mention, just by nation, our elders and leaders who came from all over the world—from Korea, from Japan, from Europe, from South America, from all over the world. Thank you. I know how busy you are to be here in America to support this great victory, for America and for Subregion 4—thank you so much for being here.

Called to a mountaintop

As you know, I had no idea True Mother would call me to be a subregion leader, that was why when she called me, I was wearing an Apple Heaven USA uniform. A few days after that, I was awoken in the middle of the night to go up to the top of a mountain and pray. It was actually Dr. Balcomb in a dream that woke me up. He was already in Europe physically, but spiritually he was with me.

I went up to the top of the mountain and I prayed to God about one point: God, what is it that keeps Mother awake at night? God told me what to do very clearly—a detailed plan. He said, this is why you must conduct a rally; this is when; this is where; this is why' this is how. Such a detailed plan, like that [He snaps his fingers] I heard. Not what I expected; but that's what I heard. Because Mother wants to save all 7.6 billion-plus children of God. We don't have time; we have to go big! [Applause]

Again, this year, at the beginning of this year, Mother appointed me the president of the church in USA. Again, within a few hours, I was up on the top of the mountain praying to God—What shall I do, God? This time, too, God gave me a clear and detailed order: United with Dr. Kim 1,000 percent. So simple! I felt God's love and I felt God's heart and truth in there. So, this is the platform with which I serve America. I want to completely unite with Dr. Kim. He's teaching me so much, not just externally but internally—how to understand our True Parents, how to love and serve our True Parents and through that we can arise as the elder son nation, truly united with Heaven. Please give a round of applause for Dr. Kim. [Applause]

Holy words via text

Dr. Kim's order was that we must fulfill all rallies this year before 2020 in America. As you can see, we are getting to work on that. And don't you think that Rev. Jackson and Rev. Doo and the Subregion 4 team did a great job? [Yes! Applause] I think it's getting better and better and better every time. We are surrounding True Mother in such beauty and glory and magnification of God and True Parents. People just walk into the room, True Mother, and they leave the room completely changed.



Demian Dunkley spoke of how God and he have interacted at critical junctures.

I will give you one testimony. I got some texts last night. First of all, from Bishop Noel Jones. He said, "For humility and love, there is no person in history who is greater than our 'True Mother.' Also, we all love our friend Curtis Farrow, right, Rev. Farrow. He loves music as you can see. He also texted me last night. He said, "Please tell True Mother, that as soon as I came offstage to leave the room two people came to me and they said, Today, I reconnected with God." [Applause] "They said they have both been living in Las Vegas for five years and they have been searching for a spiritual home. They visited all the churches and they couldn't find a spiritual home." But they are not friends; they are separate people. Both of them saw the TV commercial for the rally and they came. "They said it was like nothing they have ever seen in their lives. This is what they said: Bishop Jones opened my heart and then True Mother stole it. [Applause]

You know, again, Bishop Jones describes Mother clearly. That God has called her as the only begotten daughter. It is not our responsibility to challenge that; it is our responsibility to recognize the fruits of that. And he said that according to Mother, all of her fruits are perfect. [Applause]

Mother, I hope you had a chance to see my friend, my brother Elder Edwin Perry; he is the co-pastor of City of Refuge with Bishop Jones. He was co-MC, co-host with me last night. He texted me last night and he said, "True Mother is the walking embodiment of God's heart and mind." [Applause]

The power of viewpoint

Very quickly: Mother, we took him on a tour, a few weeks ago, to Belvedere and East Garden. He heard from Mike Chapman, a three-hour lecture—a history of your ministry in America with True Father—the geopolitical frame, the incredibly heavenly providence that you were conducting in America with all of the challenges—the risks and the incredible suffering—for True Parents and the True Family in America. His final conclusion after three hours: He said, I have been looking, listening to the story, walking through East Garden Museum (which is beautiful, by the way. Thank you, Mike McDewitt.) And he said, Mother, I was looking at all of the pictures and every time I saw Father and Mother Moon together, sometimes with their children, sometimes with many guests, sometimes with VIPs... As I was listening to these stories of incredible challenges and looking at the video of each of the True Children, one by one, hugging True Parents before Father was cast into Danbury... [Elder Perry] stood there, even as Mike Chapman was trying to pull him into the other room, he just stood there, watching. He didn't say a word the whole time, just watching.

At the end of this whole tour, he leaned over to me and he said, Demian, I get it. When I see all of these pictures, at the center of every picture, how could this movement go through so much suffering, how could this family go through so much suffering, how could this couple go through so much suffering to guide this ministry in America and still stay together with that kind of true love? When I look in the eyes of Mother looking at Father in the photo, I see true love. Demian, what I'm looking at




Rev. Dunkley expressed gratitude for the support that the American movement has received from other nations.

is the first true-love story of human history. [Applause] Our True Parents are a true love story. When I heard that testimony, I was so moved and shamed that I could never put in such simple terms the incredible power of True Parents. It is God's first true love story in history.

A view of the kingdom

The next day, in front of a thousand members Edwin Perry testified to our members at the Belvedere Festival Sunday service and he said, Never before have I seen the kingdom of heaven like this. All of these families to me is just like some artist's picture of what heaven must be like. He said, Because of True Parents' true love story... You know, he didn't study the Principle yet; he said this: From that true love, surely a true love seed must have been born. A true-love lineage must have been born from such a couple.

I want to end my testimony quickly so that others have a chance to share. There are far too many to share, to glorify True Parents. You are incredible; you are beautiful. Yes, we will do as you say. Will we not? [Yes!] Mother, we are so proud of Dr. Kim, that he guided America to become self-sufficient several years ago. But we should seriously thank our mother nation, Japan, for guiding and serving and supporting America for so many years. [Applause] Please give our thanks to Japan, Rev. Tokuno. Our buildings, many of our wives and our children came from your great nation. So, now the son has woken up! We have woken up! But it is not enough to be self-sufficient. This is like the teenager who is brushing his teeth without being reminded, putting on his clothes and getting to school on time without the parents having to tell him what to do. But then the teenager grows up and he says, Mom, Dad, can I help you with the utility bills? Can I help drive you to work? Can I help pay for our expenses? Can I help pay for the neighbor down the street who is in need. Do we want to be that kind of a son? [Yes!] Yes, we will remain self-sufficient but brothers and sisters please be ready. Those in the first generation, we are in the time when you joined, when you were ready to drop everything to change your mind and unite with God and True Parents immediately. Are you ready? [Yes] Those in the second generation, this is why you were born. This is where you come from. This is your purpose. Will you stand up? [Yes!] Will you stand up? [Yes! They rise from their seats.] Those in the first generation, will you stand up? [Yes! They rise from their seats.]

We will be united with Korea, united with Japan, united with True Parents. America will finally stand up and not just wake up on time. We will help to relieve your burden, to relieve True Parents' burden. To not only save America but to help save the entire world, we will come to Europe to help you. We will come to Africa to help you. We will come anywhere you ask us to, True Parents. We love you. Thank you. God bless you. 

Rev. Dunkley's role as president of Family Federation for a Heavenly USA was announced on December 31, 2018.

True Mother Connects with Religious Leaders

This is an edited transcript of the subregional director's testimony at the victory celebration in Las Vegas, which took place at the International Peace Education Center (IPEC) on June 23.

By John Jackson

T rue Mother, we love you! Oh, my gosh! Mother if you could have seen what I saw this morning! The hall downstairs was completely full. Both stairways were full of people. Going out the door it was full of people and all around the corner down the front of the parking lot was full of people, just waiting to come to see you. [Applause] This was hours before we were going to start.

How can I put this as simply as possible? It is truly simple. Every single person in this room, you are amazing. I watched brothers and sisters in Las Vegas, from all over the country, do their absolute, very best. Now, before me I see Europe. I see South America. I see Korea and Japan. Brothers and sisters, we have Kodan in the house; we've got the youth here. Everybody comes when True Mother calls. Isn't that what the song says? When True Parents call, we come, right? We answer the call.

What was really beautiful about this for me was that I got to meet pastor after pastor after pastor—men and women, who when I would walk into their church, who didn't know me, had never met me, but I had something to share with them we were able to talk to them. And it wasn't just me. Our youth were going out there to meet pastors. Rev. Compton, who's a teacher here, took a month off to visit pastors and to "adopt" [focus on, care for] a pastor. Rev. Doo, [Ken (Su-yeon) Doo] who is the pastor and the district pastor... He fell in love with a pastor, with the couple, and just attended the church. Every time the church doors opened, he was visiting this pastor and his wife. Two hundred members came yesterday from that church because of his love.

An object-partner

I am the district pastor and the subregional director, but I live in Dallas. [Dallas and Las Vegas are a great distance apart.] I asked myself, Should I come to Las Vegas or should I work in Dallas? It would be easier for me in Dallas. I have a foundation there; I could do it. I felt called to Vegas, but I needed a strong object-partner. I was looking for someone and I sat down with this couple, Bishop MacDonnell and his wife Faye. I explained to them "I have a choice; I could invite True Mother to come to Dallas or I could ask her to come to Vegas. Vegas is her home; I think she would like to come to Vegas. What would you like me to do?"

[Members speak out for Las Vegas] Yes, but I was asking a pastor. The pastor looked at me and his wife reached over and took my hand and said, "Rev. Jackson, please ask True Mother to come to Vegas. [Applause] It was at that very moment that I decided that absolutely Vegas was going to be the place, because I had a clergyman calling True Mother to come, longing for True Parents. This why we did it here.

How pastors see True Mother

It was from this stage that Bishop MacDonnell stood up here and started telling us about how



Rev. John Jackson is the director of the US southwest subregion; he is also a founding member of the American Clergy Leadership Conference, who accompanied True Parents on their historic 50 State Speaking Tour

Mother's vision stopped a war, stopped a war between North Korea and America. He said, "We went to Korea. It was because Mother called us that we went there. I didn't want to go; it kind of scared me but my wife said we're going anyway." He said, "When we got there, I had a realization when we went to the DMZ and prayed. Mother called us and eighty thousand people came to a rally. I believe today that it was because True Mother called us that a war was quelled. It was because of that call; because we listened to the call." And he said, "Because of True Mother's call, my ministry became a worldwide ministry. She's the only one who can do it. She's the only one who is trying to do it."


He was talking have the attitude that we're fishing in a small pond, looking for the same people; trying to get "new sheep." He said, "We have an adversarial attitude. Only True Mother can unite us. Nobody else is doing that." He told everyone in the room, pastors and other people, "You have to come; you need to hear this. This call you need to attend."

Just yesterday, one of the bishops got a hold of me, Bishop Thomas, and he said, "Rev. Jackson, please tell True Mother that I am so grateful she cares for me. Please tell True Mother that I realize the assignment she has given me is more important than religion. Please tell True Mother that I have fully received that assignment that she has given us." (I have just told her, if Bishop Thomas is wondering.)

True Mother's success

None of this could've happened if True Mother hadn't called. Mother, we thank you for calling. We thank you for believing in us. I'll never forget how I felt when you looked us in the eye and you said, "I believe in you. I trust you."... I want to be clear: This is not a John Jackson victory; this is True Parents' victory. This will always be True Parents' victory!

We live to attend. I watched brother and sister, one after another, in this community... The Vegas church was completely activated for God and True Parents. They changed the time of their Sunday service to early in the morning and everybody went out, visiting pastors, visiting friends. Rev. Doo and Rev. Compton took care of the church and focused totally on outreach. We completely united on this single goal—to attend the True Parents. Mother clinched the victory when she said, "I want to see one thousand pastors there." When I heard True Mother calling the pastors and then the pastors started calling to True Mother, I knew we would be victorious.

I will close with this tiny sample of what happened all over Subregion 4 and all over America. Mother, this became so much bigger than Subregion 4. All of America came. All my brothers and sisters came. The subregional directors, the four brothers, came. Repeatedly they came to visit pastors. David Rendel was here from the beginning. I don't know what I would've done without him. Dr. Rouse came. He kept coming. Mark Abernathy came. He made an incredible impression. All of my brothers, Demian came. Everybody came. People called from all over America. I had to tell them, "Stay where you are; bring someone from your town." Thank you, America, for attending True Parents. Thank you, True Mother for allowing me to serve. Thank you for allowing us to serve. 

Rev. Jackson is the director of Subregion 4.

Desiring to Inherit

This is a transcript of the reflection of a key leader of youth in the heavenly United States at the victory celebration in Las Vegas, held at the International Peace Education Center (IPEC) on June 23.

By Teresa Rischl

참 어머님, 감사드립니다! [True Mother, thank you!] Good morning everyone. True Mother, we love you so much and we are so happy you are here in America. It is an honor to share this precious time with you, and my heart representing all of the youth... You are the only begotten daughter. You are the Mother of Peace and I have been transformed through your love and grace. I wanted to share that with you.

At the last rally, in Los Angeles, our youth gathered and we were so grateful to receive Sun Jin nim, who shared with us how you gained strength from walking and even the phrase LFSO—living for the sake of others—[you used as] longer, faster, stronger, Omoni.


I wanted to learn from you and inherit from you. So, I also started walking and I gained strength. I lost weight; became healthier, but I became a better leader because of that. True Mother you are transforming us as you usher in Cheon Il Guk, the kingdom of heaven as our Heavenly Parent intended, a world of peace.

Peace starts with me because I am a child of Heavenly Parent and True Parents. Peace starts with me because you gave me the holy blessing in 2015 and it has transformed my life. It's more than just a marriage. You taught me the value of family, the value of unconditional love—how to be a true woman. You have given me peace and given me the opportunity to share that with others, both with my brothers and sisters and my friends as well as with my ancestors, vertically and horizontally as a tribal messiah. I am so grateful.

I am so grateful that all of the youth activities could take place, here, at IPEC, your home in Las Vegas. There has been so much protection and grace and this is such a safe space for our young people to grow and learn. You've taught us the importance of a growing period until we reach maturity. I want to thank you for creating this space, this safe, loving environment in which to grow.

Because of your investment here at IPEC and because of your investment in our youth, we are growing into confident and strong children of True Parents. Aren't we? [Applause] This weekend, the youth brought a hundred and fifty of their friends for an interfaith youth concert, right here, and many joined with pastor mobilization and education.

Thank you so much Mother. Because of you, we (the youth) can stand strong and go with confidence and peace.

I want to help you True Mother. All of the youth that want to help True Mother and stand with her in creating Cheon Il Guk, please stand with me as well. True Mother these are your children whom you have raised and invested in. We love you, True Mother! 



The writer is the leader of CARP throughout the heavenly United States.

HECTOR PIETERSON AND SOUTH AFRICA'S SAD PAST

Hector was a resident of Soweto, South Africa. Antoinette Sithole, Hector's older sister, who now works as a guide at the memorial park named after Hector, explained the significance of living in Soweto in 1976. "Growing up, we heard about Apartheid. It did not make sense to us because we are based in Soweto and there is no white person in Soweto." Having not yet encountered the vile mind-set of Apartheid (apart-hood, separateness) it was beyond comprehension to innocent young Soweto residents.

The Population Registration Act No. 30 of 1950 divided South Africans into three main racial groups, Whites; Bantu or Black (native Africans); and Indians and Colored (people of mixed race). The same year, the Group Areas Act legislated where members of each group could live and where they could work. The government labeled the race-classified confined living areas "homelands." The plan was that homelands would gradually become self-sufficient and self-governing and eventually become a separate state, no longer be part of South Africa. It was as if the white minority were putting other racial groups on large, overcrowded rafts and launching them out to sea to rid themselves of people who were not like themselves. (In 1959, the government further divided the native population by tribes to disguise the fact that Black people were in the majority.)

For young residents of Soweto, their first brush with Apartheid likely came in 1976 when the government ordered that some subjects in school would be taught in Afrikaans, a language developed among

seventeenth century Dutch settlers of South Africa. The way these pioneers spoke Dutch gradually diverged from Dutch spoken in the Netherlands over the centuries. Their language became known as Afrikaans. And they began to self-identify as Afrikaners.

It was to be 50:50 ratio, half their subjects in their native language, half in Afrikaans. They had been studying English for years, which was difficult but as an international language suggested more future opportunities. Now, the government wanted to force them to learn in Afrikaans the subjects they had been studying in English. What would come next? Students in many schools decided to demonstrate against the imposition of Afrikaans as a medium of instruction. They set a date.

Antoinette Sithole later said, "On the 16th of June in 1976, we were so excited. It was like we were going on a school trip. The singing, the chanting, we felt free." Extant film shows young people in school uniforms gleefully leaving school to take their protest to the streets. You see some walking shoulder to shoulder with friends in evident camaraderie going through the gates of Orlando Stadium, the protest site and the site at which True Mother blessed a multitude on June 8. Some students held signs aloft. Others stretched them across their backs. Handwritten on flattened cardboard boxes they expressed defiance: "Afrikaans Must be Abolished," "The Black Nation is No Place for Impurities. Afrikaans Stinks." Still, they were only secondary school students.

Tragic deaths

Many died that day. The demonstration seemed to include every student in Soweto. Twenty thousand protesters is a common estimate. The police themselves officially set the number of students killed that day at 177. Evidence denies its accuracy. Dead boys and girls in school uniforms—unfathomable! As it happens, Hector Pieterse was not old enough to attend secondary school. When his sister saw him, she guessed he had just followed her. He was not supposed to be there. She crossed a

paved area and approached Hector. She told him to stay near her and that they would go home together.

Another shot went off and she and Hector went separate ways.

As it happens, twelve-year-old Hector Pieterse was not the first to die. His death is remembered because his death was photographed. Some students had leaked the date of the demonstration to the *World* newspaper, and the *World* had sent a photographer, Sam Nzima. Sam had expected some trouble might occur. It says something about the times in South Africa that the police opening fire on young student was a possibility that had already occurred to Sam. When the police approached, he moved back and put on his Press armband. That was when the firing started. Having moved, Sam was in position to take the photograph that changed his life. (At times, he thought it ruined his life.)

Hector's sad end

When she saw Hector again, Antoinette ran toward him. When she got to where she had seen him standing, he was in the arms of eighteen-year-old Mbuyisa Makhubo, who was rapidly moving toward a car. Meanwhile, Sam had seen Hector fall and began snapping photographs. As Antoinette ran beside Mbuyisa, unaware of her brother's state, she was telling Mbuyisa that she was Hector's sister. She asked where he was taking her brother. He did not reply. "I looked at my brother. I saw blood coming from the side of the mouth. As he was about to put my brother in the car, he said, 'He's dead.'"

In a *Time* magazine video special on "100 Photographs: The Most Influential Images of All Time," which included Sam's image of Mbuyisa Makhubo carrying Hector, Sam explained, "I think what provoked the police is that they sang a song which was banned in South Africa, 'Nkosi Sikelel,' which today is the national anthem."

Sam had several cameras. From the camera that had pictures of Hector, he took out the film and put it in his sock. When the police saw Sam, they told him to open his cameras and

they exposed the rolls of film ruining them. Back at the *World* office, having developed the photograph, Sam took it to his editor. His editor said they must not use the photograph for it would start a civil war. Already, Soweto looked like a war zone with buildings and vehicles on fire and large rocks strewn across roadways.

The editor changed his mind. They ran the photograph on the front page, under the headline *4 Dead, 11 Hurt as Kids Riot*. Though South African police banned the photograph, newspapers worldwide carried it on their front page. Eventually, Sam Nzima was explicitly threatened with death if he didn't return to his small rural hometown. Sam's career in journalism ended. Only years later does he feel satisfied at what he contributed.

Mbuyisa Makhubo

For anyone present on that day, which started with such optimism and devolved into a life-threatening experience with bullets flying randomly and furthered deteriorated into a violent riot, wounds must have arisen in their souls. It seems to have left Mbuyisa Makhubo's life in ruins. His sister said he came back about 9:00 or 10:00 o'clock that night. From that moment, she knew that he had changed.

Sam Nzima's photograph caused trouble for Mbuyisa as well. He had to flee his own home. The police apparently publicly accused him of posing in the photo, lifting up Hector to draw attention to Apartheid's sins. His sister believes his experiences left him mentally disturbed. Western papers report that Mbuyisa fled to Botswana in 1976 and that officials lost track of him in Nigeria in 1978.

The great future that South Africa is building today and the past they actually dealt with gives greater poignancy to the blessing True Mother has bestowed upon South Africa and to her prayer of liberation at the Hector Pieterse memorial. She is lifting up the efforts of all those who have worked to bring South Africa forward to this day. *TP*

A True Peace magazine staff member contributed this article.

The Grace of Ancestor Liberation and Blessing

The Family Federation for World Peace and Unification-Zambia held a two-day Heavenly Africa Hyo Jeong Cheonbo Second Tour Special Event from June 15–16 at heavenly Africa's Hyo Jeong Cheonbo Training Center in Lusaka the capital of and largest city in Zambia. Around three hundred members from ten nations attended it. These nations are Zimbabwe, South Africa, Namibia, Swaziland, Lesotho, Botswana, Burundi, DR Congo, Kenya and the host nation Zambia. Some members spent two to three days traveling by road to reach Zambia for the event.

This event is the second heavenly Africa tour. The first took place January 19–20. The weather was cold, which in fact we took advantage of during chanyang sessions as participants used the opportunity to warm themselves.

Encouragement from leaders

The opening ceremony started in the afternoon of June 15 guided by the MC, Soondo Mutewa, a second-generation member. Rev. Rudolf Faerber, secretary general of UPF Zambia, gave the welcoming remarks. In his comments, he spoke of the importance this tour and encouraged members to take advantage of it as a means of getting closer to Heavenly Parent and True Parents. Rev. David Isaac Phiri, president of FFWPU

Zambia, also spoke to the assembled members. In his remarks, he thanked the HJ Cheonbo staff for giving the opportunity to Zambian members to liberate and bless their ancestors.

Afterward, Rev. Bakary Camara group chairman of heavenly Africa, explained to the participants the importance of this event, which is the second tour and the first in Africa after True Mother's visit to the African continent. He concluded by saying that True Mother liberated Africa during her visit last year in January in Senegal and this year through her visit in South Africa in this very month, June. She has showered Africa with blessings.

Later, by Rev. Jin-hwa Chung, branch president of heavenly Africa's HJ Cheonbo Training Center, gave a lecture on the importance and benefits of ancestor liberation and ancestor blessing. We then all enjoyed the Hyo Jeong Cheon Won Project video presentation and an explanation of chanyang yeoksa for all participants. This was followed by a powerful chanyang session in which many members had spiritual experiences.

After the lunch, we listened to special lectures about the blessing and Hyo Jeong Offering Paper, and the Cheon Il Guk house of ancestors, from Rev. Eugene Ahondjo, a lecturer at heavenly Africa's HJ Cheonbo Training Center Branch. To conclude the first part, Rev. David Isaac Phiri,

national leader of Zambia led three cheers of Eog Mansei that resounded throughout the hall.

Rejuvenation via liberating ancestors

On the second day, members had a morning devotion and hoondokhae reading guided by Chairman Camara. He gave a presentation on the "Life of Faith and Blessed Life" based on True Parents' teachings.

The Ancestor Liberation Ceremony, Spirit World and Physical World Matching Workshop took place under the guidance of the MC, Mr. Ackson Mwaale from the Blessed Family Department. After members participated in the liberation of their ancestors, they felt a great energy and high spirits through the chanyang liberation session, which lasted sixty minutes.

Next, came a colorful Ancestor Liberation Ceremony, a Spirit World-Physical World Matching Workshop and Ancestor Blessing Ceremony guided by Mr. Nicholas Chisha and officiated by Rev. and Mrs. David Isaac Phiri. Afterwards, Rev. Camara gave special remarks. In his message, he encouraged blessed families to inherit True Parents' standard of effort. Branch President Chung gave remarks on the meaning and value of the blessing.

The Hyo Jeong Offering Ceremony for Inheritance of Heavenly Fortune took place through a beautiful and




A view of heavenly Africa's Hyo Jeong Cheonbo Training Center in Lusaka, Zambia

exciting ceremony in the presence of Chairman Camara and Branch President Chung. Members offered unison prayer as they poured out their hearts in intense prayers to Heavenly Parent and True Parents for the fulfillment of their wishes and prayers.

At the end, Mrs. Betty Banda sang a congratulatory song that elevated everyone as she sang "You Raise Me

Up." The second tour event concluded with colorful performances and dances from brothers and sisters from DR Congo, Kenya and Zambia including a wonderful performance by Tongil Moodo. Archbishop Emmanuel Milingo gave an inspiring talk on experiences in his life and sang two beautiful songs from his hometown with his wife Maria.

Finally, participants sang "Sarang

Hae" together with all their heart to connect to Heavenly Parent and True Parents. This second tour was full of spiritual experiences. Many of the participants expressed joy and thankfulness toward True Parents for this abundant blessing which they experienced with gratitude. 

Prepared by FFWPU Zambia and submitted through the FFWPU-International website.

Reflections

Rita Isabella, Angola: Chanyang heals me! Some years ago, doctors said that a headache that I have sometimes was coming from a shock I had had in my childhood. But when I explained this to my parents they said that nothing as such ever happened to me. As the pain was getting worse, I had started devotions. I had a dream in which I saw my head divided with a cross. In the dream two men explained that due to my life of faith I have survived until now. I was hopeful!

Participant: During the chanyang session, when Rev. Chung started hitting my head, I felt it so hard, that I felt dizzy. And when chanyang was finishing, I felt a heavy spirit leaving my head so strongly that I started shaking. That was truly a liberation for me, so my tears started flowing. I am so grateful to True Parents!

Daniel Chanda, Zambia: In the chanyang session during ancestor liberation, I felt hot and my eyes perceived my mother appearing to me. She told me about liberating her. I had paid for a wish paper but she said it was not enough to liberate her. And when Rev. Ahondjo came all the way over to hit my head while I was at the sound system desk, I felt a little bit dizzy but after I felt good. I realized that it is my responsibility to liberate my ancestors. I thank Heavenly Parent for all this grace!

Tsabelo Theresa Pali, South Africa: I am so grateful that I received deliverance during the chanyang session. I have been praying for my husband and my son to stop smoking and drinking. I felt that my right-hand fingers were itching for almost twenty minutes. I felt that God presence has taken a place even in my body because it disappeared immediately. I expressed my thankfulness to God. I thank God and True Parents for all the wonders going on through the liberation and blessing of our ancestors. I am determined to finish their blessing. Aju!

How Minority Religions React to the Law

The following is a summary by a Unificationist participant in a series of presentations at a June 1 seminar sponsored by INFORM, “an independent educational charity providing information about minority religions and sects, which is as accurate, up-to-date and as evidence-based as possible.”

By Peter Zoehrer

Eileen Barker had invited me to speak at the above described annual INFORM Conference, and what follows is my brief report. The event took place in the prestigious King’s College, London, and more than fifty scholars, including sociologists, theologians and experts in various academic fields attended it. Eight speakers, several of whom were longtime renowned associates of INFORM, presented their papers on issues related to the overall topic. I was one of three speakers who represented a particular minority religion.

The conference concluded with the opportunity for the audience to direct their questions to a panel of the speakers. Not only was the conference itself extremely interesting, but it also afforded a good opportunity for networking and forging new alliances.

Background

In December last year, Dr. Barker gave a presentation at the University of Graz, Austria. My wife Gaby and I met Eileen in Vienna for dinner. I then decided to drive her





„Big Fish Eats Little Fish“ or "Why Religious Minorities are Still a Soft Target in the Marketplace of World Views“

The title slide of the presentation the writer gave at a seminar among people that provide impartial information about minority religions. As one of the only speakers who is a member of a non-mainstream religion, this seems to represent how hard intense religious persecution is to deal with for those that personally experience it.

to Graz, so that we could have an opportunity to talk. Dr. Barker had many questions, especially about my work with FOREF Europe (Forum for Religious Freedom). However, her real interest was the current state of the Unification Church (FFWPU) after the schisms. She was particularly fascinated by the fact that in Austria—forty years after our federal government stripped us of our official status in 1974—we could finally register as an official community of faith in June 2015. I am not certain, but it did cross my mind, that this story gave her the idea for the theme of Saturday's INFORM Seminar.

Eileen Barker and INFORM

Eileen's credentials include FAcSS (Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences, UK), FBA (Fellow of the British Academy) OBE (Officer of the Order of the British Empire) and Professor Emeritus at the London School of Economics. For the past four decades, she has studied minority religions and social reactions to them. In 1988, she founded INFORM to provide information that is as reliable, balanced, contextualized and up to date as possible. She has over 350 published scholarly papers to her name and is editor of the Rutledge/

INFORM series of edited volumes on various issues related to minority religions.

For Unificationists, Eileen Barker is best known as the author of the book that has definitely impacted the public perception of the Unification community more than any other scholarly publication in twentieth century Europe, *"The Making of a Moonie."* Through this publication and the establishment of INFORM, Eileen has arguably contributed more to the debunking of the brainwashing myth and to countering media bias and attacks by the anti-cult lobby than any other person on the continent. Some say that it was Eileen's founding of INFORM that put the infamous British anti-cult group FAIR out of business.

Eileen's diligent empirical research and her powerful input in the public discourse on the "cult-phenomena" has not always earned her praise and gratitude. Anti-cultists often denounced her as cult-apologist, whereas members of minority groups called her an "anti-cult apologist." The latter can be understood within the context of her purely scientific approach, void of any "propaganda" on the groups she researched. To this day, Eileen main-

tains a remarkable up-to-date knowledge of most religious minority groups as well as their schismatic offshoots.

INFORM Conference 2019

Following Eileen's brief introductions, these were the speakers and what they spoke about.

Eric Roux

Eric has been a member of the Church of Scientology for more than twenty-five years and is vice-president of the European Scientology Office for Public Affairs and Human Rights. He has been a religious freedom and human rights activist for many years and is the current president of the European Interreligious Forum for Religious Freedom.

In his presentation, Mr. Roux, who was at the forefront of Scientology's legal battles for many years, gave numerous examples of how the church reacted to the law directly in court cases and of successful advocacy that resulted in changes in the law. Eric's concluding statement: "As Scientology, we always win in court... Or at least, we never lose!"

Susan J. Palmer

An internationally acclaimed expert on new religious movements, Susan lives in Montreal, Quebec, where she is currently directing a four-year research project "Children in Sectarian Religions and State Control," at McGill University's School of Religious Studies, where she teaches.

Six federal grants from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council fund Palmer's research as a sociologist in the field of new religious movements. She is a member of FOREF's scientific advisory board. In her presentation she shared stories of several serious cases, in which she was called to give expert advice. In January 2013, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police responded to a call from a small Mennonite community near Winnipeg that reported sexual misuse of children by one of their ministers. When the police interviewed the children, they described having undergone severe physical punishments. Finally, Child and Family Services (CFS) took forty-two children into care and thirteen adults faced assault charges. Susan and a team of "helpers" resolved the conflicting perspectives of CFS and the Mennonite parents. She analyzed the case within the unique religious ecology of Mennonite culture in Canada, which dates back to the 1780s.

Dr. Palmer was also a mediator during the "Twelve Tribes" controversy several years ago in Bavaria, where police conducted a heavy-handed raid on the properties and took numerous children into custody. (FOREF reported on it; see <https://foref-europeDOT-org/2015/01/01/germany-controversy-surrounding-twelve-tribes>).

Peter Zoehrer

I spoke as Secretary General of FOREF Europe (Forum for Religious Freedom), and as a member of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification. The title of my talk was "Big Fish Eats Little Fish or Why Religious Minorities are Still a Soft Target in the Marketplace of World Views."

In her briefing on the content of my talk, Eileen had asked me to share about the specific situation of religious minorities in Austria and

the struggle of the Unification community to gain official state recognition forty years after having been stripped of its legal status in 1974. She also wanted me to tell the story of how, as a member of the Unification Church since 1972, I became a journalist and defender of religious freedom. Eileen is very familiar with FOREF and occasionally uses our website as a resource pool for her research.

I started my PowerPoint presentation with a very personal story, which immediately attracted everybody's attention. My "defining moment" was in September 1995, after Rev. Moon had given a public speech in Budapest, Hungary (where I was the then Unification Church national leader). He and Mrs. Moon left Hungary the following morning, intending to travel to Spain, the next stop in their European speaking tour. At Charles de Gaulle Airport, French police intercepted and interrogated them as criminals before sending them back to Hungary later in the day. Meanwhile, we received the shocking news via the German *Bild Zeitung* (a pictorial newspaper) that German authorities had placed Rev. Moon on the SIS (Schengen Information System, which serves as a blacklist for foreign criminals) and consequently banned him from entering the Schengen countries. [These are twenty-six European countries that have opened their borders and do not monitor who comes and goes across them. National representatives signed the original agreement at Schengen, Luxembourg.]

Our founders arrived back the same afternoon in Budapest and a small group had a late lunch with them in their suite at the Hilton. I was in a state of shock and was unable to eat, something that did not escape Rev. Moon's attention. To his question as to why I looked so serious and was not eating, I told him how shocked I was by the way Europe was treating him. He tried to cheer me up with these words: "Don't be shocked! I am already used to this kind of thing. It happens to me all the time!" That shocked me even more. There and then I made a profound life decision: I will fight for religious freedom, whatever it takes! And I will do all I can to

bring Rev. Moon back to Europe! I stated to the audience, "This was my defining moment and this is why I am here today!"

I also spoke about the history of FOREF. I covered from 1998, when we created the first website, 2005, when Prof. Brünner and I founded FOREF Europe as an association and he became its president, until 2014 when Dr. Aaron Rhodes, the former head of the International Helsinki Federation took over.

Although occasionally defending the Unification Church, FOREF's fundamental premise is that religious freedom is indivisible and that an attack on the freedom of one is an attack on the freedom of all. Thus, it focuses primarily on defending the rights of all religious groups and now does so in the former Soviet Union nations, in the Middle East and even Asia.

The applause and feedback I received was overwhelmingly positive. In fact, I hardly can remember any other of my public talks when I received such a favorable response as on that Saturday at the King's College!

Dr. Rin Uishiyama

Rin is a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow at the Department of Sociology at Cambridge and a Research Fellow at Murray Edwards College, University of Cambridge, his doctoral thesis in sociology was "Memory struggles: narrating and commemorating the Aum affair in contemporary Japan: 1994–2015." In it, he explored how various actors such as victims, ex-members, anti-cult activists, the media and public intellectuals have competed over the moral significance of Aum Shinrikyō's violent crimes and terrorist attacks. During his fieldwork, he interviewed victims, experts and former Aum believers including members of the splinter group Hikari no Wa.

Rin's latest research investigates links between nationalism and religion in contemporary Japan, especially in relation to neo-nationalist individuals, groups and political parties that deny the occurrence of atrocities committed by Japan before and during the Asia-Pacific War.

His talk presented contrasting responses to the law by Aum



The writer, fourth from the left, is a champion of religious freedom who after a full church career has dedicated himself to safeguarding freedom of faith for all. That his own personal experience with True Father was the impetus for this "career change," is apparently moving to members and non-members alike.

Shinrikyō's successor organizations, Aleph and Hikari no Wa, from the 1995 Tokyo subway gassing to the executions of the founder Asahara Soko and twelve others in July 2018. In 2000, Aum's mainstream faction renamed itself Aleph and the group continues to worship Asahara as a spiritual leader. By contrast, Hikari no Wa, which separated from Aleph in 2007, has repudiated Asahara as a figure of worship. Both organizations are legally obliged to pay reparations to the victims. Aleph continues to operate as a "world-rejecting" group, while Hikari no Wa has sought to improve its public image by engaging in debates with public figures and emphasizing a clear break with the past.

Ringo Ringvee

Ringo graduated with a Master's degree from the University of Helsinki as a historian of religion. His PhD thesis at the University of Tartu was on the State and Religion. Mr. Ringvee works in the Religious Affairs Department, Estonian Ministry of the Interior, and is a member of the Estonian Chancellor of Justice's Advisory Committee on Human Rights. He also serves on the editorial board of the *International*

Journal for the Study of New Religions.

The title of his talk was "Stand Up for Your Rights: (Minority) Religions' Reactions to the Law in Estonia." Ringo's talk focused on three religious minority communities in Estonia—the Jewish community, Jehovah's Witnesses and indigenous pagans. Each of them has successfully managed to influence legislation to the advantage of their religious freedom in areas such as an alternatives to military service and access to medical treatment. Common to all three cases is an out of court settlement.

Jason D. A. Wise, J. D.

Jason received his law degree from Osgoode Hall Law School in Toronto, Ontario, Canada and was admitted to the Ontario Bar in 2005. The focus of his practice is civil litigation, family, constitutional and criminal law. Since 2009 Jason has specialized in international human rights. He has been consulted in human rights litigation in countries such as Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bulgaria, Ireland, Macedonia, Mongolia, the Netherlands, Sweden, Ukraine and the United Kingdom.

Jason's presentation was entitled "Jehovah's Witnesses and the

Law: Give what belongs to Caesar to Caesar, but what belongs to God to God." How do Jehovah's Witnesses react to the law? In short, they obey the law. Jason made the point that Jehovah's Witnesses adhere to Jesus' command to pay back to Caesar the things that are Caesar's (Matthew 22:21). As a result, Jehovah's Witnesses remain politically neutral. They don't lobby or participate in any action or protest against the government or any legislation.

However, where the law obliges them to do something contrary to their religious beliefs or conscience, they follow Jesus' command to pay back "to God the things that are God's." They likewise follow their conscience and the biblical commandment to obey God when there is a clash with the law. Thus, cases involving Jehovah's Witnesses are heard by supreme courts or international courts and tribunals. Recent examples of legislative changes in favor of Jehovah's Witnesses pertain to conscientious objection to military service (Korea), public manifestation of religious beliefs (Azerbaijan), and religious autonomy (Canada). *✠*

The writer is the secretary general of FOREF Europe.

A Japanese Woman Serving as Cheon Il Guk Youth Missionary

The Asia Pacific Summit 2018 took place in Kathmandu, Nepal, on December 1–3. This is a testimony by a Japanese Cheon Il Guk Youth Missionary who contributed to the success of that event.

By Mrs. Yukari Vishwakarma-Shida

I was able to take part in the historic Asia Pacific Summit 2018 in Nepal with my husband, daughter and mother. Nepal is one of the poorest countries in Asia. So, for me to see international delegates from forty-five countries including seven heads of state or government and former ones participating in the summit was unbelievable.

My husband (Mr. Binod Vishwakarma) from Nepal and I received the blessing in 2015. For assorted reasons, we decided to move to my hometown in Sapporo, Hokkaido, following our daughter's birth two years ago, but we have promised to return to Nepal for the time being.

We heard about the December 1 Nepal summit in September, three months before it began. From that day on, my husband and I started to offer prayers and do bowing conditions, because we thought this summit would be an especially important occasion for us to fulfill our mission as heavenly tribal messiahs and to participate in building a national and global salvific foundation. Furthermore, my husband decided to contact one or more relatives or friends each day to inform them about the summit.

Among them, he put special effort into asking one of his cousins, a

company official in his forties, to take part in the summit. He had brought three hundred out of six hundred guests to the blessing ceremony we held as a tribal messiah back in Nepal a few years ago. He also gave us financial support. My husband and I have been concerned about the people who participated in that blessing ceremony because we were not able to conduct much follow-up blessing education for them.

My husband's cousin was planning to go on a trip to Dubai (UAE) during the Nepal summit, but my husband convinced him to cancel his trip and participate in the summit with his wife.

Reaching out to loved ones

The blessing ceremony was not only for mayors and vice mayors but also for ordinary citizens if they were participating as a couple. So, my husband left for Nepal by way of Thailand ten days earlier than I and headed for a village named Dharan, where his cousin lives. Dharan is a twelve-hour drive east of Kathmandu. My husband stayed at his cousin's place for a week and visited professors and peace ambassadors among his relatives and invited them to the summit. As a result, we were able to bring five couples to the blessing ceremony. In fact, we had wanted to

bring more, but the number of people we could bring along was limited since the main target of the blessing ceremony was the mayors. The president of my husband's cousin's company, who took part in the summit, said, "Only the Universal Peace Federation can host a program with so many international delegates."

Gratitude emanated from everyone at the victory celebration, which we participated in with my father-in-law. My mother-in-law passed away four years ago, and since then my father-in-law has lived a self-sufficient life with his younger son's family. At the time of the summit, he spent two days traveling to Kathmandu to meet his grandchild, our daughter, for the first time. His eyes were filled with tears as soon as he saw her. My husband and I wanted him to participate in the blessing ceremony but only couples who were both physically present were able to take part. However, he was able to participate in the victory celebration and meet True Mother.

They held the celebration on December 3, with True Mother present. Asia's national leaders gave their impressions of the summit. They were all full of gratitude that the summit was a success. The emcee tried to stop them when they exceed-



The writer received the blessing with her husband, Mr. Binod Vishwakarma, in 2015.

ed the time allowed for each presentation, but they were too overwhelmed to stop speaking. True Mother seemed happy to see their enthusiasm.

In her speech, True Mother said, "Nepal is filled with natural beauty such as Mt. Everest. This nation will develop through tourism in the future. It is heavenly Nepal and the heavenly Himalayas."

Nepal is still a developing country. There are no traffic rules. Dogs and cows run loose, and the government conducts planned blackouts. Since the country's domestic economy is weak, many people must leave their families and work in foreign countries to support their families. I felt that True Mother's visit to Nepal was a visit to liberate the peoples' sorrows and pain.

According to my husband, True Parents visited Nepal for the first time thirteen years ago for the inauguration of UPF on November 22, 2005. On that day, the ten-year civil war in Nepal entered into a cease-fire agreement under the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) and the Seven Political Parties' agreement on the Twelve-Point Understanding for Peace. A year later, on November 21, 2006, the civil war had finished completely. Nepal started to follow a path toward peace on the exact day the Messiah came.



The writer received a revelation about her blessing in the Jeonshimwon prayer hall.

A voice arose within me

The Japanese Cheon Il Guk missionary providence started in June 2013 and I applied for the first class. Heaven gave me Nepal as my mission nation. A forty-day workshop preceded our traveling to our mission nations and when I was praying in Jeonshimwon (the prayer hall) I heard a voice in my heart say, "My blessing partner is in Nepal." Back then, although I had applied to receive the blessing with someone from another country, I was not able to find my

partner. I decided to become a missionary because I wanted to offer more conditions of sincerity. However, since a strong sense of mission, a calling as a missionary, was driving me, I did not think about the blessing during my stint as a missionary.

A year later, I wanted to continue my mission for another year, so I applied for the second class, but I fell ill. Since I was at a marriageable age, the regional president of heavenly Asia, Rev. Chang-shik Yang worried about me and asked the center director to find a husband for me. That was how I met my husband.

In February 2015, we were able to hold a blessing of thirty-five thousand couples in Nepal in the presence of FFWPU International President Sun Jin Moon. Deeply moved by this ceremony, I thought, "How wonderful it would be if we could have True Mother at Nepal's next blessing ceremony!" To see my dream come true in this way thrilled me. My husband and I shall remain in Nepal for a while. We will offer prayers and our sincere efforts to fulfill our mission as heavenly tribal messiahs. ☞

The writer was thirty-four at the time of the event and is from the first group of Japanese Cheon Il Guk Youth Missionaries.

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