

True Peace

天—國 7年
天曆 12
JANUARY 2020



PEACE
STARTS WITH
ME

CLERGY RALLY
A NEW HOPE FOR A HEAVENLY
UNIFIED WORLD



Forging the Way to the Vision from Africa to Seoul

By Kathy Rigney




As we begin this providentially monumental year of 2020, the year we have all been focusing on, the year targeted by Heaven to bring the greatest victory the world has ever known, as we finally enter that long awaited year, many of us cannot help but think back to that earth-shaking moment in 2012 when our True Father ascended to be with our Heavenly Parent.

As we gathered together, centering on our beloved True Mother, at the Cheongshim Center in Korea and as we shed endless tears, we wondered where the future was headed and how we would go forward after True Father joined Heaven. We knew how victorious True Father's life had always been and yet we also knew that True Parents were searching for a nation that Heavenly Parent could claim as his own. We were sorry that True Father could not see that nation and live there even for one moment before ascending.

But then, a few days later, our amazing True Mother, God's glorious only begotten daughter, announced to all of us that "We will not stop... We will keep moving forward following True Father's example no matter what." She also told us that Heaven was granting us a special grace so that during the next seven years, we could fulfill what our True Parents had been working, sacrificing and longing for—the restoration of Heaven's nation. She set us on the course as she herself stood up and led us with her own exhausting and devoted example!

Working in Africa for the past forty-five years, I've had a unique and extraordinary opportunity to view our True Mother's quest very closely as she worked and sacrificed many long and arduous days and weeks and months in Africa. Since January 2018, when True Mother arrived in Africa for the first time after True Father's passing, True Mother has been in Africa hosting and organizing ten major summits and blessings during a period of twenty months! She worked more ardently than any of us; she was absolutely meticulous, studying every detail of every event and spending endless sleepless nights praying, educating and leading the way to reach out to the world's 7.6 billion people as their Mother. She shed countless tears in front of us as she pleaded with all us to work with her side-by-side so the heart of our Heavenly Parent can be comforted and so that Heaven's dream can finally be accomplished.

She told us that if we love our True Father, if we truly love him, we should sacrifice totally to realize Heaven's dream, which was always our True Father's dream, our True Parents' dream. At this providential moment, as we stand before this life changing year, 2020, I cannot look even for one moment at our True Mother without shedding a multitude of tears. Our Mother is beautiful, gracious, charming, intelligent, creative, perceptive and a million other qualities, but more than anything else, our Mother is truly our Mother. She longs for her children—from every corner of the earth—to come to our Heavenly Parents love. She doesn't think about anything but how to bring this entire world back to God.

We will celebrate in Korea; we will proclaim our True Mother's victory as she offers everything to our True Father and our Heavenly Parent. We will rejoice; happiness, joy and gratitude will fill us all, surely. However, I know that our True Mother will remind us that our work has just begun, that on this victorious foundation, we need to bring substantial restoration on every continent, in every nation, every city, every home, until not one is left behind; no, not one. That is our Mother's heart, which I have witnessed for the past two years—no one "explained" to me, no one "educated" me, I witnessed directly that this victorious foundation was built by our True Mother's love and unchanging heart toward our True Father and our Heavenly Parent. How fortunate are we to live at this moment and to witness God's amazing only begotten daughter right before our very eyes? 

Reverend Rigney, the chair of UPF-Africa, joined the Unification Church in 1969 and first went to Africa as a missionary to Benin in 1975.

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Our Homeland for the Sake of the World

True Father delivered this speech on December 11, 1985, at the Hilton Hotel in Seoul at the Welcoming Banquet for True Parents' Victorious Homecoming. In preparation for this event, True Parents had offered special prayers and other devotions to connect True Parents' victory over the ordeal of the Danbury federal prison experience to the world level, in Korea, the central nation in the providence.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, thank you for assembling here from all parts of the world, despite your various circumstances in order to welcome and encourage me on my return home. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to you for that. To see the beautiful mountains and skies of my homeland again and to stand in front of you tonight evokes emotions in my heart that are hard to describe. You have come here tonight not to welcome an individual named Rev. Moon, but to welcome a man who has dedicated himself to pursuing God's will and the ideal of living for others. It is this fact that makes today's meeting a truly historic event.

Living for others, the starting point of the ideal

Living for the sake of the other is the basis for order in the universe. It is the basis for that world of true ideals, true love and true peace that fulfills God's ideal of creation and the desire of men and women. We find the starting point of our ideal and the starting-point of happiness and love in living for our counterpart. If we look at the universe, there is not one single thing that exists only for itself.

The mineral world exists for the sake of the plant and animal worlds; the mineral and plant worlds exist for the sake of the animal world, and the whole of creation exists for the sake of human beings. Then for whom do human beings exist? We exist for God's sake. God created all things and enables them to grow and develop for the sake of others. That a man is not born into the world as an end unto himself is a basic law of the universe. Rather, he is born for a woman. The same is true for a woman. From the moment a husband and wife marry, each spouse should live with the thought, "I was born for you. I live for you, and I will die for you." We could call a couple that does this an ideal husband and wife.

Living for others is a fundamental law of the universe. It is from this point that true love begins. All beings exist for other beings. A truly dutiful son or daughter lives for his or her parents. The love from true parents, the filial piety of true children and the love between a true husband and wife all begin with



The large room was full on the first occasion that True Father was in Korea following his release from confinement in Danbury prison, in the US State of Connecticut.

living for the other.

If we extend this principle, we can conclude that true people live for the sake of the nation, and a true ruler lives for the sake of his or her people. We can all find true happiness if we live according to this principle. Since this is the law governing all beings in the universe, when true human beings that have lived for others enter the kingdom of heaven, or paradise, the world where God lives, they will find that same rule of living for others applies there.

This is the reason all religions teach service to others and self-sacrifice and that genuine love is to live for others' sake. A person who lives for others naturally arrives at the central position and commands respect. For example, if the youngest son in a family generously gives of himself to his fellow family members, he naturally becomes the focus of their love and captures their affection and admiration.

Living for others does not stop with the individual. If the family lives for others, it can establish the family's heaven. If we extend this principle to the nation, we can realize the national level heaven. On the world level, when the whole of humankind lives for others, we can realize the ideal world of harmony and happiness. In

this way we can bring about heaven on earth.

America has forsaken God's will

The ideal world is an eternally unchanging world in which God is the parent and we as his children are brothers and sisters living for one another in the harmonious family of humankind. In order to realize this world, God sent a man to lead God's providence. We call him the Messiah or Savior. In the world today, where true love does not yet exist, he comes to show the way to build the highway to love.

Jesus came as the Messiah on the foundation of Judaism and of the nation of Israel in order to save the world. While he was trying to awaken others to live for the sake of the world, they rejected him and nailed him to the cross. Jesus' hope was that adherents of Judaism, his religion, and the people of Israel, his nation, would live for the world. However, they desired a God and a Messiah who existed only for their sake.

The resurrected Jesus spiritually guided Christianity as it expanded throughout all nations. The United States is the nation God chose to represent world Christianity. It should center on God and take the leading role in the world's salvation. The



W. Cleon Skousen, a Mormon professor of religion and a faith-based anti-communist theorist who lectured and inspired young frontline CAUSA leaders, greets True Father in Seoul as a friend and supporter.

United States has the mission to spread the Christian spirit and Christian ideals. The blessings God bestowed on the United States are not for the sake of the United States alone. They are for the whole world's sake. The United States does not exist for itself, but for all people.

Knowing that this view reflects God's innermost heart and providence, I felt compelled to go to America. For the last thirteen years, I have been working to awaken that nation without ceasing. While attempting to deal with the circumstances resulting from the Second World War, America often forgot its mission to work for the whole world. When America failed to live up to God's expectations, the foundations of the Free World shook. Numerous problems arose within the nation, including racial problems, drug abuse, immorality among young people, the destruction of the family, violence, crime and communist infiltration.

There might be numerous causes for these problems, but ultimately it comes down to America's spiritual and moral weakness. God had hoped for the appearance of an American man that could totally dedicate himself, together with his family, for the sake of the world, and raise

America to become a country exemplifying the principle of living for the sake of others. In reality, no such individual or family appeared, and hence the foundation of the nation's faith is shaky. God called me from Korea to America to fulfill this goal.

The uncharted path of submission to Heaven's will

The mission that God has given me is not something that I may relinquish as I wish or abandon when things do not work out. My mission in America was to continually search for a prepared foundation and to awaken those forming that foundation to reality. However, instead of repenting, America rejected me.

Nevertheless, despite the severe persecution and derision I experienced during my thirteen years in the United States, I worked to create loving individuals, families and communities. I made it my task to build up new people who would be able to live for the world's sake. God does not want people to just believe in him. God wants us to fulfill our responsibilities. Because I know God's will clearly, I have dedicated my entire life to the accomplishment of this heavenly mission.

In the first place, during the last thirty years, I have gathered scholars

from all over the world in order to teach them this God-centered thought and make it universally known. As a result, I was able to establish a secure foundation in a hundred nations. Second, since the kingdom of heaven is not composed only of spiritual elements, our movement invested a great deal of money and effort into technological and scientific development. We have since offered the fruit of these investments to the world. Third, I am building a global economic foundation for the realization of God's will. I have been researching developments in different areas, including how I could encourage international cooperation in monetary policy for human betterment.

Fourth, our members have established the World Media Association in order to provide society with honest and ethical journalism. In addition, we are promoting activities in numerous other fields, all of them related directly to the task of realizing God's will on earth.

As you know, in August I was released from prison in America. The case against me had been fabricated, yet throughout the thirteen months of my imprisonment I never stopped praying for the future of America and of the world. I prayed for God to forgive America and to help me fulfill my mission.

Even in prison, I initiated and directed countless events to rekindle the spiritual and moral foundations of the United States. Out of the Christian spirit of service, our church bought 250 trucks and donated them to churches for community service work. From prison, I also inspired the inception of other new projects, including international professors' conferences to discuss how to overcome communism, a movement for religious unity, a weekly news magazine and a monthly magazine.

Even while receiving unprecedented persecution and facing unjustified imprisonment, centered on God, I loved America, and I did more for America than any other individual, any group or religious denomination. While carrying out that heavenly mission, I forged an unimaginable path, stained with blood and tears. Because it was a path to save the



True Parents with Korean elder members at the Hanam-dong residence (in Seoul's Hanam Ward), on his first trip to Korea following his release from unrighteous imprisonment in the United States.

world as well as to save America, I went up this path of suffering gratefully, and overcame it.

Since I received my calling from God, my life has been full of hardships. During the Japanese occupation of Korea I took part in an underground student organization and was imprisoned for my activities. When I was evangelizing in communist North Korea I was accused of being a spy and almost died in a labor camp in Hungnam. In the early days of my mission in South Korea I was held in Seodaemun Prison here in Seoul, accused of being a heretic. Most recently, I was the object of racial and religious discrimination in America. In this way, my life has been a continuous string of hardships.

Despite the storms of opposition and persecution, I never wavered from the heavenly way of living for others. Now I have returned, having fulfilled the conditions of the providence. This victory is not my victory alone; it is also a victory for God and for righteousness. Do you think it was easy for me to gain such a victory while the whole world was coming against me? I am not trying to praise myself. If it hadn't been for God I would not have survived. I only glorify God.

Korea is the central providential nation

An unimaginable miracle is unfolding in front of us at this moment, and all of you have become partakers in this miracle. I hope you will treasure the memory of having been present at this occasion, commemorating this historically unique victory. I also hope that you will not be content just to be amazed by these accomplishments, but that you will try to seek out the exact providential meaning of this event and connect yourselves to it, and take this opportunity to make a great leap forward in your own spiritual life.


I recommend this to you for your personal benefit, and for your nation and your country. If Korea intends to become the leading nation in the world in a brief time, it should not turn its back on the foundation I have laid. When we look from the standpoint of God's will, we see that the Korean people are a God-chosen people and that Korea is a central nation in God's providence. You should provide the world with a model of living for others. Many historical and unknown events in God's providence intertwine with and center on Korea. This nation has the mission to take responsibility for the world, and for that it has set numerous spiritual conditions in

providential history.

Although the Korean people are endowed with an excellent character and a fine culture, they have been on a path of incomparable suffering. We should understand their suffering in light of God's providence. The challenges and tribulations Korea has been experiencing are part of God's providence, and God is waiting anxiously for the nation to overcome them.

East and West, North and South converge in Korea. Idealism and materialism, theism and atheism are all concentrated here. It seems that the whirlwind of ideas sweeping this country is the labor pain before the birth of a new era. Korea cannot solve its national problems apart from God's will and providence. Furthermore, Korea cannot overcome its difficulties on its own, but only in cooperation with the world.

In order for Korea to provide spiritual leadership for the world, Korea will have to overcome its difficulties by awakening to God's will and by following the person whom God has sent. The establishment of my foundation and that of the Unification Church has come from strictly following the will of God and by completely living my life for others. Now the Unification Church and I have attained victory and overcome all persecution. If the Korean people, on the foundation of my worldwide victory, live for the world, Korea can overcome its own suffering and can also become a center of love, truth and peace in the world. It will receive an even greater blessing than America received.

I am not a weak person. I will not rest on my past merits or yield to an unrighteous world. Even though the road may be long and the task of accomplishing the heavenly kingdom enormous, I will continue on my way. Ladies and gentlemen, on this occasion, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for your support and your faith in my innocence during my court battle in America. I pray for God's eternal blessing upon your families and upon our homeland. Thank you. 

The text, from Pyeong Hwa Gyeong, Book 8, speech 4, has been edited for inclusion in TPmagazine.



The Clergy Rally: A New Hope for a Heavenly Unified World

True Mother gave this speech at the launch of the World Clergy Leadership Conference on December 28 in the Prudential Center in the US City of Newark, in the State of New Jersey.



True Mother speaking to religious folk from the New York City and New Jersey areas that had come to enjoy gospel music, a spirited religious revival, the founding of the World Clergy Leadership Conference and to see and hear from God's only begotten daughter, True Mother.

One World! One family under God! Dear members of the clergy, dear leaders, the completion of Heaven's providence is Cheon Il Guk. One world! One family under God! This is the wish of all humankind's 7.6 billion people. However, when we look at the world today, we see that this is not easy to achieve. God, the origin and the Creator, made all of creation in his image. Finally, he created a man and a woman who were to become the first human ancestors. He gave them a growth period and waited for them to grow and mature beautifully. However, they did not do that, which resulted in the humankind's fallen state today.

Until now, history has been a series of wars and conflicts. Even though the conscience has sought goodness, the environment could not support that desire for goodness, resulting in many difficulties in history. However, God is eternal. His beginning and end are the same. Ultimately, God will bring to its conclusion that which he has begun.

God gave human beings the character to take dominion. He therefore led a historical providence so that a person from the fallen world might rise to the position of having no

relation with the Fall. The story of Sodom and Gomorrah happened around 2000 BC, within our six-thousand-year history. God planned to annihilate Sodom and Gomorrah. However, Abraham pleaded with God, asking if there were fifty righteous people or even just ten righteous people, could this catastrophe be avoided? [Genesis 18:24] God said he would permit that. However, there were not even ten righteous people. Only Lot's family escaped. The Bible tells us that Lot's wife still had a lingering attachment, so she looked back and turned into a pillar of salt. [Genesis 19:26] That's right. God's providence is advancing; it is going forward. This means we should not look back.

The tragedy of Jesus' reception

For two thousand years after that, God selected [and raised] the Israelites as the chosen people and finally sent Jesus Christ after four thousand years [since Lot or Adam]. The long-awaited Messiah, God's only son, with whom God could relate, finally came. Nevertheless, the people, the Jewish leaders and even Mary who gave birth to Jesus, failed to grasp Jesus' true essence. God toiled for an exceptionally long time,

four thousand years, to send his only son, Jesus Christ, who was to govern in the position of the True Parent, the True Father. How could people drive such a person as Jesus to the cross? On the cross, Jesus said that he would come again....

Christianity began with the resurrection received through the Holy Spirit and with the Apostles' writing of the Bible. However, Christianity and Christians of today have not grasped Jesus' true essence. They do not know what kind of being God, the Creator, is. Jesus clearly said that he would come again and hold the marriage supper of the Lamb. Hence, Christianity should not have formed many denominations. Instead, they should have watched closely for where God's only begotten daughter, Jesus' partner in marriage for the marriage supper of the Lamb, would appear.

God could not send his only begotten daughter through the people of Israel, who had not fulfilled their responsibilities. Therefore, he had to select a new chosen people and carry on the providence. Two thousand years have passed since Jesus's death on the cross. To this day, Christians believe that they can receive salvation through Jesus' blood shed on the



True Mother waves to the Prudential Center crowd. In the background is T.L. Barrett, pastor of Chicago's Life Center Church of God in Christ. He is also a gospel musician whose early recordings are highly respected and sought by musicians today from various genres.

cross. How mistaken and incomplete a view this is! Jesus came as the True Father of humankind. Having come as the True Father, he was to meet the True Mother. God chose the Korean people, and in 1943 God sent his only begotten daughter. Words cannot describe the effort God had to make to send his only begotten daughter.

Korea torn asunder

Korea's liberation came in 1945. Due to the actions of the world's most powerful nations, Korea was divided into north and south. It divided between democracy and communism. According to God's principle of creation, human beings receive a growth period. God's only begotten daughter, who was born in 1943, also had to go through a growth period. However, the situation in Korea was extremely tense. Democratic South Korea was not prepared for a fight with North Korea. In that situation, the Korean War broke out in 1950. Heaven carried out his responsibility. How is it that soldiers from sixteen UN nations came to shed their blood in a war in Korea, a nation that was largely unknown at the time? How earnestly our Heavenly Parent longed to find and to embrace fallen people whom he had spent six thousand years searching for through his providence!

True Parents and God's US providence

Jesus Christ had said he would come again. As I knew Heaven's provi-

dence, I received the blessing in marriage to Dr. Sun Myung Moon, who had come to continue Jesus' mission, in our 1960 Holy Wedding. The Christian foundation should have become a supportive environment for the True Parents. Heaven stood by the Puritans, who had come to America for religious freedom in their determination to attend God, giving rise to the heavenly United States. For two hundred years, God worked with the Puritans. There were native peoples here in this nation. Yet God had to create a foundation for the Messiah, who was to return through Christianity. Therefore he raised this nation to be a representative democratic nation. Nevertheless, America was unaware of God's will.

God did not bless America for its own sake. He blessed America for the world's sake. In the 1970s, however, the United States faced family breakdown, youth problems and drug problems while unaware that the communist ideology was infiltrating its shores right under its nose. America, which Heaven had blessed, was creating an environment that could only bring about its own collapse. So, as the True Parents, we set off on a tour of all fifty states to awaken America's people. We preached that America was on fire and that we had come as firefighters; that America was sick, and we had come as doctors.

However, the politicians of this nation were unaware of God's provi-

dence. True Parents knew that God's will was to save the world by raising this nation, blessed by Heaven, which is why we invested more than forty years, the golden years of our lives, in this country. The youth who came to know of God's will went out as missionaries to the world in 1975. For more than forty years, they invested in their mission countries. Thanks to their sincere devotion, God could work through righteous, prepared people in Africa to hold the blessing, which has the potential to bring about restoration of the African continent.

Actualizing the vision through WCLC

I want to believe in you. Members of the clergy who have gathered here from all over the world! You are the righteous people prepared by Heaven in this age. What is the mission of righteous people? You should be able to embrace the nation and the world with true love and live for the sake of others, instead of living only for yourselves. This is what the True Mother, God's only begotten daughter is doing. I am guiding fallen people to become Heavenly Parent's children through the blessing. You must know that this has been the long-awaited hope and dream of humankind for six thousand years; and it is also Heavenly Parent's desire.

True Mother, God's only begotten daughter, is guiding a new era and a new providence. This is the seventh year of Cheon Il Guk. Now you must take the lead. When we think of the world's 7.6 billion people, we cannot turn a blind eye to the children whom the Heavenly Parent wants to embrace. I sincerely hope that you become the righteous people, clergymen, clergywomen and other leaders who can guide people to become Heavenly Parent's children in the shortest possible time. In so doing, please remember that the founding of the World Clergy Leadership Conference, which will bring your individual foundations into unity, is the way to realize Heavenly Parent's dream and humankind's hope in the shortest time. I pray that you will all become the righteous people and the religious leaders standing in the vanguard who will not look back but run forward. *TP*

The text has been edited for inclusion in True Peace magazine.



True Parents and a Revived Christianity

True Mother delivered this speech at a Korean Clergy Leadership Conference invitational meeting for Christian ministers in KCLC and FFWPU leaders on December 29, beginning at 8:20 AM at East Garden, which was home to the True Family during the years that they resided in the US State of New York.

The two-thousand-year Christian providence... Yesterday, I began my speech with the following words: "The completion of Heaven's providence is Cheon Il Guk." Christianity offers an awareness of Jesus Christ's essence and God's essence. After the Fall, it took four thousand years until God could send his only son, Jesus Christ, through the chosen people. God toiled during those four thousand years to do that, yet Jesus ended up nailed to the cross at the early age of thirty-three, before his time. How could Christianity teach that Christians receive salvation through the blood shed on the cross?

In a word, it is due to ignorance. Ignorance cannot lead to perfection. In Genesis, God said that he created all things in his image. He created plus and minus in the mineral world, pistil and stamen in the plant world, male and female in the animal world and finally, a man and woman—a man and a woman would become our human ancestors.

For the first time in four thousand years, God's only son had emerged. Yet it means nothing if God's only son is alone. Therefore, Mary, who bore Jesus, should have understood the providence, right? Yet, she did not understand Jesus' essence. How could she have lived with Joseph? She married off all the sons and daughters she had with Joseph, but she was not interested in Jesus marrying. How on earth can Catholicism call for worshipping Mary as the Holy Mother? She was the woman responsible for driving Jesus to the cross. She could not even leave behind the time and date of Jesus' birth. She is not qualified to be a mother. And yet, the Protestant Church and Catholic Church worship that woman.

How pathetic is this situation to God? Mary, Judaic figures, and the Israelites failed in their responsibilities and nailed Jesus to the cross. Because of this, they wandered in isolation as a nationless people for two thousand years....

Rising to Heavenly Parent's expectations

God's only son was supposed to become the True Father of humankind and fulfill the dream of Heavenly Parent, our Creator and



Members listen to Dr. Ki-hoon Kim, report on the Clergy Rally: New Hope for a Heavenly, Unified World at East Garden. Mother, too, appears to be listening intently.

God. Would there be no sin to causing his death? There is indemnity. Heaven is eternal and His beginning and end are the same. He cannot ignore failure. He cannot fail. He must complete His providence. That is why He endured it all for six thousand years. Until the True Parents, who could uphold God's will, emerged from amidst humanity, Heaven. . .

Yesterday at the rally, I cried while speaking. I do not know how you felt, but I was overwhelmed knowing Heavenly Parent and how he had waited for six thousand years wanting to embrace humankind with love, despite people's ignorance, and how True Parents had worked throughout their lives and finally ushered in an era in which we can speak of the completion of this providence, in an environment in which the Christian foundation did not become an environment for True Parents. You cannot imagine what a miracle this is for humanity. This is a miracle. If this is not a miracle, what is? I am saying that you should no longer be ignorant ministers.

I have revealed the truth about the providence and the truth about

history. I have revealed Jesus Christ's essence. When I speak about history, I explain that following Jesus' crucifixion, Christianity began through Jesus' disciples after their rebirth through the Holy Spirit. They waited for Jesus, who had said he would come again. In ad 313, Rome officially recognized Christianity. Then, from the Italian Peninsula, Christianity spread throughout the European continent to the island of Great Britain. As the era of the Atlantic Civilization began, Christianity spread throughout the world. However, people did not grasp Jesus' essence. They did not practice his teaching of "Love your neighbor as yourself." In the end, their cultural civilization ended as one that took away from others.

A holy birth among the chosen people

However, Heaven's providence is moving forward. I have told you that I am God's only begotten daughter; God could not have his only begotten daughter born among the Israelites, who failed to fulfill their responsibilities. This is because they had accrued indemnity. Therefore, Heaven had to establish a new chosen people.



Two thousand years ago, God chose the Korean people. From among the Korean people, God's only begotten daughter had to be born with a Christian background. Jesus said he would come again and when he had, he would hold the marriage supper of the Lamb. Jesus' will must be fulfilled, right? For Christianity in Korea at that time, the presence of the Holy Spirit and the truth was much more incredible in the North centered on Pyongyang than in the South.

You probably remember Rev. Yong-do Lee [1901-1933] pastor of the New Jesus Church, who did much to raise Korea's spiritual preparation for the Lord's Second Advent. In the third generation, I was born there [in the North]. There was much evidence. Just as something was special about Jesus' birth, something was special about my birth. If you are curious, do a little research on me and you will be enlightened.

Next year, my biography is coming out. Of course, we already published True Father's autobiography, but it is God's only begotten daughter, True Mother, who saw the completion of

the providence and began a new era. Therefore, do not call me Dr. Han. I am God's only begotten daughter, the True Mother! Hence, I am your Mother.

Sons that unite with their Mother will prosper and Heaven will be with you. I touched on it briefly yesterday as well, but I was born during Korea's most difficult period. Korea was experiencing liberation [from Japanese occupation] while going through a division between the North and the South. It was a war involving powerful nations between [the area under] democracy and [that under] communism. My hometown was in the North, but I had an uncle on my mother's side who was studying in Japan. Yet, he contacted us and told us that he had returned to South Korea and joined the military there. Our family, therefore, could not stay in the North. Many aspects of daily living were being prepared for communization at the time, so we had no choice but to travel south.

The Korean War: little-known aspects

We arrived in South Korea, but they were not prepared. They were unpre-

pared to defend against the North Koreans. Under these circumstances, the invading North would certainly have communized the South. However, Heaven had finally sent, for the first time in six thousand years, his only begotten daughter, who could complete the providence. According to the principles of creation, she would need a period to grow and mature until she could make choices of her own free will. That is why Heaven mobilized sixteen UN nations to protect democracy in South Korea. Was that coincidence? Heaven guided it. Heaven!

The Korean government has still not properly expressed its gratitude, but True Parents used their personal funds to mobilize the Little Angels so that they could perform for the [Korean War] veterans. All the nations, Ethiopia, especially, were grateful for this.

The Bible's limitations

I have so many things I want to say to you. The Bible is far from Heaven's providence. Disciples wrote it based on their thoughts. Neither God nor Jesus Christ personally taught them what to write, or wrote it directly, right?

Yesterday, I talked about Sodom and Gomorrah as an example. In the conversation between the Lord and Abraham, the Lord said He would spare the city if there were fifty righteous people, and then forty righteous people, thirty, twenty, or only ten. However, to save one family, Lot's, Heaven told them to flee without looking back. Yet Lot's wife, who still felt attachments to it, looked back, and became a pillar of salt. We cannot explain this with science but that is how the Bible recorded it.

Therefore, today, through the True Parents, a new era is beginning, but if we linger on the past, wishing something were one way or another, we cannot move forward. Will you become like Lot's wife, or will you become those who survive, move forward and those whom history remembers? There is no perfection in ignorance. Please learn. Korea will change. Heaven will not stand still, so I am telling you to awaken first. Do you understand? Thank you. ㄸ



The Importance of Pace in the Years Ahead

*True Mother met with participants of a Top Gun seminar and HJ Youth Camp on January 22 at Cheon Jeong Gung.
This was her message to them that day.*



True Mother spoke to young members about the characters for "firm establishment" and how the lower portion of the character on the left resembles this woman in the center, seated and wearing a tradition Korean hat.

The establishment of Cheon Il Guk is Heavenly Parent's dream, humanity's hope and True Parents' hope. Surprisingly, it looks as if this Chinese character was written for this time. When looking at the Chinese character of the word "anchak" [firm establishment], one can see [in the character on the left] a woman sitting calmly under a "gat" [a traditional Korean hat]. In the Last Days, God's only begotten daughter, the True Mother, will undertake the fulfillment of the providence.

In this age of the fulfillment of the providence, those of you who join me represent the most valuable people today and are a source of immense pride. Most people achieve success after forty years. Even True Father married at forty. This shows how

important it is to establish a solid foundation. Education, experience and a solid foundation are necessary. Most of you are in your twenties, right? So when you [those who are twenty] turn forty, I'll be ninety-seven. What do you think about that? [Response: You must live a long time.]


What? Yes, it would certainly be nice to live many years, but if you're well-trained and become top leaders responsible for all areas of operations in this country and are leaders who lead the world, don't you think that the world will be restored more quickly?

The sooner the better

However, it will be a little harder for me in twenty years. Will you be able to do it in ten years? [Yes] I will be in my eighties, I will be eighty-seven years old exactly. Life on earth is

important. While I'm still on earth, Heavenly Parent is eagerly looking forward to when the fulfillment of the Heavenly Parent's dream, humanity's hope and True Parents' hope is realized. Do you understand? [Yes] That's why I'm calling you my hope.

Thus, if you sleep less and you give your all and you manage to shorten those twenty years to ten years, it will bring immense glory to God and will also be a blessing for and give hope to humanity. While God's only begotten daughter, True Mother, is still on earth, will you become the ones who usher in the day when we are able to sing of God's glory? [Yes] Truly? [Yes]

You must become the best in all areas. Will you do that? Thank you. [Applause] All right! You guys are the best. I'm proud of you. I love you all. I love you. 



Clergy Rally: A New Hope for a Unified World





- ① True Mother speaking (see page 8 for her speech) at the Clergy Rally
- ② Dr. Ki-hoon Kim, vice-president of FFWPU International gave welcoming remarks; Prophet Radebe spoke of the World Clergy Leadership Conference; Bishop Noel Jones gave welcoming address.
- ③ Young Unificationists dance to a rendition of " Urie So Wonun Tongil." A Unificationist-themed rap song introduced this performance.
- ④ A man from the Newark Mayor's Office presents a plaque for True Mother, the Mother of Peace
- ⑤ Second-generation Unificationists pose with True Mother after presenting flowers to her
- ⑥ Dr. Kim and Prophet Radebe with the World Clergy Leadership Conference Proclamation
- ⑦ True Mother awarded medals and plaques to WCLC founding clergy members
- ⑧ Choir members singing a rousing gospel song
- ⑨ Dr. Luonne Abram Rouse, co-chair of ACLC, joins the audience to experience a gospel revival at its best.
- ⑩ Mother strikes a gong three times as a symbolic confirmation of the WCLC founding



Victory Celebration in the United States of America



- ❶ True Mother smiles radiantly at the celebration of the success of the Clergy Rally: New Hope for a Heavenly, Unified World and the founding of the World Clergy Leadership Conference at East Garden on December 9
- ❷ Dr. Luonne Abram Rouse and his wife Mari, co-chairs of ACLC, greet True Mother.
- ❸ Dr. Ki-hoon Kim, vice-president of FFWPU International, leads the guests in a song as True Mother cuts the celebration cake.
- ❹ A view of the room displays the international nature of the Family Federation for World Peace.
- ❺ True Mother told the audience, "The stronger your nation is, the more you must care for the less fortunate nations around you. To God, we are all brother and sister nations."
- ❻ US FFWPU President Dunkley gave a testimony about the rally; Dr. Jenkins, with the HSA Office for Business Investment and Asset Development, prayed and Dr. Kim, regional group chair for North America, mentioned in his address that the WCLC would be meeting for a prayer breakfast the following morning.
- ❼ A commemorative photograph



The Victory Celebration in the Republic of Korea





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⑥

- ① True Mother with some help from Yeon Ah Moon, her daughter-in-law lights the candles on the victory celebration cake.
- ② Yeon Ah Moon, Julia H. Moon and some True Children presented flowers to True Mother.
- ③ Various department or organization leaders presented gifts to True Mother.
- ④ Thousands of members turned out to express their support for True Mother, having had to watch from afar as she exerted so much effort, traveling around the globe, bravely asserting righteousness as she embraced people from all backgrounds. This was their opportunity to directly cheer her on and show their love for her.
- ⑤ True Grandchildren sang for True Mother and the audience
- ⑥ True Mother expressing her heart
- ⑦ Dr. Yun Young-ho, secretary-general of the FFWPU International Headquarters was master of ceremonies; Wonju Jeong McDevitt, chief of True Mother's Secretariat, read hoondokhae; Rev. Ki-seong Lee, president of FFWPU for a heavenly Korea, prayed and Eiji Tokuno, president of FFWPU for a heavenly Japan led cheers of Mansei.
- ⑧ Young Japanese members dancing to add to the festive spirit.



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Latin American and Caribbean Summit 2019



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②

① On December 15, Sun Jin Moon gave the Founders' Address on True Mother's behalf at the 2019 Latin America and Caribbean Summit.

② Chang-Shik (Charles) Yang, UPF chair for Latin America and the Caribbean region, Santiago Governor Ana Maria Dominguez, representing Dominican Republic President Danilo Medina, and Jimmy Morales, then president of Guatemala, all spoke to the participants at the Summit.

③ All stand for *Himno Nacional*, the Dominican Republic's national anthem.

④ Jimmy Morales, then president of Guatemala, with Sun Jin Moon and Dr. Walsh

⑤ Fifteen awards went to significant figures from fifteen different countries.

⑥ President Morales signing the declaration

⑦ Sun Jin Moon delivering True Mother's speech to the assembled dignitaries.



③



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⑥



⑦

Latin America and the Caribbean Summit 2019



- ① Sun Jin Moon and her husband In Sup Park officiating the Blessing Ceremony in Gran Arena Del Cibao, in Santiago, the Dominican Republic's second largest city. Here, they are leading couples through the affirmation of the Blessing Vows for the six thousand couples that now stand to inherit True Parents' lineage.
- ② A ceremony to symbolize religious tolerance and unity
- ③ Sun Jin Moon, on behalf of True Mother, conducting the Blessing Ceremony; here, she is bequeathing blessing rings to representative couples.
- ④ The Dominican Republic International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace presented a plaque to True Mother through Sun Jin Moon.
- ⑤ Dominican Republic Municipal Police sponsored the Family Peace Festival, which featured the Blessing Ceremony.
- ⑥ A view Arena del Cibao Dr. Oscar Gobaira, where the Blessing Ceremony took place.



Fair Elections for a Better Future

The writer, who was born in Bayelsa State, Nigeria, in 1957, earned a master's degree in Fisheries Biology and a PhD in Zoology. He was deputy governor of his home state, 1999–2005 and then governor, December 2005–May 2007, due to the impeachment of his boss (the governor) for money laundering. As the running mate to presidential candidate Umaru Musa Yar'Adua (who was in ill health), he rose to vice-president in April 2007, acting president in February and then president upon Yar'Adua's death in May. He won election as president in April 2011 and served until May 2015. This was his address on June 7, 2019, to participants in Africa Summit and Leadership Conference 2019 in South Africa.

By Goodluck Ebele Jonathan

First, let me appreciate Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, the lady who brought us together this morning, for her leadership and ability to carry on with the work of the Universal Peace Federation after the passing on of her husband, Rev. Sun Myung Moon. It shows that the vision of lasting peace in the world, which the organization propagates, is a shared one.

I appreciate UPF for organizing the International Leadership Conferences, which provide a platform for leaders to share their perspectives on peace and development. I also thank members of UPF for inviting me to this conference which has the theme "Building a Peaceful and Prosperous Africa Centered on Universal Values." I am always pleased to be in any gathering where the peace and development of our world is being considered. It is also my joy and honor to share this platform with fellow African leaders, especially those whom I personally know to be passionate about Africa's growth and the wellbeing of the good people of the continent. I am grateful to them and other dignitaries who are participating in this conference and for the rich presentations so far made and others that are yet to come. Equally important is my gratitude to the citizens of the Republic of South Africa who have always shown me love whenever I have had the opportunity to visit this beautiful and important country in Africa.

Experience and outlook

I left here barely three weeks ago after I led the Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA) observation mission to the just concluded national and provincial elections. I must say that the job of observing the elections for me and members of my team was made easier by the warm reception and courtesies accorded us by the good people of South Africa.

I always tell people that Africa missed out on the industrial revolution and is already lagging behind in the race to space. Others are not only visiting the moon but seeking the possibility of long stays on other planets. We therefore have no reason to fail our people on democracy. This is because it is within our power and aptitude to freely choose our leaders and determine how we shall be governed. Africa need not and should not miss out on democratic consolidations.

What is true about our world today is that every country's development is relative to the level of peace that exists in its national space. I have continuously made the point that the world's ten most developed nations are those countries that experience the least conflicts while the ten least developed countries are consumed in the worst forms of conflicts.

I don't take pleasure in observing that many of those nations who are categorized as least developed are here in Africa. This tells us that the continent is still in need of the kind of leadership and



Goodluck Jonathan delivering this speech, which is focused on an underlying necessity for building good democratic societies—free and fair elections.

service that will deliver prosperity to a greater number of our people.

While conflicts scare people away and discourage investors, good governance attracts growth and investments. True democracy guarantees free and fair elections and peaceful transfer of power from one administration to another. It also brings about peace, which is the ideal setting that attracts investments that the nations need to grow and develop.

Society grows and develops where the leader tolerates opposition, guarantees freedoms, educates and builds up the people, as well as upholds equity and justice. Those who ignore these tenets of a free and progressive society often plunge their countries into crises.

Contentious struggles for dominance

In many African countries democratic processes remain fragile because of leadership struggles among politicians. Such struggles, mainly driven by ego, do not allow for the deepening of democratic values and the conduct of free and fair elections. Many African nations have either stood in one spot for years or even regressed because of the take-power-at-all-cost disposition of some politicians. Many of those who eventually get to power with that mind-set end up rising above the people, above the laws of the land and beyond the reach of justice.

When leaders encourage impunity in the conduct of elections, they push the aggrieved to desperate limits, which fuels crises and conflicts. That is why some African nations are in turmoil today. A leader who truly wishes to serve his people will not impose his will on them. Such a leader will not be tempted to manipulate constitutional processes to either repress opposition or extend his tenure.

Leaders' character is key

It was Frank Herbert [1920–1984] a celebrated American writer, who said that “Good governance never depends upon laws, but upon the personal qualities of those who govern.” I find this view quite germane. The seed of good governance is sown in the heart of the patriotic leader. Driven by his conscience, and never ego, he dons the garb and disposition of stewardship to envision a society that will be just to his people.

Although multiparty elections have become more regular in Africa, we still lag behind the rest of the world in making democracy work for the electorate, the main reason for this being the winner-take-all approach to democracy in Africa. Having said that, I must commend President Cyril Ramaphosa for bridging the gap by setting up a gender- and politically-balanced national government of fourteen men and fourteen women within ninety-six hours of being sworn in. The rest of the conti-



Dr. Jonathan had a heart-to-heart encounter with Father in July 2007 as president of Nigeria. He was already blessed at that time. True Mother and Hyo Jin nim had blessed him and his wife, Patience, in July 2006.

nent has a lot to learn from this.

There is evidence of conflicts arising from weak institutions, undemocratic practices and rigged electoral processes that in the worst-case scenario usually cause political instability and widespread insecurity. Any leader who gets consumed in personal survival tactics, as often happens on our continent, ceases to be responsible to the people. I believe that power loses its taste and appeal once it becomes hostile and unresponsive to the wishes of the people.

Significant progress

There is no doubt that there is a silver lining in the fact that Africa has taken considerable steps in striving towards democratic and participatory governance, going by the rate African nations are holding periodic multi-party elections. This year alone, no fewer than eight African countries have held one form of election or the other. They include Nigeria, Senegal, Guinea-Bissau, Comoros, Egypt, Benin, South Africa and Malawi. It is expected that more than that number of countries will conduct general or parliamentary elections before the end of 2019.

That for me is a plus and an important step in the right direction, knowing Africa's past with autocratic rule and one-man shows. Whatever we are doing or saying here today will therefore focus on how to strengthen the pillars of democracy where they are weak and enhance political stability across the continent.

Impressive South Africa

I am delighted that the organizers of this conference chose South Africa as the venue for the event. On one hand, the memories I had of the elections held here in May as leader of an election observation mission are still fresh and worthy of sharing with this distinguished gathering. On the other hand, South Africa to me symbolizes Africa's difficult past, its hopes, aspirations and possibilities with representative leadership.

Seeing how far the country has come, her leadership experience embodies all that is required to explore "the need for good governance and a peaceful electioneering processes in Africa," which is the topic of my discourse. This is because, like the rest of Africa, South Africa is new to representative democracy. The country has turned its back on its past of minority rule to embrace representative democracy as a system of government.

I am also inclined to believe that ahead of many other African nations, South Africa, within a relatively short time, has successfully established functional institutions that guide its democracy, inspiring confidence in the system. There are lessons for us to learn from the country's last elections. It was obvious from our interactions with a cross-section of the stakeholders as election observers

that almost all the players had confidence in both the electoral management body, the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) and the police operatives that secured the elections.

The development accounted for why the just-concluded elections were largely peaceful and adjudged by observers to have been credible. This is encouraging because South Africa was able to record this kind of progress, barely twenty-five years after the legendary Nelson Mandela became its first democratically elected president.

For me, this is an important milestone in Africa's journey towards liberal democracy. Once you get to that point where all role players in elections can express confidence in the umpire and the security systems, you would have solved more than 70 percent of your electoral challenges.

Room for improvement

Sadly, not many African countries have gotten to this point, the point at which they can beat their chest and boast of political freedom, inclusiveness, independence of the electoral management body and credibility of the political process. You can always tell how credible or otherwise a democratic process has been from the level of protests and violence and the number of post-election litigations. In places where there had been issues of election-related conflicts or violence, like Kenya, Togo, Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Benin, the question of credibility and trust involving role players in the elections had always been on the cards.

When people have confidence in the electoral system and where the process has been free, fair and transparent, they are more likely to accept the result of elections, rather than protest or go to court to challenge the outcome. I should also note that politicians sometimes hide behind ego and religious and ethnic sentiments to instigate crises. The truth is that credible and peaceful elections have been accepted globally as the necessary tool for improved governance, inclusiveness and people-oriented development.

Technological aids

As technology continues to evolve, electoral processes are being retooled globally in tune with the times. That is why some countries are adopting electronic voting as the system of choice. In countries where decision is yet to be taken on full electronic voting, automation has taken over some sensitive aspects of the process, like in Nigeria where card readers have already been deployed to enhance efficiency of voter registration and accreditation during the voting process.

Despite the fact some people are still skeptical about its reliability, I remain convinced that full automation is the way to go for future elections. I am optimistic that Africa will ultimately cue into [pay attention to] this choice. However, I believe that before we get there, we should be able to build political and electoral systems that give our people hope and confidence. When we establish a credible system, it will be easier to deploy technology when the time eventually comes for full electronic voting.

Key human factors

What is obvious is that the credibility and legitimacy of electoral processes are, to a great extent, determined by the competence, impartiality and independence of electoral management bodies (EMBs). For Africa to make more progress toward building liberal democracies, upholding the rule of law, protecting human rights, improving human security and enhancing good governance, it should first take deliberate measures to strengthen the independence of the electoral management bodies. Transparency of the recruitment processes for members of EMBs is a major factor that boosts the confidence of the respective electorates during elections. Such principles should ensure independence, impartiality, fair representation, transparency and integrity.

That almost all EMBs in Africa are identified with the prefix "independent," is interesting, but the jury is still out on whether these agencies are truly independent as their names imply. As Africa consolidates its hold on democracy with many nations holding periodic elections, the question of which system of recruitment for the leadership of EMBs serves the continent best has continued to be asked. This is because a nation's electoral management model will, to a great extent, determine the transparency of its electoral processes. So far, the method of constituting members of EMBs varies from one nation to the other, without a general guiding principle. What is clear is that there are actually three models in practice globally.

In some countries, the appointing authority is vested in the president, as you have in such nations as Nigeria, Liberia, Kenya and Sudan. In other countries, the president does not have much influence over who receives an appointment to the EMBs. This is the system that is evidenced in countries like India and Canada. In some countries, other institutions provide a shortlist of names from which the president appoints EMB members, like South Africa and Zimbabwe. This system seems to be a hybrid of the two already itemized.

It bears mentioning that in countries in which the president exercises sole appointing authority,



Kathy Rigney presenting Goodluck Ebele Jonathan with True Father's autobiography.

the propriety of the exercise has regularly come into question, with analysts claiming that it does not guarantee total independence for the commission. When you leave a serious responsibility like that in the hands of one powerful partisan politician, there is every indication that the people, especially fellow politicians who are in the opposition, will view his motives as suspect, even if he or she has the best of intentions.

Examples of EMBs in action

Three countries out of those cited above have already conducted general elections this year. They are South Africa, India and Nigeria. It is instructive that the elections in the first two

countries, in which EMBs were constituted through institutional processes, enjoyed wider acceptability among the people. In cases where there is no confidence in the electoral commission, candidates who doubt the impartiality of the umpire usually challenge the election results in court. For instance, by the end of April 2019, Nigeria's Election Petition tribunals had received no fewer than 766 petitions from those challenging the outcome of the 2019 general elections. What this tells us is that the continent urgently needs to review and harmonize its standards for constituting the institutions responsible for the conduct of elections in order to properly equip them to truly earn the confidence of the people.

The African Union guideline for electoral observation and monitoring missions requires African nations to establish "impartial, all-inclusive, competent and accountable national electoral bodies staffed by qualified personnel, as well as competent legal entities including effective constitutional courts to arbitrate in the event of disputes arising from the conduct of elections." This is however not far-reaching enough as it comes across as mere suggestions for nations going into elections. In this regard, I urge the African Union to work toward establishing minimum standards and benchmarks for constituting electoral management bodies and to encourage member-nations to ratify them.

The African Union should, through its Political Affairs Department, set up a team of electoral experts to study different models and recommend the system they consider best for the continent. Such benchmarks should also take cognizance of the need to review the election judicial processes to ensure that where election tribunals are set up to specifically handle election cases, one judicial officer does not handle the role of appointing all members of the tribunals.


The role of security forces

Since neutrality of the security services is absolutely necessary in ensuring free and fair elections, it is also important that the Africa Union establishes a code of conduct that should guide security officials in charge of elections. All these recommendations should be accommodated in African Union's procedures for elections that should serve as guidelines for election observers.

When I pointed out earlier that elections alone do not deliver good governance, it was on the understanding that to attain good governance in a democracy requires a deeper and more nuanced consideration. I have said elsewhere that a driver of good governance must be development-minded, visionary and selfless and he or she must never seek power at all costs nor wield it for its own sake. Nations only develop when national institutions gain strength and all citizens, both the leader and the led, come under the control and protection of the rule of law.

Some final thoughts

As I close, let me emphasize that Africa's leadership problem has more to do with weak institutions than with the situation of leaders serving in office for lengthy periods of time. When the democratic institutions are strong, they will develop firewalls that will resist attempts to alter the constitution and manipulate electoral processes for selfish reasons.

Democracy is not about holding periodic elections but conducting credible, transparent, free and fair polls. African elections must meet minimum acceptable standards for democracy to be beneficial to the people of the continent. Anything short of that can at best be considered pseudo democracies. African nations must improve their electoral processes by establishing systems that will support and deliver credible elections. That is the impetus the continent needs to achieve lasting peace that will catalyze growth and sustainable development. I thank you all. 

Dr. Jonathan is the chair of the International Summit Council for Peace.

The Long Road to Solving International Problems

Albania resumed relations with the US after fifty-two years, in 1991. At the point, the first US diplomatic representative to Albania was Christopher Hill, in his first ever overseas posting, as acting ambassador, October 1–December 21, 1991. Hill also served as ambassador to Macedonia 1996–1999, which has a sizable Albanian ethnic minority, Poland 2000–2004, Korea 2004–2005 and Iraq 2009–2010. He led the US delegation to the Six Party Talks on North Korea's nuclear weapons program 2003–2009. He also held other high posts within the US State Department. What follows is Dr. Hill's presentation at the Southeast Europe Peace Summit on October 26 in Tirana.

By Christopher R. Hill

Let me join others in saying what a pleasure it is to be at this peace summit. You know, peace has been very difficult to achieve. In some ways it's something we all dreamed of, but now we understand that peace isn't just the absence of war. It represents a kind of structure of relations between people, a structure of how one respects different points of view, what one can do to make a more stable and just world and a basis, a foundation, for the prosperity that we all seek for our children and beyond.

It has especially not been easy in the Western Balkans. When I came to Albania for the first time in 1991... That's only twenty-eight years ago but it seems like a much longer time. There was a system of governance that was in many different countries where one group thought they had a monopoly on all thoughts and on how humankind should implement all their interests. Well, we now know that peace depends on different people coming together and respecting each other.

Peace is complicated, hard to achieve

I think dedicating oneself to peace, though, offers no refuge for those in need of instant gratification. After all, it takes a long time to form these structures and to systematize this respect for each other. I have heard many times in the past—one probably hears it today—that somehow people say... in the Western Balkans, people have been fighting for thousands of years. You often hear that. And surely they are not going to be able to rise above that. Well, that is clearly, demonstrably, untrue. The people of the Balkans have risen about that and they have put together a community that I think is the envy of many parts of the world, still unable to put together that sense of community.

Facing reality about a united Europe

Now what we see in the Balkans is a desire to be part of something even better and that is a united Europe, a Europe that is united, that is whole, that is free and that is prosperous. I know and I think everyone here knows of the disappointment that EU succession negotiations will somehow be postponed. I personally, as someone who worked in this region for many years, feel that disappointment, but I think it's important to realize that while the road forward is clear and continues to be passable, it will have problems. There will be twists and turns and there will be challenges ahead.

The Western Balkans will reach their goal

So the issue is not to celebrate the challenges but rather to understand the task ahead, to overcome the challenges and not be stopped and not be stymied. I have a great deal of confidence that this



Ambassador Hill spoke passionately and with genuine concern for the future of Albania and for the region.

journey that the people of the Western Balkans have been on, a journey that has taken them through difficult times, is a journey that will not stop until the objectives are met.

I have no doubt that there cannot be a Europe whole and free unless all the countries of the Western Balkans are in that Europe, whole and free. I am optimistic that this process will continue, and I think the best thing for the peoples of the region is to act as if the journey has been completed. That is, act as if you are already European Union members. Don't say, We will begin to observe those standards once we're in the European Union. Start now and observe those standards now. I think that this is a mind-set that has worked in terms of NATO. I know that for Albania, if I had stood in front of an audience here in 1991 and I had said, Well, you will soon be in NATO, I don't think a lot of people would have believed me. And yet, look at the extraordinary progress. And how did Albania do that? In fact, how did North Macedonia do that? The answer is that they accepted a reform process through their military, through civilian control of the military, through a certain mind-set that the military achieved, through working together with other NATO countries. I think the fact of the matter is that these countries had become NATO members even before they were conferred as NATO members.

So the task ahead, I think is very clear and it should not be slowed down by any of the challenges ahead. I would ask, too, that the people of the Western Balkans (and of course that is the purpose of this meeting—to discuss the challenges) but I would ask some of our Albanian friends and our Macedonian friends and others to understand that there are people from other parts of the world here who are looking for answers, looking for solutions to (I think) very challenging problems in their own part of the world.

The situation could be worse

I used to think when I was in the Balkans that there was nothing more difficult in the world than the problems confronting the Balkans, but that was before I went to Korea and I dealt with the North Korean situation. It is a terrible tragedy what has happened in Korea. The people of Korea had nothing to do with the division of Korea, nothing to do with the establishment of this very (sort of alien) political and economic culture that was created in the northern part of the Korean Peninsula. These were all concepts that were (frankly) introduced by others into the Korean Peninsula. So you can imagine the tremendous frustration of people who should have had—who are historically entitled to—their unification and yet cannot be unified because of the situation in North Korea.

So I would ask people in the Balkans to understand some of these issues better, because I want to




From left: Albin Kurti, member of Parliament in Kosovo; US Ambassador Christopher Hill; Vasilika Hysi, deputy chair of the Parliament in Albania; and Talat Xhaferi, chair of the National Assembly in North Macedonia all spoke during the Opening Session.

make sure that as we go forward, in this one world of ours, that people are better understanding what goes on on the other side of this one world.

You know, I thought nothing could be worse than the division of the Korean Peninsula. And then I went to Iraq. I was ambassador in Baghdad, and I saw the extraordinary problems there of having governance, of having a system which had a sense of tolerance. The brutality of these wars was such that it was utterly frightening to the people of Iraq and to their sense of what could possibly be their future when you have this kind of brutality around you. It really turned brutal. So again, I would ask the people of the Balkans to understand that there are other issues going on such as those in the Middle East, which are frankly even worse than some of the problems we've encountered in the Balkans.

Solutions are possible

I think we all need to be inspired not only by our own example but by the example of others who are trying to deal with what for them are even more difficult problems. I think an important aspect of diplomacy and if we could call all of us here ambassadors, an important aspect of diplomacy is to listen to others. That is, to spend more time listening than you do talking, because when you are listening, you are absorbing information, you are absorbing knowledge and you are creating wisdom. So spend some time listening to other people and try to understand them. I'm thinking of a central point, which is that every country is unique and no country can impose its uniqueness on another country but at the same time I think we need to know that a lot of these problems have happened all over the world and that the problems and therefore the solutions are not necessarily unique. So, I think this is an excellent opportunity to come together at this historic moment.

I would be remiss if I were not honest enough to say to you that we have problems in the United States, too. A lot of problems... and we will deal with them. I want people to understand that as difficult as it has been for us at times, we will find solutions after we've tried every other alternative, but we will get to solutions in our country as well. I think ultimately we all have to understand that we depend on ourselves but we also need to depend on each other and we need to understand that together we can do anything that we want to do, provided that we stay together and stay convinced of our ultimate goal. So thank you very much and I look forward to this conference. 

Ambassador Hill is the Dean of the Josef Korbel School of International Studies at The University of Denver.

Food for the Soul on the Road to Peace

The writer delivered this address on October 26 at Southeast Europe Peace Summit 2019 in the Palace of Congress in Tirana, Albania. When she graduated high school, she was one of the top five students in Albania. She won a place in and graduated from the Lester B. Pearson United World College of the Pacific on Vancouver Island, Canada. She then enrolled in Mount Holyoke College in the US State of Massachusetts, where she earned degrees in Politics and in Economics. Today, she is politician serving as minister of state for relations with the Albanian Parliament.

By Elisa Spiropali

“**R**acism, religious intolerance, the destruction of nature and other disasters that occur in our world come about as a result of the serious problems in the human heart. This is where we have to look for the solution of world problems. Hatred in the human heart must be replaced by love.”

With these wise and heartfelt words from Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, let me express my consideration for this spiritual leader of the Universal Peace Federation. It’s a marvel how she tries to keep the lantern lit on the path to peace, many years after her husband Father Moon, passed away. Together they had built the theme and the motif of their lives. Regardless, Reverend Moon was a visionary religious leader, capable of foreseeing future challenges and of developing innovative strategies to ensure that we would walk toward true peace.

It is my pleasure and honor to be present at this World Peace Summit, which is taking place in Albania, where racism finds no foothold; where religious intolerance is replaced by religious harmony—an identifying characteristic unmatched anywhere else in the world. Albanians regard religious tolerance as a fundamental value, more deeply rooted in their moral and social tradition and values than experienced as social practice, belief or policy. As a matter of fact, even in the *Qanun*, the old Albanian common law, it is written that the house of an Albanian belongs to God and to guests. I believe Albanians incarnated this high principle.

Although Albanians greatly appreciate the role of religious community leaders and of the clerics that promote religious tolerance in the country, the key instruments that enable tolerance are related to values, such as respect for individual freedoms and the prevalence of national traditions and awareness beyond religious beliefs; these are the factors enabling religious tolerance. Together, people of all faiths regardless of their religion are interconnected by the universalism that faith grants, which is love, as Mother Moon underscores in all her speeches.

Social cohesion despite differences

Bearing in mind the religious diversity of Albanian society, maintaining social cohesion and tolerance and religious harmony even in turbulent times has been a remarkable achievement. Religious tolerance is an Albanian trait, or a social and cultural model, that can be “exported” to places with other national and cultural contexts. In view of the above logic, a claim arises internally to try to find ways to create a better world—a better world, not as an expression of the egoism of “only for myself” but a better world as a legacy for the generations to come.

We can also recall the precious stories of protection of Jews during the Second World War. This



Elisa Spiropali, such an excellent asset for her nation, speaking to thousands of her fellow citizens, neighbors and foreign guests.

was a rare case in those times, perhaps not only in Europe but throughout the world, when an entire community alongside their representatives, political entities and authorities refused to carry out orders, criminal orders, to give up the Jews...

The Universal Peace Federation has done this at its best by holding regular International Leadership Conferences, which are naturally bringing together leaders around a common vision of peace. To this end, on February 8, on the occasion of the 2019 World Summit in Seoul, South Korea, at the initiative of UPF co-founder Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, the International Peace Summit Council (ISCP) convened.

It's an international network of heads of state or governments who explore solutions and make recommendations, through dialogue and cooperation, to address critical world problems, including climate change and environmental issues, religious conflicts, poverty, war, corruption and family issues. The ISCP is committed to building a world of peace in which everyone can live in freedom, harmony, cooperation and prosperity. The ISCP upholds the essential principles of interdependence, mutual prosperity and universal values and acts as a facilitator and adviser for achieving peace and development.

Persist on the path to peace

What we all need to understand and feel is the importance of having patience—patience to obtain peace for all. Regardless of how difficult the path toward peace may be, that path will open through persistence, through better policies, through more equality in society. Not only justice but justice within social relations, with the participation of important sectors, such as politics, business, media, religion (definitely) and civil society to find better ways to promote peace and development, not only at the national level but at the regional level, which in the Balkans is of pivotal importance, considering our not-so-distant past. But also at the global level.

The most important thing is how we receive this message and learn through ordinary people from different countries and how we involve them in movements. It is remarkable how UPF operates, tackling issues that are pivotal and also involving people that the superstructure often marginalizes when it comes to decision-making.

In this peace summit being conducted today in Tirana, with its ongoing mission to promote universal values so needed now in these turbulent times, when oftentimes, with a cause or without a cause, we shut ourselves out in dark spaces, we erect walls, create barriers, even from countries that seek cooperation.



From Left: Mr. Alfred Moisiu, president of Albania, 2002–2007; Hashim Thaçi, president of Kosovo; True Mother, co-founder, Universal Peace Federation; Stevo Pendarovski, president of North Macedonia; and Elisa Spiropali, Minister of State for Relations with the Albanian Parliament.

Albanian national maturity

So we are impressed by the fact that we are creatures of God and therefore seek goodness and altruism and struggle against harmful habits or vices and need to avoid shortcuts to success, which is an idiotic path. This is how policies work and how they relate to particular individuals—their good or bad will, their good or bad intent. So it is important to cultivate not only in the individual but also in society this good will that the Universal Peace Federation also expresses through its ethos.

Therefore, in order for us not fall into a trap, the learning process must be continuous, food for the soul, such as the example of this summit, which brings together people who can share their experiences to embody and facilitate empowerment on a path that is not at all easy, but accessible, such as peace! Our country has gone through many challenges, through multiple tunnels of sometimes hallucinatory and at other times illuminating contrasts, from the country—once the most isolated place on the globe—to today's country, so closely integrated into the European family. To say it in a descriptive sentence is easy, but this has involved years of hard work, trials, struggles and dreams that were shaped precisely by good wishes, by the inner energy of ordinary people.

From yesterday to today, the changes are radical. But does that make us complacent? No! Not at all! We think the opposite. For as long as we breathe, for that long the problems will remain, according to an old proverb. The essence is what we can change, so that rather than receiving, we should give, and rather than complaining, we should work harder. The topics we will discuss in this summit are current, reflecting the need to be together indiscriminately, such as “Towards Peace in Southeast Europe,” “Peace Education and Human Development,” “Family Values, Peace Values,” etcetera.

A culture of peace will be achieved when citizens of the world understand global problems, when they have the skills to resolve conflicts constructively, when they recognize and live up to international standards of human rights, gender equality and racial equality, when they appreciate cultural diversity and when they respect the integrity of the Earth. Such lessons cannot be learned without self-sufficient and systematic education for global peace.

With this part of the Hague Appeal for Peace Statement, I conclude my speech by thanking you for your attention and for wishing this summit success. *TP*

The writer is an Albanian politician, currently serving as Minister of State for Relations with Parliament.

Navigating the Dangerous Waters Ahead

Jose De Venecia was Speaker of the Philippines' House of Representatives 1992–1998 and 2001–2008. While speaker, he was instrumental in forming the once dominant, now defunct, Christian Muslim Democrat Party. As President Ramos' peace envoy, he successfully negotiated with Muslim secessionists and rebellious Philippine military personnel. He spoke just before True Mother on November 19 at Asia Pacific Summit 2019 in Cambodia.

By Jose De Venecia

To His Majesty, the well-loved Norodom Shihamoni and Her Royal Highness, the Queen Mother, Norodom Monineath, and we must especially thank and commend the indefatigable, His Excellence Prime Minister Hun Sen, the architect of the Cambodian model of peace and reconciliation, [emerging] out of the Cambodian modernization, and the royal government of Cambodia for co-hosting, with our Universal Peace Federation, Asia Pacific Summit 2019 here in this historic Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh.

We congratulate Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, co-founder of the Universal Peace Federation, for founding the celebrated Sun Hak Peace Prize and with the late, great Sun Myung Moon for her and the late Rev. Moon's trail blazing initiatives in the United States in Europa, in Latin America, in Asia and in Africa and for their unswerving commitment and tireless efforts in promoting peace and reconciliation, promoting unity, interfaith dialog and the strength of marriage and the family.

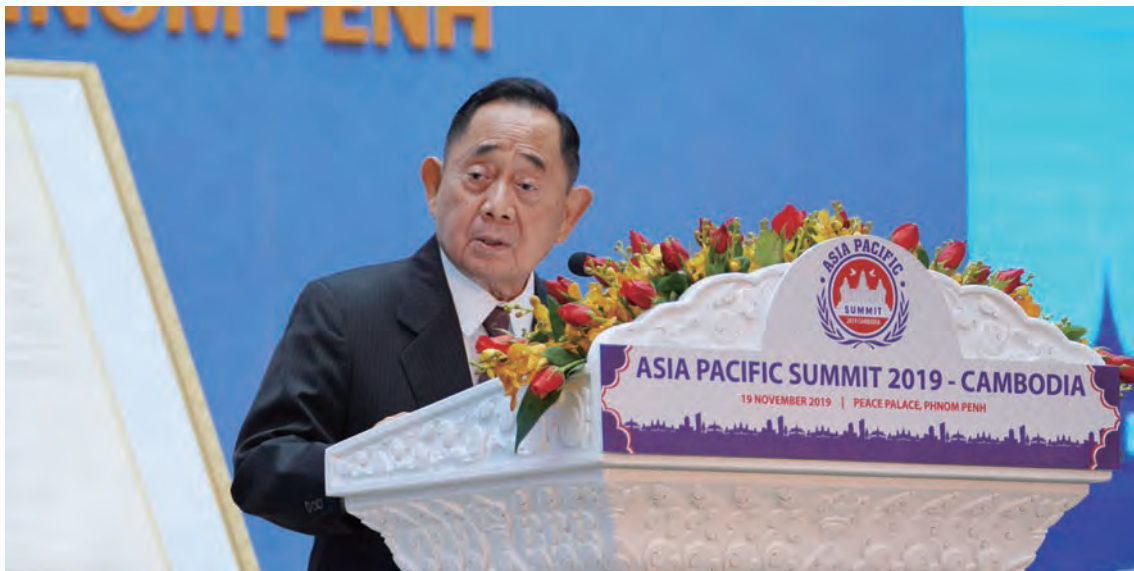
Notable participants

May we also greet our old friends former president and former prime minister José Ramos-Horta, of Timor Leste, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate, himself, former president, former prime minister Xanana Gusmão [Timor Leste] former president Andrés Pastrana of Colombia; former vice-president Jusuf Kalla of Indonesia, vice-president Van Thio of Myanmar, vice-president Raynold B. Oilouch of Palau and of course the distinguished members of ICAPP [International Conference of Asian Political Parties] like Senator Mushahid, Vice President Farokh of Iran, deputy speaker Khuon Sudary of Cambodia, Vijay Jolly of India and Sujara of Cambodia and many other great leaders from all over the world are here today. Finally, we thank the outstanding chairman of the Universal Peace Federation International, Dr. Thomas Walsh. Let's give him a big hand. UPF regional group chairman Dr. Chung-sik Yong. UPF chairman Ek Nath Dhakal of Nepal and the UPF family based in New York, based in Washington DC and based in Seoul for their leadership and their many courtesies.

What Cambodians overcame

Dear friends, our UPF conference here in this great capital by the banks of Mekong River is a fitting tribute to the Cambodian people whose indomitable spirit surmounted decades of armed, violent conflict and the atrocities of the Khmer Rouge regime which murdered more than two million Cambodians. I know because I was here as a young correspondent at the age of twenty.

Despite the past tragedies and the current challenges faced by the Cambodian people—which in a sense is also besetting some other countries in our region—Cambodia, under the leadership of Prime



Jose De Venecia Jr. speaking at Asia Pacific Summit 2019 in Cambodia. He has had a long and distinguished political career and remains indefatigable in his efforts to bring peace to the Asia region.

Minister Hun Sen, has been enjoying sustained economic growth and infrastructure development. We also pay homage to the late great king and our friend King Norodom Sihanouk, whose leadership and sacrifices gained independence for Cambodia and created the beginnings of the country's modernization and whose son, our colleague in the earlier Asian conferences, Prince Norodom Ranariddh—our old friend—was his excellency Hun Sen's co-prime minister, and later, president of the National Assembly.

Protection from our vulnerabilities

Excellencies, friends, over this last decade, the Asia-Pacific groupings clustered around ASEAN have contributed to reducing tensions in our home region. But, looking forward to the next fifteen to twenty years, the Asia-Pacific still seems the hemisphere with the greatest risk of major armed conflict. And the only real solution—indeed the only lasting solution—to these tensions is to embed all our countries in a network of economic, political, and moral relationships in an Asia-Pacific community where consent comes through a sustained dialogue among the great religions and great civilizations of Asia and the world. This is perhaps the formula—the only formula—for building regional and global peace that will endure.

Community, then, seems the wave of the future, not only for ASEAN but for the whole of East Asia and the Asia-Pacific. And it will be our generation's burden—and glory—to lay the foundations on which these communal and moral structures are to be erected, so that those who come after us can turn then without distraction to the work of delivering our people from their bondage to poverty, ignorance, ill-health; to the ever-increasing threats of conflict, war, terrorism and extremism and the new frightening challenges of climate change and environmental degradation.

Facing the downsides of globalization

Excellencies, friends, we live in a world where every aspect of ordinary life is being contested, is being challenged—our security by extremist terrorism, our accustomed politics by a great wave of populist rebellion, and conventional economics by the unintended consequences of globalization. Thus, our globalizing world needs to develop a system of ideas and ideals that will make globalization work for all our peoples. Particularly the nations and states just joining the global economy need practical lessons in late industrialization, which is achieved by learning from earlier modernizers.

In my view, the East Asian idea of the market and the state not as competing but as complementary operating systems can become the basis of a new economic model—particularly for poor countries entering the global economy for the first time. And I believe such a model should combine the best elements of both capitalism and socialism.

Before the Heritage Foundation [a US think tank] in Washington, DC in 2009, at the United Nations University in Barcelona, and at the earlier conferences of ICAPP [International Conference of Asian Political Parties], UPF, and other international organizations, we proposed a review of the global political and economic systems in the aftermath of the Wall Street meltdown at the time. We suggested that there might be merit in bringing together the best elements of capitalism and the best elements of socialism.

Complications to be solved

Excellencies, friends, we in the UPF and ICAPP campaigned in the UN General Assembly, in the UN Security Council, in the halls of the United Nations for an interfaith, intercultural, and inter-civilizational dialogue with our proposal to create an interfaith council in the United Nations at a time when it was still taboo to introduce religious issues into the UN system, but we pointed out that if creating a new council is overly difficult—as some legalists had warned—perhaps we could write an interfaith mandate in the mission order of the Trusteeship Council of the UN which has anyway run out of trust territories to supervise. We proposed as an interim concession that at least a focal point in the Office of the UN Secretary General be created and indeed the UN approved it.


On the raging Sunni–Shiite issues, we cannot discount the magnitude of the barriers that intense doctrinal separation has raised between these two great schools of Islam. In my many letters to Saudi Arabia's late King Abdullah [1924–2015] and Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, I said it would be a great relief to our region, to Asia and to the world, if the two leaders of Islam, representing the Sunnis and Shiites (respectively) of the Muslim world, could perhaps meet in Mecca or Medina and create the beginnings of reconciliation and the end of violence in the lands of Islam. It is most difficult but more than ever before, this urgent, absolutely necessary meeting between the two leaders of Islam must be set and undertaken and we pray that to some extent if it ever happens, it will succeed for the peace of the region and the world.

Avoiding ideological conflict

Excellencies, friends, as the balance of global power shifts from West to East, we'll also strive to help prevent the outbreak of a new cold war in the Asia Pacific—by encouraging the peaceful rise of every emerging great power in the nations of the G-20 and in the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa); and by supporting popular movements that advocate peaceful co-existence among the East Asian states.

For between Moscow and Washington—and between Washington and Beijing—mutual accommodation must be found that gives the parties strategic reassurances and maintains respect for their core interests. Ironically, the hard peace between the earlier cold war principals—the United States and the Soviet Union—has enabled the smaller countries to enjoy well over a generation of political stability and economic growth.

For us in Asia, at least for a long while, the age of ideological conflict is (and should be) over. We declare that we want no new cold war in the Asia Pacific. It has been said that the Pacific Ocean is large enough for the great powers. And we see no reason the relationships between the great powers should be adversarial. We see no differences between them that sustained diplomacy, understanding and realpolitik cannot resolve.

Before I close, excellencies, dear friends, fellow delegates, with the multiple violent conflicts and outbursts of extremism in some of the areas of the Middle East and Africa, South Asia, Eurasia and the terrible tolls on human life, more than ever, I say, we in the Universal Peace Federation, we in ICAPP, we in governments, parliaments, political parties, civil society organizations,—indeed all sectors—must get our act together and work to promote peace and reconciliation, cooperation and dialogue and urge tolerance among our nations and among our peoples. We must understand the diversity of our cultures and religious beliefs, for indeed, in the final analysis, you and I, we all belong to one great human family under God. 

The writer is the international co-chair of UPF's International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace.



Bringing Positive Change to Those We Serve

Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury earned two law degrees from the University of Dhaka and a PhD in Constitutional Law and Human Rights from the University of Essex in the UK. She later received an honorary doctorate from the University of Essex. She was elected as a Bangladeshi MP in 2009 and was State Minister for Women and Children's Affairs until her nomination as Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad from 2013 to this day. She was the both the youngest ever Speaker and the first ever woman Speaker in Bangladesh.

By Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury



Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury describing her nation's characteristics and circumstances at Asia Pacific Summit 2019.

Honorable prime minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, His Excellency Samdech Hun Sen, honorable heads of state, honorable heads of government, excellencies, honorable speakers, parliamentarians, friends, distinguished delegates, media representatives, *shuprôbhat*, a very good morning to you.

It is a distinct honor and very special pleasure for me to join Asia Pacific Summit 2019 in the Peace Palace of Phenom Penh the capital city of Cambodia, home to the ancient Angkor civilization. I express my sincere gratitude to the honorable prime minister of the Royal Kingdom of Cambodia, His Excellency Hun Sen, the modern architect of Cambodia for inviting me to this very important event. I also congratulate Universal Peace Federation and Mother Moon for her leadership in organizing this summit along with ICAPP [International Conference of Asian Political Parties, founded by Jose De Venecia] IAPP and ACC. I am deeply touched by the warm welcome and hospitality accorded to me in this beautiful, historic city of Phenom Penh.

Chaos throughout the world

Distinguished delegates, leaders from the Asia Pacific [region] who have gathered here to address the critical challenges of our time—peace, reconciliation, interdependence, mutual prosperity and universal values, which are all interlinked. Political stability is essential for lasting peace and without peace there can be no development. We live in a time of globalization. We live in an inter-connected and interdependent world. The rapid progress of technology moving us toward Industry 4.2 [a development of what some people call the fourth industrial (Internet-based) revolution or Industry 4.0] poses new challenges. The world now is experiencing popular uprisings, internecine conflicts, food and energy insecurity, terrorism, climate change leading to a planetary emergency, refugee and migration issues, forcible displacement of people, like the Rohingya people now in Bangladesh and

human trafficking—all transcending national boundaries— that confront us with a whole range of emerging global challenges. Democracy, in order to be sustainable, must deliver and address the critical issues of poverty eradication, inequality, the crisis of safe drinking water, unemployment, etcetera, that affect the lives of our people in a fundamental way.

Our nation's father figure

Economic growth must be inclusive as it is about shared prosperity. Women must be at the center of all development. We must acknowledge that peace is not just the absence of war or conflict as stated by Albert Einstein. "Peace is a daily, a weekly, a monthly process, gradually changing opinions, slowly eroding old barriers, quietly building new structures," as stated by President Kennedy [September 20, 1963 UN General Assembly, New York]. Our father of the nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, believed in the peaceful settlement of disputes. He believed in contributing to global peace and security by following the principle of friendship toward all and malice toward none, which is the foundation, the basis of trust in our foreign policy in Bangladesh.

Our honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina "Mother of Humanity" [and daughter of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman] presented a peace-centric development model encompassing six aspects—eradication of poverty and hunger, reducing inequality, mitigation of deprivation, elimination of terrorism, the right of all people to take part in the development process, providing quality education and skill development and gainful employment. This people-centric peace model is based on the concept of the empowerment of people. The UN General Assembly adopted this in its seventy-second UN General Assembly.

Helping those in need

Bangladesh has demonstrated its staunch commitment to peace as a top contributor to UN peace-keeping and also as a member of the UN Peace-building Commission. Our honorable prime minister Sheikh Hasina settled a twenty-year-long conflict at home through the Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord in 1997.

Bangladesh believes in the peaceful settlement of issues with its neighboring countries and at the regional level, based on negotiation, principles of interdependence for mutual prosperity and the welfare of the people. Bangladesh also believes in zero tolerance toward terrorism. Bangladesh thus seeks and appeals for support from ASEAN and other regional countries and also from the international community to find a peaceful solution to the Rohingya issue so that safe and voluntary repatriation of the Rohingyas to Myanmar can be effectuated without further delay.

Bangladesh under the visionary leadership of our honorable Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina, has emerged as a development miracle in the world with reduction of poverty from 40 percent to 21 percent in the last decade, gender equality and women empowerment, food security, consistent GDP grown of about 8 percent, enhancement of life expectancy, reduction of maternal and infant mortality, 95 percent electricity coverage throughout the country, more than five thousand Union Digital Centers [digitally-equipped government offices in rural and semi-rural areas where the poor can apply for and receive assistance] in operating, rapid digitalization, and a hundred special economic zones for foreign investment demonstrate that the country is on the highway of development to be a middle-income country by 2021, a developing country by 2024 and a developed country by 2041.

Compassionate government

Distinguished delegates, we parliamentarians, politicians, political leaders, leaders of civil society are entrusted with the duty to bring about positive changes in the lives of the people we serve. We must therefore strive to create a world where everyone has equal opportunity to obtain their potential and aspirations. We must put in efforts to thwart terrorism, to counter climate change's negative impacts and provide citizens a life with safety and dignity.

Dear delegates, I'm confident that this summit will chart the way forward for greater integration in the Asia Pacific region for achieving common goals and ensuring mutual prosperity through dialog, cooperation, partnership and engagement in building mutual trust and strengthening friendship. Let us work together by nurturing the intrinsic values of equality, rule of law, human rights, fundamental freedom and justice, respect for diversity, tolerance and pluralism, and thereby build a sustainable, equitable and peaceful world.

Let me conclude with a quotation from our father of the nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the UN General Assembly in 1973, "Let us together create a world that can eradicate poverty, hunger, war and human sufferings and achieve global peace and security for the well-being of humanity." Thank you all for your kind attention. May Bangladesh live forever. May Bangladesh and Cambodia's friendship live forever. 🙏

The author has been Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad, the supreme legislative body of Bangladesh, since 2013.

Moving toward Peace on Earth

Prophet Samuel Radebe (the “R” is pronounced as a guttural “H”) is head of the Revelation Church of God, which has various branches. According to the church website, “The Revelation church of God is an African indigenous church founded on the bases of love and ubuntu [“the belief in a universal bond of sharing that connects all humanity”] led by the spirit of Mfihlakalo (the Creator) through Dr. Prophet Uzwi leZwe Radebe, who is the founder of the church. The Revelation Church of God prides itself on the teachings of authentic African religion and African spirituality. Through the teachings, members of the church are encouraged to go back to their good ancestral ways of living.”

By Samuel Radebe

Beloved True Mother, religious leaders from over fifty nations around the world, citizens of Newark, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, Good afternoon! [Regarding the volume of the response] That’s close to Africa. Good afternoon! [loud response] It sounds like home now. This is Prophet Radebe from South Africa. Have a blessed day, and what a wonderful day it is today! It is a great honor for me to address you today as we launch the World Clergy Leadership Conference (WCLC).

Today’s gathering of thirty thousand clergy members, Christians and other religious leaders is no ordinary event. It is amazing that such a diversity of Christian denominations, religions, cultures, traditions and nationalities can come together to share our resolve to work together in realizing a world of lasting peace.

I’d like to one again thank you and congratulate True Mother, the only begotten daughter, whom I also call the “glue” of humanity, that puts us together, for today’s extraordinary event. [Gesturing to indicate the audience members] Now I have brothers and sisters in America. You have brothers and sisters in Africa. Today, I would like to speak about the vision for the Christian clergy worldwide and the need for WCLC in realizing a heavenly and unified world.

The need for WCLC

Yesterday at the Manhattan Center, in New York, over one thousand five hundred clergy members



Dr. Radebe addressing the audience in the Prudential Center in New Jersey

and other religious leaders gathered to propose the launch of the World Clergy Leadership Conference, WCLC. What is WCLC and why do we need it? Today's world is facing a great challenge and this challenge is an internal, or spiritual, one. All over the world, we can see the breakdown of the family, the rise of secularism, the destruction of the environment and the loss of spirituality. All over the world, churches are challenged to solve these critical issues.

I believe that to tackle these challenges, believers around the world must unite. We are the anointed, the chosen, the blessed children of our Creator and it is our duty and blessing to bring God and spirituality back to the family, back to the communities and back to the nations of this world. It is particularly fitting that the launch of the WCLC is taking place in America. For over fifty years, True Father and true Mother have invested themselves in America so America can fulfill its God-given mission. Let's go America!

On June 1, 1976, True Father spoke at Yankee Stadium, where he said, "America is God's hope." Indeed, the American forefathers fled from religious persecution in Europe to build one nation under God. At this time, our task is to build one world (no longer a nation) under God. Yes? [Yes!]

To do this, believers of the world must unite. (I am saying it for the second time.) The church must liberate itself from sectarianism. Believers must work to achieve ecumenical and interreligious unity. For this we need a spiritual reformation. This is the work of the World Clergy Leadership Conference (WCLC). This is why WCLC is so important and why today's launch is an historic one—nobody has done it. It's being done for the first time.

Realizing a heavenly, unified world, today, True Mother, God's only begotten daughter, and clergymen all over the world will launch WCLC. As believers, our desire is to realize the kingdom of God—a world of love, a world of happiness, a world of the one family of humanity under God, our Heavenly Parent. As clergy members, spiritual leaders, this our mission. It is truly our God-given sacred mission. God is crying out to the world and we are his instruments. What then must we do? Beloved religious leaders, ladies and gentlemen, in the name of God, let us unite. In the name of God, let us unite and together build the kingdom of God on earth by spreading the marriage blessing to all corners of the world, because peace starts in the family. Yes? [Yes!]

True Mother's great efforts

This year alone, in South Africa, True Mother hosted two Blessing Ceremonies. (And you will understand later on, why.) The first national blessing took place in June at Orlando Stadium [in Soweto], where over sixty thousand people gathered and met True Mother for the first time.


True Mother also made a special prayer through which she blessed and liberated the youth who fought against oppression, injustice and gave their lives for the sake of their country, South Africa. [Applause]

Then on December 7, 2019, the two-hundred-thousand-[person] continental blessing at the FNB [First National Bank] Stadium [in Johannesburg]. I think you saw some pictures of it. It's the largest stadium in Africa.

Through the blessing, she declared it heavenly Africa, and Africa which is God-centered, an Africa of independence, mutual prosperity and shared universal values. More than 3.5 million people joined the blessing through live coverage. [Applause]

Counting the steps toward peace on earth

Today, the blessing is spreading throughout the continent of Africa. Life begins in the mother's womb. That is why the Earth is regarded as Mother Earth. (I am actually doing a sum; that's what I am doing now. You will add, one plus one plus one equals three.) Let me repeat: Life begins in the Mother's womb. That is why the Earth is regarded as Mother Earth. Africa is regarded as the motherland because it is where life is said to have begun. (Two!)... The last number: Mother Moon, the True Mother who is regarded as the Mother of Peace, because she has lived her entire life for the sake of peace and gives new life to humanity through the blessing. In the case of Africa, we are trying to connect the universal Mother of Peace with the motherland so that we can bring peace to Mother Earth—one plus one plus one equals three. Motherland, Mother Earth and Mother of Peace.

True Mother never stops and never rests even for one single day. She is using all her energy, all her resources, above all, all her true love to save the 7.6 billion people of the world by blessing them all. Today, through WCLC, True Mother, the Mother of Peace, God's only begotten daughter, needs our full support. As religious leaders, as WCLC, let us build together a unified world of peace and harmony—together, by spreading the blessing everywhere. Thank you very much. God bless you. God bless America. God bless New York. 

Prophet Radebe gave this speech at the Prudential Center in Newark, New Jersey, on Saturday, December 28, at the Clergy Rally: A New Hope for a Heavenly Unified World. It has been edited for inclusion in Tpmagazine.

Who Dares to Bring All Christian Leaders Together?

Noel Jones, pastor of the City of Refuge Church in Gardena, California, delivered this address on December 28 at the Peace Starts with Me Clergy Rally: a New Hope for a Heavenly Unified World, at the Prudential Center in Newark, New Jersey, in the United States.

By Noel Jones



Pastor Noel Jones



The audience was full of people for whom religion is central to their outlook on life and to their own identity, just the kind of people who resonate with a thoughtful pastor like Noel Jones.


It is critical for us to understand that when God created us, he created us in order to reveal the splendiferous magnanimity of who he is. In order to reveal, he had to create, because God, in the canyons of eternity, all by himself, would not have had anyone to reveal himself to unless he created. So creation then becomes the symbol or the substratum of revelation that comes from creation. He had to create in order to reveal.

What he did for us is he made us in his image and in his likeness and because he made us in his image and in his likeness, he had to give us dominion, because no animal could have dominion who was not in his likeness. Because when he looked at the earth and he looked into the world, what he wanted to see was his likeness in dominion. It doesn't matter what color you are. It doesn't matter what color you are! I've seen pink Cadillacs, white Cadillacs, yellow Cadillacs, but they all were Cadillacs. So, it doesn't matter what color you are; we are all made in the image of God. And because we were made in his image, he has given us dominion over the earth.

The reason I am so in love with the Mother of Peace is because Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon exhibits the quality that brings us all together. And she has brought us together not only from the ACLC, the American Clergy Leadership Conference, she has brought us together with the vision of the Korean Clergy Leadership Conference. And now we are here because we are dealing with the World Clergy Leadership Conference. What we're saying to the world is that we may all differ on how to get to heaven, but we all understand what we need to live together on earth.

The magnanimity of the vision that we are expostulating here today is that it doesn't matter what color you are, it doesn't matter what denomination you are, when it comes to making this world a better place, peace begins with me.

And might I say, who in the world has decided to take on a vision of this magnitude, to say we can bring all of the Christian clergy together? Because if we are in here today, it is because we want unity. But you can't have unity without humility, and you can't have humility without love. I need you to look at the person beside you and say, I don't care what color you are. I don't care what denomination you are. I don't care where you're from. I love you.

God bless you. The choir is coming and after the choir, you will hear the melodious, euphonious voice of Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon. 

Noel Jones is a Pentecostal bishop who was born in Jamaica and immigrated to the US City of Syracuse, in New York State, at fifteen years of age.

