

True Peace

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Our Victorious True Family

By Robert Kittel



T rue Mother is leading God's providence. She is not a theologian yet challenges the greatest philosophers by proclaiming, "I am the only begotten daughter of God." That's thinking out of the box. Our beloved True Mother has never run for public office; still prime ministers and presidents listen to her counsel and sit in awe as she proclaims, "I want to restore all 7.5 billion people during my lifetime." Mother is not young, but she has more dedicated youth following her than any rock star in history.

She is not a technician, but True Mother pushes the limits of tech geeks who struggle to grasp and illustrate the depth of her vision. Planning the Rally of Hope, she stretches the limits of digital media with a multi-dimensional production described as "augmented reality" and "beyond live." True Mother is a game changer.

She has to be. Nothing else is working. True Mother is operating in the realm of heart. The world of reality is trying to catch up.

Here is her newest challenge, "That is why I announce *Haneul Bumonim Seong Hwae*, where all people and all spheres of life, whether political, religious, economic or ideological, can gather under one banner. In English, it is "Heavenly Parent's Holy Community." She continues, by explaining its deepest meaning, "What the name signifies is that the Heavenly Mother will assume a central role to embrace and give birth to all people in the world."

To make this historic proclamation, two conditions were needed. First was the external condition of victoriously fulfilling Vision 2020 and on that foundation launching the 2027 providence to firmly establish a heavenly unified world. These provisions were established based on the successful Summit series led by True Mother and declared at World Summit 2020.


The second condition was much more internal. The True Family itself established it. At the beginning of human history, the family of Adam and Eve never grew into a heavenly community. True Parents have repeatedly emphasized the importance of a three-generation family which connects the past, present and future together.

More precisely, True Father explained that three generations were required to establish God's kingdom in the garden of Eden. "Until God thus establishes three generations, he cannot be present on earth." (CSG, pg. 238). At the end of World Summit 2020, the blessing of True Parents' grandchildren from their eldest son, Hyo Jin nim, Shin-heung nim and Shin-chul nim, provided the internal condition of fulfilling three generations in the True Family being blessed. On this foundation, True Mother proclaimed the Heavenly Parent's Holy Community.

The coronavirus global lockdown provided an amazing windfall for this historic declaration. If this Holy Community had been established at the very beginning of human history, as it should have been, the physical environment would have been pristine. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the whole world was locked down in families and the reduction of air pollution made the skies clearer than in over half a century. It seems as if Heaven wanted to remind us of the importance of the family unit and an unspoiled physical environment. All humankind and the physical world, it seems, was making a condition for this new providence to unfold.

Our Heavenly Parent's Holy Community is the New Jerusalem described in such glory in the book of Revelation. A True Mother's heart must be at the center. In her memoir, *Mother of Peace*, she explains, "For the first time, I am opening up a window unto my life. I do so with the hope that the story of this life, lived in accordance with God's love, will inspire in others the same mission, passion, devotion and dream."

We—our world, our ancestors, our descendants—desperately need the healing love of a mother. We need the love of a Mother God who would be involved in our lives, console our aching hearts, mediate our jealousies, coach us forward, and embrace each of us in boundless, pure, unconditional love. Without this, our destiny would be to just sink deeper and deeper in the quagmire of destructive self-indulgence and conflict.

If our first human ancestors, Adam and Eve, had accomplished three generations of blessed families, Heaven's providence would have moved from a family in a garden into a thriving community centered on God. Under True Mother's guidance, we have taken this long-awaited historic step forward. God's providence is unstoppable. 

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The Path of the Movement for Finding the True Ancestral Root

True Father gave this speech on June 23, 1989 at the Little Angels Performing Arts Center in Seoul on the occasion of the Inauguration of Rev. Sun Myung Moon as President of the Korean Association for Finding Ancestral Roots.

Respected president, eminent guests, family heads and leaders of each clan representing the Korean people:

Today I thank you for your dedicated effort in preparing this meaningful ceremony to install me as the chairman of the Korean Association for Finding Ancestral Roots.

As for my reason for accepting the post of chairman as you might already know, I am the founder of the Unification Church, the International Conference on the Unity of the Sciences, the Assembly of the World's Religions and the World Media Association. While guiding the global Unification movement, I have been made chairman or honorary president of many important organizations. However, seen providentially, the significance of this ceremony is remarkable. I deeply hope this movement can bring about the opportunity to find and better attend God, who is the root of all beings and of life itself.

From ancient times, Koreans have put emphasis on clans and have regarded the ancestors and the root of their clans as most precious. Some say that such a tradition came from the fact that Korean history was the history of an agrarian society based on a collective, sedentary lifestyle, with villages whose members had the same family names. Others feel the origin of such a tradition was the Confucian teaching whose core was the family ethic. However, the ultimate origin lies in a deeper place.

From early times, Koreans respected Heaven and treated filial piety as the most fundamental virtue. God raised Korean people to worship their ancestors and to show filial piety to their parents. This was in order to make them the people in the world who best know how to attend God, the root and parent of all human beings. Thus, Koreans have been taking care of their clans and lineages out of loyalty, filial piety and etiquette. This is based on their outstanding respect for Heaven.

All of you, as representatives of your clans and lineages, have been working to preserve your precious traditions by teaching them to the next generation. However, Korean society is going through the process of rapid industrialization and urbanization, causing the communitarian



True Father delivering this speech

spirit to fade. The position of the family is challenged from many sides, and it is changing. We recently faced a crisis that has shaken our traditional culture and good customs. This situation is worsened by intergenerational conflict in families and confrontations between labor and management in business.

The starting point for a happy world

A true Association for Finding Ancestral Roots needs to develop into a movement not only for finding and attending the ancestors of each of our clans, but also for confirming that all of us are descendants from the same root. Genealogies on the clan level need to be unified into a genealogy of the entire people. Clan-level root consciousness needs to give way to the consciousness of a deeper root, which acts as the centripetal force of all humanity. Originally we were not created to live in relationships in which people could not survive except by eliminating their rivals. We were created as one community, receiving life from the same root. Our movement cannot be restricted to the individual level. The root of various races is ultimately one, and we need to

educate human beings to harmonize through that one root and to live as a community of passengers on the same boat, called Planet Earth.

With the development of science and technology, human beings have come to need international cooperation, now more than at any time in history. Good global communication and joint projects for resource mobilization are urgently needed. The quality of air and water in the global natural environment must be preserved for the survival of our descendants. We in contemporary society cannot predict the future of the world. We are uneasy about the impact of ideological confrontation between East and West, mass production of modern weapons, international terrorism and crime, the prevailing trends of decadence, and so on.

All leaders need to open their minds, cooperate internationally and harmonize for the purpose of the whole in order to solve urgent world problems. Now more than ever, we need to understand humanity as one organic community, demolish barriers between races, and harmonize and unite cultures. How can we eliminate the barriers between peoples and fundamentally remove



The attentive audience appears to be following True Father's speech, and clearly the hall is full.

the obstacles to peace so as to realize the ideal world?

The opinions at this meeting about lineage are so diverse, and to make harmony and unity is so difficult, even in one family. The clue for a solution must be found somewhere. How do we harmonize different cultures and traditions to make one world family without wars and create a world of happiness? The fundamental answer can be found when we understand God, who is both the beginning and root of each one of us individually and the root of all people.

My purpose in communicating with God and wandering in search of the heavenly laws and going through a course of spiritual discipline and practice throughout my seventy-year life was to provide the solution for this fundamental problem. Men and women are meant to live centered on the mind, not the body. Yet our body-centered life may soon bring an end to humankind. Thus it is urgent to solve the fundamental relationship with God.

Humanity originated from one couple

Respected leaders of clans and lineages, the origin of this universe is not simply material or based on sponta-

neous generation. There is God, the Creator, who is the primary cause of the universe. God is absolute, eternal, and unchanging goodness.

All beings and phenomena in the universe are created according to God's basic design, the purpose of creation. The purpose of creation is to feel joy. However, one cannot feel joy alone. In order for a certain subject to feel joy, it needs an object partner. The best kind of joy is felt when a subject partner and an object partner give and receive love.

Human beings are God's sons and daughters, whom God created in order to feel joy eternally through loving them infinitely. They are the closest object partners to God. God created a son and a daughter as the first ancestors of humankind. In the Bible they are called Adam and Eve.

This first son and daughter were God's object partners of true love. God, who is absolute, cannot make another original strand of true love besides them. Human beings, the object partners of God's true love, originated from this one ancestral couple, no matter what they are called.

What kind of world would have been realized if our ancestors, Adam and Eve, had completed their growth

in God's love, gave and received true love with each other, and multiplied good descendants? They were supposed to build an ideal family to attend God as their vertical Parent, and then become horizontal parents. If, originating from that true family, a prosperous clan, Adam's clan, had been formed and developed into a people, nation, and finally a world population, that world would have been happily filled with God's love and goodness.

Such a world is none other than the kingdom of heaven. Through this kingdom, God's purpose of creation would have definitely been realized on earth. All humanity would have lived in the earthly kingdom of heaven and then later would have gone to the kingdom of heaven in heaven. In this way, God's purpose of creation was to realize a great family centering on God, making all of humanity one family.

The good family laws of Adam centering on God would have immediately become a tradition handed down from generation to generation. It would have been a unified world with only one language, coming from one root, one culture and one heavenly sovereignty. Can we imagine evil, injustice, ideological conflict or wars

in such a world?

What is reality today? We ended up with a world that is the opposite of God's ideal. In the individual, mind and body are in conflict with each other. Such individuals form families, lineages, clans, societies and nations in which that contradiction, disunity and struggle continues. The world perpetuates the misery stemming from immorality, decadence, inequality, violence, wars, massacres and the confusion of values. Yet the conflicts between cultures and traditions that result in ideological confrontations ultimately stem from the mind-body conflict within each individual.

I do not have enough time for a detailed explanation. However, in order to restore the world to its original state, Heaven sent saints to light the heavenly way and educate humankind through various religions. To practice goodness in an evil world is not easy. That is why we have seen so many righteous people sacrificed and why the true way has been that of self-sacrifice and unconditional offering.

The true origin of ancestral roots

If through the movement to find our roots we seek to find our real root, we will reach our ancestors' progenitors, even the ancestors of humankind. To find the root of goodness, we must overcome a million different types of evil and injustice. To find the true root, we must know God and the heart with which he created the human ancestors.

Seen externally, a tree is constantly changing its appearance and color. Yet, if we eliminate each of the changing elements one by one, what remains are the seed and its life. These are the fundamental roots. In the same way, a true root-finding movement has to digest and resolve all elements of evil by following the path of restoration; then it will return humankind to its origin. We must become purified sons and daughters of God by being engrafted to God's life and God's true love.

It is not accidental that Korea is proud of its wonderful, time-honored genealogical records and has become a center for genealogical research. To modernize, become rich, and live well externally cannot be the only goal for Koreans today. God is counting on



True Parents receiving royal crowns on the occasion of True Father becoming the president of the Association for Finding Ancestral Roots.

the Korean people and the land of Korea to realize a new heaven and earth of true love and to make a foundation for the happiness of all humankind.


I have brought to this people a miraculous blessing. The revelations from God that I received, shed light for the first time throughout human history on God's heart and the purpose of creation. They constitute a religious ideology of true love, by which I am guiding the Unification movement. It is a world-saving movement beyond East and West, cultural spheres, nations and peoples.

Giving rise to spiritual and moral revolutions, it is spreading like a prairie fire in 137 countries. I am not just preaching a theory of true love. I am talking to you on the foundation of practicing true love globally through the way of suffering and risking my physical life because of global misunderstanding, extreme persecution and religious prejudice. I could build this foundation because God's true love and life force motivated me.

A movement practicing true love

Respected representatives of clans and lineages, this movement to find roots needs to become a true love

movement based on God. In our lives we have to inherit the teachings of the saints, particularly Jesus, who is the embodiment of true love. All of us have to become heroes who relate to each other through God, our root. We have to extend our love relationships to overcome the conflicts of this age, demolish barriers of age-old conflicts, and realize a harmonious world. Especially, I understand that unification of North Korea and South Korea has to be accomplished on the foundation of our homogeneity as one people, through activating a movement to find the roots of true love.

Now is the time when everyone should humbly return to the root and through love become one with one another. We cannot sacrifice the whole to benefit the individual. The global situation is such that we cannot hesitate any longer. We must substantiate the blessing that God gave to our people by practicing love. Let us all generate a movement to realize the ideal of harmony among humankind through the true root, the lighthouse of true love and connect all peoples to it. May God's blessings be with you and your families! Thank you. 

The text is Book Seven, Speech One of Pyeong Hwa Gyeong.



A Place of Transformation

True Mother delivered this speech on June 4 at Cheon Won Gung, which from an external perspective is a museum that depicts True Parents' lives and their salvific mission, while internally it is a holy temple in which visitors might experience rebirth and a renewal of hope through the clear knowledge that the Messiah has come again.





- ❶ Director General of the FFWPU International Headquarters Young-ho Yun was the master of ceremonies.
- ❷ Mrs. Wonju Jeong-McDevitt gave a welcoming address.
- ❸ President of FFWPU-Heavenly Korea, Ki-seong Lee gave the opening prayer.

This day's existence is a once-in-a-lifetime eternal opportunity in your lives; it is the beginning, the starting point. It is eternal and this is a unique time. Also, today, all the different departments are meeting to complete this temple. This kind of meeting never existed in the past and will not exist in the future. However, it will bear fruit in a work that will remain eternally. People from all over the world will want to visit and want to live here.

So, you should be grateful for all the blessings you are receiving these days and for being alive during this time on earth. Through this temple, people can receive education. We want to create an environment in which they can experience God's heart. Heavenly Parent's dream was to love and embrace humanity and to live with them as their parent on earth. This parent wanted to realize the kingdom of heaven on earth.

To this day, fallen humanity has been going through tremendous tribulations. When we consider the principles of creation by which God, the Creator, must absolutely be in the position of our Heavenly Parent and when we contemplate that since he is the Alpha and the Omega, he must without fail succeed in his task. We

realize that a man and a woman must arise on earth to ensure that victory. In other words, if a perfected Adam and Eve fail to become true parents, neither Heavenly Parent's dream nor humanity's hope can be realized.

Many are suffering

Through the Covid-19 pandemic, the world became unstable. I am sure that conscientious people would have realized many things from this. As long as God exists, human beings with their constant self-centered thoughts and ways of life will never see a peaceful world. A waterfall begins from only one drop of water. A stream should not just stay a stream; streams should join and become a broader river, and that river should connect to the sea if it wants to stay alive. The same goes for our lives. There is a place we need to get to! As long as we ignore that goal, we will go through great tribulation.

Yesterday, I saw a film made in England in which they said that by 2050 the world will have 10 billion inhabitants. If that is the case, will the planet be able to handle it? The film showed that in its current state this planet is already suffering from problems caused by environmental pollution, global warming and food crises; many regions will be desertified, and one day there will be insufficient water.... Though they traveled the world making a documentary showcasing this phenomenon, they did not reach any conclusions. At this time, every ideology, politic group, economy... Conscientious people who think about the future will come to

feel that they cannot continue without God's grace and protection. True Parents appeared among the people, but if human beings keep ignoring or dodging them, one day they are going to regret it and won't be able to look their descendants in the eyes.

A holy desire that went unfulfilled

What is the returning Lord's desire? What was the desire of the Jesus Christ who said he would come again? It was to find his spouse. Heavenly Parent is the one who was to give birth to his spouse; a human being does not give birth to the spouse. So the Lord at the Second Advent has to meet God's only begotten daughter. In my memoir, I referred to the fulfillment of the providence, and I said that the Creator God wished to be our Heavenly Parent. The only begotten son was born two thousand years ago but did not fulfill his responsibility and went the way of the cross. God, the Creator, had to give birth to the only begotten daughter to see his providence fulfilled.... God chose the Korean Peninsula on which to give birth to his only begotten daughter. He chose Korea.

You all are participating in something great that will not be repeated, and you are responsible to fulfill your portion of the responsibility! This is not a position that will always be there but is one you hold today. Knowing that, I ask you to give your best, prepare yourselves well, put your heads together and unite so that we can create this unique temple. You are determined and ready to move ahead, right? Let's do our best and design the finest masterpiece. Aju! 🙏

True Mother Has Given the Full Expression of Her Life in Her Autobiography



I hope for true freedom. I sing for the peace humanity dreams of. I wish that we all become one today. We are moving toward a peaceful world and increasingly experiencing happiness on the way!

We feel profound peace under a clear sky, gently stroked by a cool breeze and embraced by warm rays of sunshine. In moments such as these, we are grateful to

God for the generosity and blessings he has given us. God created us with no other expectation than that we live as his children at peace with one another. If God had one wish, it was to live with us as our parent. However, due to the false love and the fall of the first human ancestors, he lost his children...

Male-dominated history, awash with war and destruction, hid God's motherly, all-embracing characteristics. Aware of this side of God's heart, I felt as if I were in a vast desert amidst a sandstorm, having to find a needle yet unable to see ahead. For this whole time, in trying to recover Heavenly Parent's original status and dignity, I have traveled in every direction, to make known the truth of God's providence. Keep in mind that the True Parent, the Messiah, will teach and guide your families, your communities, your nation and the world on the right path to attending God.

I pray that as you become one, you will become people that fulfill God's dream and humanity's hope.


I embraced with love those children that did not accept the truth, who opposed me and criticized me. I have traveled the globe embracing everyone I meet. If one possesses true love in her heart, no place remains for

contempt, blame, persecution or hurting others. Going beyond religions and nationalities, in order to accomplish God's dream, I embarked on various world tours, going where people needed me.

My lips chapped, my legs swollen, I found standing difficult, but I could not rest. I decided to forge this path, however difficult it might be, in order to fulfill my promise to God to end this saga of misfortune in my lifetime. As I spent my life traveling to the most lowly and secluded places, people started to call me the "Mother of Peace."

Heads of state, religious leaders, irrespective of their nationality or beliefs, called me the Mother of Peace and began to follow me.

We long for a world of peace without walls between religions, nor between nations, in which we are siblings under God!

Until now, I have not put my name forward in this way. Through this book, I will for the first time share the true story of my life. I desire to transmit faithfully to the world my life, my dreams, my mission, my passion and my devotion to God's providence. 



The Cheonwon Gung Holy Community Celebrates the 58th Day of True All Things

By Tyler Hendricks

The Heavenly Parent Holy Community Center of Seorak in the Republic of Korea, situated in the town nearest our global capital, houses the central local Holy Community of World Cheon Il Guk. Its international and interracial congregation gathered at 7:00 am on May 1 to celebrate the fifty-eighth Day of True All Things Holy Day, established by True Parents in 1963.

The local members prepared a beautiful stage, including an abundant offering table, a beautiful banner, flowers and a cake, and seven holy candles. Yeon-ah Moon, wife of Hyo-jin nim and international president of the Universal

Peace Federation, and Julia HJ Moon, wife of Heungjin nim and international president of the Women's Federation for World Peace, represented True Mother and our beloved True Family.

The ceremony began by them lighting the seven candles, just as True Parents did for so many years. Then they and their children bowed before the altar. Once they departed the stage, seven couples ascended the stage, representing the world's regions: Korea, Japan, North America, South America, Africa, Europe and the Middle East, and Asia and Oceania. Together they bowed before the heavenly offering table.

Then Dr. Yun Young-ho, director-general of our FFWPU International Headquarters, offered a representative prayer, and then everyone sang during the cutting of the holy day cake, and Rev. Ki-seong Lee, president of our Heavenly Parent Holy Community of Korea, shared the holy day message.

President Lee recounted True Parents' path from 1960 to 1968 to restore the True God's position and authority, beginning by establishing True Parents' Day, restoring the position of parents, then True Children's Day, restoring the position of children, then Day of True All Things, restoring the creation, and, on that foundation plus more, True



Congregants on hand for the celebration of the fifty-eighth Day of True All Things



God's Day, which is True Heavenly Parent's Day.

On a foundation of sacrifice

True Mother points us to the simple truth that True Parents' Holy Wedding is the root of all holy days. We will celebrate this by celebrating all holy days on True Parents' Holy Wedding Day, the sixteenth day of the third month by the heavenly calendar, the day of Heavenly Parent's substantiation on earth and in heaven.

President Lee also honored the day as representing, on the heavenly calendar, the sixty-sixth anniversary of the founding of the Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity. He called us to pay homage to the thousands of brothers and sisters who, over the last sixty-six years, laid the foundation for where we stand today. He recognized those whose sacrifices remain unpublicized and confessed that we owe a great debt to each of them. This community center and all our centers worldwide are the result of members' donations plus True Parents' guidance on how to restore the creation back to God.

Our faithful elders

President Lee pointed to HJ Cheonwon as exemplary of the restoration of the creation. It covers some ten million pyong, which is more than eight thousand acres and is an example of the harmony of God's creation and human investment to create a pleasant and healthy social environment.

President Lee then reminded us of True Mother's emphasis on the peaceful reunification of Korea, especially in light of current difficult relations, and with the seventieth anniversary of the start of the war just a few days away. We are participants in a heavenly war, and all should be mobilized over the coming seven months for heavenly tribal messiahship. Our true love for the people of our towns and neighborhoods is the foundation for Heavenly Parent to bring the unification of Korea through True Parents.

President Lee reported that he and many other leaders are conducting a nightly midnight prayer vigil at the Jeongshimwon Prayer Hall. As True Mother said would happen, all feel True Father's direct presence in that vigil and have seen

- ① Yeon-ah Moon, chair of the Universal Peace Federation-Korea and Julia HJ Moon, international president of WFWP, light holy candles on the offering table.
- ② Young-ho Yun, director-general of the FFWPU International Headquarters, deep in prayer
- ③ As Yeon-ah Moon, Julia HJ Moon and Wonju Jeong McDevitt cut the holy day cake, our elders brothers lead the audience in song.
- ④ Rev. Ki-seong Lee, group chairman of FFWPU-heavenly Korea, gave the holy day sermon.

miracles take place. For one example, Rev. Eom, Yun Hyung's brother, who had left the movement with a bitter heart, has now returned with gratitude, thanks in part to Rev. Eom's prayer and love.

President Lee closed by calling us, as we celebrate this day, to remember the sacrifices of our predecessors, and the desperate heart of True Mother for Korea's reunification. After this moving message, and Rev. Cho Man-woong, Chair of the Senior Pastors Association, led us in cheers of Mansei to close the ceremony. *TP*

Dr. Hendricks is a part-time professor at Sun Moon University and Sunhak Universal Peace Graduate University.

Aglow in the Fire of New Revelation

Divine Principle Via the Bible

By Henri Schauffler



In Greenbelt Maryland, in the United States we have begun using a marvelous, new (actually, the original) way of teaching the Divine Principle to Bible-oriented new spiritual children. We teach right from the Bible, since Christians, Muslims and Jews accept the Old Testament figures and scripture from which most of the Divine Principle comes. This is, in fact, the way True Father taught the Divine Principle in the beginning, when he was preaching in North Korea—using the Bible. There were no Divine Principle books and no diagrams, just the Bible and True Father’s understanding of the revelations he had received.

Recently, as we sought to find culturally-based ways to introduce people to the Divine Principle, we had the idea that since this culture is rooted in the Abrahamic faiths, which subscribe to worldviews based on the Bible, we would immediately connect with people if we created Bible study programs based on the Divine Principle. Our first three efforts have been successful. The first was a hoondok-style workshop with slides that started with numerous Bible verses showing the basic Principle teachings. The second and third have been Bible study sessions at the home of Gary

and Wanji Rowe, a blessed couple in our neighborhood who graciously opened their home for this public program. This article will focus on the home study program, which was by far the most hopeful new development.

We gather around a kitchen table, Bibles in hand, to study Divine Principle—only we called it, “A Bible Study: Lessons on Successful Living.” We start by reading over several life-oriented study questions and briefly asking which ones seem most important. We then lead the group through several Bible verses that the introduction of *Exposition of the Divine Principle* uses. We ask each member of the group, new students and seasoned ones alike, to read a few verses from a preprinted sheet. (This is much easier than thumbing through from verse to verse in the Bible when there are many verses.)

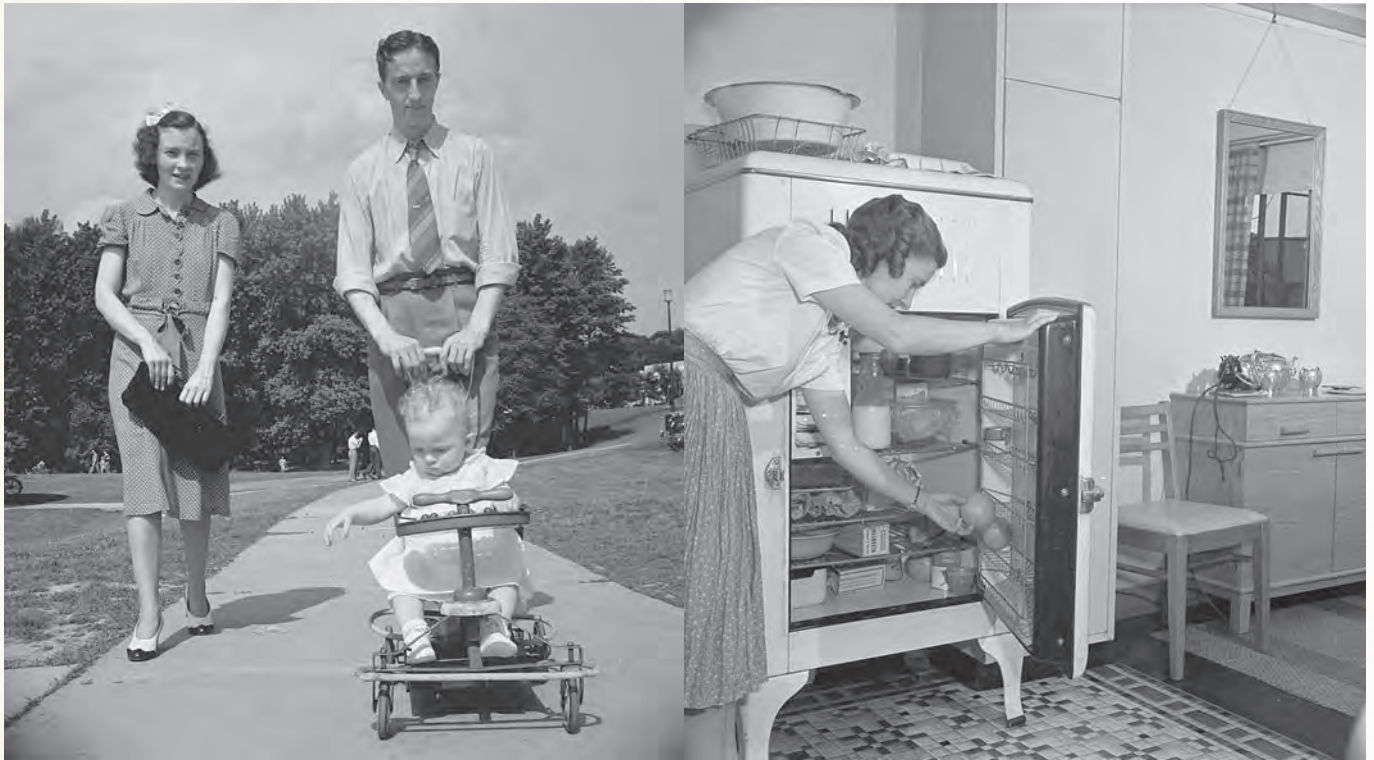
Joy from natural interaction

At the conclusion of the readings, whoever is leading the group that day asks, “What do these verses mean to you?” Then the heavenly sparks start flying! Everyone chimes in with wonderful insights—discussing such verses as, John 16:12–13: “I have yet many things to say to you, but you

cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth. . . .” One new student asked, “Will the Spirit of truth come to all of us, or will it come in a person?” Wow! Great question! A blessed member answered, “That is one of the main purposes of our group—to let God answer questions like that directly to us from the Holy Bible.”

Then we launched into the Principle of Creation, though we simply called it Creation. We read selections, round-table style, from Genesis Chapter 1. This time we used the Bible itself. Each student was guided to select passages such as, “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth,” and “male and female he created them,” down to verse 1:28—“Be fruitful, multiply and have dominion. . . .” The entirety of the verses we used was on a separate sheet.

We then asked the group questions about each verse, in an attempt to highlight the various sections of the Principle of Creation. For the purpose of the Creation, we highlighted, “And God said it was very good.” For the dual characteristics, we used, “male and female he created them.” For the three blessings, of course, we used



Fittingly, Greenbelt, Maryland, where Mr. Shaufler taught Divine Principle through the Bible, was designed and built in the 1930s to be an ideal community, with walking paths that connect all the buildings, which display stylish architecture, many trees and flowers and inside the apartments modern conveniences (at that time).

Genesis verse 1:28. The group leader augmented these by showing a diagram or two from the Divine Principle hoondok slides simply printed on paper. Finally, we read Matt 16:29 (“Whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven....”) regarding the spiritual world.

Everyone gained

New students and seasoned members came alive. (We have pushed ourselves to get away from the word “guest,” which engenders a sense of “us” and “them” and separates us from our new friends. We are using terms such as “new friend,” “student” or “neighbor”—anything but “guest.” Each person has something extraordinary to say. The Divine Principle had come alive through the Bible. New students were afire with their new-found revelations through the Bible. Seeing how the spirit could work in this way electrified our seasoned members. We felt united; there were no distinctions between new students and blessed members. All were aglow in the fire of new revelation from God as seen through the Holy Bible.

One new student, in answer to the question, “What is God teaching us about how to live on earth through Matthew 16:29?” said, “It’s as if God

has a video camera and is capturing everything we do as we live our lives. When we die, he plays that video. That will decide if we go to heaven or hell.” Amazing! True Father has been using that analogy on the global speaking tours; now it’s coming out of the mouth of a new student studying the Divine Principle from the Bible!

Another new student said, “I love this way of studying the Bible. In my church, the pastor reads a passage or two and then just gives another sermon. In this group, you ask each of us to share and give our opinions—we find the truth together.”

In the end, everyone around the table felt that it had been a fantastic evening. We scheduled the next home Bible study of the Divine Principle without any resistance—in fact, one new student asked if he could bring a friend and a long-time member asked if she could bring her neighbor. Everyone who has participated in the Bible study feels that God has shown us a whole new way to teach the Divine Principle, at the same time, we realize it’s not actually new; True Father set the pattern seventy years ago.

Our plan is to go through the entire Divine Principle starting from the Bible. We do not read entire chap-

ters; only those sections that are relevant to teaching the Divine Principle. We use a little different flow than *Exposition of the Divine Principle*, one that we believe is more in line with how the early members might have taught it.

The Principle of Creation: Genesis 1 and 2 and selected New Testament verses cited in Divine Principle; The Fall of Man: Genesis 2 and 3 and selected New Testament verses cited in Divine Principle; Adam’s Family: Genesis Chapter 3; Noah’s Family: Genesis Chapters 6 and 9; Abraham’s Family: Genesis; Jacob and Esau, Moses’ and the Israelites Course: Exodus; Jesus’ course: Matthew, John and selected verses cited in Divine Principle; Consummation of Human History: Selected verses cited in Divine Principle; Parallels and The Second Coming: to be developed.... We are not sure yet exactly how to approach these two chapters of Divine Principle. What we are sure of is that the idea of teaching the Divine Principle directly out of the Bible is a winner! *TP*

This article originally appeared in the January 2007 issue of Today’s World, the predecessor to True Peace. The subtitle was the article’s original title.

Helping Communities by Empowering Young People

By IAYSP-Latin America

Before social distancing became necessary for safeguarding our health, Youth and Students for Peace offered a full-day seminar called “Peace Designers” that teaches service project planning to young people. Participants emerge with a fresh perspective on how they can promote sustainable peace and identify personal strengths and passions within themselves that they can use to help address problems present in their communities. The seminar takes students through step-by-step discussions and planning to make a project a reality within a team. At the end, they give a presentation on their project and have action steps ready for when they leave the seminar.

S!nergy (students x ideas x energy) is a type of presentation that IAYSP-Japan initiated. Students exhibit their projects and initiatives through S!nergy and distinguished leaders in society as well audience members vote on the most impressive concept and speech.

Our primary motivation for holding Peace Designer Online 2020 and S!nergy Online 2020 was to give joy to True Parents and make them proud of us through the activities and projects we as young people are

carrying out in this age. We desired to help young people gain skills and experiences that will help them become pioneers of national restoration through their activities. We also wanted to raise awareness of Youth and Students for Peace (YSP) as an organization that is concerned with educating and supporting young people in the hope that they improve society.

Coming together in a safe space

Our theme for these programs was “Youth Who Take Action.” Through these two online programs, which we held with the support of FFWPU-Latin America, CARP-Brazil and the Universal Peace Federation, we wished to inspire young people to develop a more collective consciousness and encourage them to develop solutions to society’s problems. The best projects received a monetary prize as an incentive to implement those projects. Furthermore, we invited influential people to act as judges and in the hope that they connect with the young, public-minded contestants and perhaps take an interest in their projects.

We held the Peace Designer 2020 conference and S!nergy 2020 on May 9, 16, 23 and 25, completely online for

the first time ever. More than four hundred young people subscribed to the event, from many Latin American countries, Europe and even Asia. The whole IAYSP leadership in Latin American countries cooperated for the success of the event, which included speeches by Rev. In-soung Kwon, a youth emissary for Latin America; Koji Matsuda, the IAYSP international president; and Jae-hyun Kim, the IAYSP international vice-president.

Connecting with each other and with True Parents

In the beginning, participants divided into eighty-four teams, and participated in the Peace Designer Workshop on May 9 and May 16, from 1:30 to 4:30 PM BRT (Brasília Time), enabling them to elaborate on their projects and the projects’ expected social impact as well as on their entrepreneurship. On the first day, almost three hundred people connected through Zoom [cloud-based video conferencing software], while others watched through Facebook. All the lectures took place through Zoom in both the Portuguese and Spanish languages (with live broadcasting on IAYSP’s Latin America’s Facebook page). Interaction with and expressions of



In-soung Kwon, a youth missionary for Latin America, was one of three people who gave a speech to a physically distant audience using Zoom.

support for the groups came through WhatsApp, Facebook and Instagram, in addition to IAYSP-Latin America's official website.

The events were also able to bring together some young people who had become distant from Heavenly Parent's Holy Community, but who found in the Peace Designer program a way to bring their hearts back to the True Parents through the creation of projects that benefit others. In addition, about 30 percent of the participants were non-members, who also had a terrific chance to develop initiatives that can contribute to their community and thereby practice True Parents' teaching of living for the sake of others.

A large congregation

On Saturday, May 23 at 1:30 PM (BRT), IAYSP Latin America (in connection with the Peace Designer Online workshop) held S!nergy Online. This was a precious opportunity for the participants to present their social entrepreneurship projects. Two hundred people attended the event directly through Zoom; more than two thousand users viewed S!nergy Online via Facebook. The event lasted more than six hours, and continued on Monday, May 25, at 10 AM.

Overall, young people from eighteen countries attended the Peace Designer Online program—Brazil (165), Peru (52), Bolivia (35), Argentina (28), Nicaragua (22), Dominican Republic (20), Costa Rica (5), Panama (4), Uruguay (3), Colombia (3), Honduras (2) and one person each from South Korea, Paraguay, Portugal, France, Ecuador, Germany and Spain.

During S!nergy, thirty-one teams presented projects on Saturday and Monday and fifteen teams presented projects on other days, totaling forty-six social entrepreneurship initiatives. Among the projects presented were proposals for school gardens, financial education, the prevention of violence against women, beach cleaning, support for people suffering from COVID-19, education on healthy eating, recycling and support for the elderly.

On Monday, May 25, at 7 PM (BRT), we announced the winning projects. Among the evaluators were members of IAYSP Latin America, young peace ambassadors, university and high school educators (UPF peace ambassadors), and businesspeople.

The evaluation criteria

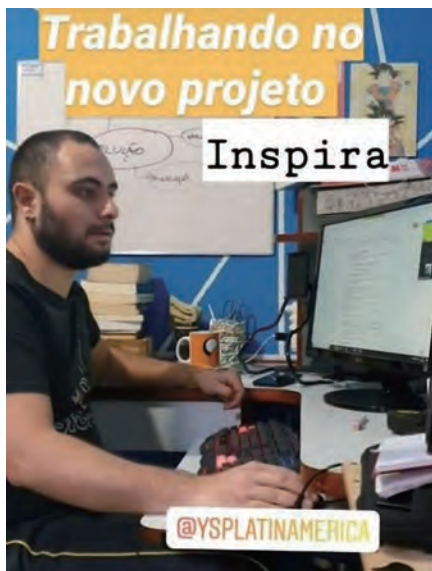
1) The project details—its creativity, possibility of implementation, pros-

pect of a social impact, possibility of application in the medium term, and low cost of implementation. 2) How widely popular it was; that is, how many "likes" it got on Facebook and how many times viewers shared it on Facebook and Instagram 3) How great a social impact it might have

Eleven prominent figures in society took on the role of judges and selected twelve projects as winners. Each project received an incentive award worth approximately \$100.00.

In addition, the IAYSP's Latin America Facebook page broadcast the events. The first day of the Peace Designer Online Seminar garnered more than 1,400 views, reaching about 3,200 people; the second day it reached 1,300 views and more than 2,600 users. Finally, S!nergy had over 2,500 views and reached 5,900 people.

IAYSP national leaders have committed to supporting Peace Designer participants in putting the winning projects into practice. Even those who did not win but wish to execute their projects will receive support from IAYSP Latin America in doing so. Through this three-week online Peace Designer event, the purpose of IAYSP was realized: to empower young people to build a world of peace centered on true love.



From left: A YSP member inspired to work on projects. They held their Peace Designer course virtually, via Zoom. YSP members are Young People that Make Things Happen.



IMPRESSIONS FROM PARTICIPANTS

Cláudia Vieira: Undoubtedly, this slnergy event was the biggest project about social entrepreneurship using a new platform, completely online and presenting so many projects at the same time. Seeing the engagement of youth is amazing, not only university students but also high school students, committed people with good ideas and with such creativity! During Peru's presentation, when they had technical problems, a group from Nicaragua offered to support them. The interaction that they created, the energy of everyone being connected with the same purpose and supporting one another was wonderful.

I was able to observe the growth of the event, and although we have a lot to improve on, now we have a standard. Because I believe you need references and there had definitely been none. My regards to the whole team that went to great lengths to make this possible, to everyone who supported it and mainly to President Samuel, because we have a person who had the idea and believed it would be possible, who orchestrated the teamwork from a distance. That was something audacious.

This process was like a school. I thank Heavenly Parent for this time and wish many blessings to IAYSP Latin America.

Martin Garcia: I thank Heavenly Parent and the True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind for the opportunity to have participated in Peace Designer Online and Slnergy Online. I worked on the organizing committee. It was a great experience, both internally and externally. On the one hand, there were many interesting and innovative projects, which mainly sought to serve society and live for the sake of others, as True Parents taught us. In addition, it integrated people from many parts of Brazil and Latin America, allowing us to meet and interact with different people. Knowing that the Peace Designer program gave joy and motivation to many youth was incredible.

On the other hand, it was an unbelievable chance to learn even more about how to purify my motivation, because at any moment we are susceptible to tests, and it isn't always easy to recognize. I was able to feel both my foundation of faith and of substance (especially at the end) and clung to the concept of centralization. Finally, this was an offering to True Mother, for national restoration. So every moment I had to concentrate not to do my will in this activity but fulfill the God's will through my central figure.

Selena Teodoro: From the beginning, I was happy to participate in the organization of the event. With the present interruption of our church's activities, I was looking for ways to

get involved in everything that was available online. I was even watching sermons from other countries. So when I had the chance to participate more actively and in an IAYSP project, which to me seems to be one of the closest organizations to True Mother's heart, I felt this was an opportunity from Heavenly Parent for me to make an offering during this quarantine time.

At first I was a little stressed by the lack of time for planning and the slow pace of performing some tasks in my department. However, I tried to focus on doing my best, instead of worrying about it not being an ideal situation. In the way things were happening, I was able to learn internally and externally, and the results were positive and rewarding. From my point of view, although we tried hard, the result obtained is a product of heavenly fortune. I would say that our job was basically not to disturb Heavenly Parent's work.

At the end of the event, the atmosphere was light and everyone on the staff team was happy and felt a sense of accomplishment. The participants were happy and deeply committed to achieving their projects, which makes me think that individually we made good offerings, and these added together, can become a report of victory that will make True Mother happy and help her to maintain hope in Heavenly Latin America. *TP*

This was based on IAYSP-Latin America's English report.

Young People Celebrating Africa Day 2020

By Itiah Tegha

In celebration of Africa Day 2020, the International Association of Youth and Students for Peace (IAYSP) organized the Africa Day Youth Virtual Conference on Monday, May 25 on the theme, “A Leap into the First World: Africa can do it.”

The event was organized in collaboration with several partners, in particular, the Ghana National Scout Association (GA), Water for Rural Africa, The Pan African Leadership and Entrepreneurship Development Center (PALEDEC) of Nigeria, Vodec Africa and Clifvof International.

More than a thousand participants from all across the world were engaged during this maiden webinar of YSP on both Zoom and Facebook Live. The event was moderated by Rev. Tegha King, president of the International Association of Youth and Students for Peace-Ghana, and co-moderated by Bisola Babalola, a university educationist and journalists from Kwara State in Nigeria.

The event preparation took several face-to-face meetings of YSP executives (while respecting social distancing). We achieved major headways during these meetings, in particular focusing on social media engagement and management of the Zoom platform. YSP Ghana executives thought it

wise for the association to undertake a one-month subscription on Zoom in order to have its own platform and ensure fluid coordination of the event. We also issued a press release and the presenters disseminated it on social media platforms and YSP networks to ensure wider reach.

We covered four UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) during the event, focusing specifically on the contribution and the potential impact youth can bring to bear on SDGs. These were Goal 4: Quality Education; Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth; Goal 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure; and Goal 17: Partnerships to achieve the goal.

Africa Day 2020 presenters

Great speakers from various backgrounds and fields of knowledge graced the event including a renowned child artist who wowed the audience with an amazing poem performance.

With a gender balanced, international, intercultural and interracial panel of almost all age ranges, the presenters engaged the virtual audience with professional and life experiences. We initially selected eight speakers for the event. Among these, only one, Samia Nkrumah,

due to last minute challenges beyond her control, could not participate in the event. We selected presenters from five countries within Africa and beyond. Ambassador Wallace W. Williams, who is the honorary consular general of Antigua and Barbuda to Nigeria came as the special guest. Daniel Asomani, president and CEO of Vodec Africa, an NGO with headquarters in Ghana; Alan Saunders, president and CEO of Saunders Consultancy LLC from the United States; Dr. Donald Agumenu, founder and CEO of Water for Rural Africa, from Ghana; Karima Rhanem, a Moroccan multiple award winner and president of the International Center for Diplomacy; Nakeeyat Dramani Sam, a Ghanaian child poet and winner of multiple talented kids awards; Stacey Fru, of South Africa, Africa’s youngest international award winning author; and Daniel Matalon from the United States, founder of isthereenough.org

The speakers addressed the skepticisms of some young people regarding Africa’s political and socio-economic paradigms. They identified existential leadership limitations in the continent as the main causes of the web of consternation, doubts,



Accra, the capital of Ghana, in pre-pandemic times (Photograph by Muntaka Chasant, via Wikimedia)

fears and the myopic mindset of some African Youths; resulting in entrenched mediocrity in the life options of many.

They also deliberated on topics with intentions to identify some of Africa's chronic problems and made suggestions on how young people could take advantage of the numerous natural resources and human capital on the continent to change the socioeconomic trajectory and leap into the industrialization level of the "First World."

Building Africa's future

The special guest, Ambassador Williams, spoke on the topic, "Preparing African youth for the Future of Africa." He expressed joy to be on a platform with young people. He stressed the need for African solutions for African problems. Instead of only focusing on achieving goals from the United Nations, African leaders should set yearly goals for Africa as a continent, for instance, on education, health, etc. He urged youths to challenge their leaders to display the appropriate leadership. He also addressed the issue of environmental degradation by other nationals who come to grab the continent's wealth. He decried the fact that most projects being imple-

mented on the continent were "white elephant" projects, which seem huge but do not address the continent's main challenges. Instead, he called for investment into free education from primary to secondary school to get a literate society and empower youth with the tools required to move our continent forward.

Ambassador Williams also highlighted the need to boost E-learning on the continent, for which he and other key figures had established the *Africacy* Project to promote E-learning and education as the basic first step for Africa and the African youth. He also spoke about entrepreneurship, ownership of resources, agriculture and food security, the transition of youth to leadership on the continent, and the transparency of youth representation.

Be industrious

During the deliberations, Daniel Asomani spoke about entrepreneurship and the numerous opportunities around the globe. He said young Africans should change the economic trajectory from a consuming to a manufacturing one. While identifying that lack of funding and of business partnerships were Africa's biggest business weaknesses for those who aimed at venturing into capital inten-

sive businesses, he acknowledged that the Africa Continental Free Trade Area was a great business opportunity that Africans must exploit. He suggested that a United States of Africa Trade be put in place for Africa's sustainable development.

Reconnect with African roots

Dr. Donald Agumenu, a Ghanaian politician, a philanthropist and one of Africa's finest gems, underscored the underpinning reasons for Africa's stagnation in the political and economic sectors. He said it was high time Africa rediscover herself, by readapting to our values, cultural heritage and ethics of probity, equity, justice, morality and sane politics that had in the past given the continent a unique identity and made us a people of great integrity just after colonialism. He stressed that today's democracy was full of corruption and of emphasis on "the money factor" and that this has provoked much disorder on the continent. He encouraged African young people to embrace democracy as the guide for the rule of law and order.

Dr. Agumenu underscored the media's role and condemned the use of social media for the dissemination of fake news and other ills. He urged people who engage in such acts to



Accra, the capital of Ghana, during the Coronavirus lockdown. (Photograph by Kwaku Berko, via Wikimedia)

consider the negative impact of such deeds on the continent.

Recognize your good qualities

Professor Saunders spoke on “the centrality of virtues in leadership and relationships,” emphasizing and highlighting three character traits and virtues in leadership. He noted that based on his experience of engaging with young people on the African continent, there are three characteristics of successful leadership that African youths have that American youth lack. Without character, he said, we cannot develop integrity and it’s important in leadership.

The first characteristic of African youth is their capacity for public speaking. He gave the example of Nakeeyat who gave an excellent presentation of a touching poem on our environment. He said the continent has something that the rest of the world does not have—the courage to speak eloquently.

The second characteristic, he explained, is the connection of spirituality and the physical realm in Africa, where both are seen as a whole. The third is the importance of family, community and tribes in Africa. He noted that we need to preserve all the beautiful traditions and skills we have as a continent.

The precious value of literacy

Africa’s youngest international award-winning author, Stacey Fru, thanked all participants on behalf of African youth for their taking part in the webinar. She spoke on the power of literacy among African youth. She began her presentation by noting that the youth in Africa are in a position to set the future for the rest of their lives, however, this cannot be achieved without literacy. Literacy, she explained, has been defined as the ability to understand, identify, interpret, create, communicate and compute, the basics of which should be learned in primary school.

African youth need to learn how to read and write. She observed that in many schools where she had the opportunity to engage the youth, there is a lack of infrastructure to promote literacy. The poverty cycle, illiteracy and an ignorance cycle continues, she added.

Africans, she lamented, do not seem to own or control the needed foundation for education and literacy. She ended her presentation by identifying two ways through which Africa can empower its youth: education and community engagement. Education is the first way, because with education, we can move to community engagement through activities aimed at

empowering and inspiring others. She added, “We need to change the mindset of the community and address the root causes of the growth of the continent. We do not have to lose the value that literacy creates.”

Let’s look again, reconsider our concepts

A Moroccan multiple award winner and president of the International Center for Diplomacy, Karima Rhanem, spoke on the topic of how young people were and are leading the fight against Covid-19 and what we need to focus on. She began her presentation by remarking that we are becoming global citizens and globalization issues affect us, which implies that we need to interact across the world with issues that are affecting us and contextualize these issues.

Many chief security officers and especially young people, she revealed, have been at the frontline of tackling the Covid-19 pandemic as volunteers and health workers. There has been a great deal of solidarity all over the world, and also in Africa. Young African entrepreneurs are innovating and creating, using artificial intelligence (AI) to contribute to the fight against Covid-19, such as AI masks for protection and drones for raising awareness to help manage the virus.

Although Africa has been in the process of being digitalized, this transformation has been accelerated through Covid-19, particularly digitalization of all services. Many services have gone digital because of the lockdown and there have been strategies to have e-governance and digitalization of services. She mentioned the creation of free education platforms to enable students to continue studying despite the pandemic. She however noted the need to think of strategies to raise the capacity of teachers and students to have a digital culture.

It was time, she emphasized, to adapt different strategies to change the mindset of the African population. In a transition to a post Covid-19 era, we need to question if our current policies are still valid. We need new business models. She also spoke about the generational gap and the need to develop policies that include a generational dialogue because this could be a problem for youth to access services etc. We ought to unlock young people's potential and take the opportunity presented by the pandemic to rethink current needs, future trends and how we can harness the potential of our youth.

Conceptualizing the world we live in
Daniel Matalon, founder of *isthereenough.org* from the USA spoke on the topic of "Leadership is not a lottery," focusing on seeing Africa as an emerging continent with huge human resources. From the outset, he asked the audience to respond mentally to two questions: what they perceive to be the major weakness of Africa, and what they perceive to be their own major weakness. These questions, he noted, stem from the concept that weaknesses are the seeds of our strength, so long as we know how to turn weakness into opportunity.

His goal, he explained, is to make the world work for 100 percent of humanity, which is mathematically possible. The campaign he is leading, the #is there enough campaign, is a conversation on ways of looking at how to expand the available investment dollars for the sake of human survival. He said that globally, the world is facing a three-and-a-half trillion-dollar deficit on what it needs to invest in human survival by the

way it has defined its 2030 goals, and that to have a global community setting those goals is an amazing evolution of language and culture.

He asked young leaders, especially those under ten years old, to consider the fact that the global community that we refer to is primitive in terms of leadership. The conversation around "Is there enough?" suggests that wealth is not produced by resources, although our economic systems appear to be based on this concept. If wealth were based on resources, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), for instance, would be the richest country on earth.

According to him, the reason the DRC is not able to maximize its resources is that wealth is based on agreement. In view of this, the answer to "Is there enough?" is conditional, and whether there is enough or not, the answer is agreement, not war. The Impact Launchpad campaign, which is currently being developed, therefore focuses on launching a peace treaty to say that we do not have to wait for leadership but welcome the idea that humanity can make its own peace among one another.

A few moments of bliss

"Our Environment our Home," a poem recited by an eight-year-old Ghanaian poet, Nakeeyat Dramani Sam, refreshed the audience. She thrilled the virtual audience in the most mesmerizing audiovisual format asking Africans to stand up for Mother Earth because, as she said, "Mother Earth is all we have."

Outcomes

It should be noted that this event was made a reality thanks to the sterling leadership and devotion of Tegha King, president of YSP, who went to great lengths to ensure that the team understood exactly the objective of the event and its significance. The executives of the association also collaborated fully and supported the vision of holding this amazing webinar.

In the preparation for the event, the executive team had put in place three key performance indicators (KPIs) that were going to determine the success or otherwise of the event. This virtual get-together being the first of its kind for YSP Ghana, the executive

team focused on measuring the success of the webinar through the actual participation of the selected presenters, feedback from participants and presenters, and management and coordination of the Zoom platform.

The presenters' participation rate was high, as mentioned earlier, and demonstrated the high level of consideration given by the speakers to YSP as well as the fluid collaboration and excellent coordination by YSP President King. The team received positive feedback from participants of the webinar. Participants appreciated the depth of the presentations, the caliber of presenters and the harmony and seamless flow of event. They also praised the presenters for highlighting key points from one another's presentation.

Using the Zoom platform for the hosting of this event was an eye opener in many respects. The team was able to successfully display the event live on Facebook, and the entire event took place without major difficulties, despite heavy rain in Accra during the entire event. YSP Ghana was able to weather the storm and offered participants a well-organized event.

However, including non-presenters in the Zoom platform was not ideal since it led to some level of distraction. In the future, when we use Facebook Live as the main webinar medium, only presenters shall be allowed to access the Zoom platform. When Zoom is the main platform, we must take care to switch off audience videos and mute all inactive microphones.

In terms of results, we believe that YSP Ghana has been able to forge strong ties with key personalities having an impact on African youth and our innovation landscape. We generated interest in the activities, vision and mission of the association and inspired YSP's current and potential members on the latent strengths of the organization to be a pacesetter on youth issues in Ghana and beyond. We have asserted our online presence through its social media pages (Twitter and Facebook). 

The writer is a researcher who also works with IAYSP.

The Struggle for Equality

Pages 23–31 are a partial transcript of UPF Peace Talk 8. The text was edited to familiarize our international readers with locations and circumstances mentioned. We encourage everyone to read this transcript and also to listen to the podcast on UpfDotOrg. Through both reading and watching, you will likely gain additional insights into facing and dealing with racial inequality, an obstacle to achieving one family under God and something the United States has long struggled with.

By Thomas Walsh

Good morning. Welcome to another Peace Talk of the Universal Peace Federation. We are happy you are with us for this important program, entitled Searching for Peace in Our Cities: a conversation about race, justice, trust and community.

We are living through challenging times. We have had webinars over the last couple of months on the Covid-19 Crisis, on the emergence of the cold war between the US and China, on problems that remain in the Middle East. On top of that, we have seen in the United States the tragic killing of an African American by a police officer in the US State of Minnesota that has struck deeply into the heart of this country and has reverberated around the world.

We are reminded of what some call America's original sin, slavery and our tortured history of race relations in this country. So it has brought forward demonstrations that are being held widely throughout America as I am sure all of you are aware. So we want today to have a conversation about what is going on in America now: What are its root causes? What are things we can do to overcome this current crisis and move beyond—productively, constructively and positively—to build the kind of world, the kind of community, based on mutual trust and mutual respect, where the dignity and value of every human being is cherished as well as our natural environment. We all want that world, but we are struggling to achieve it. It seems to be coming out loud and clear at this moment in our national history. I think this issue is not just a United States' issue, but the spotlight is coming, emerging out of the recent killing in Minnesota of George Floyd—and others elsewhere that have sparked so much outrage.



Dr. Walsh initiates the webinar, introduces each of the speakers and makes final comments about the speaker's presentations.

We have a strong panel. We have Michael Jenkins, president of UPF-International and chair of UPF-USA. Rev. V. J. Smith, from Minnesota, a pastor who is the national and Minneapolis president of Men Against Destruction, Defending Against Drugs and Social Disorder (MADDADS) an NGO. We have Loretta Sanchez, who served some twenty years in the US House of Representatives, from California; Professor William Lay from the Criminal Justice Department of the University of Bridgeport; Miss Gloria Howard-Geraldo, president of the North Minnesota Rotary Club; and finally from ACLC, its co-chairman and a Methodist pastor, Dr. Luonne Rouse. 

Me Must Come together Beyond Race

By Michael Jenkins

Thank you Dr. Walsh. I am grateful to be here. Good day to everyone throughout the world. UPF International has been holding peace talks on different topics, and Dr. Walsh and I spoke about the urgency of this matter. UPF-USA has been partnering with the American Clergy Leadership Conference; our pastors in Minneapolis and New York, Washington, Los Angeles and also congressional representatives—Democrats and Republicans. We see hope. We see hope, moving forward.

First of all, we want to express our sadness over the tragic death of Mr. George Floyd, which was clearly an abuse of power, a terrible tragedy and murder by a police officer of the Minneapolis Police Department. We are saddened by the other officers who stood by. We are saddened by the terrible expression of pain and anguish and crying by citizens who were there, begging this officer to get off of Mr. Floyd. Now it has been upgraded to second degree murder and the other three officers have been charged.

But also what we saw was something that didn't happen in the past, that I recall, even when there was terrible trouble after Dr. King was assassinated or the riots in LA. This situation is quite different. People of every race, every culture, every religion, every background are pouring out onto the streets—good people—that want to put an end to this kind of discrimination and especially this tragic problem of people being hurt and of the abuse of power. Enough is enough!

The deeper issue is racism. It is not a simple topic. It is not something where we can easily say, Well, I don't have that problem. I do find that as I work with pastors and I work with other people from all different backgrounds, I, too, have to repent. I too have to become clear. I have not



Rev. Michael Jenkins

loved my brothers and sisters from all races. We all have these shortcomings. We tend to aggregate with our own people. That's typical of the history of mankind and it all starts from the beginning when God asked Adam and Eve to obey his will and the breakdown that occurred there.

Jesus came and gave us grace, but we also see there is still conflict within us; therefore, the religious leaders, we believe, play a central role. We know that many of the



The scene at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina, in the US, soon after Dylan Roof, a white supremacist, murdered nine people. He began shooting when their eyes were closed in prayer during Bible study.

religious leaders in Minneapolis are working hard during the day. They're doing a lot of the clean up every day [from the protest marches] and at nighttime, there are some bad actors that come out.

Some are exploiting the situation

There is evidence as the Chicago mayor indicated, clearly, they are coming from outside of the community. The community does not want to burn down its own community. Bishop Noel Jones, when he was helping ACLC to develop a statement concerning this, a pastoral statement, said that it doesn't make sense that somebody gets into a fight outside of their house and to express their anger comes [into their house] and sets the couch on fire. Nobody would do that. This is not coming from the community. It's coming from people that have other intentions, but that has always been the case.

We believe that we have to come together beyond race. We have to deal with the problem of racism. It is not something we are going to be able to solve in the next couple of weeks or months. It's a process. We have to come to terms with what our shortcomings are. It begins with me dealing with it. One thing that gives me a lot of hope and my conclusion is that when we saw [the US City of] Ferguson [Missouri] burn [in August 2014, a gas station, a convenience store and restaurant were burned down] that again came from a tragic death [of eighteen-year-old Michael Brown Jr., an African American man]. And when we also saw Baltimore burn [in 2015] they burned down a CVS pharmacy and an older gentleman in his seventies said, "Where am I going to get my medicine now?"

Tragedy at a Bible study

Dr. Rouse, the chairman of ACLC, and I went to

Charleston, South Carolina, on the one-year anniversary after [the-then twenty-one-year-old white supremacist] Dylann Roof killed nine people in a Bible study, including the pastor. We had a tremendous experience because we heard from the people there—as we gathered all the pastors for a memorial—that Charleston was different because the black and white churches came together. They marched together (and there were people that came from outside, ready to riot, ready to burn, to destroy and the media was right behind them) but fortunately, black and white had come together first and got in the lead in the process. That is why Charleston didn't burn. Even one of the victims, Felicia Sanders, who survived that shooting, came out with the feeling that the only way she could overcome the incredible pain was not by hating her brothers and sisters from different races. She had to forgive that person and understand that it was totally evil—the evil within.

So we have hope from that Charleston experience, and we see the clergy like Rev. Smith here and others working across this nation now diligently with Dr. Rouse and Bishop Noel Jones to get ahead of this curve. We will not get ahead of it right in this cycle, but we've got to permanently get ahead of it, so God's people need to come together, the godly congressmen—Republicans and Democrats, godly people in education, academia. All the godly people need to come together. I believe there is tremendous hope with that. Thank you very much.

Dr. Walsh: Thank you Dr. Jenkins for underscoring the importance and value of our churches, our faith-based organizations at this time, which are desperately needed for their insight, wisdom and input and hopefully modeling how we can come together. 🙏

Things We Have to Do

Rev. Smith is the national and Minneapolis president of Men Against Destruction, Defending Against Drugs and Social Disorder, MADDADS

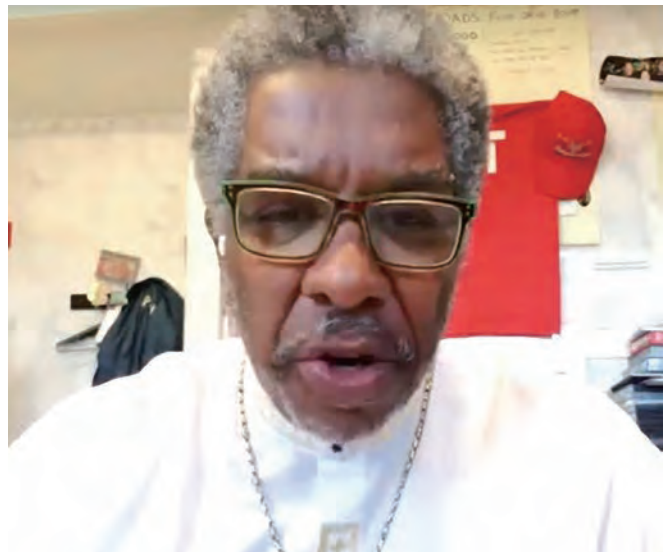
By Victor James Smith

Thank you very much. God bless everyone. I am excited to be on this call today, as yesterday we had the funeral for George Floyd, and we (along with many others) provided safety and security for that funeral, as all the stars and the politicians and the folks, the celebrities, came to honor his life.

As the national president of MADDADS and a member of ACLC, I am energized to do a few things. There are five Rs that I know we have to do. The one is Rebuild; we must rebuild our communities all across the nation. The second is Reform. There must be reform in the work that we do. And then, Restructure. We have to restructure some of the systematic things that are happening, right now, in terms of the police departments and politics. And we have to Revitalize. Our people are stressed out; they are worried. They are still getting over an epidemic, and now they are trying to figure out what to do.

They were just about to open businesses and then their windows were broken. Now they are trying to figure out how do we double revitalize? We revitalized once. How do we do it again? The last one is Refuse. We must refuse to go back to where we came from. We must refuse to go back to the system the way it was. We must refuse to let the status quo be the same again. We must have equality. This is the opportunity for us now to break the barriers. The only thing that is really going to help us is God and being God-driven to make this change happen. We have to be focused, laser-focused, on transformation in our communities.

Thomas Walsh: Thank you Rev. Smith. You made that crystal clear with the five Rs, and I think they are all spot on. We will come back to that as we go further into our conversation together.



Rev. VJ Smith during the webinar; Below a protest march in Minneapolis, where George Floyd was killed by policemen who have been charged with his murder



A Timeline of Racial Clashes between Police and the Public

(This text is from Voice of America, a US government entity and was not part of the webinar.)

Protests in the City of Minneapolis are the latest in the modern era that began as a result of racially charged confrontations between the police and Black Americans.

1965: LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

A roadside argument between white officers and a black motorist stopped for reckless driving sparks six days of rioting in the neighborhood of Watts.

1967: NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

Two white officers arrest and beat up a black taxi driver for a minor traffic violation, setting off five days of civil unrest.

1967: DETROIT, MICHIGAN

A police raid on a black nightclub hosting the return of two returning black servicemen [US soldiers] results in four days of violence that spread to Illinois, North Carolina, Tennessee and Maryland.

1980; MIAMI, FLORIDA

The acquittal of four white officers in Tampa on charges of beating a black motorcyclist to death in December 1979 after he drove through a red light sets off three days of unrest in Miami's Liberty City.

1992: LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

The acquittal of four white officers who were filmed by a bystander beating a black motorist in March 1991 erupts in five days of violence that also breaks out in Atlanta, Las Vegas, New York, San Francisco and San Jose.

2001: CINCINNATI, OHIO

Four days of civil unrest occurs after the killing of a 19-year-old black man by a white officer during an attempt to arrest him for traffic citations.



Top: A protester appeals to our better nature; Bottom: Justice for George: a French language institute in Minneapolis, uses its building to speak out against George Floyd's murder. (via Wikimedia)

2014: FERGUSON, MISSOURI

After an 18-year-old black man was fatally shot by a white officer during an encounter in the St. Louis, Missouri suburb of Ferguson, sixteen days of violent protests ensue. The shooting sparks a nationwide debate about interactions between law enforcement and African Americans.

2015: BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

The death of a 25-year-old black man a week after suffering spinal injuries while in police custody sets off 15 days of protests. In July 2016, charges were dropped against all six officers in the death.

2016: CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA

The fatal shooting of a 43-year-old black man by police sparks two nights of protests. Police say the victim was shot after refusing to comply with orders to drop a handgun. The shooting was recorded on bodycam and dashcam, and was later ruled justified.

2020: MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

Protests continue in cities across the country that began with the death of a 46-year-old black man suspected of passing a counterfeit \$20 bill. Four policemen were fired, one was charged with murder for kneeling on the victim's neck for eight minutes until the victim died. *TP*



Mothers Took the Lead

Racial unrest in the city of Anaheim, California, my hometown

By Loretta Sanchez

Good morning everyone. First of all, of course, my sympathy and condolences to the family of George Floyd and to the people of Minnesota, who have seen everybody in the nation rally around and who quite frankly must be a little confused about how this is playing out on their turf [in their city].

I say that, because in 2012, about the middle of July... I represent my hometown of Anaheim California. I represented it for twenty years in the United States Congress. Anaheim, of course, is known for [the world's first (1955)] Disneyland. We have a lot of lower-paid workers around that area who work at Disneyland, who work at hotels, who work at restaurants associated with tourism. So there are parts of Anaheim that are low-income areas that have been impacted. It's just a difficult life there for people.

In July of 2012, one of our police officers shot a young Latino man. His name was Manuel Diaz. What erupted from that were riots in the City of Anaheim. They were called the Ana Drive Riots because this shooting happened on Ana Drive, a cul-de-sac filled with almost slumlord-condition apartments, where of course, these hard-working people lived. They were very upset that this killing happened at the hands of the Anaheim police. The interesting thing is that word got out, so we ended up having these immense riots for two or three nights in a row.

I will have to say that 80 or 90 percent of the people who were involved in those riots were not even from Anaheim; they actually came from other places. There were fires; there were cars lit on fire. It was not an easy time for our city. I say this because we saw this eight years ago in my city. It was a different backdrop, of course, Orange County California has about a 1.2 percent African-American population, but it has about a 40 percent

Latino population. Those Latinos live, mostly in the worst area of our city. They are unemployed or they are underemployed, or they're employed in difficult and low-paying jobs.

I want to say that from that, it was very interesting the several things that we did. First we made a blue-ribbon commission [a group of exceptional people appointed to investigate, study or analyze the problem] that looked into what these officers had done, and we had real results from that. It took about five or six years, to tell you the truth. More importantly, almost immediately, the mothers who lived on Ana Drive began to stand and speak out and tell people who didn't belong there—who were rioting and who were causing problems—to get the heck out of their neighborhood and that they would take care of the situation.

It was led by a young mother named Yesenia Rojas. She galvanized all of the mothers in the neighborhood. The other thing she did was start to outreach to the public officials, and we came in and we started to make real, strategic plans about what this community needed. Then, we either put some public funds toward it or I personally picked up the phone and called individual donors to ask them to put money toward some of the programs we needed for the young people in this neighborhood, who just felt despair about everything that was going on.

One of the biggest players we had was the Department of Justice at the federal government level. They sent us two people who were sort of mediators, "community" kind of people, people who knew how to go out and start working together for the long run to solve some of these issues. They actually lived... They relocated to Anaheim, to these neighborhoods and they lived here for three years, while they involved themselves in the neighborhood and they contin-



This is an image of Loretta Sanchez at World Summit 2020. Her computer image during the UPF webinar was unclear, but her righteousness and heartfelt passion to confront racial injustice and to see America fulfill its vision of equality regardless of race or ethnic background were crystal clear.


ued to talk to the leadership of the city and local and federal and state leadership as well as the community to build the types of programs and to build trust back into the neighborhood. It has all been very positive.

Yes, in this George Floyd era we have had a couple of demonstrations in the City of Anaheim. It was interesting... my husband drove down to the center of Anaheim yesterday to visit a friend. He said all of the businesses were boarded up because they are worried about the types of things [destruction, looting] that we have seen on television, happening in New York and LA and other areas. But nothing happened in Anaheim. There were protests. There were marches but they were all very peaceful. In some cases protesters marched hand-in-hand with members of our Police Department from the City of Anaheim. I was very pleased to see that the very difficult work that we had been doing for the last eight years actually paid off in this time of unrest that we've seen around the nation. I will also just add that our clergy were very involved. I attend a predominately African American church in Santa Ana and our pastor went into Anaheim during that time to start working with other churches, with the Catholic Church. I met with the bishop. I said that these are predominantly Catholics living here. We need to invest more in our community from the church perspective, so it was very important for our clergy to be involved at that time in this neighborhood.

So I want to say that we have to look at the positives that come out of some of this strife that we see and we have to actually roll up our sleeves and get in there and involve ourselves in order to make sure that we have a better society, that we learn from what we see and that we move forward. I'm very optimistic that this can happen across the United States. I would like to say one

last thing to Dr. Michael Jenkins because I know that his foundations and his group work really quite a bit with Congress members in bringing us together and having a shared vision of what society might look like. I would just like to say, Continue to work on that, because when I turn on the television these days and I see Tim Walz, who is the governor of Minnesota, and I see Keith Ellison, who is the attorney general of Minnesota, and I see so many other people who are on the front line, I know they are all former members of Congress. So what you invest in the Congress will pay many dividends as they move on and go back to their own state and become the leadership for those states. Thank you for having me this morning.

Thomas Walsh: Thank you very much for these appropriate and insightful comments and for bringing again to the fore the role of faith-based organizations and the churches taking initiative and engaging. I am very happy that you mentioned the role of mothers who truly can engage as you indicated. They played a role that is very much constructive in pulling the community together. Every movement or every group, unfortunately, has its "bad apples" or bad actors. Every crisis has opportunities.

On all sides, those that are doing good work will find that there are those that will "get on the train" but who have very different motives and a very different agenda. This is part of the complexity of many social problems. There are people that have taken advantage of the Covid crisis. We need to be watchful about that. Sometimes we use the term "original sin." One thing about that theological concept is that it applies universally. So we have to look at ourselves and also be self-critical of our own institutions. 

An Imbalance of Suffering

Thomas Walsh: I'd like now to invite Dr. William Lay to speak. He teaches Criminal Justice at the University of Bridgeport. He's an attorney. I'd like to invite him to share his thoughts for our discussion today.

By William Lay



Thank you Dr. Walsh and thank you to the panelists who preceded me. I was educated by your comments. I am the chair of our Criminal Justice Department at the University of Bridgeport. In my classes and in my program I have probably 50 percent persons of color, African American, Hispanic and Asian. I teach the US Legal System, I teach US Government with the mayor of Bridgeport, Joe Ganim. He brings in his police chief and his police officers to meet the students. I teach Law and Economics; I teach Constitutional Law. I've got students that will be law enforcement officers, they're aspiring to be police officers, FBI. One alumnus is a Secret Service agent; others are attorneys, prosecutors, corrections people [working with the prison system as guards, etc.]

One week ago, we had a video assembly, a Zoom assembly, to just begin to think about the matter. Twenty courageous faculty and students participated in it.


It's not always easy to be there and to turn that video on and to speak. One of my colleagues, a black woman, a professor, spoke about raising her son, who is now ready to go to college and giving him special warnings on how to conduct himself in public so that he doesn't get labeled as an out-of-control young black man. I know she didn't want to put those kinds of ideas in his mind or suppress him. But as a mother she had no choice; and she shared that. Another one of my students, who is an African American young woman and is now an assistant district attorney in Queens County New York shared her feelings of being on the law enforcement side and how difficult it is for her. I always remember her because on the first day of class, when she was a new student, I asked if anyone had the US Constitution on them and she did! Her interest in it and her willingness to learn it led her to be an assistant district attorney.

Based on that and just on my own way of looking at things, I do believe that a Great Listening is needed. A great deal of listening needs to be done. And even if you

are an academic or a police person who says that racism is not systemic, it is individualized, I would say that we just need to listen right now. Even if you are a person who feels that the police have been misunderstood, I'd say we need to listen and listen with our heart.

The other thing I believe is that we have to address the tremendous economic imbalance and the imbalance of suffering. And I don't believe government can do it, because I believe government interventions may lead to great economic dislocation. Really, we need a lot of personal generosity. In other words, hearts must change, and it must translate into acts of personal generosity on the order of magnitude of taxation. Unless we have that, we are going to continue to have problems.

Lincoln, in his famous Second Inaugural Address, said that "the wealth piled by the bondsman's two hundred and fifty years of unrequited toil..." would be sunk on the battlefield. And here we have in this year, 2020, this extraordinary year, we see... I mean, in Lincoln's terms, God may allow the wealth of America to be wasted by inflation and economic stagnation. I know there is a bounce-back right now in the stock market and unemployment is easing. That's wonderful. But let us not wait for a collapse before we show generosity and address the extreme imbalance of resources and suffering. So, those are some of my thoughts. I'm looking forward to a little more dialogue with my fellow panelists.

Thomas Walsh: Thank you, Professor Lay. I applaud the concept of a Great Listening and I thank you for calling attention to the economic inequality that is out there. We hear a lot about the systemic issues but there is remaining the individual responsibility. What are the virtues that have been cultivated in our wider society, in our communities that are needed if we are to pull together in trust and solidarity? 

Let Us Be Empathetic

Dr. Walsh: Our next panelist, who I am happy to introduce, is also from Minnesota. Mrs. Gloria Howard-Geraldo has actively worked for years with the Rotary Club. It's a wonderful organization. So, I invited Mrs. Gloria Howard-Geraldo to share with us her thoughts.

By Gloria Howard-Geraldo



Good morning everyone. Thank you for having me. I just want to pick up where Rev. V. J. Smith gave his five Rs. Before we get to that, though, the one thing I would like to add is that we need to rewrite the narrative. We need to go back to the beginning. What I'm seeing is the root. We have to get to the root of it. We can do all these things; we've done some of them before. We will see some change; but will it be lasting change? Will it be a rewrite of the narrative? I think not. I think we'll be back here again. If we do not reconcile for over four hundred years ago and just come to the fact that, yes, it happened, this is how this country was built. But we can change what we are doing moving forward.


So, I'm looking at it from that standpoint. It's a very difficult conversation to have. Many people would like to start with the sixties and Martin Luther King, Jr. Well, no; it began a long time before that. So we definitely have to go back to the very beginning. We have to educate everyone on America's history. Before moving to Minnesota, I thought most children in school were getting much of the African-American experience in America through their history lessons, but when I got to Minnesota, I found that that was not so. I used to teach and going into the classroom, and some of the children... I was in a predominantly white area and I had a young lady, she was a sophomore, I believe, and this class was for children who needed a little extra help, and she was just a beautiful, beautiful spirit.

She came to me one day and she said, Miss Gloria, why is your hair so curly? So, I explained it to her; and she said, Can I touch it? I said, Of course you can touch it. She said, What do you put in it? And I explained that to her. And I had a white teacher come up to me and say, Why do you let her touch your hair like that? I said, Because she needs to know what it feels like. She needs to know what I do

with it. These are all things she is going to need to know going forward in her future because she is going to run into many African American women with many hair textures. And with that curiosity, if I help her feel that today, imagine what that is going to do for her in the future.

I just look at it and think that if we educate others about where we come from and how we got to this point as a nation, it will be much easier for us to begin implementing the Five Rs, because they will be implemented out of empathy, out of compassion, out of love for our brothers and sisters, out of love for our country, out of love for what we want for our future generations, who have to carry this forward.

I am just overwhelmed at the fact that UPF is here and is working with all those who can help us make this transition and make a difference. I want to thank you for that. And again, I just want everybody to think about... We have to go back to the roots. If you're not sure about that—anyone out there—start doing some research. Start talking to those that can help you understand it. Because we have to be empathetic with one another and understand where each is coming from. These are generational narratives that have been placed within us individually and in us as a society as a whole. So, that's where I am today. Thank you.

Thomas Walsh: Thank you very much indeed Mrs. Gloria Howard-Geraldo for those excellent comments and insights. Indeed this conversation is about root causes and about narrative. "Narrative" is a word we use a lot in recent decades; it's about giving the story of what happened. Indeed we need to listen to the narratives and search together. This is what we hope to do, in some small way, through this, and you are helping us to do that in this webinar. 

Father from a Distance and then Face to Face

While in the United States Marines, the writer attended a four-hour speech True Father gave in various cities in the US in 1973. Little did he realize how profound an influence the speaker that day would have on his life.

By Michael P. Downey

I first saw Father in Washington D. C. in October 1973. He spoke at Lisner Auditorium as a part of the Day of Hope Tour. I bought a ticket from a young lady that had knocked on my door in Alexandria, Virginia. I had told her at first that I was not interested in buying tickets to a lecture. She knocked on the door again fifteen minutes later and asked to use the bathroom. I said, sure. We talked for a long time, and I coughed up the last of my money and bought a ticket.

On the night of the speech, I hitchhiked into D. C. because my temperamental sports car, a Triumph TR-41, wouldn't start. The speech was an odd experience. I remember thinking how strange it was for a Korean man in a suit and tie to jump around and shout about God's hope for America. The fellow interpreting for him (Bo-hi Pak, 1930–2019) seemed much more sedate.

The bright young people that I met captivated me. I found the atmosphere that surrounded them attractive. I suppose they were love-bombing me, but I liked it. After the event, I left immediately and was back on duty at the Marine barracks. No one ever recontacted me.

About two months later, I encountered these young people again. The Marine Band was scheduled to play at the National Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on the Ellipse behind the White House. I was assigned to the security detail and was posted to the right of the band shell in front of the band. President Nixon was in attendance and threw the switch to light up the Christmas tree. What I saw amazed and puzzled me. As I stood at parade rest, with my feet apart and both hands behind my back, I continually scanned the arriving crowd. In marched what I thought at that time was a vision from heaven: A whole troop of nine- or ten-year-old Korean girls wearing matching red coats filed in, smiling and waving little blue and white pennants. They looked like angels. The crowd was composed mostly of young people that were all waving the same triangular flags. Looking closer, I read the writing on the flags: "Forgive, Love and Unite." Some of the flags said, "God loves Nixon." How odd! This was the height of the Watergate crisis when nobody loved Nixon including (probably) God.

Next, I recognized some of the young people by their bright smiles and (I guess) by their vibe. I knew these were the same people that I had met and liked so much at Lisner Auditorium. I wondered to myself, What's going on here? What's the connection between that event and this one? At the end of the ceremony, President Nixon left the stage and he and his entourage left the band shell, turned right and rushed along the narrow pathway between the band shell and where the Marine Band was set up. Although surprised, I was not unaware; I had gone through training. So I popped to attention, saluted and in my best parade-deck voice—loud and strong—sounded off, "Good afternoon Mr. President." The president stopped, turned to me with a big smile, saluted and said, "Thank you Marine. Where are you from, son?" By this time, the whole entourage had stopped and bunched up. The Secret Service guys protecting the president were pushing and shoving, trying to get the



Since 1923, the United States has had a National Christmas Lighting Ceremony. The writer described his experience at the 1973 ceremony.

entourage moving again. Of course, I told him I was from the State of Ohio. He replied, "Ohio... Good... Enjoy your time in D. C." He smiled again, turned and they all hurried off.

Next those smiling, flag waving young people, in a wave, overran the red-coated Marine Band members and me. They never got to the president. Years later when I recalled this incident, I realized that on that day I had uplifted the president.

The view from the inside

The next time I saw Father was in the spring of 1975 at the Barrytown training center. By that time I had already heard the Divine Principle, accepted Father as the Messiah and joined the movement in Columbus, Ohio. At that time, Father had selected 120 missionaries each from America, Japan and Europe, mainly Germany, to go to 120 different nations. The Americans were at Barrytown for 120 days of training before going out. I was with other members that trained alongside them in a forty-day cycle. During that spring, Father visited almost every day to talk to the missionaries. I formed my first real impressions of the man at that time.

One day Father and Mother arrived; Mother took a seat and Father stood. He began by looking down at us with what I can only describe as an impish grin and fingered his necktie. He asked, "Do you like my tie?" He was wearing light brown polyester slacks, a sport coat, a flowered Hawaiian-style shirt and a brown and gold striped necktie. He went on to explain that when he got up that morning Mother had said, "Father, you never wear a tie anymore." So he put on the tie for Mother. He thought it was very funny; so did I. This is when I really began to like him.

Another time, he drew a straight line on the board and said that the fastest way to get from A to B is a straight line. Then he drew a zigzagging line starting at A and finally arriving at B. He explained that a person that has many different experiences in life can be a good leader. Now I really liked him for his simple wisdom. One day he talked at length about the role of the media in society. Of course, at that very time, Rev. Moon was under intense attack by the major media outlets in America. He advised the missionaries to work with the media in their mission countries and even to start a newspaper. He planned to start a major newspaper in America and link it to papers in Korea, Japan and others around the world. The true role of the media is to speak out against injustice and give a voice to the disadvantaged. I understood his deep identification with the downtrodden and his sense of righteousness, and I loved him for this.

Father makes us "fishers of men"

After five months at Barrytown, New York, I was sent out as a pioneer. After the Yankee Stadium rally I was sent to the US State of Mississippi as a state leader. Only three members existed in all of



From left: Yoko Thompson, Atsuko Kirst, Mike Downey and David Barker in Egegik, Alaska. The only way in and out was by air or by sea.

Mississippi. Essentially, I was pioneering there. The great and terrible thing [see Malachi 4:5] was that Father wanted to personally train us, so every month he called us to a state leaders' meeting. Father spent hour after hour pouring out his heart, wisdom and experience to us in the hopes that we would be able to stand up and take responsibility for saving America. He also reported to us about all the things he was doing. Most of us, on the other hand, had little to report.

One day after Sunday service at Tarrytown, Father invited us to meet him at Barrytown. When we arrived, Father was out front with a few seminary brothers working on a fishing net. He told us that it was a box trap for catching carp in the Hudson River. We all went down to the river to set it up. There was a lagoon created by a narrow inlet in the railroad berm that ran along the riverside. The lagoon flooded and drained daily as the tide rose and fell. The plan was to set up the trap in the lagoon at low tide and when the tide came in, the fish would swim into the trap and would be caught.

Father worked from a skiff while four of the tallest brothers stood in the water and attempted to secure the four corners of the net to four poles. I don't know what happened, but apparently some mistakes were made. Before the trap could be anchored, the tide flooded in, and the situation became unstable. One brother had to be pulled out before he drowned.

Time and tide wait for no man; the attempt failed. We were all sent up to the seminary for lunch while Father remained behind. As we ate lunch and rested Father worked on plan B. With Gerhard Peemoeller, Father's bodyguard and later the author of *Bodyguard for Christ*, standing in the water holding the skiff, Father strung an improvised net all the way across the lagoon. We were called back as the water ebbed out. As the mud flat emerged, hundreds of flopping wriggling carp appeared. All we had to do was crawl on our bellies in the mud and devil's heads and wrestle each fish up onto the bank. Of course we had all arrived for the day's fishing in suits and ties. We were given access to a barn with a large accumulation of used clothes. My only problem was footgear. I found a pair of sneakers that fit but they had no laces. I put the sneakers on and a pair of socks over the sneakers to keep them on. Later in the day, In-jin Moon saw me and laughed. "What are you wearing? It looks so funny." Hey, it worked.

I don't remember how many carp were caught that day, maybe three hundred. They completely filled the bed of a dump truck. We all felt victorious that day. Father took responsibility and made it happen. The next day we all went to East Garden and celebrated True Parents' wedding anniversary. At that time Father asked Mother to give her testimony. She talked about her painful course and she cried and cried as she talked. At the end, she said, No more tears.

Father interviews me

In 1983, I was fishing for giant blue fin tuna with Ocean Challenge out of Gloucester, Massachusetts. I



Mr. Downey was in charge of a salmon processing operation in Egegik, Alaska, when True Parents visited. It is on the south bank of the Egegik River on the Alaskan Peninsula. It is a barren area; the 2016 estimated population was 39 people living in 21 households.

was crewing for Dr. Tyler Hendricks on a Good Go boat. Dr. Hendricks was an old comrade and had just graduated as the first UTS graduate to continue on and get his PhD. Of course, Father appointed him head of Ocean Church. We had a great summer hanging out, and we caught nine tuna. Once, Father came out to the grounds to see Dr. Hendricks. Father's boat came alongside ours, and I caught the lines and held the two boats together. Father started talking about various knots and what they are best used for. Then he talked about Ocean Church and his vision for the ocean. He explained clearly why ocean training was important.

He told us that living on the ocean is more difficult than life ashore. If you train to do difficult things at sea, those same things will become much easier on land. When the difficult things become easy, you can lead other people. His message that day reinforced my desire to go to sea.

A couple of weeks later, Ocean Challenge asked if I wanted to work on boats in Alaska. I didn't hesitate. They informed me that they needed two guys, and if I wanted to go, Father had to interview me. That day I was taken by boat out to the northwest corner to meet Father. The interview took place via VHF radio through a translator. Father said that if I went to Alaska I would have to carry a million dollars in one pocket and a pistol in another. I told him I was an ex-marine and I could do that. He said to go right away.

Encountering Adam and Eve

Another guy and I were on a flight out of Boston's Logan Airport that night. When we arrived in Kodiak, Alaska, True Parents and Heung-jin nim were already there, staying at a house on Bancroft Road. Since we had just arrived, we were invited to have dinner with True Parents. The table sat eight people and the menu was king crab. I put my head down and focused on eating. Finally Father asked in English, "Mack, do you like king crab?" In Alaska, Father always called me Mack for some reason. Later, in Korean, Mother asked Mr. Joo-chan Choi, president of International Seafoods of Alaska, who the two guys were with the bushy beards. He told her that we were Ocean Church brothers who had grown beards to hide our baby faces.

That night we all sat with Father in the living room and he taught us by demonstrating how to make an elaborate rig for catching halibut. He was skilled in building tackle, his fingers nimble, his hands strong. The next day we all boarded float planes and flew to Shuyak Island to fish for halibut. Our guides were a couple, homesteaders on that wilderness island, fifty miles from Kodiak. The plane landed in the small bay where the homestead was located and motored to the shore. Everyone stepped off of the pontoon and waded up to the beach. Since I was wearing waders, thigh high rubber boots, I carried Mother on my back up to the beach. The couple, "Red" and his common-law wife Deb, invited everyone into their small cabin and served tea and coffee.



Father and Mother enduring the rough waves and inclement weather in the seas off of Kodiak Alaska; nevertheless they appear to find warmth in their love and companionship. The sky seems to recognize them as God's son and daughter.

They talked to us about their self-sufficient lifestyle. Later, Father said that they were an ideal couple who reminded him of Adam and Eve living in the garden of Eden. We spent the rest of the day fishing for halibut. Heung-jin nim was with us. My impression was that he was a gentle young man. He wore all white clothes and a big floppy hat. He immediately made friends with the cat that lived at Bancroft house and talked to us about his cats back at East Garden.

My most enduring image of Father is him sitting cross-legged, back straight, on the engine cover of a Good Go boat. No matter what the weather or sea conditions, he always sat staring out to sea, unchanging. On the ocean, I remember his unchanging posture, completely in control of his mind and body in the midst of the constantly changing marine environment.

Sharing a fishing ordeal

I greatly admired his persona of self-control because I always struggled to control my mind and body. One year, Father made a condition to travel to and fish at many locations around Alaska. At that time, I was running the company's salmon operation in the wilds of western Alaska. We had been preparing to someday welcome True Parents to our wind-swept outpost. We built a guest house and stocked it with all the things we would need to attend True Parents. We also bought a sport utility vehicle (SUV) and had it flown out to drive them around. When we got the word from Kodiak that they were coming, we had a Korean sister and a plane full of Korean food flown out. We then stood by.

When the call came that they were wheels up out of Kodiak, we had less than an hour to wait. The problem was the weather. We were soaked in. The thick fog was right down on the deck. Our airstrip was in fact the beach. I was in the SUV on the beach with a hand-held VHF radio when I established contact with the pilot. He couldn't see the ground. I turned on the SUV's headlights and drove up and down the strip. I could hear the plane's engines as it flew lower and lower. For more than twenty minutes, I tried to talk him down. It was a decisive moment for me: Could we welcome True Parents, or would the weather steal our blessing?

As I look back on it now, I realize how foolish I was. Luckily, the pilot had no messianic vision; he decided to turn back. Several days later they tried again and this time the weather cooperated. I showed them around the plant, and we had lunch together at the guest house. Father told me that I was a lucky man because I was able to live in this paradise of ocean, rivers and tundra. He said he envied me.

Of course the main point of the trip was to fish. This was late August and what was left of the salmon run was in the river and wouldn't take a hook. When sockeye salmon enter fresh water they stop feeding. I knew this but failed to clearly report it. I had learned early not to give a pessimistic report. Anyway, there was a small chance that a hook would snag a fish. I drove them down the



Mike Downey and his wife Helen (seated to his left) surrounded by Japanese women assigned to work in Kodiak, Alaska and a male Japanese engineer. The Japanese women assigned to Kodiak endured up to eight years of separation before they could finally live with their husbands.

beach and up along the Egegik River to a spot where I had stashed a skiff. Along the way we had to cross the land of one of the local legends, a hard-drinking fishing boat captain who had opened a hunting lodge on the river. We stopped briefly and I introduced him.

To get down to the riverbank, we had to drive down a trail that was rough and washed out. The alder bushes scraped both sides of the truck. No matter how carefully I tried to drive, everyone was bumped and tossed around. The skiff was an eighteen-foot, flat-bottomed aluminum boat with a forty horsepower Johnson motor. It was a typical western Alaska work boat. I had tried to clean it up as befitting the guests. The guests boarded and we loaded the gear and set out. In the boat were Mr. Choi's son, True Parents and I. Needless to say, it was not a stellar day of fishing. By the time we started upriver, the tide had already turned, and the sand bars became a problem. Although the flat-bottomed boat handled reasonably well in shallow waters, we kept running aground on barely submerged sand bars. I tried to keep to the channels but before long I was in the water pushing the boat off the sand. Mother was in good humor and at one point announced, "Oh Mack, swimming in Alaska..." The fishing was non-existent. We moved the boat and Mother and Father casted repeatedly. Over and over Mother gently urged Father, "Let's go." Father grimly ignored her. To add to this enjoyable time, the mosquitoes swarmed us. Finally Mother made a joke using a play on two similar Korean words (모기) *mogi* meaning "mosquito" and (물고기) *mulgogi* meaning "fish." We cannot catch fish, only mosquitoes. Finally Father said to go back.

Sweet memories

Back at the guest house, we had tea and snacks and waited for the plane to come to pick them up. Father told us that I had a special kind of character because I was a former Marine. Then he ordered me to get a bulldozer and fix that trail down to the river. Of course, I said, "Yes, sir," but what could I really do? The State of Alaska owned the land, which was adjacent to a salmon stream. I could borrow the equipment to do it in the dead of night, but the legal exposure would be huge, and the public relations fallout would damage our ability to work in the area. Furthermore, the very next flood would wash out the trail all over again. He had ordered me to do it, but how could I explain these complexities to Father? I have a great deal of sympathy for the leaders who were with Father constantly.

One day at North Garden in Kodiak, Father stood up to sing and to my delight and surprise he sang "At the Café (카페에서)." This Jin-hee Choi song was popular in Korea in the 1980s. The final line is "Love is just a memory (사랑을 기억 이나라)" which Father sang twice, once in Korean and then in English. These are just my memories of True Father. They mean everything to me. ♪

This originally appeared as "Love is Just a Memory" in the April 2013 issue of Today's World.



Marching in a City with a Revolutionary Spirit

This article, covering an event which demonstrates that sometimes the home-grown efforts of sincere members have a powerful influence on their local community, originally appeared in the November 1998 issue of Today's World, the predecessor of True Peace.

By Gale Alves and Ina Conneally



A view of downtown Newburgh, New York. The photographer (Daniel Case, via Wikimedia) took this shot from Beacon, New York, across the Hudson River, from Newburgh.

Was it that hourly condition of reading Father's speeches that had convinced us to have a rally "all our own," right here, in our adopted hometown, right now? The city of Newburgh on the Hudson River in the US State of New York, seventy miles (113 km.) north of New York City, certainly was the right environment for what we suddenly envisioned in our minds: to have a revolution, nothing less than that, marching down the main street together with religious leaders, parents, teachers and maybe even Mayor Audrey Carey herself; we would stand right where Revolutionary War General George Washington had gathered his soldiers, waiting for the final peace treaty between the British and his own troops. For just the two of us, though, it seemed a bit much. Creating a flyer was not so difficult, and we had one brother helping us on the computer. The next step was to get a permit from the city and from George Washington's Headquarters. With a baby in one arm, we went back and forth between the police and fire departments to deliver copies of the permit personally. We had somehow lost the original, and we didn't have

much time to lose, for the rally was to take place within only a couple of weeks.

But the hardest part was yet to come: it wasn't really clear to us who exactly would participate in this rally that we had so proudly advertised all over the city. The secretary from Orange County College made things difficult by asking the names of the sponsors our flyer had described as "members of the religious community." Well, there was Nettie from the Baptist Church and a woman from a mosque, and yes, a Buddhist monk had said he would come, too. At least it was ecumenical, but who would want to walk down Broadway with two women and a monk? We decided, nevertheless, that we would hold that rally under any circumstances. A youth leader from one Catholic church was rather surprised; an event like that, she said, usually takes months of preparation, with many churches and organization involved, committees created and funds raised. We realized we had none of those things yet would still hold that rally.

Gathering momentum

The first rays of hope shone when suddenly the priest of another

Catholic church called and responded with interest to the flyer that we had left at his church. Being a priest, he was deeply concerned about today's moral standards—especially here in south Newburgh, with prostitutes parading up and down the streets at night. So, yes, he would come and bring his youth group on Saturday.

That gave us new energy, but we still had not contacted many other churches. We could see how much of a spiritual foundation members previously working in Newburgh had made and how much more we ourselves could have invested. We recontacted many guests from Women's Federation events and True Family Values workshops, but in some cases the freshness of an ongoing relationship was missing. "Haven't seen you for a while. How many months has it been?" But we also felt that people were happy to see us again. Yet not all churches could immediately relate to the theme of "purity before marriage and fidelity within." One minister of an Episcopalian church handed us a letter of protest against welfare cuts in response to our flyer. One Presbyterian pastor was not sure whether purity was something he could identify with, commenting "After all, are we pure ourselves?"



This is Broadway, the main street in Newburgh, New York, down which Gale Alves and Ina Conneally led a group of righteous folk proclaiming the importance of chastity before marriage and fidelity in marriage. (photograph by Daniel Case, via Wikimedia)

Since our church is part of the Ministerial Alliance here in Newburgh, we are somewhat protected and have the status of being underdogs, which is a friendly gesture, in a way, because ministers can see the persecution our church has had to suffer. On the other hand, who wants to be an underdog?

Going back and forth between Hispanic, Black and White churches, we felt like two beach balls bouncing all over the place. Since the Catholics seemed to be more inspired about purity and fidelity than the Protestant churches, we gave it another try at Mt. St. Mary's College, where during that same week, there was an Aids Awareness Program on campus. We walked by an office that counsels gay and lesbian students and went over to a building where retired nuns lived. Would they march with us? They were already well past the age of marching, one friendly sister told us regretfully, as she showed us her aged leg.

On Sunday morning we drove seventy miles to the Unification Theological Seminary in Red Hook. What we had to say was basically, Can't you all come, please? We hoped especially for the African brothers, who were great drummers

and singers, to attend. Every army has drummers, so why shouldn't those nice brothers spearhead our moral revolution? They certainly would be an inspiration to our Black community in Newburgh.

We also obtained the phone number of a brother who works at a radio station twice a week. We called him up and were able to advertise our rally over the radio. A day later, another radio station called up and asked if they could air an interview with us. Who were we, why were we doing it and what was the message of the rally? We felt it was best to appear in our role as two concerned mothers. Morality in the media, in schools, in health institutions—that's what we were looking for and couldn't find. Who can say anything against a concerned mother? The only surprising fact was that these mothers seemed to have such a large pool of unusual contacts to draw from—monks, imams, ministers... But the interview was friendly, and the interviewer congratulated our efforts.

The fateful day

Saturday came, and the weather was bad. Someone took the balloons we had blown up over to the priest's

office, where they floated feebly over his desk. Fortunately, we had a rain date set, which was March 28. That we now had more time to prepare and to contact more people was good. Besides, March 28 was True Parents Day, which we could celebrate simultaneously with the rally. We hoped that Michael Balcomb and Robert Kittel from the Pure Love Alliance, who had promised to come, might find it easy to drive up here from Belvedere and maybe bring other families with them from there. We had already received seven megaphones from them. Another substantial contribution from the Redhook Sunday School was twenty-two creative signs for the march, with slogans like "Fidelity Forever" and "Save Sex, Not Safe Sex." One sister from our own community had contributed a banner we could all march behind.

Finally True Parents Day (celebrated by our members worldwide) and True Love Day celebrated locally arrived. Although we had taken our kids out sledding the previous weekend, that Saturday we might have felt inclined to get out our beach chairs, if it had not been for the rally. A tropical breeze blew through our thirty-six balloons as

we carried them over to the parking lot where we would meet all those righteous, pure-minded people.

While walking all the way down Broadway ourselves (to see how long it took) we had made up some slogans to shout for the march. "Don't be a fool purity is cool." "That's the rule—marriage is a jewel!" Those slogans were handed out first to the imam from the mosque, who had arrived with his youth group along with more balloons. A few minutes later, Father Jater, the priest, arrived with his group bringing along their home-made church banner. One after another, people came together, while five police cars waited for us to start the rally. Among about sixty participants, twenty of our church members were present. David (Sang-chul) Kim [1915–2011] the seminary president suddenly appeared, taking pictures and wishing us much luck.

It was time to start. We looked at each other and felt suddenly the pressure of it all. Boy! We hadn't done anything like this before. Couldn't Robert or Michael just lead all those people down Broadway, with us marching behind? But the police cars had already entered Broadway and we had to keep up.

Right behind the front banner walked the Muslim imam, the Catholic priest, an evangelical minister, a Mormon bishop and the Buddhist monk. People came out of their shops to see what was going on while cars drove slowly by. Since our group was diverse in character, it wasn't easy to have everyone sing and shout at the same time, but we knew already that this wasn't going to be like one of the strongly unified Pure Love walks—it was rather an of-the-community-for-the-community potluck type of march.

Leadership and strategy

Half an hour later, we arrived at George Washington's Headquarters. The stone stool that Washington had used to mount his horse was now our speakers' podium. First we greeted everyone and then read a proclamation of our "revolutionary army" that called for a society of God-centered true love and stated that true parents and true children



George Washington's Headquarters from April 1782 until August 1783 is where eighty people congregated and listened to righteous speeches from people who valued purity. (photograph by Daniel Case, via Wikimedia)

with purity and fidelity were the two pillars that hold America up. The speech ended with George Washington's final words to his officers on March 15, 1783, "Had this day not been, the world would have never seen the last stage of perfection that humankind is capable of attaining."

Father Bill then weighed heavily upon our hearts as he told the story of a pure, young girl whose schoolmate had killed her because she did not want to have sex with him. The imam, Mohammed, who had conducted a prison ministry for some time, pointed out the relationship between a lack of parental love and the seeking of premature sexual love instead. Between the speeches that clergy members gave, Diesa Seidel, a second-generation Unificationist sister from Redhook, New York, overlaid a fresh spirit on the grave messages of the speakers she followed with her testimony. Finally, Michael Balcomb concluded the purity-fidelity circle by saying that without absolute values, America will continue to have problems. We then mentioned the names of other churches that were unable to participate but that had verbally expressed their support. More people had

arrived by then, so we counted between seventy to eighty participants.

After God received a final prayer, the rally concluded, and the crowd dispersed. We then shared a light luncheon in one of our member's homes with almost all the speakers present. We both felt that though small in number, this "declaration of a moral revolution" was truly significant. We had personally invited almost everyone who participated. These people were not mere bystanders. Almost all of them were activists in their own religious and moral-educational fields.

Thinking of how doubtful we ourselves had been at times, when our dream seemed not much more than a nice idea, we realized once again, that without God as our general and True Father's strategy of relying on spiritual support, we would not have been able to make this rally a success. But with our church family's network and inspiration, we overcame all obstacles and rose to win all battles. *TP*

This has been edited for an international readership with its inclusion in True Peace magazine.

Engaging with Second-Generation Concerns

The Irish HARP Workshop

By Joy Kennedy

Every year, for the past few years, it has become somewhat of a tradition to hold a workshop for second-generation members in Ireland. Although we have a small community and see each other fairly often, there was always something quite distinctive about these gatherings that allowed us to gain a new sense of camaraderie with one another, and the feeling that we had been given a privileged insight into one another's lives that would often be missed in our usual interactions. Through these workshops, we had the opportunity to step back and see each other from a new angle, from a fresh perspective. These

times of retreat also provided a platform for a more open communication among participants and the staff about God, faith, and the big questions of life. Although our numbers were always on the modest side, everyone naturally came together and pooled their skills, talents and resources to contribute to the success of the workshop. Being a small island nation, we wanted to share these experiences with other small communities, so we partnered with Iceland and Malta on separate occasions.

This most recent winter workshop, we wanted to venture a little farther and open our doors to the wider European community, with an em-

phasis on the smaller nations, particularly those that may not have the numbers or facilities to have their own workshop. This desire sprouted from some of the Irish HARP members, who felt inspired by the European Second-Generation Department summer activities that they had previously attended. After a bit of brainstorming and research, they presented the idea to a few of us older members of the second generation. Although many of us were busy with university and work, those of us who could were very happy to assist in the materialization of these ideas. In this way, the preparation for the workshop was very much a collaboration



between the younger and older second-generation members.

Akin to the changes occurring in the movement on the wider international scale, it had become apparent that we, as an Irish community, had also entered into somewhat of a transition stage. Although not intentionally, the preparation for the workshop coincided with the Irish members' entrance into extensive discussion on the progress of our community and the future of the movement as a whole. Within this dialogue, it became evident that we in the second generation often understand and relate to the movement in a different way than those in the first generation. Although we feel value as members of the church and want to contribute, it sometimes felt that there was a slight disconnect between the ideals of the movement and where we were in our own spiritual journeys. In this sense, those of us on the staff desired to understand and to acknowledge what the HARP members wanted from the workshop, and more importantly what they felt they needed at this stage in their spiritual lives. With this in mind, we held a creative meeting with the HARP members and together with them, decided on the workshop theme, *A Guide to Thrive, Principle Living for Dummies*. The reasoning behind this theme was that we wanted to provide very practical, real guidelines for them to flourish in their spiritual lives despite challenges that they may face along the way. The sub-theme, *Principle Living for Dummies* is based off the very well known *For Dummies* series, which are a range of easy-to-digest, instructional books that present a topic or a skill in a very clear, accessible and non-intimidating fashion. We wanted to take this idea and convey the Divine Principle in a more practical and attainable form that they could translate and apply to their everyday lives.

This year, we held the workshop over the New Year, from December 28, 2013 to January 1, 2014. The workshop venue was held in a scout center nestled in the heart of the Wicklow Mountains, which served as an ideal location to reflect in the final few days leading up to the New Year. We conducted two workshops simultaneously; one for the HARP age group

(twelve to eighteen years old) and one for the pre-HARP age group (seven to eleven years old). Although both were held in the same venue, the schedules and education were kept separate to facilitate the needs of the different groups. However, during free time and meal times everyone came together and a very natural and loving bond grew among all participants and staff members. Just over thirty-five participants and staff members came, with quite a few joining us from other countries around Europe. In total, people from seven countries took part—Belgium, Luxembourg, Iceland, Scotland, England, Portugal and Ireland.

We were very fortunate to be able to have Patrick Hanna as the main lecturer. He delivered eloquent talks on our position as second-generation members in the context of the family and the church, our value and purity and character building. From personal observations throughout the workshop, I could see that the audience was engaged, intent on listening, and enjoying the guidance. Patrick approached the daily topics and the theme of the workshop in a very relatable manner and often with a tasteful touch of humor. The content was a varied combination of lectures, personal testimonies, peer guidance, sharing and team activities. When considering how to approach the guidance beforehand, a strong consensus formed that sharing from personal experience in guidance through testimony was a very powerful way of communicating the chosen message. Among the staff members, we felt passionate about the fact that we wanted to be much more personal and real about some of the chosen topics. We all were in agreement that we wanted to actively engage with the younger ones and not just stand back in a distant position. Listening to the ideas and the desires that the HARP members expressed reminded us that many of the challenges they are facing at present are the same things that we went through and indeed still encounter. These include defining our identity as second-generation members and deciding how we choose to express that in all areas of our lives; relating with our parents and trying to understand the true value of their history; connecting



The youngsters attending the workshop sent lanterns up to God to welcome in the new year.

with God; choosing the company we keep and the implications of those choices on our spiritual health; comprehending the meaning and value of the blessing and the choices that we make in order to preserve our purity. All of these and more affect us to varying degrees at some point in our lives and often necessitate explanation, guidance and discussion in a candid and non-judgmental manner. Accordingly, each day of lectures was accompanied by one of the staff members sharing some guidance based on the person's own experience of the particular theme or topic that Patrick had already spoken on. In addition, we had an evening of testimony with first- and second-generation perspectives on joining the movement or in the case of a second-generation speaker, making the active decision to accept the movement as his or her own.

The combination of guidance provided a good platform for individual reflection, goal setting and prayer leading up to the New Year. On the last full day of the workshop, on the cusp of midnight, we gathered outside, and in candlelight counted down the last few seconds of 2013. As we celebrated the new beginning, the success of the workshop was palpable in the atmosphere and in the beaming faces all around, and most notably measured by the excited and eager request from one of the participants to "start planning the next workshop" before the ongoing workshop had even ended. *TP*

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天地人참부모님 主贊 天苑宮 特別會議


天一國 8年 天曆 4月 13日 (2020. 6. 4)
 天正宮

