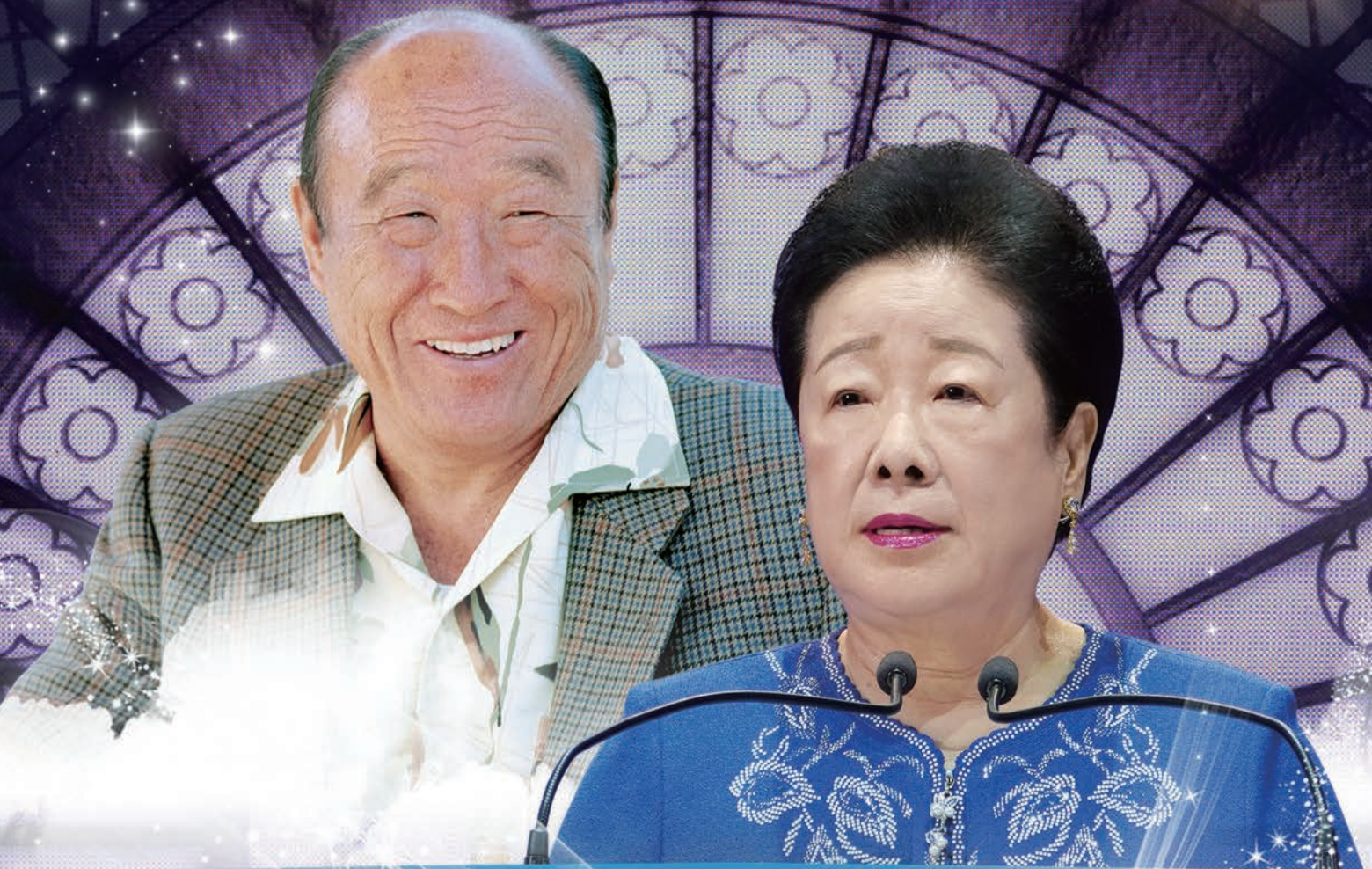


True Peace

天國8年
天曆 9
OCTOBER 2020



천지인참부모 성탄 100주년 및 천주성혼 60주년

문선명 천지인참부모 천주성화 8주년 기념 천보 대축제

True Parents' Centenary and 60th Holy Wedding Anniversary

Cheonbo Festival Celebrating the 8th Anniversary of the Holy Ascension of Sun Myung Moon, the True Parent of Heaven, Earth, and Humankind





Regarding the Eighth Anniversary of True Father's Holy Ascension

By Ki-seong Lee



Beloved leaders and blessed family members around the world, I hope you are well. The entire globe is persevering through hardship caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and all sorts of natural disasters. I give my sincerest regards to all our members who are going through great difficulty at this time. In her special prayer room, True Mother has hung up maps of Korea and of the world, and she offers sincere devotion while receiving updates on the global providence. Let us all express our appreciation to True Mother.

On the seventeenth day of the seventh month on the heavenly calendar, we held a grace-filled commemoration of the eighth anniversary of True Father's Cosmic Seonghwa. The main events, which members around the world virtually attended, took place in the Cheongshim World Peace Center and the Jeongshimwon. We had two-way video communication, which made this a sacred and elegant event. A miraculous foundation of great victory had been prepared, which no other religious group or nation could imitate. I believe the event was a grand festival of which we can be deeply proud.

A beautiful offering table of fruit decorated the Jeongshimwon, at which one can sense True Father's continual efforts. Seeing representatives of the True Family, Hyo-jin nim's family and Heung-jin nim's family, and all our participating blessed family members offering bows online to True Father especially moved me.

Moreover, our members among the seven continental churches commemorated True Father's Holy Ascension with their own offering tables of fruit and of the Cheon Il Guk national flower. Led by the FFWPU International Headquarters, a grace-filled commemoration ensued, with various special hyojeong cultural performances and the screening of an MBCnet video on True Parents' life courses. I felt the entire event was beautiful, reverent and heart-warming.

Members that attended testified that they shed tears of yearning for True Father when they saw his portrait, while others spoke of feeling pleased at imagining how happy Father must have been seeing cadets Shin Chul and Shin Heung standing resolutely next to Mother as she approached the altar to offer flowers.

Furthermore, through Chairperson Yeon Ah Moon's Seonghwa Address, we realized that the footprints and works of true love that True Father left us on earth will continue on for eternity. Chief of Staff of True Mother's Secretariat Wonju McDevitt's Seonghwa Poem summarized True Father's and True Mother's lives. Through it, we reflected on our foolish past lives during which we—like the mystical bird from the Himalayas who repeats its birdsong—repeated our wrongdoings. We vowed never to live such lives again.

True Mother's speech on the theme, "the chosen people's mission," was a somber warning for Heavenly Korea as well as a message of love conveying Heavenly Parent's concern for our country today. When she stated that the most important thing is the responsibility of Korea's blessed families, we straightened our slackening hearts and re-engraved the course that we must take to fulfill our duties.

As True Mother says, everything is to reach completion in this age under the realm of True Mother's direct dominion. During this past commemoration alone, we witnessed leaders and other members from the seven continental regions transcend time and space to come together with one mind and one desire, without restrictions, to directly receive True Mother's commands.

Therefore, we must no longer repeat our mistakes. During these grim times, understanding Heavenly Parent's and True Parents' desire and fulfilling our responsibilities is critical. We should become aware of how urgently True Mother hopes for this.

Thus, we should honor the earnest message that Mother gives us as a heavenly command from Heavenly Parent in this era—to become blessed central families that achieve the dream and hope during True Mother's lifetime while avoiding the precedents of the chosen people, who are now lost to history. I sincerely hope that our blessed family members will take the lead in spreading True Parents' love. Just as Jesus' disciples developed and expanded the Christian Church by testifying to the love they received from him, we should testify to True Parents' love so that we can create a miracle in which all humankind can feel their love, repent and unite.

During this period commemorating the eighth anniversary of True Father's Holy Ascension, I hope all our leaders and blessed family members will resolve to obey Heaven's command and attain victory. May all of you live centering on true love and may Heavenly Parent's and the True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind's love and blessings always reside in your family. 

Rev. Lee is the chairman of FFWPU-Heavenly Korea.

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True Father's Holy Ascension and Inheriting the Tradition

In the organization of the holy book from which this text originates, the brown text is provided as material to elucidate True Parents' messages as well as provide details of events such as the earthly ceremony through which True Father ascended to heaven.



True Father's Holy Ascension

As if True Father were preparing for his Holy Ascension, during the last three years of his life, beginning in 2010 when he proclaimed the heavenly calendar, he pushed himself relentlessly, to the point of being cruel to his own body. At his advanced age, traveling even once a year would be difficult. Nevertheless, he traveled overseas on more than ten occasions to speak at locations throughout the world. He maintained his schedule of daily hoondokhae and personally educated members, speaking about the urgency of advancing the providence.

For the sake of world restoration, True Father wanted to complete the unfinished providence for the United Nations. So on July 16, 2012, True Father inaugurated the Abel Women's UN. This was the last providential organization he established in his lifetime.

A month before his Holy Ascension, on August 2, True Father suddenly visited the Osan School, which had relocated to Seoul from his hometown, Jeongju, North Korea. There he took some time to reminisce about his life. The following week, on August 12, in Cheon Jeong Gung, he prayed, "Dear God, blessed are you. Please allow me to offer my life for you." The next day, August 13, he offered his final prayer on earth in which he proclaimed in True Mother's presence, "I have finished all of my mission for the providence of restoration." At 1:54 AM on September 3, 2012, at the age of ninety-three by Korean reckoning, True Father ascended to heaven.

During the thirteen-day period following his Holy Ascension, countless people from virtually every nation came to pay their respects at memorial altars set up throughout the world. Leaders from around the world, including many heads of state, sent floral tributes and messages of condolence. The condolences coming from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea via telegram stated, "Although Reverend Sun Myung Moon has passed on, all of his efforts and achievements to bring harmony and unity to the Korean people, to unify [those on] the Korean Peninsula and to realize world peace will be known



True Family members offered a rose in commemoration of True Father's Holy Ascension. Important public figures and ordinary members from numerous nations did this as well.

forever." North Korea also conferred on True Father a special "Unification of the Fatherland Award."

Media outlets in Korea and throughout the world, including the Associated Press and CNN, treated the story of True Father's passing as headline news. They published and broadcast special reports about his life and achievements, which emphasized that True Father's entire life was a life of true love, dedicated to world peace. In this way, people around the world expressed their condolences over True Father's passing.

During this time, members from across the world gathered every morning at the Cheongshim World Peace Center, where they offered prayers, devotion and hoondokhae. At Cheon Jeong Gung, where True Father's body lay in state, heads of state, ex-heads of state, leaders from throughout the world and an endless line of members paid their respects.

At the *Ipjeon* Ceremony (when the body is interred in its coffin) on the day before True Father's Seonghwa (Holy Ascension Ceremony), True Mother declared her determination, saying, "As long as I remain alive, I will devote myself completely to the establishment of Cheon Il Guk here on earth."

On the following day, September 15, True Mother officiated the Holy Ascension Ceremony at the Cheongshim World Peace Center. An enormous crowd attended, including thirty-one leaders representing different religions and denominations from Korea and elsewhere in the world, heads of state, ex-heads of state, and more than thirty thousand blessed members of the church. They crowded inside and outside the World Peace Center as well as in the Cheongpyeong Training Center meeting halls.

On the day of the Holy Ascension Ceremony, the funeral procession bearing True Father's casket departed from Cheon Jeong Gung at 10:00 AM. Proceeding slowly, it arrived at the World Peace Center forty minutes later. With two True Children in the lead and True Mother and the rest of the True Family following behind, twelve pallbearers bore True Father's casket into the World Peace Center, where they placed it atop a platform covered in roses and lilies.

Amid outpourings of emotion from the crowd, distinguished guests from Korea and overseas spoke and paid tribute to True Father praising his legacy. One said, "Reverend Moon, you have left behind many



True Family members placing flowers on True Father's casket before a lid is placed on its marble or granite container and then the encased casket is buried beneath a large mound of earth.

accomplishments that we must continue to develop. You are the victor who led the way toward interreligious harmony and taught all of us to follow God's will. Your life accomplishments will always be remembered." The ceremony, which lasted two hours, was webcast to members around the world. It was an opportunity for all to unite with True Father's teachings and his love and to determine to work toward the settlement of Cheon Il Guk.

As True Father's casket left the World Peace Center and headed back to Cheon Jeong Gung, shouts rang out: We love you! You worked so hard! We will attend you forever! As the funeral procession climbed the road to Mt. Cheonseong, members holding flags, roses and lilies pledged with shouts and tears, True Father, we will fulfill your expectations without fail! We will unceasingly move forward with True Mother, and we will be victorious!

True Father's casket arrived at the burial site, called the Bonhyangwon (Original Home Garden), and there the Wonjeon Ceremony took place. After a reading about the reality of the spirit world, True Family members and other representatives each offered a rose and then a shovel-

ful of soil. The ceremony closed with everyone joining in three cheers, "Eog-mansei for the true, holy and virtuous Lord of Cheon Il Guk, who reigns over myriad peoples, who has been triumphant on all levels and who has inaugurated an era of peace and prosperity!" Eog-mansei for the Wonjeon Ceremony for the True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind!" This concluded the thirteen days during which True Father was sent off to the next world, filled with tributes and heartfelt love from all over the globe.

True Father

You do not understand God's situation. I am sitting here in front of you because I know about it. What do you think I want at the age of ninety-two? I do not want anything. I am trying to give whatever I have to others. Even as I speak to you, I am choking up. If you had eyes in the back of your head to see all your shameful past, all you could do would be to cover your face and run away.

I would like to go with you and protect you; however, the responsibility of the son and the daughter whose mission is to pioneer the way of heaven is a fearful one. Korea could vanish. Asia could vanish. The entire

world could vanish. Until you die, you may not understand what I am saying.

Where do you think I want to go right now? It is a place I miss so much, where when I was a boy, I came to know the will and wept countless tears. Whenever I had a chance, I would hold onto one particular tree and weep so bitterly, thinking that no one before me ever understood God's situation. When I went to North Korea I visited that place, but the tree was gone; someone had cut it down. I am thinking of restoring that place to its original form.

When you can follow in my footsteps, shedding tears of gratitude, and move together with me, that fatherland of my birth will begin to revive. That is how you can liberate me. I will leave the world with such a hope in my heart, but it is you, who actually live in this world, who can do it. I will have to pass away, and when I do, I will entrust this world into your hands.

I suffered in the prime of my youth. Because of the suffering course that I passed through during all the younger years of my life, I could not give my own sons and daughters and their children all the blessings that I wanted to give them. My only wish now is to become the ancestor who can bequeath all of those blessings to your future descendants. I have no other wish. That is my only desire.

In order to take responsibility for God's bitter pain and sorrow, I think that I should go to the spirit world quickly. When I go there, I will appear before God as a devoted son. He will invest me with a royal robe. Then, I will make a new start.

When God sees me, he will kiss me and tell me that ever since I was a little baby, he has loved me more than any prince or princess in the world. I already know his heart as my parent. He would want to hold onto me and promise me in tears over and over again, "I will not let you suffer anymore, not for thousands of years, not for all of eternity." Because God has such a heart, when I am in his presence I cannot say, "Heavenly Father, look at all that I have done for you." I already know the love the Father has for me. I know that as soon as I arrive in the spirit world and say, "Heavenly Father, here I am," even if



Members walking up to Cheon Jeong Gung on the day of True Father Seonghwa Ceremony

he is sitting on a throne thousands of stories above, he will rush to be with me, shedding tears.

Now the time has come for me to send you out. It means that you need to have your own foundation. When I am in the spirit world, do you think that I should make your foundation? Should I go to the spirit world or not? Should I go to the spirit world soon, or later?

We have not yet opened the age when the ideal that God harbored in his heart has fully flourished. Those in the spirit world have not been educated fully either. I should educate them. The time has come for me to assemble all the spirits, even if I have to compel them to come. When I say something there, it will instantly take effect, like a constitutional decree. People do not realize how polluted the vast spirit world has become. I am the only one who can straighten it out, so the spirit world is waiting for me. Our life on earth is like a transit station. That is why I must go to the original homeland and help the people there secure their place.

True Mother

During the forty days after Father's Seonghwa, he visited many places in the spirit world. He met historical providential figures and personally experienced the situation that existed when God created heaven and earth. Throughout those forty days, Father visited me at Cheon Jeong Gung, and I spoke with him heart to heart. Father's thoughts were my thoughts, and my thoughts were his. True Father and I resolved that we would complete the final phase of God's providential work with oneness of heart, oneness of mind, oneness of

thought and oneness of harmony. In particular, True Father agreed with me 120 percent when I told him I would revive the Korean church with Spirit and Truth.

Today, having concluded that forty-day period, we are at the starting point of a new providence. True Father is making a fresh start in the spirit world. Hence, in order to return glory to heaven and bring settlement to Cheon Il Guk on earth, we also will have to make a life-and-death determination and totally invest ourselves. We must walk in step with True Father.

The forty days after True Father's Seonghwa is a special period when Father and I, with one accord, are preparing for a fresh start in the providence. Suppose you buy a new house. What is the first thing you do when you enter your new house? First, you turn on the lights. Next, you place your belongings in the right places. Only when everything is in order do you start living in your new house. That is what we are doing during these forty days after Father's Seonghwa. This is an important period for Father and for me. When I told Father, "I will bring the spirit in the church back to what it was in the early days, making it live and breathe with Spirit and with Truth," Father replied, "Mother, thank you very much!"

Now the time of Father's Seonghwa is over. During that time we had to take care of so many things. Since you did not know everything from A to Z, you could not do everything required. However, now, when it comes to the work of the church, you know what you must do. Hence I am asking that you assist one another in each


area of responsibility to complete your tasks with unchanging love and devotion and that you fulfill your given responsibilities.

You are the people who directly attended True Father in this age. As members who received the Blessing, you grew up personally listening to True Father's teachings. Although you were unable to fulfill everything as he had directed, I urge you to even now compress ten years into one. Make a life-or-death determination and invest yourselves completely. You need to live such a life every day.

Inheriting True Father's traditions

On September 17, 2012, two days after True Father's Seonghwa Ceremony, a Third Day Memorial Service took place at the Cheongshim World Peace Center. True Mother gave a special address to leaders that had come from around the world, in which she exhorted them to "move forward unceasingly." Her direction to Unificationists included several points: inherit and pass on True Parents' traditions, realize the blessed family ideal, fulfill the responsibilities of tribal messiahs, and substantiate the culture of heart in your communities.

From the day of the Seonghwa Ceremony until the Fortieth Day Memorial Service, True Mother offered True Father three meals every day. She spent time united with True Father in spirit and offered sincere devotions for the substantiation of Cheon Il Guk.

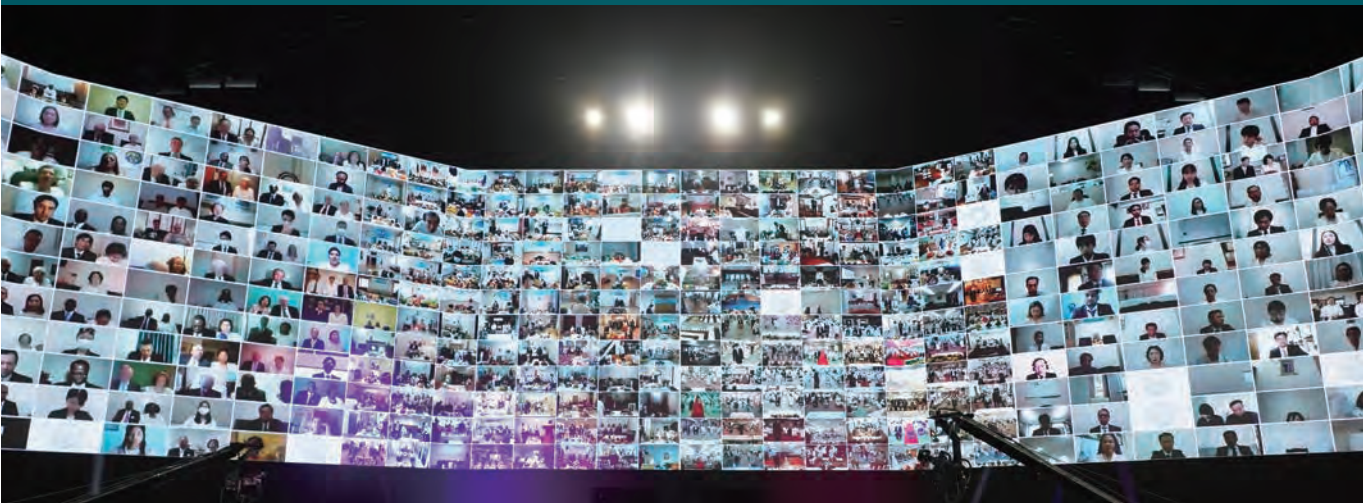
Immediately after the Fortieth Day Memorial Service, True Mother traveled to Las Vegas, arriving on October 26. Then she began a seven-day cross-country pilgrimage, covering 3,480 miles, which retraced in reverse the steps of one of True Father's United States tours in the 1970s. She visited the holy grounds along the route and ended her journey in New York. Then she returned to Korea to direct the preparations for Foundation Day, the compilation and publication of the Cheon Il Guk Scriptures, the establishment of the Cheon Il Guk Constitution and education for global leaders. 

This is from Cham Bumo Gyeong, Book 13, Chapter 2, Section 2; it has been edited for True Peace magazine.



What is the Mission of the Chosen People?

This is a momentous time. True Father was born in 1920, so this year marks True Parents' centenary and the sixtieth anniversary of their 1960 Holy Wedding. True Mother gave this speech at the Cheongshim World Peace Center on September 4 during the Cheonbo Festival marking the eighth anniversary of True Father's Holy Ascension.



Respected leaders in all fields joining us from around the world, faith leaders, tribal chiefs and blessed families, it is nice to be with you.

Though we long for a world in which we are fully interconnected and united, this unprecedented coronavirus pandemic has blocked the path to that. Furthermore, the unprecedentedly abnormal climate—the heavy rain and typhoons we have been experiencing—have resulted in the displacement and death of many people, as well as property damage around the world. However, we who are within Heavenly Parent's Holy Community are accumulating the strength to overcome all this and advance together into the future under Heavenly Parent's protection. This is something to feel grateful for.

God, the Creator, is humankind's parent. Do you think that the Creator, being our parent, would just sit down and observe humankind's present situation, suffering in this way? God, the Creator, dreamed of establishing the kingdom of heaven on earth with all people, living with them, and after they concluded their earthly lives, staying with all his children forever in the eternal world.

Each will have to bear his own load

The world of all things of creation continues to operate according to the principles of creation. The problem,

however, lies with human beings. Human beings are inflicting too much damage on nature. How did it become like this? Our Creator gave humankind a special responsibility to fulfill. That responsibility is to reach perfection in oneness with God the Creator. This is the place that our Creator has wished to share with you. This is a principle of creation. Our Creator is eternal. He is all-knowing and all-powerful. His beginning and ending points are the same. This is not something that can change.

Due to the Fall, human history has been one of warfare. The situation has reached such a point that people can no longer make unity together. God, who created everything at the outset, must also see it through to its completion. Hence, while enduring much pain, he conducted the providence of salvation to restore humanity. That refers to the history of Israel, the chosen people, which is part of human history.

A chosen people! Responsibilities and duties always follow a chosen people. If we are to look at the results, however, the chosen people of Israel could not fulfill their responsibilities. In particular, when we look at the providence to enter Canaan, centered on Moses, we might ask, why did it take forty years to cross a desert that is only three fifths the size of Korea? Heaven guided the people of Israel with a pillar of fire and a pillar of

cloud. Finally, the Savior for whom they had prayed to Heaven came. The Savior was Jesus Christ, God's only begotten son. Yet what did the people of Israel do? They pushed Jesus onto the path toward the cross. Jesus, driven to the cross, was in a position in which he could not complete his mission on earth. That is why he said he had to return and conduct the marriage supper of the Lamb.

Male and female he created them

God created everything in his image. Likewise, as his only begotten son was born, his only begotten daughter also needed to be born. To explain briefly: God's only begotten daughter was born to the Korean people in 1943. The period when God's only begotten daughter was born in Korea was one of the grimmest times in Korean history. Korea's liberation [from Japanese colonial occupation] came in 1945 but Korea then divided into North Korea and South Korea. Under those circumstances the Korean War broke out in 1950.

In those days, the South Korean government had no capacity or power to deal with North Korea. Yet how could sixteen member nations of the United Nations come to defend democratic South Korea? This was not by human power but because Heaven was with us. The Korean people, among whom God's only begotten daughter was born, are therefore the



Performers in this year's musical dance beneath True Father's portrait



True Mother giving her address to a global audience, not only to members of religions and governments but to whole nations over national television networks

chosen people. However, we need to seriously reflect on the position of the chosen people in the past. The chosen people bear the responsibility to become one with God's only begotten son and only begotten daughter, born on earth, and to realize Heavenly Parent's dream on earth.

The creation has been groaning in travail

Due to the coronavirus, all nations are setting controls in relation to one another and closing their borders more tightly than before. If we continue like this, no hope remains for the future. We who are living in this time! This is a time when the responsibility of blessed families that follow True Parents is of crucial importance.

I have mentioned that the Earth is suffering due to human beings' ignorance. The development of civilization and advances in science have reached the stage at which they have become out of balance. Consequently, they are severely reducing the space on the Earth where living organisms can survive. We inevitably worry about the future of the beloved members of our second- and third-generations, our sons, daughters [and grandchildren]. What are we to do? There is no time to delay.

While I am still living on earth, all blessed families around the world

should actively work and endeavor to expand the environment True Parents have created, so that they can teach this to others: From the outset, God the Creator has been our parent and his dream is to realize the kingdom of heaven on earth and to live here with us.


The only way to solve all the difficult problems arising in our world is to follow the path of 'True Parents' will from within the Heavenly Parent's Holy Community. Notably, the Korean race is a people that Heaven has embraced and nurtured for two thousand years. This people has never attacked its neighbors, not even once. The Korean people have been highly educated in the philosophy of filial devotion, of revering Heaven and in filial piety to one's parents. This nation, which is the chosen people among those living in the world today, is the Korean race that is to become one with True Parents and interact with the world based on oneness with our Heavenly Parent. The day must come when we proudly declare that we have become a heavenly, unified Korea.

I have said, repeatedly, that this great calamity of the coronavirus spreading is not something that human effort can stop. As far as I know, it took several centuries to discover a vaccine for smallpox. We

can succeed in this if God works with us.

The people who are known as politicians and as leaders of Korea in the present need to know about Heaven's providence. They need to learn to fear God. The only way for them to fulfill their responsibilities and duties as people in charge of the chosen people's nation is to attend Heavenly Parent.

Dear members of the Unificationist community around the world who are on that path: Proclaim confidently that there is a future for all people only when through the best Summit Council for World Peace and the best International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace in your nations, they attend Heavenly Parent and go forward with Heavenly Parent.

I will say once again that the responsibility of the blessed families in Korea is important. Can God's blessings remain with this people on the basis of your efforts? If not, this people may follow in the footsteps of the past chosen people who have become part of a history that has flowed on by. Please remember that we are now at such a serious crossroads. 

This text was edited for True Peace magazine.

CHEONBO FESTIVAL MARKING THE EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY OF TRUE FATHER'S HOLY ASCENSION







- ① True Mother delivering her address
- ② A view of the audience within the World Peace Center
- ③ Shin Chul Moon (foreground) and Shin Heung Moon, True Parents' grandsons, assisting during the Holy Candle Lighting Rite in the Jeongshimwon
- ④ Yeon-ah Moon and Hoon Sook Moon performing the candle-lighting rite within the Jeongshimwon
- ⑤ Dr. Yun, director-general of the FFWPU International Headquarters, and Mrs. Wonju Jeong McDevitt, chief of True Mother's Secretariat, offering flowers
- ⑥ Sa Gwang-ki, chairman of the Sunhak History Committee and Yong Jin-heon, vice-chairman, offering a new version of *Cham Bumo Gyeong*
- ⑦ Yeon Ah Moon, president of UPF-Korea, gave the Seonghwa Address. Wonju Jeong McDevitt, chief of True Mother's Secretariat, recited a poem. Dr. Young-ho Yun was the master of ceremonies
- ⑧ A poignant moment during this year's musical



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- ① Sun Jin Moon and her husband In Sup Park lighting a candle on their altar to begin the holy commemoration period
- ② Kwon Jin Moon and his wife Hwa Yun Chun in True Parents' home in Las Vegas, Nevada, with numerous others commemorating the anniversary of True Father's Holy Ascension
- ③ True Parents' grandsons in uniform with other True Family members in the Jeongshimwon to begin the holy day by offering it first to our Heavenly Parent
- ④ Ki-seong Lee, chairman of FFWPU-Heavenly Korea and his wife Yoon-jong Jang, placing flowers on the offering table.
- ⑤ Senior members bowing and making an offering in the Jeongshimwon
- ⑥ Rev. Tokuno in Japan led the online Mansei, heard all around the world, to conclude the Cheonbo Festival marking the eighth anniversary of True Father's Holy Ascension.



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SUN MYUNG MOON 1920-2012




Father

Yeon Ah Moon, chair of the Universal Peace Federation-Korea, offered the Seonghwa Address for the eighth anniversary of the Holy Ascension of Sun Myung Moon, the True Parent of Heaven, Earth and Humankind, on September 4 at the Cheongshim World Peace Center. This is what she said on that occasion.



Yeon Ah Moon

천지인참부모 성탄 100주년

Beloved True Father!
Knowing Heavenly Parent's will and understanding humanity's reality,
you dedicated your holy life solely for the sake of Heaven's will.
And you set up the one nation, filled with peace and unity in heaven and on earth.
In 2012, at 1:54 AM on 7.17 by the Heavenly Calendar, you ascended,
leaving behind the words, "I have accomplished everything."
Eight years have already passed,
yet in our hearts,
the memory of you closing your eyes, adjusting your jacket deftly with your fingers,
and singing a song with so much soul, vividly remains.
We long for the days when you spoke with endless tears,
comforting Heavenly Parent's heart,
your hearty laughter accentuated by your deep-set wrinkles.
Our eyes tear up at the memory of you comforting us.
On days when the full moon appeared above Mt. Cheonseong,
you would go out fishing on the boat named "Cheonshim," under the moonlight.
We wish we could see you today.
We wish we could feel your breath.
We miss the sound of your voice.
Father, we miss you!
For the sake of Heavenly Parent's liberation and the salvation of humanity,
you did not shy away from death
but trod a path of blood, sweat and tears.
There is no way to express in words your heart throughout this long providence of restoration.
Father, you trod a path through thorns and repentance filled with tears.
Whether betrayed or deceived, you loved with a parental heart.
Though innocent, you endured imprisonment and continuous persecution.
The tears you shed for humanity
became rivers and an ocean,
and finally became hyojeong, which does not run dry,
and is irrigating the hearts of all people.
Yes, indeed!
That hyojeong is alive in each person's heart.
From the Cape of Good Hope to Santiago de Chile,
peace-loving citizens are finding inspiration in you.
You inspired them to melt their guns and swords into plowshares,
share their wisdom and lay the cornerstones for world peace—
and, through true love, open the gates to reunification.
Now, your holy life and great achievements
have become anthems of hope and delight
spreading far and wide throughout the world.
The great legacy you left behind, the tradition of true love
will be shared from heart to heart and forever remain engraved there.
Beloved True Father,
please look to us and have hope for the future.
For the past seven years, you and True Mother were one,
and victoriously proclaimed the firm establishment of Cheon Il Guk.
For the next seven years, we shall work in oneness with True Mother toward the victory of Vision
2027,
the realization of a heavenly unified Korea and a heavenly unified world.
In so doing, at last, we will accomplish without fail
the great vision of one family of humanity under our Heavenly Parent,
the original dream Heavenly Parent harbored at the time of the Creation,
which is Cheon Il Guk, the land of true freedom,
a world of true peace where happiness overflows.
We pledge this to you and pledge again.
True Father! We are eternally grateful!
True Father! We eternally love you! 

Father and Mother, You Gave Us Life and Raised Us

During the main event of the Seonghwa Festival Commemorating the Eighth Anniversary of the Holy Ascension of Sun Myung Moon, True Parent of Heaven, Earth and Humankind, held on September 4 at the Cheongshim World Peace Center, Wonju McDevitt, chief of staff of True Mother's Secretariat recited this poem.

Father and Mother, you gave us life and raised us.
Without both parents, would we have survived?
How can we repay the boundless love of our God-like Parents?

Father, you carried on your shoulders the weight of Heaven's call that you received at the age of fifteen on Mt. Myodu, and carried the word, a new expression of the truth, to all corners of the world.

Although we had the name of being alive, we were as lifeless as mud.

Through your grace, Father, we were given rebirth.

As the only begotten daughter, our Mother, you participated in the marriage feast of the Lamb, and True Parents emerged.

You embraced us and raised us with a love wider and deeper than the Pacific Ocean.

How can we repay your grace, a grace greater than the rivers and the seas?

Father, you lived your entire life like an active volcano, pouring out words of truth stained with your blood,

and having emerged as the king of kings that reached the high ground of the providence's Golgotha,

You declared before heaven and earth, and all of humankind,

"I have accomplished everything! I have accomplished everything! I have accomplished everything!"

Father, you kept the fire alight throughout your life, right to the end.

Then you departed for the heavenly realms, along a path strewn with roses and lilies.

Father, we believed you would stay with us on earth for a century!

It is only after you left us that we felt the great chasm of emptiness that your absence created.

Looking back on days when our loyalty was lacking, we lamented in deep regret.

Today, we confess, we were like the mystical night birds

Trembling in the bitter, evening cold of the Himalayas,

crying out from dusk till dawn that they would build a nest after the sun came up.

It is only after you ascended Father,

that we understood; we had become like those night birds,

Suffering in regret that we failed to fulfill our filial duties while you were here.



Mrs. McDevitt reciting her poem as images from True Father's life appear behind her

Dressed in a white mourning dress, Mother, you wept in silence,
 "I am the only one left."
 "I will firmly establish Cheon Il Guk on earth before I depart this life."
 Mother, with no time to wholeheartedly mourn your beloved,
 You carried the tablets of stone and arc of the covenant of Cheon Il Guk,
 And bore the heavy cross of the providence on your back.
 You lifted high Moses' staff, the budding staff given by Aaron.

Wishing to realize the pledge you made before Father's holy body,
 You opened the era of heavenly nations and heavenly continents.
 You traveled some 133,000 kilometers around the world

From Japan to Asia to Africa, from Europe to Latin America and back to the United States,
 you completed the Cosmic Canaan Course for the Firm Establishment of Cheon Il Guk.
 Mother, although you are approaching your 80th year, despite blisters on your lips and your difficulty with walking, you continue pushing yourself beyond the limits of human endurance,
 climbing eight steep providential mountains.
 You are the only begotten daughter, the Mother of the Cosmos, the Mother of Peace; you never held back from the tasks in front of you.

After you completed, concluded, and perfected Vision 2020, which you had strongly proclaimed,
 You gave us the magnificent tool that is your memoir, *Mother of Peace*,
 to help realize the vision of North-South reunification and to deal with the coronavirus pandemic,
 and once again you stood on the front line of Vision 2027.
 Yet when we saw you walking with your two grandchildren supporting you,
 our hearts sank and we, foolish children who had already lost True Father eight years ago, regretted that we have not done enough.

In order not to become those procrastinating night birds again, and remembering the story of the cuckoo that bled on the wild azaleas after crying in longing throughout the night,
 with the same desperate heart, such that our blood would spill, we shall resolve to stand up,
 holding high the heavenly torch Mother has given us—her memoir.
 At a steadfast pace, we shall enter the battlefield
 And we will repay our True Parents' grace with resplendent filial piety. 卍

On True Parents and Their Shared Mission

What follows is a portion of the master of ceremonies' script from September 4, which helped the global audience viewing the Eighth Anniversary of True Father's Seonghwa obtain a perspective on True Parents' value, a perspective that can empower members of the Unification Movement as we work toward fulfilling Vision 2027.

By Young-ho Yun

Distinguished guests from home and abroad and beloved blessed families who are here with us from all corners of the world! My name is Young-ho Yun, director-general of the FFWPU International Headquarters. I will be your MC for this historic commemoration of the eighth anniversary of the Holy Ascension of Sun Myung Moon, the True Parent of Heaven, Earth and Humankind. Good morning. Truly, I am happy to meet you all.

I sincerely welcome everyone around the world coming together in sincere devotion, love and longing for True Father from different nations. I would like to particularly welcome all Cheon Il Guk leaders and blessed families, who have come together for their local remembrance ceremonies, in 194 countries. We are conducting today's event online due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which began in earnest early this year and is currently spreading here again. Though most cannot attend the events in person, families across the world are watching this online tribute. I believe your hearts and devotion today will make this tribute even more meaningful.

We will hold today's ceremony in strict compliance with each nation's quarantine guidelines. For forty days, September 1 until October 10, members across the world will conduct local memorials beginning with today's ceremony. Diverse events will take place during this time. This includes the Cheonbo Festival and Cheonbo Registration Ceremony, the Hyojeong Cheonbo Special Great Works, an International Leadership Conference to mark the fifteenth anniversary of UPPF's founding, a special Blessing Ceremony, our Cheon Il Guk Leaders' Assembly, a special meeting for Korean War veterans in recognition of seventy years having passed since the Korean War broke out—and for the realization of a heavenly unified Korea—the grand dedication of the new Cheon Seung Jeon building





Dr. Yun speaking from behind the podium at the Cheongshim World Peace Center to a global virtual audience

and the dedication of the Hyojeong Cheonwon traditional “Hawon” Restaurant.

This will also be the first time we have ever held all of the Seonghwa Memorial Festival events online. Please check the schedule for details. We would greatly appreciate your active participation and commitment to the events!

Let us honor this holy public life

We are here today to celebrate a man who dedicated his entire life to the liberation of Heavenly Parent, the salvation of humanity and the realization of an eternal world of peace. We have also come together to inherit the tradition of embodying the filial heart toward God that True Father left as an example for humanity and to strengthen our resolve to realize the ideal of one great human family under Heavenly Parent—the world that Heavenly Parent had envisaged at the beginning.

It feels as if only yesterday we had to say goodbye to True Father as he departed the world, but eight years have passed since then. Nowhere on earth or in heaven has Father’s breath, sweat and tears not touched. Everywhere we go, every step we take, we live and breathe True Father’s love and the essence of his heart as if they were air.

Throughout his life, True Father never had time to rest his feet. He was always on the move, going to the east, west, south and north, working day and night without much rest. He invested his all, even if that meant putting his life on the line to find and embrace his children. The course of Father’s life was like that of a sailor crossing a raging sea in a small boat, a course permeated with blood, sweat and tears solely dedicated to realizing Heavenly Parent’s will, humanity’s hope. His life was a suffering course for Heaven, for humanity—an expression of true love. Though eight years have passed since his Holy Ascension, the blood he shed still makes our hearts beat faster; the sweat and tears he shed cause our hearts to catch fire.

In order to honor True Father’s life and work and to complete the unfinished work he left behind, True Mother has spent the past eight years investing a thousand years’ worth of effort into each day. She followed a trail of tears and worked to bear the fruit of the determination she felt and the promise she made in front of Father’s holy body—that she would initiate and firmly establish Cheon Il Guk on earth without fail and invest everything she has until her very last breath.

On her own

After True Father’s ascension, True Mother was in a lonesome position. She had to work with a heart so desperate it felt as if she were looking for one small needle in a desert sandstorm amidst which she could barely open her eyes. Health challenges associated with exhaustion and her advancing age have not stopped Mother in her course over the past eight years. Her heart’s sole focus is on Heavenly



Dr. Yun, working as the master of ceremonies, introduced the various speakers, interacted with a global audience and testified to True Parents in the process.

Parent and True Father.

Despite recurring physical difficulties, nothing could stop her. Even now, she can only walk with the help of a cane. Yet, this has not stopped her from standing at the front of the providence. She is more worried about us and even comforts us by saying she is fine. Being in circumstances in which she must take this difficult path, she says she must because she is Mother. True Mother has advanced without ceasing until now.

She is a devoted filial daughter to Heavenly Parent and a faithful, virtuous wife to True Father. I believe that this has enabled us to move forward with God's blessings in the work of restoring more than seven countries, seven religious groups, restoring continents and ultimately ushering in a new era, the era of the firm establishment of Cheon II Guk, which Heaven and humanity have so long waited for. To ensure that all people are able to directly live in attendance to Heavenly Parent in this new era, True Mother established the Heavenly Parent's Holy Community and is now working day and night with all her heart to substantially bring about continental restoration by the sixtieth Heavenly Parent's Day in 2027 with the ultimate goal of realizing a heavenly unified world and finally opening a new heaven and a new, heavenly earth.

Because of Mother's strong desire to usher in this final stage of the providence, she held the recent True Father's Seonghwa Ceremony, which attracted 2.6 million people who directly participated online and about two hundred million who watched it live on their national television station. I feel that the eighth anniversary of True Father's Holy Ascension is special as we are celebrating it in the same year as True Father's centenary and True Parents' sixtieth Holy Wedding anniversary, which we honor on the foundation of their victorious seven-year course. If we also take into account the providential meaning of the number eight, I believe that this eighth anniversary is a time to resolve to make a fresh start toward the completion of Vision 2027.

I sincerely hope that on this occasion, we can each reflect on True Father's promise and his heart toward Heaven, engrave it in our hearts and resolve to complete Vision 2027 fully united with True Mother, who has determined to fulfill God's will without fail within her lifetime—no matter how difficult that may be—and thereby fulfill her promise to Father.

True Parents are investing their all at the forefront of the providence, expending tremendous effort to usher in the day when we can see the firm establishment of Cheon II Guk. Hence, I would be tremendously grateful if you can give the True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind a big round of applause. *☪*

Dr. Yun is director-general of the FFWPU International Headquarters.

Looking with Hope Toward a New Future

The writer has been prime minister of Niger since 2011.

By Brigi Rafini

With great pleasure I am participating in this global assembly of hope on the theme “Rebuilding and renewing our nations in the post-COVID 19 world:

Interdependence, Mutual Prosperity and Universal Values.” I also welcome the participation of all these eminent dignitaries representing various fields, who work for social justice every day with determination and conviction, for the sake of lasting peace, without which no development is possible.

I take this opportunity to thank the founder of the Universal Peace Federation, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, the Mother of Peace, for this joyful initiative entitled the Rally of Hope, which allows participants to convey messages of peace and a new moral, ethical and spiritual, economic and cultural vision.

This fight is the one led by the Universal Peace Federation. It is the fight for a more just world, a more humane world, a world of a more tolerant and a more peace-loving way of doing things. Indeed, the founders of UPF consider it important today to recognize that living for the sake of others and for the public interest is the basis of development in an interdependent world.

Mother Moon, as you so aptly pointed out in the context of this rally, the COVID-19 crisis has created disruption around the world. These disruptions have not only impacted those infected, their families and loved ones and healthcare workers, but also children whose schools have long been closed, workers who have lost their jobs and companies that have been forced into bankruptcy. The COVID-19 crisis has had a significant impact on the geopolitical balance of power as well as on the global economy. It affects all sectors—religion, government, universities, education in general, businesses and

the economy, families, women and young people, the media and the environment.

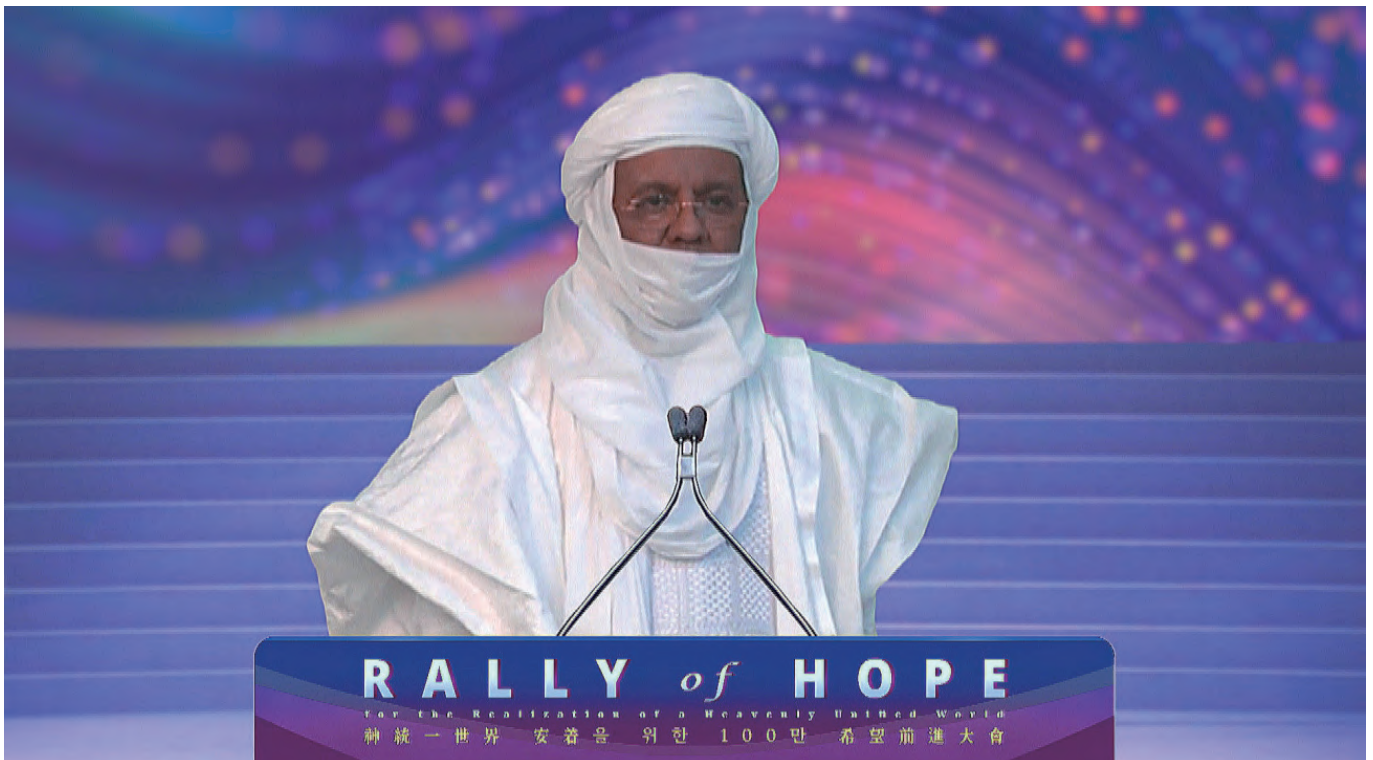
Africa’s circumstances

Thus, on the level of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) for example, the economic growth rate initially forecast to be 3.3 percent in 2020 will in fact be less than 2.1 percent if the pandemic persists until the end of the year, leading notably to a fall in tax revenues and an increase in unemployment and poverty. Some countries—in particular those of the Sahel and the Lake Chad basin—are experiencing a triple crisis—health, security and the economy.

This means that Africa must confront not only the pandemic but also the need for economic revival. This fight on two fronts requires an exceptional mobilization of financial resources.

Before the pandemic, Africa needed six hundred billion dollars annually to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, and those of Agenda 2063—in particular the objectives of its first ten-year plan for 2013–2023, among which are the structure-providing projects related to the African Continental Free Trade Area, infrastructure, industry and agriculture. These two agendas constitute the great vision around which all our energies remain mobilized. We took a decisive step in the implementation of these agendas with the launch, in July 2019 in Niamey, of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). For sustainable success, however, and for implementation of other projects, it is necessary to guarantee not only funding but also stability, peace and security.

This is the place to renew Niger’s sincere gratitude to all international donors and in particular to the Mother of



Prime Minister Rafni delivering his address

Peace, Mother Moon, for her financial support for the operational phase of AfCFTA and for the implementation of the Project for a Blessed Africa.

I must emphasize that the scale of the economic crisis that our countries will experience requires financial support that goes beyond a simple debt moratorium. Our countries must be completely deleveraged, and in addition, provided with fresh resources. Since deleveraging through inflation, a process used by rich countries to get rid of their debts in the aftermath of the Second World War, is not an option, debt cancellation must be carried out despite the inequalities it will generate among beneficiary countries.

At present, Africa is the world's least developed continent, particularly south of the Sahara. Its estimated population is 1.2 billion souls and could reach 2.5 billion by 2050. It is characterized by its youth; hence it has an enormous potential labor force, and consumers. The demographic transition underway on the continent will provide a highly productive working population with a strong capacity to save, provided, of course, that young people are trained and educated.


Religious harmony, cultural renewal

When it comes to interfaith dialogue and cooperation, I can confirm that there are universal values that all people affirm beyond race, ethnicity, religion or ideology. In my country, Niger, most of the population shares the Muslim faith, a religion whose holy book, the Koran, professes the brotherhood of all believers through verse 10 of Sura 49 which deserves to be studied in depth and explained to all humankind. I quote, "The believers are but brothers, so make settlement between your brothers. And fear Allah that you

may receive mercy." End of Quote.

I think it is unnecessary for me to point out to you that we are talking about believers here, all believers! In my opinion this verse contains the entire universal dimension of Islam, the imperative of peace that it professes as well as its reaffirmation of the oneness of humanity.

The president of the republic, Issoufou Mahamadou, and his government are calling on all Nigeriens for a cultural renaissance. It will apply this code of values to three areas of modernization: social, political and economic. Thus, the modernization we want for Niger is the cohesion and stabilization of the family unit, cemented by solidarity that banishes laziness, idleness, begging and dependence on others. The social modernization that we want for Niger is the detribalization of our society. It is the reduction, in accordance with our constitution, of social relations based on clan-ism, tribalism, regionalism and communitarianism. Ultimately, the cultural renaissance aims to rebuild our country on the spiritual, moral, political and economic levels! This is the Herculean mission that we are tackling with conviction and determination.

I would like to bow to the memory of the Reverend Sun Myung Moon, founder of the Universal Peace Federation, salute the charismatic dynamism of Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon and pay deserved tribute to all the leaders of this organization. We are committed to making our contribution to the work of the international community for peace and understanding among the peoples of the world. Thank you. 

Brigi Rafni is Niger's longest-serving prime minister.

The Day After

Mr. Morales was president of Guatemala from 2016 to 2020.

By Jimmy Morales

I send you warm greetings from Guatemala. I thank UPF and its founder, the Honorable Mother Moon for her kind invitation to participate in this International Summit Council for Peace and Rally of Hope.

I want to tell you a true story. A deadly disease hit; experts say it started in the East and then spread throughout the world. There was panic in the streets and governments did not know what to do, so they began to cancel events, suspend activities and close cities. The economy collapsed and people realized the fragility of humanity.

How familiar does this story sound to you? This happened one thousand, eight hundred years ago. We call it the Antonine Plague or Smallpox, which hit the Roman Empire in the second century of the common era. This means that this is not the first time that humanity has faced diseases like COVID-19.

If I asked you, what do you want the dawn of the day after the pandemic to be like? How would you answer me? While you think about that, let's review history. In the second century, smallpox hit humanity. At that time, the Roman Empire had two Emperors, Marcus Aurelius and Lucius Verus. The latter died from the plague, so Marcus Aurelius had to rule alone from that moment on. Rome had just won a major battle against the Parthians, but that victory turned into a terrible tragedy as the legionaries brought smallpox home with them, killing one third of the empire's population.

What did the rulers and the citizens of those times do to overcome these terrible evils? First, they stayed healthy by isolating themselves in their houses and cities, which worked. They realized, though, that it was a temporary solution, because economic activity had to continue, so they arranged for people to travel to other cities with the

condition of waiting forty days in isolation days before entering a city to carry out activities. "Forty days" is precisely where the term "quarantine" comes from.

The second thing they did was to summon the best professionals. Emperor Marco Aurelio called Galen, the best doctor of the time, to lead the fight against smallpox. The third thing Marcus Aurelius did was redirect the Empire's budget. History shows that at that time Rome did not undertake any civil construction projects and that the budget was allocated to help the most vulnerable. Marcus Aurelius did not increase the government debt, on the contrary, he decided to auction assets of the empire, including personal assets to assist and help those most in need.

We might ask today, How long will the quarantine last? And after the quarantine, will the virus have disappeared? Obviously not. Then we better appeal to people's intelligence, so that they practice peaceful coexistence and thus preserve their life and health, because as dangerous as a disease is, running away from it will not make it disappear. Emperor Lucius Verus fled from Aquileia during the Smallpox Plague but died anyway because the disease reached him.

Couples reach a point when two simple questions come to mind: How long will you stay with me? Should I simply prepare coffee, or should I prepare for life? The eradication of smallpox, which plagued humanity in the second century did not happen until the twentieth century. We may have the coronavirus for a long time. Yes, we must attack it, but we also must learn to live with it. In order to reach a conclusion, I will quote Marcus Aurelius: "Adapt yourselves to the things among which your lot has been cast and love sincerely the fellow creatures with whom destiny has ordained that you shall live."



Jimmy Morales delivering his speech to a worldwide audience

Let us reflect and progress

I have come to some conclusions. First, this “lucky” generation faced Covid-19 with scientific and technological advances that humanity has never had before. Let us adapt to living with “social distancing” and improving our hygiene. Let us take advantage of technology to inform people about and encourage intelligent coexistence. Let us demonstrate true love toward others, with solidarity, fairness, equality and justice for all.

Second, we cannot ask everyone to stay locked in their houses because governments will not be able to subsidize food and sustenance for the entire population, much less continuously, if no one is producing goods or paying taxes. People will not be able to subsist. They will have to go out to work and produce, maintaining the protective measures.

Third, encouraging news has come of a vaccine, which is why all governments and leaders globally must advocate that it be free for all people, that in the case of pandemics, vaccine manufacturers practice solidarity toward humanity before profit, and that the government bears the cost of medicines for their citizens, aiming at the preservation of life.

With family and God

Now, I will tell you what I would like at the dawn of the “day after” this pandemic: I would like a blue sky with a radiant sun that illuminates the whole of humanity, giving hope in life to children, young people and the elderly, and

that together, hand-in-hand we follow a path toward health, prosperity and love. What will you and I do so that the day after is a day full of hope?

To conclude, I want us to acknowledge the effort of Mother Moon, who along with her leadership promotes peace, family and integration of the world, with a message of a united family, based on love and fidelity. It is meritorious to recognize that in this grim time of a pandemic, when everything has stopped, Mother Moon is leading this International Summit and Rally for Peace for development, prosperity and interdependence under the flag of the family, under blessings from God.

I also wish that within this year, 2020, during which we commemorate the seventieth anniversary of the beginning of the Korean War, this summit and rally will inspire the Korean people to raise the flag of reunification and allow the reunion of ten million separated families. The reunification of Korea would undoubtedly be the beginning of the restoration of peace in North Asia and a good model for the reestablishment of peace throughout the world.

Thank you all very much for your attention. To UPF and the Honorable Mother Moon, thank you very much for your invitation to participate in this International Summit for Peace. God bless you. *☩*

Jimmy Morales had a successful career as an actor and comedian before becoming his nation's president.

Face the Danger as One Human Family

The writer, Albania's president 2002–2007, gave this keynote address at the Rally of Hope for the Realization of a Heavenly World on August 9.

By Alfred Moisiu



Alfred Moisiu, who first met True Father in Albania in 2005, giving this keynote address

I greet you at this important event wishing that you are all doing well. We are living in a unique time of crises, like never seen before, and it is a time for the world's leaders to reflect deeply and build together a global strategy on how to move forward as a global family. We are proud that UPF, under Dr. Moon's leadership, has initiated a series of Peace Talk Webinars to provide a platform for leading figures from the worlds of politics, religion, academia, business and the media to contribute to the process of outlining the kind of world that needs to emerge from the current health crisis, by highlighting the values of interdependence, mutual prosperity and universal values.

As we are still in the middle of the pandemic. We have seen that the world was entirely unprepared for this phenomenon, which should serve as a strong lesson for leaders in the world that they need to think differently. We should work together cooperatively and constructively for the sake of mutual prosperity and peace, by moving beyond the COVID-19 crisis and reaching a state of preparedness for future crises. There are nations and corporations however that are trying to use the pandemic for their own agenda and benefits, forgetting that we are one interdependent human family and that we should live and work together, respectfully and cooperatively. Otherwise more serious problems will arise.


More than ever, we need to improve good governance at the national, regional and global levels as essential elements for peace and development. As we see, the COVID-19 crisis is having a broad influence on the geopolitical balance of power as well as on the global economy. It is affecting all sectors of government, academia and education, business and economy, religion, the family, women and youth, the media, and the environment. It is necessary to emphasize that, among other things, we need to teach people to maintain discipline in the implementation of medical requirements and advice during this time of pandemic.

We need also to strengthen human solidarity, because the disease does not ask if you are

rich or poor, while the consequences suffered are the same for all. The Western Balkans Region as we know, is at a crucial moment in its integration process into European Union. The current crisis has brought enormous financial and economic problems in our region, however, we see that some political leaders in the Balkans are not focused totally on overcoming this crisis, but are investing a lot of energy in order to bring forward their existing selfish agendas, supported by big powers.

Transformation is still possible

I would like to emphasize this point: The Balkan Peninsula could be Europe's treasure. Historically, it has been the place of confrontation between civilizations, religions, cultures and ideologies. It has been the confrontation line between East and West, but it could be the bridge between East and West. We know that much potential resides in that possibility. In order for the Balkans to manifest its true potential, we now need a special focus on bringing about deep reconciliation. Making this happen is Europe's responsibility especially. European policymakers must be more careful in their judgments and decisions in relation to the problems in the Balkans, so that true justice prevails. Otherwise, if we do not act responsibly now, the Balkans will continue to "produce more history than it can consume."

The Universal Peace Federation deserves appreciation and applause for its unchanging, steadfast efforts to support the peace processes in the Balkans and as ambassadors for peace we will work harder to bring forward the reconciliation process. However, in order for all of us to leave behind a legacy of peace and cooperation for future generations, all parties should work together, including governments, academicians and youth. Thank you once again for allowing me to address this important event and God bless you! 

Mr. Moisiu, who will turn ninety-one in December, was among those who eulogized True Father at his Seonghwa Ceremony.

What We Are Living Through

The writer, Canada's prime minister 2006–2015, is an economist.

By Stephen Harper



Stephen Harper delivering his keynote address

Bonjour tout le monde! [Hello Everyone!] To honorable high office holders past and present, to distinguished participants from around the world and of course to our host, the Universal Peace Federation:

Thank you for inviting me to join you once again. For the past two years, I have been a guest at the World Peace Summit in Seoul, South Korea. What an experience it has been! Perhaps nowhere else in the world is there such a gathering of experienced leaders from government, business, academia and faith communities representing the wide array of global nations and making such a broad contribution to global thought on the challenges facing humanity. As all who have attended can attest, it is an experience without parallel.

My congratulations go to the Universal Peace Federation, to your chairman, Dr. Thomas Walsh, to your international president, Dr. Michael Jenkins, and to your Canadian president, my friend, Dr. Franco Famularo, but especially to Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon. It is due to Doctor Moon's vision and inspiration that a global dialogue of this scale and of this quality is occurring at a time such as this.

And what an extraordinary time this is! The pandemic of 2020 is an experience that no one alive today will ever forget. It is an experience that for better or worse will leave a lasting and indelible mark upon humanity. Many have compared it to the global financial crisis of 2008–2009. I was prime minister of Canada at that time, and there are aspects of this crisis that remind me of those times, but there are some big differences. For one, this is a significantly more difficult crisis. It is both an economic crisis and a health crisis, and the solutions for the one run counter to the solutions for the other.

Who can take the reins?

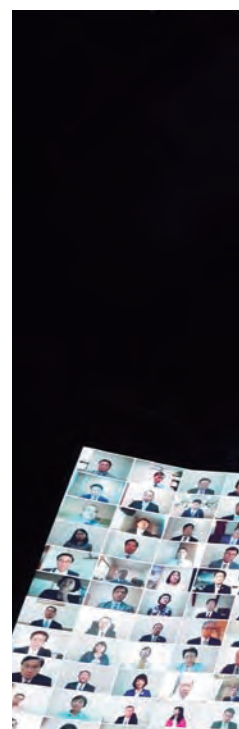
This is why, contrary to much commentary, we can have no idea which countries are “getting it right” or are “getting it wrong.” This is without precedent, and we do not yet know the full outcomes on either front. Another difference from the global financial crisis is in the realm of international cooperation. In November 2008, shortly after the Global Financial Crisis began, I was part of a meeting at the White House convened by George W. Bush, a meeting of the world's biggest economies and its leading international financial institutions. It was in effect the first-ever meeting of the G20. In a couple of days' work we drafted the basis of an international plan to deal with the crisis. Much work remained to be done at the national level, but the outlines of a global response took shape. It involved significant international collaboration and avoided many potentially systemically damaging actions.

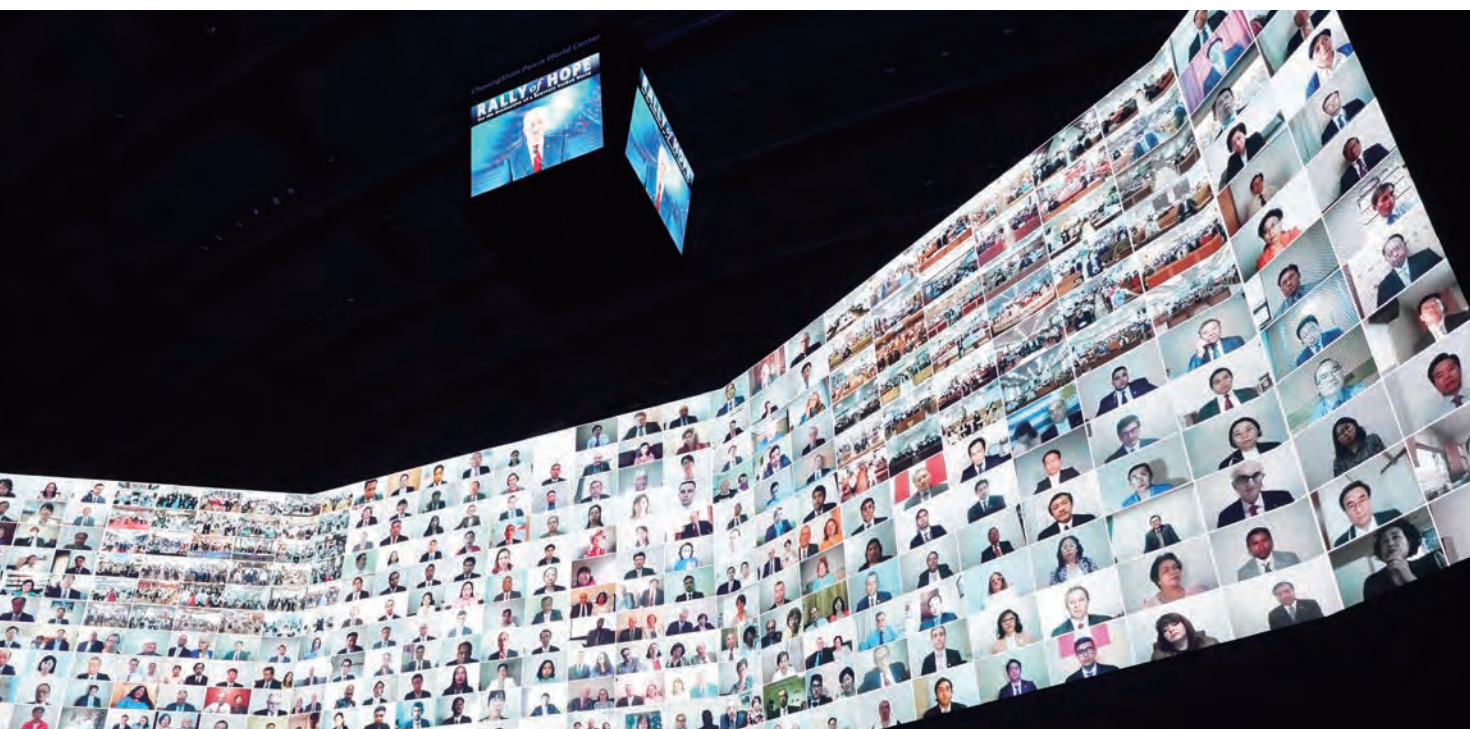
This time there has been nothing resembling such international collaboration, so we've seen a myriad of conflicting economic closures and travel restrictions, a completely unnecessary global oil war, fights over supplies of personal protective equipment, and now the competitive race for primacy and superiority in the development of a vaccine. I wish I could tell you that what we have witnessed is an aberration, but I think the reality is that the reasons for this lack of international cooperation run deep. International institutions cannot function effectively without the cooperation and leadership of the world's strongest powers. Today there is no such leadership. The United States is not willing to provide it. This is not just about the current US administration, The American public is exasperated with its global leadership role, which has far too often left the United States with wildly disproportionate burdens and obligations for which the American public sees little commensurate benefit.

China cannot fill the void for a different reason. It is not widely trusted, and when we look at its role in the early spread of the virus, how could it be? And for its part, the European Union remains focused on the internal divisions that have become much more challenging in the decade since the global financial crisis. So, the lack of international cooperation today is very explicable, but that does not mean that this state of affairs is not risky. On the contrary we are entering this phase of non-collaboration in the world at just the moment when global challenges will be particularly pressing and often do require global solutions. The pandemic is one, climate change is another, But I am talking in particular about the global economy.

Let us be realistic

I have been saying three things since March; these were controversial back then but not so much now. First, the scale of the economic downturn has been underestimated. Of course, analysts have been revising their forecasts and now concede a global GDP drop of at least 5 percent, which will be well in excess of the of the financial crisis of 2008–2009. Second, the speed of the economic recovery has been overestimated; there will be no V-shaped recovery. It will likely be two years before even the strongest economies return to their pre-COVID levels. Third, the current level of economic and fiscal intervention by governments is unsustainable. These are already multiple times higher than during the global financial crisis. They point to widespread sovereign-debt pressures in the next few years and the need for fiscal austerity at precisely the time when much of the public expects the opposite. Watch for this: As the worst of the virus passes (which it will) and as the economic downturn lingers





This group, a part of the virtual audience, were able to look around the Cheongshim World Peace Center as if they were physically there.

(which it will) the political solidarity experienced in many countries during the pandemic will turn to anger over the economy. Anyone in power today will face that anger and their survival in that position, especially-but-not-exclusively, those seeking re-election, will be in severe jeopardy.

We saw this after 2008–2009. Few elected leaders survived that economic crisis and as I say, this one will be worse in its impacts. As we know, at such times there can be an inclination for leaders and nations to turn to easy-but-ultimately-disastrous solutions—protectionism, socialism and aggression in international affairs. That is why it is essential that we understand our interdependence in the world, work together to rebuild our mutual prosperity and act on shared values, rather than zero-sum strategies.

It is indeed, for precisely these objectives, that this Universal Peace Federation Rally of Hope gathering is being broadcast. That said, now let me just add that it is important we pursue these objectives not simply with our hearts open but with our eyes open even wider. For example, while we should resist protectionism, we can no longer pretend that countries that pursue purely export-driven growth strategies are free traders. We cannot continue to watch our existing jobs go to those countries while our workers have little opportunity to sell their products or services in those markets. It is essential that countries that pursue such export-driven managed-trade strategies be similarly treated. Likewise, we cannot just pretend that international bodies, like the World Health

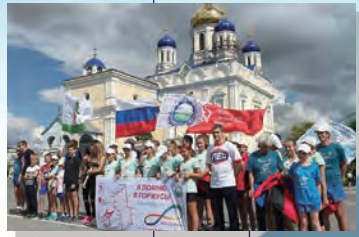
Organization, are useful in advancing shared aspirations when they put the national politics of some above the international mandate they are supposed to be pursuing. They either must reform themselves or we must seek better avenues of cooperation outside of them.

Let us maintain our standards

And finally, we must recognize that history shows that the rights and freedoms of ordinary people are critical to creating and sustaining our prosperity and peace over time. In other words, we should not pretend that those states which deny freedom, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law share values with us. We should stand unequivocally for those values and for those who fight for them. As South Korea, Taiwan and many others in the world have shown, authoritarian rule is in no way necessary or desirable to successfully resist a pandemic. Obviously, what I have laid out is a tall order—to confront serious challenges and to do so through encouraging collective efforts while also being prepared to confront those who undermine our common good. But if there is any organization capable of convening a truly global network of people, committed to genuinely shared efforts, it is this one, the Universal Peace Federation. Thank you again for giving me your attention, and God bless you in your deliberations. *TP*

Mr. Harper chairs the International Democratic Union, “an international alliance of center-right, right and conservative political parties.”

Peace Road Around the World



Students from a hundred and thirty countries rode and ran together for Peace Road 2020 commemorating the seventy years since communist forces from North Korea invaded South Korea on January 25 seventy years ago, attacking non-communist troops and civilians in South Korea, beginning the Korean War, which persisted—wreaking untold damage on South Korea and perhaps forever dividing a people that had spent thousands of years in oneness. The war persisted until July 27, 1953.

The “One Korea! Peace Road 2020 Worldwide Campaign” began on July 16. Overall, seven thousand citizens cycled in fifty major cities throughout South Korea, while urging people’s support for a Peace Zone within the DMZ—the demilitarized zone separating North Korea from South Korea. Through the One Korea Peace Road 2020 event, people from all over the world rode, ran or traveled together, wishing for reunification on the Korean Peninsula and world peace. Their peace quest is in its eighth year. The Peace Road campaign in Korea held special significance in that it honored twenty-two still-living veterans who fought to help Korea during the Korean War seventy years ago.

The Peace Road Korea Executive Committee, and Song Kwang-seok, chairman of the National Federation for Korean Re-Unification, in spite of the coronavirus outbreak, followed the quarantine guidelines and launched the One Korea Peace Road 2020 Worldwide Campaign. In Korea it ran from July 17 to August 29. Until

the end, seven thousand people nationwide, from cities and rural areas, took part in cycling for reunification and peace. On July 16, a lighting ceremony for Peace Road took place at Mt. Balwang in Yongpyeong, in Gyeonggi Province, in True Mother’s presence.

A RACE TO THE NORTH IN KOREA

A bicycle race that traversed the nation from south to north involved three teams, including an East Coast team and two Yeongnam–Honam teams. The East Coast team departed from Busan on August 1. The seventy racers representing continents and countries went eight hundred kilometers by bicycle from the UN Forces Memorial Park in Busan to Imjingak near the North Korean border. The Unification Team, depart from Jeju Island, the southernmost part of the country, on August 20; they arrived in Mokpo on the July 21, and headed for Mungyeong Saejae, a site famous to members as the hilly area over which True Father had to carry an injured man on his back on his way from North Korea to Busan. The Peace Team left Busan on the July 21 and headed for Mungyeong Saejae through North Gyeongsang Province and Daegu. The two teams met at Mungyeong Saejae and rushed from there to Imjingak, the end of the race. The Peace Team comprised mainly foreign students from fourteen countries.

Throughout the race and related

activities, the organizers strictly regulated behavior due to the corona pandemic. Everyone thoroughly followed the quarantine guidelines and successfully completed Peace Road in more than fifty cities, counties and districts. The starting ceremonies for each section, held by each local metropolitan province, began with cyclists riding for a long distance and then coming together to listen to congratulatory remarks from people from all walks of life, reading a peace message. The mayor, provincial governor, and the chairman of the assembly attended each starting ceremony, encouraging them with congratulatory speeches. They would then cheer and wave as the riders headed north toward Imjingak.

BOLIVIA

Throughout history humanity has longed for a happier and more peaceful world, with the various problems that cause racial or religious disputes and conflicts in the world, the Peace Road March transmits a message of peace, to unite as one family, thanks to this project founded by our beloved True Parents, in Bolivia since 2015 the Peace Road traveled to different cities of our country.

In this opportunity, it gave way to the inauguration of Peace Road 2020 in the Municipality of Punata, being a municipality of the Department of Cochabamba, located in the heart of Bolivia, despite the difficult situation experienced by the pandemic, taking the measures of biosecurity, and with



This Peace Road group in Korea faced torrential rain, intense traffic and other obstacles but kept fighting and prevailed.



Bolivian members carried their national flag on their Peace Road excursion.



Swiss members at the completion of Peace Road 2020



Russian members utilized Peace Road to help young people and gained government support.

the support of the highest authority of the Municipality gave way to this march.

Eighteen people participated, they walked the streets, under the slogan "For the peace, the life, the unity of Bolivia and the world." Despite external limitations, challenges and opportunities are what keep us strong enough to make God's work possible. It is time to establish more sincere conditions of devotion to unite us with the heart of Our True Mother.

BERN, SWITZERLAND

Bicyclists rode through the Swiss countryside at a Peace Road commemoration of International Youth Day. Peace Road is an annual international UPF project in which participants walk, run or cycle to promote world unity and peace. In Switzerland, the 2020 Peace Road event also celebrated the United Nations' International Youth Day with its 2020 theme, "Youth Engagement for Global Action."

UPF, together with the International Association of Youth and Students for Peace (IAYSP), organized the August 23 event. Jonah Gindroz, a skilled cyclist, and Mélanie Komagata of IAYSP were the leaders. The event had two teams bicycling to Bern, the nation's capital. A courageous duo cycled over seventy kilometers from the Lucerne region. The second group of around

twenty participants, aged between eight and sixty-two years, rode from Biel/Bienne, a distance of nearly forty kilometers.

Upon arriving in Bern, the cyclists were welcomed at the Bundesplatz (Federal Square) by waiting UPF and IAYSP staff. They then moved to the Marzili, Bern's city beach, for a celebration. The more courageous ones jumped into the cold and fast-flowing Aare River and swam along the shore.

The atmosphere was lively, with people of all ages riding with enthusiasm, taking action for the establishment of a harmonious and peaceful world.

MOSCOW, RUSSIA

One day before starting an eleven-hundred-kilometer marathon (close to seven hundred miles), a group of runners gathered for a kickoff meeting. The meeting took place on August 1, at the UPF Peace Embassy in Moscow. The runners, aged from nine to eighty-five years old, were preparing to take part in a relay marathon over the next two weeks, from August 2 to 16. It started in Moscow near the Kremlin and Red Square and passed through about twenty cities before returning to Moscow.

This year's marathon received funds from the Russian president's grant to cover transportation, uni-

forms, and accommodations. It took place under the banner of the UPF Peace Road Project and promoted a healthy lifestyle. Dmitry Samko, secretary general of UPF Moscow, ran with the marathoners and was their spokesman at public events along the way. After fifteen days and 1,100 kilometers, the 2020 Peace Road relay marathon concluded in Moscow's Victory Park. They dedicated this year's marathon, which had the theme, "I remember, I am proud," to the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II. UPF has been a co-organizer of this project for more than ten years.

The marathon started on August 2 from "Kilometer Zero" (the exact center of Moscow) next to Red Square. For two weeks, marathon participants, aged from nine to eighty-five ran through twenty-three Russian cities before returning to Moscow on August 16. National and local media outlets covered the run. by representatives of different cities' administration greeted the runners. Congratulations are due the participants of the marathon who, despite the pandemic, followed all safety requirements and completed this important and hope-inspiring project.

PEACE ROAD JAPAN

Peace Road is a friendly project for global peace-building promoted by the UN NGO Universal Peace



Uruguayan YSP members in front of their National Parliament Building during their Peace Road event

Federation and others. In 2013, a handful of young people started to promote friendship between Japan and South Korea and reunification between the Koreans. They also wished to promote the concept of world peace throughout Japan. It began with bicycle riding, which seemed a harmonious and peaceful activity.

Since 2015, it has been linked to the vision of the international peace highway concept advocated by Sun Myung Moon and Hak Ja Han Moon, the founders of UPF, and the Peace Road movement is being developed all over the world. It has now evolved into an international project involving more than 120 countries around the world.

This year's 8th Peace Road 2020 in Japan will start nationwide from mid-June. At first, the activities themselves were in jeopardy due to the spread of the new coronavirus infection from the beginning of the year and the severe damage to the western Japan region including the Kyushu region in early July due to heavy rain.

However, the people concerned took meticulous measures to reaffirm the significance of the Peace Road movement, which holds the division caused by the new corona and heavy rain disasters to the world and local communities and appeals to the hearts of people for the importance of solidarity and peace. However, he continued the movement.

As of the end of August, we are

holding uphill runs and related events at 31 locations in Japan. In particular, the appearance of young people sweating to appeal for the importance of peace attracted the attention of not only movement supporters but also local government agencies and religious facilities such as shrines and temples, and sympathized with and encouraged the vision of the movement in various places. Voice went up. In addition, various media such as newspapers, television, and radio also covered the activities.

URUGUAY

On Saturday, September 5, members in Uruguay held a Peace Road activity in the city of Montevideo. The YSP group was in charge of carrying out the activity. Ten people participated. The tour began at our headquarters in Montevideo and went to the Legislative Palace (Heritage of Uruguay) and returned from to the headquarters. The purpose of this event was to offer symbolic support, as a condition, to Peace Road worldwide that would normally take place on this date, but due to the pandemic, the number of people had to be limited to maintain security measures. 

The material about Korea came from the Peace Road international office in Korea.



Even in uncertain times with the coronavirus outbreak and little public activity, Japanese members felt it was important to express the significance of Peace Road.

Reflections from Peace Road USA 2020

Reconciling All People

By Yoshie Manaka





The writer, Yoshie Manaka, speaking at the Washita Battlefield (Photo by Stephanie Dias)



At the US-Canada border (Photograph by Yoshie Manaka)

From July 28 to August 22, I was very lucky to be a part of the Peace Road USA team, which (carefully, and with a lot of disinfectant and hand sanitizer) traveled to fifty+ spots around America, praying for the reconciliation of all people. The Peace Road 2020 team consisted of six diverse young people, two older drivers, and Reverend Michael and Minister Reiko Jenkins. During the tour, we visited sites of great historic accomplishments, as well as suffering and injustice, throughout America.

The purpose of the national tour was to support and spotlight local initiatives in their efforts toward bringing reconciliation in America and promote Peace Road and Mother Moon's memoir as an answer to the political and social climate in America at this time.

Answering Mother's call

"Two months ago, True Mother asked America to step up," said Joshua Holmes, twenty-four, the van team leader. This Peace Road initiative was in response to that. "But what we found through this Peace Road trip, was that we don't actually have the integrity to say that we've stepped up yet. We have not taken time to honor the history of America. We discovered that when we pray over these locations and take time to understand that history, honor it, America can

really step up. By doing that, we can then say to the Korean Peninsula, 'Let's unite.'

"From this Peace Road experience, I felt that condition being offered both substantially and spiritually by each community, each subregion, each leader. It is a victory that we've laid as America, but I really feel that it is especially True Parent's victory. It was their vision from the very beginning. And for us young people to understand and discover the vastness of that vision was a profound experience. It is the best education we could ever receive. I am very grateful for the opportunity to see America stepping up in this way."

"It's important to inherit the true history of America," said Rev. Demian Dunkley, President of FFWPU USA, "but to also find God's hand in it, and how America is positioned uniquely to serve."

Owning our history, and America's role

This trip, for me, has really been an experience of understanding the complicated history of America and not shying away from it or turning away from it in disgust—really, looking at it and taking ownership of it, claiming it as my history too. I am an American. I have responsibility for America. America is my family. The fathers of this country are my ancestors, too.

We stepped in a lot of places: A

former slave port in Charleston. Central High in Arkansas, where the Little Rock Nine were the first black kids to attend an all-white high school. A battleground in Oklahoma where Native Americans were massacred. The motel in Memphis where Dr. King was shot. The Old County Courthouse in St. Louis, where Dred Scott sued for his freedom and lost, but who's Supreme Court ruling was the catalyst for the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Amendments to the US Constitution. The Underground Railroad Museum in Cincinnati. Harrison House in Las Vegas, where black performers including Sammy Davis Jr. stayed when they performed on the Strip but could not sleep in those same casinos (up until the 1960s).

Resfred Arthur, twenty-two, was inspired about learning America's unknown history. "We all know about the history of injustice in America," he said. "But what we don't know about are the righteous people of history. And those were the places that we went to. People like Roger Williams who advocated religious freedom and who amended relationships between the English and the Native Americans. People like Sacajawea, who helped explore America, and how Harriet Tubman worked with the Quaker brothers and sisters helping the slaves escape from the South to the North, into Canada.



Peace Road USA participants praying at the 4,926 km² Grand Canyon (Photograph by Yoshie Manaka)

My point is that throughout this bitter and painful history, God was working through people to restore this nation.

“This is a powerful country. It represents the world in a myriad of ways. In order to heal the world, the problems of the world have to come here, so we can figure out how to gain victory over them, so we can lead the world toward where God wanted it to be. So God has been working with us all the time.

“I’m from Ghana. Two years ago, I went to the Ghanaian Consulate in New York City. The past presidents of Ghana were framed on the walls. Right next to them was a picture of Obama. You may not know this, but Obama was never a president of Ghana! But he was up there with the Ghanaian presidents! Not because he was a black president but because he was the first black president of the United States. That is what we celebrate. America’s victory is the world’s victory. That is what we need to realize. When we realize how much responsibility we hold, and we have so much power, to lead the world. And it all starts with us. This is the reason why True Parents have called us to lead the world today.”

What loving unconditionally really means

For Stephanie Dias, twenty-one, one of the most meaningful spots we visited was Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, North

Carolina. “As many people know, in 2015, there was a terrible incident where a young white man went to this church to attend a Bible study. At the end of that Bible study, he pulled out firearms and murdered nine people. He decided to spare one person, and told them, ‘I’m sparing you so you can tell the story. I want a race war,’” she told us.

“I remember hearing that news in 2015, when I was in high school. I remember hearing about it in school and feeling a tremendous amount of pain. So it was quite overwhelming to be at the actual church where it happened. All I could do was offer a prayer. As I prayed, I said, ‘God, please, let me find love somehow for this person who took away nine lives, who took away the chance for them to meet True Parents. How could I love someone like that? How can I ever forgive someone like that?’

“I’m so grateful for Mother Moon’s example, because in her memoir, (ch. 6, page 203) she explains the heart behind her and Father Moon preparing to meet Kim Il-sung and the struggle and the pain they went through because of Kim Il-sung. She talks about traveling to Hawaii and praying until they were able to totally forgive him, reconcile and let go of that pain and love him as their younger brother and as their son before meeting him. So, for me, this was an amazing experience where I realized that the only way we can reconcile is with true love.”

What messiahs do

We met with changemakers: people who marched with Dr. King, who knew him personally, who kept his legacy alive. Descendants of Black Kettle, Native Americans whose inner strength and faith and regard for their ancestors blew me away. Sweet Alice Harris, the mother of Watts in LA, who did incredible work after the 1965 Watts Rebellion. People in every state we visited who are doing the hard work of reconciliation by being in the same room as each other and continuing to work when things got hard.

I was also personally moved by the hard work and ownership of the members of their local areas. One place that sticks out to me was Sedona Arizona, which wasn’t even supposed to be a part of the Peace Road tour. But the community was really persistent in asking us to come, and we’re so grateful that they did. First of all, Sedona is beautiful. But also--the community really took the time to educate us about the history of the native people who belonged to that land.

It felt like they were saying, we could do this as a tributary event, but we think it would be more powerful for you to come too. We want your prayers for our people.

They advocated for their local area and the people who belonged to that land. They took responsibility and ownership for those people. That is what a messiah does, tribal or otherwise.

We saw that kind of heart of investment and ownership at every location and every event from our American members. That the local peace road events that we joined were the culmination of many years of investment, relationship-building and reconciliation was so clear. Because of these many years of investment, we are connected to the kind of people who are now attending the Global Summits and speaking up for True Mother.

Reconciliation in action

As we traveled, we stopped and prayed to honor figures of America’s history—Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Abraham Lincoln, Chief Black Kettle, Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, Sacajawea.



An Eog Mansei from the Peace Road participants in St. Louis Missouri (Photograph by Yoshie Manaka)

We called on these ancestors of mine, these fathers and mothers of America—to travel together with us, to guide us and help us lead America, to show us the way of peace, nonviolence, to see the true value of each and every human being as a child of God.

“One experience that was so meaningful to me was in Wilmington, Delaware,” said Misun Teah, twenty. “We held an event at the Harriet Tubman statue, and there was a leader of the local Black Lives Matter movement who attended. Of course, they looked a little out of place in a Peace Road event with a bunch of Unificationists! I was caught off guard, and I was curious to see what was going to happen, and how we might bring reconciliation during this time. I was so blown away when Rev. Jenkins shared afterwards that he was able to overcome his concepts and his limitations, and just go to the man and say, ‘brother, we’re here with you, and we love you.’

“And we saw the shift in this BLM leader’s heart. He went up to the microphone with his wife, and he shared with his heart about how love is the only thing that will overcome hatred. Minister Jenkins pulled some holy wine out of her purse, and Dr. Rouse blessed him on the spot. It was so powerful to see that we were able to focus on the most important thing, which was healing and prayer. That impacted me so much. I realized, we’re really bringing Mother’s desire and putting it into action. And I felt

reconciliation in my own heart and in the hearts of others around me. Mother’s spirit and love was definitely with us.”

America needs us

“I learned that as great as America is, we came from a long history of pain,” says Soonmee Iwasaki. “We suffered as a nation. And this happened when people were divided or pitted against each other because of their color, skin, ideology, culture. But every time that happened, righteous people who believed in God would stand up, not just for their own group of people, but for the sake of all the people. Because they know that that’s what God wants. I learned that even Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.—we learned that he was a civil rights activist in history class—but on this trip, I learned how much he loved God. He became a preacher at the age of nineteen years old! That’s how America progressed so quickly. America is so young. But because of these people who would stand up at these crucial moments to fulfill God’s will, people had to come together.

“We’re living at that time now, where people are becoming divided, turning against each other, but it’s times like this when righteous people who know God stand up, and seek healing, prayer forgiveness, and who really stand up for America. We need to protect her, guide her. She’s still growing. We righteous people need to repent on behalf of her. We need to be

forgiven, to educate and raise her. A lot of us can say that at the beginning of this trip, we felt paralyzed. We felt fear was taking over our hearts and preventing us from taking action and speaking out. But I feel like this trip spoke so clearly to us. That if you know God, even just a little bit, if you have a desire to care for another person, to follow that voice. If you feel like division is wrong, follow that voice, and protect America. She needs us.”

God was with us

As we traveled, Rev. Michael Jenkins, who traveled with us to every stop with Minister Reiko Jenkins, dipped True Mother’s memoir in every body of water that we passed. “Rev. Dunkley and I were able to dip True Mother’s memoirs in the Atlantic Ocean at Plymouth Rock, and at Point Comfort,” he said. “And I didn’t know if we could make it to the Bering Sea, but we just kept pushing. We dipped them in water around the country, and finally it opened up, and we found a bush pilot who could take us to a fishing village with fifty people living there. And we went to the Bering Sea, and we could see Russia (in our hearts)! When that bridge is built, we’ll be able to go right to Russia.”

The Northeast Region initiated this tour, which was the vision of Rev. Mika Deshotel and her team. The cooperation of Women’s Federation for World Peace USA, American Clergy Leadership Conference, Universal Peace Federation and the Collegiate Association for the Research of Principles made it possible. We are grateful to all the bikers who came out and to all the communities that planned events and took care of us. I am so full of gratitude for this experience, for the team, and for God’s and True Father’s protection as we traveled. Minister Jenkins pointed out that we did not have rain at a single event! Thank you to True Mother, who was insistent about our safety as we made this condition and for the prayers and support from our American leadership, especially Dr. Ki Hoon Kim and Rev. Demian Dunkley. 

The writer is the social media manager for Family Federation USA (HSA-UWC).

The Blessing is a Gift from True Parents

Rev. Sugiura was a member of the International One World Crusade (IOWC) when True Parents matched him with Miss Nancy Moriarty (an American) in 1980. After the matching, he worked for the providence in the United States. In July 1982, he and Nancy received the blessing in the 2,075-couple Holy Wedding Ceremony. After graduating from the Unification Theological Seminary (UTS), he worked as a minister in the US. When True Parents announced the Hometown Providence in 1993, he returned to Japan, where he served as a minister. This blessed family confirmed the value of True Parents' blessing through their experiences living in countries with vastly different environments.

By Shinobu Sugiura

I was born in the city of Tsushima in Aichi Prefecture in 1953 as the second of two sons. I joined the church soon after I entered Doshisha University in Kyoto in 1971 and learned the Divine Principle in a three-day workshop.

I wanted to learn about Christology and parallel providential periods in depth. With my spiritual parent's recommendation, I decided to participate in a Special Workshop held at the Takarazuka Training Center (then located in Hyogo Prefecture). Among the many lectures I heard during the workshop, the one on Jesus' life course made a deep impression on me. I was surprised and amazed to learn that we were living in the same era as the Messiah whom Heaven had sent to the world in the Last Days and the start of a new age. I firmly made up my mind that I would never denounce the Messiah. Besides my college studies, I devoted myself to activities in the Kyoto

Family Church Student Department.

Witnessing on IOWC with Western members

After graduating from college in 1976, I served on the IOWC. Back then, many members from Europe and the United States came to Japan, and Japanese members went out witnessing with them. They visited homes or went to meet high school principals or college professors and invite them to a Day of Hope Rally.

In June 1978, the Japanese IOWC members, including me, were sent to the United Kingdom. In September, True Parents matched these members. Most of the matchings occurred within two days. However, although True Father called on me two times, I ended up not getting matched.

For the next two and a half years, I served in England, doing home church activities in Derby and Manchester. During this period, every evening as I came back to the

church from daily activities I would ask God (Heavenly Parent) why I had not gotten matched.

At first, I thought it was because of my arrogant view that certainly I would get matched as a reward for seven years of devotion in church activities. I gradually realized that subconsciously I had an ideal of the perfect woman. To realize that each woman has God's divine nature, which God loves, required some time. At the end of December 1980, True Parents called the Japanese members who had not yet received a match to New York City. Several hundred US brothers and sisters were sitting in front of True Father. Behind True Father, Japanese brothers, I among them, stood in line.

True Father said, "Sisters who want to be blessed to a Japanese brother, raise your hands," and then matched a few couples. A short while later, True Father brought a petite sister in front of me. She was Nancy Moriarty

from Boston. This was how our matching took place.

She was born as the oldest of five siblings. In 1977, when she was a sophomore in college, she joined the church. Back when we first met, she was serving in the church in State of Michigan. Because of the differences in national and ethnic backgrounds, bi-national couples tend to have trouble finding common themes to talk about. As for us, however, we felt happy about our relationship from the start.

Entering UTS after the Blessing Ceremony

After the matching, Nancy went back to Michigan, and I stayed in New York City to carry out my mission. On July 1, 1982, we took part in the 2,075-Couple Holy Wedding Ceremony. Nancy and I enjoyed the magnificent entertainment performed at the indoor arena as we shared our joy over taking part in the holy Blessing Ceremony.

In the autumn of that year, I entered UTS with the hope of gaining a deeper understanding of Christianity. However, through a special meeting for Japanese members in the US held in January 1983, I came to understand the providential significance of missionary work in the US and decided to take time off from school and engage in activities as a member of the church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

In December of that year, Nancy and I started our family in one of the rooms in the church international headquarters in New York. While Nancy stayed and served in New York, I did front line witnessing in Philadelphia. I returned to New York once a month. After True Father began his imprisonment in the Danbury Federal Correctional Institution in July 1984, I engaged in outreach and volunteer work and visited Christian leaders.

In January 1985, our daughter Yoko was born. To be honest, Nancy and I were not living in an environment suitable to welcoming a baby. Nevertheless, since it is normal for a husband to stay with his wife during delivery in the US, I, too, headed for the hospital with Nancy before her due date.

Fourteen years had passed since I



Rev. Sugiura and Nancy Moriarty at the time of their 2,075-couple Holy Wedding Ceremony

came across True Parents teachings in Kyoto. I was grateful to God and True Parents for being able to offer our daughter before Heaven as the fruit of the past fourteen years. Feeling my responsibility as a father, I wanted to work even harder for God's providence for the sake of my daughter. However, back then, few blessed couples in the US had children. Since I lived away from my family, I believe Nancy must have had a tough time caring for the baby alone.

Soon after we celebrated Yoko's 100th day at the Philadelphia church, I received an assignment in Erie, Pennsylvania, doing pioneer witnessing as part of the providence to establish five hundred churches in the United States. In Erie, I engaged in activities such as outreach toward Christian ministers.

Meanwhile, Nancy moved into a church in Boston close to her parents' house for financial reasons. That her parents lavished love and care on Yoko as their first grandchild was a blessed relief.

My pioneer witnessing mission ended in January 1986 and I re-entered UTS after three years, while most of my fellow students had graduated. Through my studies, I gained a firm conviction that Unification Church theology is systematic and has the potential to contribute to religious reconciliation around the world. Furthermore, through communication with other Japanese-American blessed families in UTS, I

became aware of obstacles due to language barriers that can damage the husband-wife relationship. The concept of gender equality is widespread in US society. It can harm a relationship if a husband uses forceful language to his wife such as You must do this and that. Since then, I have been careful not to hurt my wife's feelings with careless words. On her part, my wife has always tried to understand me.

Serving as a minister in a pioneer church

After graduating from UTS in the summer of 1987, my family and I moved to Massachusetts in the New England region, because I was assigned to serve as a minister in a pioneer church there. Although we had to share our home with the church members, I was happy with the fact that we were together, since it was the first time for me to live with my family. Sometime later, Nancy's parents and sisters came to visit our church. I think they hid their shock when seeing our old, narrow house.

In 1988, our second daughter, Margaret, was born. I think our family became stabler after welcoming a second child. As a father of two, I felt a heavy responsibility on my shoulders. At the same time, I was excited to see my family expand from my wife to my children and my wife's parents and sisters.

That year, at a conference True Parents hosted at East Garden on the Day of All True Things, I received instructions to travel around the US as an itinerant worker with a few other members. I had to travel to each and every church in one region and then go on to another region after two months. My responsibilities included giving lectures and Sunday service on weekends and speaking to church members at meetings on weekdays. In those days, in the US, we conducted Christian clergy pilgrimage tours to Korea, and I sometimes gave lectures to US ministers at gatherings. After this providence, I returned to Massachusetts.

In August 1989, the day after the fourth anniversary of True Father's release from Danbury prison, he instructed about twenty US leaders to meet in Kodiak, Alaska. A special seven-day workshop took place at

North Garden, True Parents' home in Kodiak. It was a valuable experience, but I felt tense sleeping and eating with True Parents for a week. We went out to sea fishing for Halibut in the daytime. In the evening, we listened to True Father speak. Nightly, we got to bed after midnight. In the end, True Father's message started Saturday evening and ended at five o'clock that next morning, just in time for Pledge Service. It was truly a workshop to offer devotion to Heaven.

In 1990, our son Kozen was born. Now that we had three children, for Nancy to take care of them alone became increasingly difficult. Living as a minister, I am not sure if I was of enough help to her, but I did what I could. I changed the diapers and fed the baby his bottle, etc. In 1992, our third daughter Kenshuku was born and we became a family of six.

Being a parish leader in my hometown in Japan

On True Parents' birthday in January 1993, True Parents gathered UTS graduates in the US and told all Japanese graduates to return to their hometowns. In March of that year, I returned to Japan after fifteen years. I served as the leader of the Aichi Parish. I worked energetically every day from morning to night in order for Japan to fulfill its role as the Mother Nation. By the time I retired in 2019, I had served as a minister in Aichi, Tokyo and the Tohoku region.

Several months later, my family came to Japan and we moved into a dormitory for young members and blessed families in Nagoya. Since Nancy and our children did not understand Japanese at all, they did not leave the house for the first month.

The kitchen was for shared use, so it was not easy for Nancy to cook. She and the children were unused to bathing in a huge bathtub with other people. I believe it was a period of endurance, especially for Nancy. Back in the US, the children had been accustomed to eating cereal in the morning. When I saw them eat rice with milk or ketchup, I recognized the difference in food culture. In September, the children started to go to elementary school and nursery school. Since Nancy could not read

what the teacher had written in the parent-teacher correspondence notebook, she asked one of the members in the dorm house to help her.

While serving as a missionary, I also worked hard to witness to my mother (my father had died nine years earlier). My mother started to come to Sunday service once a month. "I wanted to see my grandchildren attending Sunday school," she said. In 1994, she attended the special workshop for Japanese woman leaders in the Central Training Center in Sutaek-dong, Guri, South Korea.

When I revealed my hope for her to receive the blessing, she accepted it. In 1995, she received the single-person blessing in the Kanayama Family Church. I could not dream of my mother getting blessed when I was back in the US. I offered a prayer of gratitude to heaven by the Kiso River for granting my long-cherished wish. A few years later when my children entered middle school and high school, I told them occasionally about how their grandmother came to receive the blessing. I believe this had a good influence on our family for conducting the second-generation matching and blessing.

In 1999, I went to Korea with my mother to participate in the Ancestor Liberation Ceremony in the HJ Cheonbo Training Center. My mother told me that she felt that "the truth is here" when she met members from various countries around the world at the training center. In 2000, she received the Physical World-Spiritual World Blessing.

Reflecting on our marriage in Jardim, Brazil

In November 1996, Nancy applied to do volunteer work in South America. While she was away for a month, I had to take care of the children on my own. The kids were still in elementary school and nursery school, so naturally they came to rely on me. I think my bond with our children grew stronger during this period.

My mother came over for two weeks and helped me with the housework. The family trust relationship that formed during this period has lasted to this day.

Nancy returned from South America in December 1997. The next year, the Forty-Day Workshop for



Off the coast of Kodiak, Alaska, Rev. Sugiura caught a Halibut.

World Peace and Ideal Families started in Jardim. Nancy and I left our children behind in Japan and headed there. We had time to reflect on our relationship during the workshop. Up until then, as a minister, I was too busy to spend time with my family. The only time I had with them was Sunday evenings. Needless to say, I had no time to spend with my wife. During the workshop, I had the chance to reflect on the hardship Nancy must have gone through. I felt so grateful for her, and our bond grew stronger. Nancy had experienced many difficulties ever since she married me. I think she was able to overcome those difficulties because of her absolute trust in True Parents' matching. "Cherish the relationship with your spouse. Do not fight from here on out." This message, which True Parents gave us during the workshop, left a strong impression on me.

When our children went on to middle school and high school, every day a series of tensions arose. Nancy was especially sensitive about our daughters' relationships with their friends. Since she was not fluent in Japanese, I was the one to go to school for our children's progress assessments. But as a minister, I was more concerned about the children of the

church members. Looking back, I feel sorry for not having been more concerned about my own children.

When I was serving in Tokyo, away from my family, I received a phone call from Nancy saying that Kenshuku, our third daughter, who was then a high school student, was violating her family curfew. It turned out that she was with her friends doing a school club activity, but Nancy always kept a lookout on our children's friendships at school and repeatedly reminded them about the importance of purity. Furthermore, she emphasized the importance of communication with other second-generation members and told the children to participate in Sunday services and workshops. I deeply appreciate that she raised our children well.

Nancy and I wanted our children to learn Korean. All four of our children went to the Sun Moon University Korean Language Institute after graduating from high school and learned Korean language, culture and good manners. Our oldest daughter and son went on to Sun Moon University after finishing their course at the language institute.

On deciding his career, my son asked me which course he should take. Usually, I tend to judge things based on my stereotypes. However, I answered, "You should choose the course you are interested in." I think this was a useful answer for building a trusting relationship with him. My second and third daughters found their life's path in the US after finishing the language institution course.

Our four children received the blessing

In June 2007, I received a sudden phone call from our second daughter, Margaret, who was participating in a forty-day workshop at the HJ Cheonbo Training Center in Korea. She said she wanted to take part in True Parents' matching. I was surprised because she was still a minor. But Nancy and I discussed it and decided to respect her wish.

As a result, True Parents matched her to Jun-hyeong Kim, the oldest son of Yong-ju Kim and Setsuko Kawano (Chungnam church, 6,000-couple blessing group). In July of that year, they took part in the 2007 International and Intercultural



Mr. and Mrs. Sugiura, after decades of investment, surrounded by children and grandchildren from Korea, Japan and the United States

Marriage Blessing to Bring the Era of Peace and Prosperity. Jun-hyeong entered Sun Moon University Graduate School, and in 2009 they started their family. Today, they have two children.

After that, we prepared for our oldest daughter Yoko's parents' matching. One day, a blessed couple from the US, Hiroshi and Hatsune Inose (in the 1,800-couple group), came to visit me at the Nagoya Family Church, North Aichi Parish, where I served as a parish leader. They wanted to introduce their oldest son, Eisuke, to Yoko.


After sufficient communication, Eisuke and Yoko participated in the Marriage Blessing Ceremony for the Reign of Peace in a Heavenly Civilization in July 2008. They started their family that year and now have two children. Today, they serve in the Kien Family Church.

In 2016, Nancy and I started preparing for the blessing of our third daughter Kenshuku. From her experience in missionary activity in the US, Kenshuku wanted a second-generation member from the US. Nancy searched for a candidate through the US Family Department. As a result, we decided to contact Robert and Akemi Bartholome in Florida (2,075-couple blessing group) to ask if their oldest son David was willing to meet our daughter.

In January 2017, David came to Japan to meet us. Nancy supported Kenshuku and David whenever they

suffered from misunderstandings. In September of that year, they took part in the 2017 HJ Cosmic Marriage Blessing in Korea. They started their family life together in Florida in 2018.

Our son Kozen registered on a blessing website in 2017 and met Chiyo Shibuya, the second daughter of Tomoyoshi Shibuya and Gyeonghi Lee (Niigata Parish, 6,500-couple group) in May of that year. After sufficient communication, they held an engagement ceremony at the Kien Family Church in July. They participated in the 2017 HJ Cosmic Marriage Blessing and started their family in 2018. They had their first child in September 2019.

We receive the blessing by True Parents' grace. Nancy and I are making effort to correct our course by constantly returning to this original point. Two among our four children married spouses from foreign countries. For transnational couples to understand each other may take time. I have learned through the process of my children's matching and blessing that second-generation members can move forward toward the blessing as long as they themselves are determined to do so. As our children live with their families in Korea, Japan and the US, I would like to watch over them with joy and constant sincerity. 

This originally appeared in FFWPU-Heavenly Japan's publication "Blessed Family," in the Spring 2020 edition.

