

# True Peace

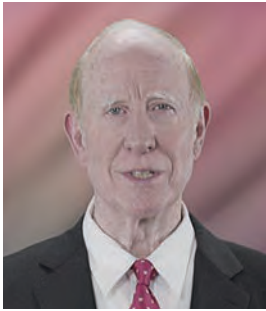
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# In Pursuit of Heavenly Parents' Lost Ideal

By Thomas Walsh



With its powerful and inspiring vision, the Rally of Hope is providing much needed insight, broad perspective, and the road map for a path forward during a time of crisis. In the era of Covid 19, the entire world is confronted with challenge, disruption, and uncertainty. In its wake, the pandemic has contributed to the rise of numerous associated threats, including the deterioration of international relations, a recession in the global economy; and, in many of our societies, a decline in the levels of trust and mutual respect, leading to division and polarization.

During the first Rally of Hope, UPF's Founder, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, called us all to abandon the one-sided pursuit of materialistic and self-serving interests. Instead, she called us to embrace and put into practice spiritual, moral and altruistic ideals. Only in this way, she proposed, can our world find its way forward through the challenges we face.

She underscored the principles of interdependence, mutual prosperity and universal values, indicating that by applying these core principles, we will not only prevail during the current crisis, but we will learn to thrive together, charting a course of creative development for the whole human family. This message struck a chord with millions.

Beyond its technological advancement, when we think about the Rally of Hope, we should not imagine an entirely new concept or idea, but rather an idea or vision that originates with God's ideal for humanity, with True Parents' vision of establishing God's kingdom and one family under God. The ultimate goal of God's providence has never changed throughout the course of history. Neither has it during the history of True Parents' lives in which they demonstrated attendance to God. That ultimate goal is to restore Heavenly Parents' lost ideal. To achieve this ultimate goal, True Parents have worked on many levels simultaneously, some profoundly internal and others relatively external. There are aspects to God's providence, and special conditions that have been set, that are known only to God and our Parents.

With this in mind, on the occasion of its fifteenth anniversary, and in honor of the eighth anniversary of the ascension of Rev. Sun Myung Moon, UPF recently convened its first virtual International Leadership Conference, ILC2020. ILC2020 featured more than thirty high-level sessions over the course of three days, running day and night and moving from time zone to time zone. With 250 expert speakers, ILC2020 was viewed by hundreds of thousands from over 170 countries.

ILC2020 explored at a deeper level the core principles of interdependence, mutual prosperity and universal values, drawing out their applicability to the search for solutions to our world's critical problems. It also highlighted the broad reach and outstanding capacities of UPF's global network, showcasing its fleet of primary associations, each of which engages leaders in key sectors: current and former heads of state (ISCP); first ladies and woman leaders (IAFLP); parliamentarians (IAPP); religious leaders (IAPD); media professionals (IMAP); academicians (IAAP); and business leaders (IAED).

All together this framework, rooted in core values, provides a context for meaningful dialogue, mutual respect and constructive collaboration. UPF's multi-sectoral approach is bearing fruit and is catching on, just as former UN Secretary General Ban indicated when he spoke during the first Rally of Hope, describing UPF's approach as an exemplary model of peace building and a cornerstone in the effort to create a world of lasting peace. UPF and the Rally of Hope are increasingly recognized worldwide as bearers of desperately needed inspiration, insight, analysis and innovation.

For this historic achievement we are indebted to UPF's Founders, True Parents. Over many decades, without any reservation, they invested their blood, sweat and tears, and certainly their treasure as well, pouring out all their passion, creativity and spiritual energy in service to God, the Heavenly Parent, seeking to fulfill the hope of all ages, a unified world of peace. In such a unified world of peace, as Dr. Moon says in the subtitle of her memoir, *Mother of Peace*, "God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes." This is our dream. This is our hope. May the Rally of Hope hasten that day, as I truly believe it will. *✍*

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*Dr. Walsh has led the Universal Peace Federation since its launch in 2005. The text was edited for TPMagazine.*

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# Declaring the Era of the Peace Kingdom

*Father delivered this address on March 23, 2004 in the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC, the U.S. capital, at the Coronation for the King of Peace of the Third Israel and Ambassador for Peace Awards Ceremony.*

**R**espected members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives, religious leaders from around the world, distinguished guests:

I would like to express my sincere gratitude for your presence here this evening in such large numbers, despite your busy schedules. Ladies and gentlemen, the starting point to unraveling the problems humanity faces today is knowing God with certainty, as the parent of all creation and on that foundation building true families that live in attendance to God. This calls for us to establish and attend God in our families, conceptually and as the substantial parent of us all. To do this, we must first clarify the relationship between God and humankind. God is the original entity of true love, true life and true lineage, and God is the true parent of all people.

#### **Perfecting humans go to heaven**

If human beings had not fallen, we would have reached perfection in God's true love as true children and have lived in attendance to God as our Parent. God's plan was for perfected human beings to bond as true husbands and wives, bear and raise true children so that they live in the kingdom of heaven on earth, and then live together eternally in the heavenly world as families in the kingdom of heaven. Think about it for a moment. If your father went to hell and only your mother went to heaven, what kind of heaven would that be? If your parents were to go to hell and only you children went to heaven, how could that be called heaven? The kingdom of heaven is where the whole family lives together in an eternal peace kingdom. On earth as well, God will reside where a whole family has established a kingdom of heaven. In such a family, the world of God's original ideal, the kingdom of heaven on earth, takes root.

#### **Realizing family heaven on earth**

How, then, are we to bring about this family heaven on earth? First, each member of the family must complete his or her individual character. Each person must shed the fallen nature that has passed from the Fall down through the generations and achieve



Before more than five hundred people, including Jewish, Christian and Islamic clergy, True Parents were crowned the King and Queen of Peace. *The New York Times* later reported Father saying, "Emperors, kings and presidents" had "declared to all heaven and earth that Reverend Sun Myung Moon is none other than humanity's Savior, Messiah, Returning Lord and True Parent."

the perfection of his or her character. Each person must become victorious in the struggle between mind and body. Then the world of harmony will bear fruit in each individual's perfected character, a state of one heart, one body and one thought. Fallen nature, which causes jealousy, envy, greed, hatred and all other evils, will never again take root in a person who has achieved this state. Shedding one's fallen nature is not easy. The reality of fallen human beings is that we vacillate even when trying to break habits like smoking or drinking alcohol, which are formed during the relatively short span of a few years or decades. We cannot expect, then, that it will be easy to cast off fallen nature, which we inherit through lineage going back thousands, even tens of thousands of years. This is impossible by human effort alone. We need to stand on the foundation of absolute faith and strive our entire lives to establish God as our vertical axis. Even then, it is a difficult fight.

We cannot think we will gain victory unless we enter a state of absolute love for God, loving God even more than we love our own parents and children and attending God as our true parent. We cannot hope to win this fight without a foundation of absolute obedience,

following God even at the cost of laying down our lives. Herein lies the reason that religions consider practicing spiritual disciplines such as fasting, sexual abstinence, sacrifice and penance to be of utmost importance. We can be born again, recast as new people in whom Heaven can reside and with whom the spirit world can cooperate. In such a state, we will not have anything of which to be ashamed, even if our entire life and being is exposed before all of God's creation. We need to be people of upright character, having achieved "high noon settlement," casting not even the slightest shadow. When we achieve this, Satan will flee from our presence for eternity.

#### **Perfecting the four realms of heart**

Individuals who achieve maturity of character come together to form true families, and the members of these families work together to establish what I call the "four great realms of heart." Such families resemble an individual who has accomplished the complete oneness of mind and body. The kingdom of heaven is a place we enter family by family. Not every family, however, is qualified to enter heaven automatically. You need a foundation to be a true family and to complete the four great realms of

heart. A true family that can enter the kingdom of heaven comprises true individuals who have each engaged fully in the four great realms of heart and whose lineage centers on God.

What do I mean by the four great realms of heart? I refer to the heart of parents, the heart between a husband and wife, the heart of children and the heart of siblings. This is found in a true family bound by God's original true love, true life and true lineage through a pure three-generational lineage of grandparents, parents, children and grandchildren. Here, the love between parents and children establishes the vertical relationship between upper and lower; the love between the husband and wife establishes the horizontal relationship that brings left and right into definitive oneness and the love between siblings establishes the relationship between front and back. In this way, God's ideal of creation is no longer a mere concept or dream. It is perfected in reality through the completion of the four great realms of heart centered on true lineage, family by family. The realm of parental heart is acquired naturally as parents go through the process of bearing children and then raising and educating them with true love. In other words, it is the heart that enables the parents to own true love in relation to their children. With no relationship to children, no one can own love as a parent. Next, the realm of conjugal heart is the love relationship that extends true lineage. In this, husband and wife each are grateful for the other having established them as an owner of love, and each learns true love through interacting with the other. They learn and experience true love when the husband lives for the sake of his wife, even if it means sacrificing his own life, and the wife attends her husband with the heart of attending God. The perfection of the husband-wife relationship is possible only on this basis. The moment a bride and groom share love with God's blessing on their wedding night, they inherit the palace of true love, true life and true lineage.

The wife, through her husband, receives God's ideal son, who is also heaven's older brother, heaven's husband and heaven's parent. The husband stands in the corresponding position in receiving his wife as



True Father wrote a calligraphic message that emphasized "the earth will take the lead until the day when it overflows with the true families united with God."

heaven's older sister, heaven's wife and heaven's parent. When the realm of conjugal heart is perfected, the relationship between the husband and wife also becomes absolute, unique, unchanging and eternal, because God is absolute, unique, unchanging and eternal. The notion of divorce will become obsolete. There will be a life of happiness, filled with only blossoming flowers of mutual respect and love.

#### **Love through three generations**

Next, how can we describe the heart of children, and how is it obtained? Parents are the center, in God's position in the family, and it is impossible for a child to be born without parents. The relationship between parent and child is established not by human morality, it is established by a heavenly morality. Thus, the parent-child relationship is a vertical relationship, not horizontal. It is not a relationship that exists as destiny, by which I mean that human effort can change it. It is a relationship of absolute and eternal fate. Children experience and learn the heart of true love as they attend their parents in daily life, placing their parents in a position higher than themselves. Through a natural process, they come to understand that the love, life and lineage that they inherit from their parents originate in

God. Children who watch and learn from their parents in this way will grow up to become husbands and wives who have no fallen nature, and who ultimately obtain the position of true parents themselves. The cyclical and spherical motion of the family unit that continually repeats the three-generational pattern in this way is the basic model for building the kingdom of heaven. Lastly, the realm of the heart of siblings is realized through brothers and sisters who live as a family in attendance to the same true parents. The heart among brothers and sisters establishes the relationship between front and back. True parents are a husband and wife living in truth, and children who attend such parents will naturally learn to live according to heavenly morality and ethics among siblings. It will be a beautiful sight, where a younger brother or sister attends and reveres an older brother or sister and the older sibling looks after his younger sibling with a loving heart. The older sibling represents "front" and the younger sibling represents "back." The older sibling represents the father, while the younger sibling represents the mother. The perfection of the realm of heart between siblings is the foundation for all people to live for the sake of others through love and service.

### **Establishing a true family is important**

Respected guests, as the number of “true peace family kingdoms” that have perfected the four great realms of heart increases, “true peace tribe kingdoms,” “true peace nation kingdoms,” and ultimately the “true peace world kingdom” will appear. This will become the original world of God’s ideal, the kingdom of heaven on earth, the eternal kingdom of peace on earth. I am declaring this here and now. Humanity has lived without knowing that to establish true families is the most serious and foundational commandment of Heaven. A new era has arrived today. The number of people around the world who have accepted my teaching and are standing resolutely for the sake of building the kingdom of peace is growing by leaps and bounds. Heaven and earth are shaking with the cries of bright young people who are determined to build true families even if they must give their lives in order to protect their purity. Already, we find hundreds of millions of Blessed families around the world. They are turning the tide of a world in which ethics and morality have been rapidly washing away. That is not all. The spirit world is one step ahead of us in breaking open the age of the peace kingdom. Starting with the five great saints—Jesus, Buddha, Confucius, Socrates and Muhammad—more than one hundred twenty billion Blessed families are working day and night to cooperate with us on earth and prepare for the day that is to come. According to the Principle of Creation, God’s ideal world must be completed first on earth.

### **Carrying out the true love revolution**

Although people today are descendants of the Fall, God’s unending love and the spirit world’s cooperation now allow us to understand the nature of the heavenly kingdom. Please recognize that it is time to accomplish a true love revolution of overwhelming proportions, taking as our example the miraculous transformations in the spirit world. The time has come for you as well to open your hearts and receive the secrets that Heaven is disclosing in this age through me. In one sense, I



True Parents during the banquet portion of the event.

am a human being living with a physical body like each of you. However, in the context of Heaven’s providence, I am God’s ambassador, sent to earth with full authority. I am sent to accomplish God’s command to save the world’s six billion people, restoring them to Heaven with the original goodness in which they were created. The five great saints and many other leaders in the spirit world, including even Communist leaders such as Marx, Lenin and Stalin, central to all manner of barbarism and murder on earth, and dictators such as Hitler, have found strength in my teachings, mended their ways and been reborn as new persons. Emperors, kings and presidents who enjoyed opulence and power on earth and even journalists who had worldwide fame, have now placed themselves at the forefront of the true love revolution. Together they have sent to earth a resolution expressing their determination in the light of my teaching on the true family ideal. They have declared to all heaven and earth that Rev. Sun Myung Moon is none other than humanity’s Savior, Messiah, returning Lord and True Parent. This resolution has been announced on every corner of the globe. Respected guests, it is now only a matter of time. Look at the world. Do you see

anything that gives you genuine hope for the future? Sooner or later, we have to give what we have to our descendants and leave this world. What gift would be more precious than that of completing the family ideal in your family, so as to guarantee eternal peace and happiness for your children? Surely no one who has such an opportunity hesitates to take up the task of building the peace kingdom on earth, for which God has waited thousands of years. I have reached the advanced age of eighty-five years, by the Korean way of counting. All the same, I will continue to work harder than anyone else until the day the earth overflows with God’s true families, guns in the Middle East fall silent and give way to fireworks of peace and joy and shouts of eternal victory celebrating the unification of my homeland, Korea, echo across the Pacific to be heard in America. I hope that you leaders, representing the world’s six billion people in this ceremony, will join hands with me. I call you to take the lead in building what is God’s original ideal and the desire of all humanity, the peace kingdom on the earth. Thank you. ㄸ

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*The text is from Pyeong Hwa Gyeong, Book 1, speech 15.*



# Actualizing One Family of Humankind in Peace

*True Mother delivered this message on September 27 to a global audience at the Second One Million People Rally of Hope for the Realization of a Heavenly Unified World at the Cheongshim Peace World Center.*

**R**espected current and former heads of state, other leaders from all walks of life, religious leaders and blessed families who are all urgently seeking to bring about the completion of the providence as Heavenly Parent's Holy Community:

We are approaching the season of the Chuseok holiday [the Korean harvest festival]. In just four days, we will celebrate this most important holiday. As a people from an agrarian culture, the Korean people revered Heaven. On this autumn holiday, they

expressed their gratitude to Heaven for blessing them with an abundant harvest from their year-long labor in the fields and paid their respects to their ancestors. Our people share this beautiful custom wherein parents and siblings come together, gaze at the full moon and share love with one another for the complete reign of peace in the family. When can we, humanity, return to that original place? Unpredictable natural disasters are arising all over the world and the coronavirus pandemic is still worsening. We are all worried that it will not

come to an end this year.

## **A time to heed Heaven's warning**

Human history has been a history of conflict and war as a result of egoism and self-centered greed unrelated to God, our Creator. And to this day, people continue to wage wars. The human race, however, must return to its original position. In order to do that, all people need to realize that God, the Creator and center of the universe, wishes to become the parent of humanity.

This year, the world has suffered



from not only the unpredictable COVID-19 pandemic, but also from climate change repercussions such as localized monsoons and flooding, strong typhoons, landslides and forest fires. We absolutely need the sun, water and air to maintain life. We may be living more comfortably thanks to the development of civilization and science, but we did not foresee these calamities. With the increase in the atmosphere of carbon dioxide and other pollutants, I feel deeply concerned about whether our beloved children will be able to live healthy lives in the future.

### **Heed Heaven's call, revive the creation**

People alive in the present time must put aside their greed, which leads to division and prevents all people from uniting. If we are to pick countries that suffered the most harm this year, they might be the United States and China. Then, what should be done? A leader that loves his or her people will have to listen to Heaven's voice to prevent further loss of life or damage to property from taking place, as there is no way these crises can be solved by human power alone.

From the perspective of the flow of creation, scientific development has become unbalanced. The created, natural world continues to live according to the circular laws of creation. This means it should not be interrupted by human beings. The future of humanity and that of the earth cannot be guaranteed if humankind remains in the situation of having lost its original value and being in a state of ignorance. I cannot look on as God continuously waits and endures to see that day. Leaders of the world must listen to Heaven's voice.

People, who were originally free from the Fall, had been created to be eternal. The Creator is our Parent. However, people have fallen to a position in which they can no longer go to Heavenly Parent. Hence, I sincerely hope that we can come to our senses even now and are able to find our Heavenly Parent. Only by meeting our Heavenly Parent can we have a future and the earth have a future. I heard that 40 percent of the Earth is experiencing desertification. This is truly heart-breaking, as

the air supply, the most essential element for life, is under threat. Hence, I would like to say the following to China, which is home 1.3 billion people: China needs to realize how great a blessing it would be if that nation, with its huge population and land, could turn the Gobi Desert into a forest using scientific techniques, investing significantly for the reclamation of the desert.

### **The high cost of disunity**

The day when all nations become children of our Heavenly Parent, the Creator, is the day when we can truly become one family of humanity that attends Heavenly Parent. The day will come when all two hundred or so nations will live happily with one another as brothers and sisters under their Heavenly Parent. When all leaders and all people in the world begin to listen to Heaven's voice, become aligned like sunflowers facing the sun and usher in the day when everyone truly becomes one family of peace, all problems will be solved.

Think about it: All nations are investing astronomical amounts of money on armaments to protect their own countries. If one-tenth of that money could be used for the people, and nations consequently became prosperous, would any of these countries think of waging war? If countries can become prosperous even without going to war, would there be any need to be greedy at the risk of people's lives? God has given us a final warning more than once. This cannot be delayed any further. People must realize this.

### **God's children's duty is environmental preservation**

During the Korean Chuseok holiday, Koreans watch the full moon together and revere Heaven. Siblings living far away also come together and express their gratitude to Heaven and to their parents. The entire neighborhood comes together as well. If a world without anxiety and worry is not the kingdom of heaven on earth, what could be? I will say it one more time—Heaven created this beautiful earth for us. Until now people have been undutiful as a result of the Fall. Please remember that the day will come when all people repent from a position in

which they attend Heaven and begin to make effort to regain their original state. That will be the day of the realization of true peace and of the formation of one human family.

I ask the following of the United States: Undoubtedly, God has blessed the United States. However, this was not a blessing for the United States alone. Heaven desired to embrace all humanity through the founding of the United States. The United States today, which stands on the Christian foundation, must become a nation that attends Heavenly Parent. How can some people, out of human ignorance, think of abandoning the earth, and moving into space? It is our duty as Heavenly Parent's children to restore the earth we are living in to the original state in which it was created at the beginning, by mobilizing all the capacities of science.

When we think of the Creator, our Heavenly Parent, we must love nature. When I walked through the garden in Cheon Jeong Gung in the past, I rarely saw bees or butterflies. So I planted a garden, and grew flowers. After that, they began appearing, and now there are many kinds of bees finding nectar in the garden. You cannot imagine how much I had longed for this to happen! Through this work of nature, I saw how people's thoughts could change; they could overcome their ignorance. Until now, we have not taken good care of nature. Even though the season has changed, and it is quite chilly in the mornings and evenings, bees continue to work hard. It is my sincerest hope that all of you, with your leaders, can work together to create the kingdom of heaven on earth, where all countries live in joy and harmony with nature.

By 2050, the population of 7.7 billion people in our world is expected to increase to 10 billion. Yet, the area of land suitable for people to live on is also gradually decreasing as a result of climate change. Now is the time to put aside all greed and restore this beautiful earth, as original sons and daughters, before it is too late. Hence, I sincerely ask you one more time to continue doing your best until the day Heavenly Parent can say, How much have I waited for this day! Thank you very much! ㄹ



# The Significance and Purpose of the Hanwon Korean House

*This was True Mother's message at the dedication of the Hanwon Korean House on September 28 at that location.*



I have named this place the Hanwon Korean House. Did I not mention in the past that I would plan this Cheonwon Garden, and that I would show you what heaven on earth, where Heavenly Parent's dreams have come true, looks like? Hence, each project that was planned is gradually being realized. When this entire plan is completed, Heavenly Parent will walk through this beautiful garden and pass by here to rest for a while. As he rests and views the surrounding landscape, he will think, Ah, I can have this experience with my loving children thanks to True Parents. With such a grateful heart, Heavenly Parent will rest, have some tea, eat some delicious rice cakes, and depending on time, he might even enjoy a nice meal. In the beginning, I thought the site was a bit small and wondered whether the grand Hanwon Korean House could actually be erected there. So initially, I thought we might build something like a pavilion, but I felt the strong desire to attend Heavenly Parent throughout all

four seasons. Consequently, this Hanwon Korean House will be a haven for Heavenly Parent, where he can come to rest, a place where he will feel joy looking at nature.

That is why I have asked that owls be placed here looking in all directions. People all over the world love owls. During the Goguryeo period [918–1392], their symbolic bird was the crow, which was called sam-jok-o [three-legged black bird, the intermediary between Heaven and people]. During the Joseon Dynasty [1392–1910], they used the magpie. We even have a children's song entitled, "Magpie—Magpie's New Year's Day." However, in the Cheon Il Guk era, the owl is that bird that will protect Heavenly Parent's beloved children twenty-four hours

a day without ceasing, block anything that is impure and bring good fortune upon them. So, centered on this garden, I have called this place Buheung Garden. Within this Korea House will be a restaurant and all other facilities. They will form the HJ Buheung Waterside Café. In this way, the term "Buheung" will be included. [Translator's note: "Buheung" usually means "revival" or "resurrection," but on that day, Dr. Young-ho Yun explained that the bu (부) in buheung (부흥) here means prosperity.] The Hanwon Korean House is located in the nation where—for the only time in history—True Parents were born. It is also an eco-friendly building. I hope you can use it frequently and come to like it a lot. ㄹ

- ❶ From left: Yeon Ah Moon and Wonju Jeong McDevitt gave a congratulatory address, Young-ho Yun was the MC and Ki-seong Lee then-president of FFWPU-Heavenly Korea prayed at the opening of the Hanwon Korean House, the future site of grand banquets.
- ❷ True Mother holy salting the Hanwon Korean House.
- ❸ Professor Chang-soon Kwon was instrumental in the creation of the Hanwon Korean House.
- ❹ From left: senior Japanese lecturer Seiji Takagi and lecturers Toshiaki Yokoi and Takemori Fukatsu
- ❺ From left: Myong-kwan Lee, vice-president and Ki-seong Lee, then president of FFWPU-Korea offering gifts





## Reminiscences

*This was True Mother's Message at a Special Gathering she hosted at Cheon Jeong Gung for future leaders, a hundred and thirty cadets from Sunmoon Sunhak Academy and sixty from the Hyo Jeong Cultural Center.*

**A**re you from our first, second or third generation? Regardless, when it comes to the completion of the providence in the Cheon Il Guk era, the only begotten daughter, True Mother and you are at the center. Shin-chul and Shin-heung are your team leaders? [Yes!] They are my grandsons, but in this Cheon Il Guk era, they are sons. So, you are also my sons and daughters.

Through hard study of God's providence and many experiences, you have become precious stones among precious stones. You are pearls among pearls. You are not alone. As Shin-chul and Shin-heung go forward in this way, you move together with one heart and mind and make it a habit to report to Heaven before you begin doing anything. [Yes!] You should pray that your father and uncles in the spiritual world will be with you on the path you are taking and that they will work amazing miracles through you and support you throughout your course. You will be able to see the results immediately. Hence, I am asking you to always start everything with a report to Heaven, with that heart. [Yes!]

I heard that you are returning home today. So, I will give you some pumpkin taffy, which Father loved when he was here. Now, in Alaska during this season, in September and



Representatives of the two youth groups whom True Mother invited to Cheon Jeong Gung present flowers to True Mother.

October, it even snows. It snows and rains. In winter it rains a lot.

Even so, we spent a lot of time there for the ocean providence, and it was autumn, but we had to put on all the clothes we could wear. We even had to wear raincoats. It is very cold there. One thing that helps in the cold is candy that can generate some calories; you need that. And back then, I do not know if there is still such candy like that today, but I remember the brand name Werther's Honey.

I bought many of those candies for Father and those around him, and they all enjoyed them a lot. When we came to Korea, there was pumpkin taffy from Ulleung Island. When I

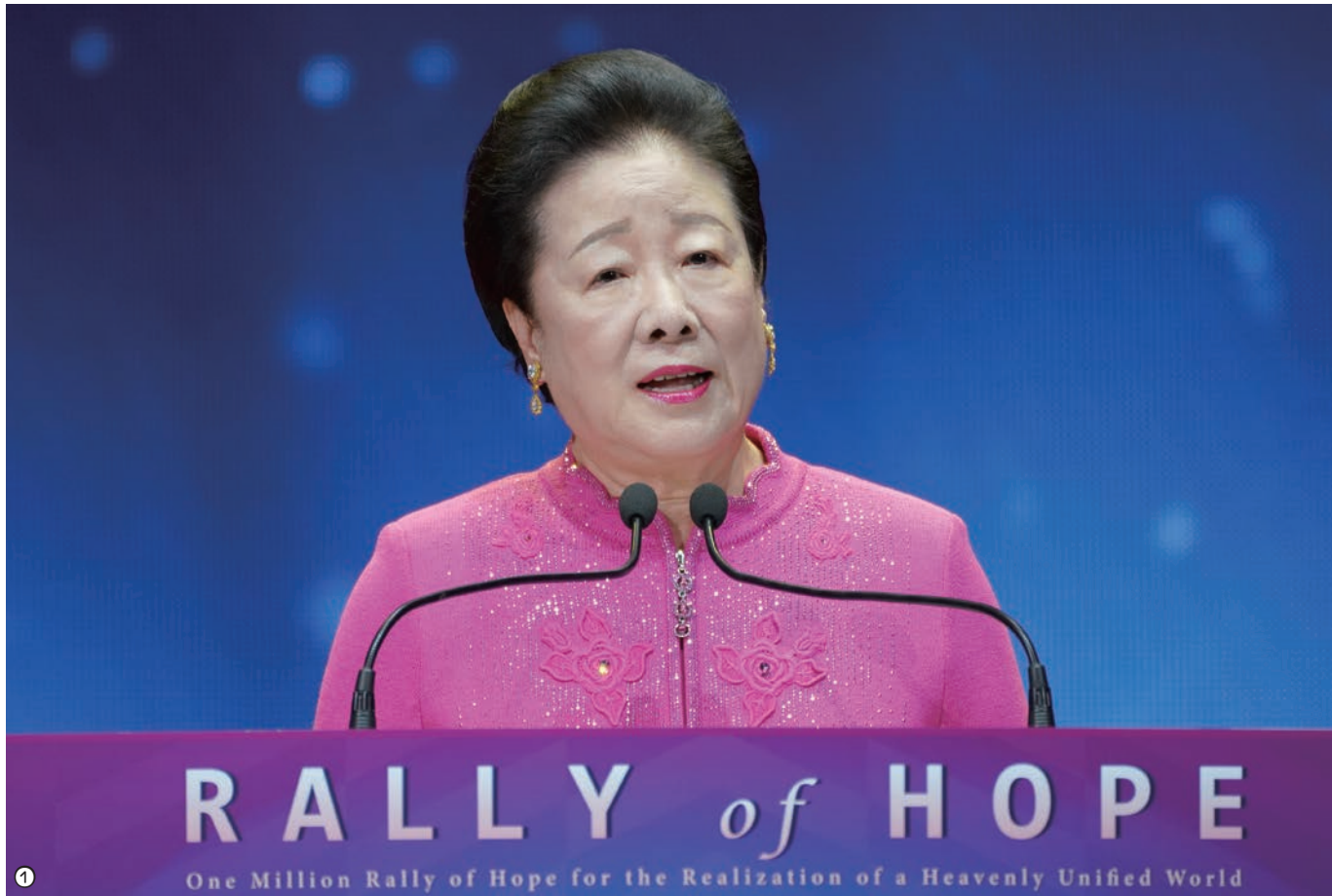
gave it to Father, he really liked it. He always had it whenever he needed some sugar. Even now, those taffies are still in our study. After I heard that you were leaving today, I asked that all the taffies be brought down here.

Those in charge can come out and receive it. You will probably be able to receive three or four each. [Thank you!] Enjoy it, as it is sweet. As you eat the taffies and reflect over what has happened until now, I hope you can always think of me as being an awesome great-mother. [Yes!] I will conclude my remarks now. I have ordered hamburgers for you, so please enjoy them on your way back. [Warm applause] ♪



Signaling their love for the world are 190 students who had the opportunity to bond with True Mother at Cheon Jeong Gung.

The Second One Million Rally of Hope for the Realization of a Heavenly United World





- ① True Mother speaking to a global audience of millions from the Peace World Center
- ② From top-left: Rally of Hope Speakers: Former Lutheran World Federation president, Munib A. Younan; Roman Catholic Cardinal Kelvin Felix; UPF chairman, Thomas Walsh; former president of Nigeria, Goodluck Jonathan; former US Congressman Dan Burton; former Philippines' Speaker of the House, Jose DeVenecia; former president of the European Commission, Jose Manuel Barroso; former US vice-president, Richard Cheney; president of Sao Tome and Principe, Evaristo Carvalho; former US vice-president, Dan Quayle; Speaker of the Cambodian National Assembly, Heng Samrin; former prime minister of Pakistan, Yousaf Raza Gillani.
- ③ Yeon Ah Moon, president of UPF Korea, and Jeong-ro Yoon, a former president of UPF-Korea who takes care of ambassadors for peace, presenting flowers to True Mother.
- ④ True Mother and Wonju Jeong McDevitt cutting the victory celebration cake.
- ⑤ The sound of Eog Mansei reverberates throughout the world



# Grand Dedication Ceremony of Cheon Seung Jeon



- ① By pressing the button, the ceremony begins as the sculpture is unveiled.
- ② The sculpture commemorating True Mother's victories.
- ③ Wonju Jeong McDevitt and Jeon-gwan Kim presenting flowers to True Mother
- ④ Dr. Young-ho Yun, the master of ceremonies, gave a progress report.
- ⑤ The building is twenty-one meters high and twenty meters wide. Inside, there is a sand art movie theater specially designed to commemorate the victorious success of the last seven years.





# Dedication of Hanwon Korean House and Special Luncheon



- ① Yeon Ah Moon gave encouraging words; Dr. Yun was the M.C.; Rev. Lee prayed and Hyun-yeong Lee led cheers of mansei.
- ② As Dr. Yun speaks from the podium, Mother and the audience bask in the beautiful atmosphere of the Hanwon Korean House.
- ③ True Mother, has realized another dream, another large project has come to fruition!
- ④ Yeon Ah Moon and Julia HJ Moon lighting candles on the altar for the Chuseok holiday.
- ⑤ Shin-chul Moon, True Parents' grandson, pays tribute during Chuseok's memorial service with the assistance of a staff member
- ⑥ Chuseok comes at a time when the moon is full. People gaze at the moon and make a wish.
- ⑦ True Mother awarding students with something to help them in their studies.



# A Great Cheonbo Festival and Special 2020 Blessing Ceremony





- ① True Mother gave a short speech expressing her great happiness that this day has finally arrived.
- ② The sacred list of Cheonbo family enrollees, being presented to True Mother; Yeon-ah Moon receiving her framed Cheonbo medal as Julia HJ Moon waits her turn; Yeon-ah Moon and Julia HJ Moon distribute the materials to the other Cheonbo family representatives
- ③ Dr. Young-ho Yun was master of ceremonies
- ④ The Holy Water Ceremony with seven religious leders; Ki-seong Lee then-FFWPU-Korea chair, participated in the ceremony and then prayed.
- ⑤ True Mother and three of her grandchildren participate in the Eog Mansei led by then-President Eiji Tokuno in Japan.
- ⑥ Miss Shin Yeon Moon sang with the accompaniment of her brothers and True Mother.
- ⑦ Singing actors entertained the recipients and the wider audience with a musical.
- ⑧ Congratulatory remarks were conveyed to the Cheonbo couples by Prophet Radebe of the Revelation Church of God; former Vice President of Nepal, Pamananda Zhah; Samia Burton and former US congressman Dan Burton; former president of the Central African Republic, Alexander Ngede; and former president of Zambia, Nevers Mumbai.
- ⑨ In the afternoon of the same day they held a Blessing Ceremony.
- ⑩ Ki-seong Lee and his wife, Un-jeong Jang, officiated the ceremony.



# The Victory Celebration



- ① True Mother and Yeon Ah Moon lighting candles on the cake commemorating the fifteenth anniversary of the founding of the Universal Peace Federation.
- ② Yun Young-ho was the MC; Mrs. Wonju Jeong-McDevitt read True Mother's speech and Ki-seong Lee prayed.
- ③ A Hyo Jeong Cultural Group performed and the Little Angels sang.
- ④ Yeon Ah Moon and Julia HJ Moon presenting flowers to True Mother.
- ⑤ Various leaders giving gifts to True Mother.
- ⑥ True Mother speaking.
- ⑦ Chairman Kim Ki-hoon, vice-president of FFWPU International, who was at that moment in the United States, led the final cheers of eog mansei.





# A Way through the Wilderness Together

*The writer is the bishop emeritus of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land. He served as president of the Lutheran World Federation from 2010 to 2017. He is a 2020 Sun Hak Peace Prize laureate. What follows is his September 27 presentation at the Second Rally of Hope for the Realization of a Heavenly Unified World.*

By Munib A. Younan

**M**ay the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God the Father and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all evermore. Amen. St Paul writes, "For through the Spirit, by faith, we eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness." (Galatians 5:5) Dear friends all over the world, first, I thank the Universal Peace Federation and its chairperson Dr. Thomas Walsh for organizing this Rally of Hope. My thanks also extend to the founder of "UPF," Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, for initiating and hosting this important rally.

The Christian hope is founded on Christ's crucifixion and resurrection and opens a life in the light of God's word. Christian ethics of hope anticipate the universal coming of God in the potentialities of history. This is the reason that the biblical story both in the Old Testament and New Testament is always a renewed message of hope in a hopeless situation as God works in history. The Reformer Dr. Martin Luther said, "Faith is the dialectic, which conceives the idea of all things that are to be believed; and hope is like rhetoric, which develops, urges, persuades and exhorts to steadiness, so that faith does not collapse in temptation but keeps the word and holds firmly to it."

Today we are witnessing a culture of fear and anxiety that promotes hopelessness. COVID-19 has shown us the weakness of human beings. Although, it has painfully created uncertainties, suffering and death, it reminded us of our common humanity, which is seeking a common hope from God our Savior. In this neo-culture of fear and anxiety, Prophet Isaiah gives a word of hope to the people of the Exile: "Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old. I am about to do new things; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." (Isaiah 43:18-19).

## God calls us to work together

Dear friends, God does not want us to stay idle and only hope for the end times and create unrealistic eschatological scenarios. God wants us to keep our living faith in him



in this broken world. God also asks us to heed to his promises, trust him wholeheartedly and to boldly work in the power of his hope to transform our world to become a safe haven of justice, dignity, equality, freedom, reconciliation, harmony and peace.

God calls us as states, nations, religious followers and agnostics to be a beacon of hope and to work together to implement God's agenda of justice and dignity in our broken world. As we celebrate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations, we are called to work together that this organization will not be a platform for the powerful but a platform for the power of truth, justice and equality for all.

God also calls all faith-based organizations and followers of different religions to more frequently work together for our common equal humanity and find the common values of love, hope dignity and sustainability. God calls us today to behave responsibly in caring for his creation and for the suffering environment.

Our nations are looking for signs of hope at this crucial time of history. Do we dare to work together for these signs of hope? I often say, "A human being can live three weeks without food, three days without water, and three minutes without air, but a human being cannot live three seconds without hope. God calls us to be prophetic today at this time in history in being agents of hope in a hopeless world.

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## PRAYER

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*Let us Pray:*

*Our God of hope, we are living in fear and hopelessness. Thank you that through the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, you created hope in us in the midst of hopelessness. Send us Your Holy Spirit to implant Your hope*

*in us. Send us Your Holy Spirit to mold us, change us and transform us. Send us Your Holy Spirit to transform the darkness into light, the injustice into justice, oppression into freedom, hatred into love, the culture of fear and anxiety into culture of trust, hatred into love, tensions among religious groups to harmony, inequality to equality and equal opportunities, racism into seeing God's image in every human being regardless of their gender, color, ethnicity, political or religious affiliation.*

*Make us to be your agents of hope in a hopeless situation. Empower us with your Spirit so that with St. Paul we can pray, "May the God of Hope fill (us) with all joy and peace in believing, so that (we) may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Amen. God bless you and make you agents of hope wherever you are. Amen. ☩*

# Peace Be with You

*The writer was born on the island of Dominica in 1933, ordained as Roman Catholic priest in 1956, consecrated archbishop of Castries, the capital of St. Lucia, in 1981, retired in 2007 and elevated to cardinal in 2014.*

By Kelvin Edward Felix

Consider it a privilege to be part of this celebration marking the fifteenth anniversary of the Universal Peace Federation. It reminds us that we are all God's children, his family, and we have a sacred duty to work together to bring about peace in this world. So we thank Mother Moon who works so tirelessly to make peace a reality in the world of today by her mission of sympathy for families who are struggling and suffering in many difficult situations. We thank her again for her constant prayer that God may bless the work of the Universal Peace Federation and make his presence felt in all the sufferings that families have to endure.

When Jesus came to his disciples on the evening of his resurrection, the first thing he said to them was "Peace be with you!" That greeting has not changed; it is the same greeting that has brought us together at this time and place. Peace comes from the presence of someone who made us in love and keeps us in his grace,



someone we can count on to be with us in all things and under all circumstances. When we are in God's presence, we are with one who knows us better than anyone else does and who wants us to have the best that life can offer. In such a presence, we have an inner calm that exceeds human understanding and measurement. This gathering invites us into the presence of God, where the gift of peace awaits us. So that in each session, we can discover that God is nearer to us than we are to ourselves. To know God's presence in this way is to be at peace.

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*Cardinal Felix received his ordination as a priest in 1956 and his elevation to cardinal in 2014. He is the archbishop emeritus of Castries, the capital of the island nation of St. Lucia.*

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## PRAYER

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*Let us pray.*

*Father look upon us gathered here, Your children, seeking the peace You have brought to the world. Use us as Your instruments, so that we can be bearers of that peace, bringing love where there is hatred, pardon where there is injury and hope where there is despair.*

*Bless each one of us and empower us to go out in the world, to bring your message of peace to our brothers and sisters.*

*This we ask to Christ our Lord. Amen. ☩*

# International Unity Will Mitigate the Effects of the Crisis

*Goodluck Jonathan is from a family of canoe-makers, but he pursued an academic career before entering politics. He earned a master's degree in Fisheries Biology and a PhD in Zoology. He has worked as an environmental protection officer, a schoolteacher, a college lecturer and a science inspector for the Ministry of Education. He was also president of Nigeria before True Mother appointed him chairman of the International Summit Council for Peace–Africa.*

By Goodluck Jonathan

**O**ur Dear Mother Moon, your excellencies, heads of state and government, former presidents and former prime ministers, chairman of UPF International, Dr. Thomas Walsh, distinguished ladies and gentlemen:

I am delighted to be at this Rally of Hope which is focusing on the ways of mitigating the challenges that we face in the twenty-first century, ranging from pandemics, to climate change, conflicts and poverty. I commend Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, the co-founder of the Universal Peace Federation, who has continued to skillfully steer the ship of UPF, taking it to loftier heights, since the passing of her husband, Rev. Sun Myung Moon. I should observe that this event is remarkably taking place exactly eight years after he departed this world on September 3, 2012. May God Almighty continue to grant his soul eternal rest.

I thank the International Summit Council for Peace (ISCP), the leadership and the entire team of the Universal Peace Federation for their continuous advocacy of sustainable peace in the world. I also commend world leaders for


sparing the time to be in this conference at a time like this. The fact that this Rally of Hope is held today is a testament to the commitment and passion of world leaders to be part of the peaceful resolution of the challenges to the world and its development. The world will be better for it when we commit to building on the common ground that we all share as one human family by promoting greater solidarity among all peoples. The COVID-19 crisis created widespread disruption throughout the world. The disruption has impacted the lives of the individuals who have been infected, their families and loved ones. It has also impacted health care workers, children who were forced out of schools—some of whom have lost their parents and loved ones—workers who lost their jobs and companies that were forced into bankruptcy. Nations have also not been spared as health facilities have been stretched while development and economies have continued to nosedive. But we are here today to encourage everyone that this time is a potential turning point and transformative moment for the world.





At times like this, I hold fast to the International Summit Council for Peace's philosophy of Interdependence, Mutual Prosperity and Universally Shared Values. And, as the chairman of ISCP-Africa and as one who is very concerned about the future of Africa, I equally encourage other leaders to think and reflect on these principles. This will help in the process of creating

an innovative approach to the whole idea of conflict resolution, disaster management and economic empowerment. The lessons therefore that we have learned is to interdepend on one another. Together we shall reverse the negative impacts of the pandemic and underscore new positive gains. In line with the theme of this conference and the UPF principles of living for the sake of others, the philosophy of ISCP as it pertains to inter-dependence, mutual prosperity and shared values, cannot be overemphasized, because of its promise of global harmony.

What does this tell us? It simply means that with stronger ties and partnerships, perhaps, a similar challenge in the future would not have the kind of effect this one has had on the world today. Let us therefore adopt the spirit of oneness, collaboration, and mutual partnerships to help nations with slower recovery rates to gain greater momentum. The ISCP- Africa, of which I chair, will encourage leaders to adopt this philosophy and translate it into a conflict management and resolution template in their respective jurisdictions. With this, it is hoped that the rise and growth of nations in Africa and countries in other parts of the world, is assured. Let us all join in the efforts to achieve a just and peaceful world, based on these principles. I wish you all fruitful deliberations. I thank you all. 

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*Goodluck Jonathan was president of the Federal Republic of Nigeria from 2010 to 2015.*

## A Powerful Force for Good

*The writer is best known to American members as the congressman who made Parents' Day an annual US national holiday, which was something True Father had asked the original "Top Gun" members to achieve.*

By Dan Burton

**E**xcellencies, distinguished leaders, guests and delegates from 162 countries:

Today, I have the great honor and pleasure to address this Rally of Hope, a global summit for peace that is being broadcast to millions. I want to sincerely thank Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon for her leadership and sacrifice in bringing the whole world together for peace. Though we are challenged by the pandemic, technology allows us to join this

program as if we are all together in one large stadium, like the one we see here tonight. It is truly a blessing.

I would now like to ask all of you in each of your nations to please join me in honoring Mother Moon for her tireless work and for the profound love she gives to all mankind.

I also have the deepest respect for her late husband Rev. Sun Myung Moon whom I met many years ago. He always stood strong for God, freedom and family and



### Where we are today

This has grown today to nearly five thousand members of parliaments from 120 countries, who affiliate with the IAPP. Parliamentarians are elected by the people and they represent the hearts of the people of their nations. We are now building a rapid communication network among parliamentarians so we can quickly alert the other parts of the world to challenges to peace, security, and health. If we had a pandemic early warning communication system in place, so many lives could have been saved. Now my colleagues in the IAPP are bringing forth resolutions of support to the IAPP and an international communication system is developing right now. If affirmative steps had been taken earlier, the loss of life could have been reduced dramatically.

IAPP members working together from around the world could be in a position to see trends and situations more clearly and faster than other organizations. For example, COVID-19 was first reported to the World Health Organization on December 31, 2019. It took the World Health Organization until January 30 to declare the outbreak of a public health emergency of international concern. And then it took them more than a month after that to declare it a pandemic on March 11, 2020. Action is happening at the grassroots level right now.

Mother Moon is very focused on other issues that have global impact, including peaceful reunification of the Korean Peninsula. She brings together faith leaders, media, business leaders and parliamentarians with the heads of state and first ladies of the world. She has a gift that makes us all feel the blessings of God are with us and that we are one family. There is nobody anywhere in the world who is doing as much as Mother Moon, to find solutions to some of the most difficult problems the world has ever faced.

The lofty ideals of the Nobel Peace Prize Committee are actually embodied in Dr. Moon's quiet, and lifelong dedication to solving human conflict. Participating in this Rally of Hope means that you also seek peace for this world. So, I want to thank you and may God bless every one of you. 🙏

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*Dan Burton was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives representing Indiana's sixth district (1983–2003) and fifth district (2003–2013).*

was strongly against Communism. He stood strong for all nations to come together in peace. Now, Mother Moon, who was with him every step of the way, has rapidly expanded the Universal Peace Federation and the work of *the Washington Times*. This has resulted in the greatest effort for peace and family values that I have ever seen.

Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon—Mother Moon as she is known—founded an organization called the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace in 2016. ("IAPP" for short.) I am honored to serve along with Speaker Jose de Venecia from the Philippines as the international co-chairmen. It is rapidly becoming a very powerful association of parliamentarians and former members of parliament from around the world. I can never forget when we founded the IAPP International in Korea in 2016 with members of the U.S. Congress and parliamentarians from over forty-two countries. At that time, we were hosted by a great friend and leader Senator Orrin Hatch, who welcomed and introduced Mother Moon at the Kennedy Caucus Room in the Senate Office Building in which three hundred members of Congress from the U.S. and around the world joined us to call for all parliamentarians to stand for peace.



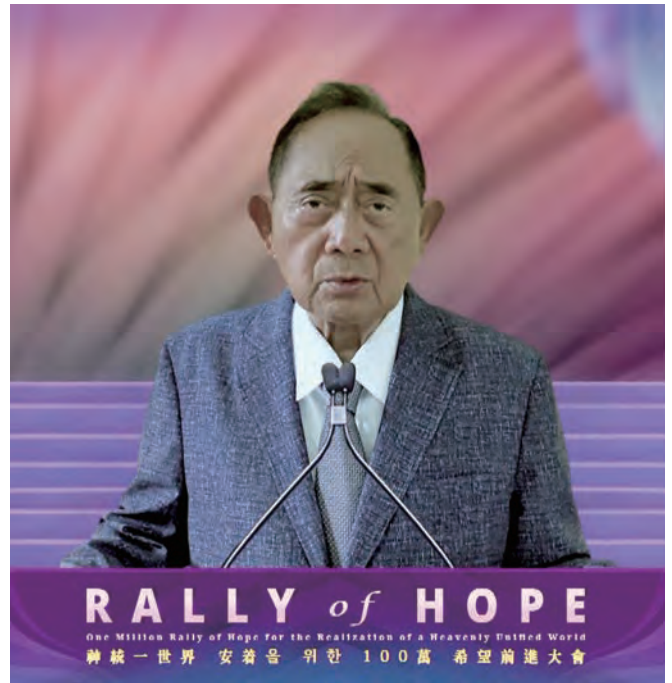
True Family members, Korean and US leaders with Dan Burton, onstage after the inauguration of IAPP

# Collectively, We Can Overcome These Hard Times

By Jose De Venecia

Excellencies, dear friends, we commend Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, co-founder of the Universal Peace Federation and founder of the Sunhak Peace Prize, who, like her beloved husband, the late Rev. Sun Myung Moon, has been working tirelessly to advance the cause of peace in our troubled world, even in the midst of the global pandemic. I wish all of you, speakers and participants, dear friends, peace and joy for you and your families, for your people, as we come together in search of mutual understanding in the global community. Peace in the world is our universal longing, and our most shared, yet difficult and elusive goal. We, however, refuse to believe that we have lost the will, lost the spirit, lost the ability, to forge ahead, to move forward with a renewed sense of community that will enable us all of us together to deal authoritatively with our collective problems. We believe indeed that brotherhood, understanding, and cooperation amongst men and women and our families have a place in the society of the world, in global society—just as they have in our own face-to-face communities. We see the building blocks of a new world order in the institutions of global civil society—like UPF and the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP)—already at work on most international issues and challenges, especially in erecting an edifice of peace, in creating a better world for the next generation.

Indeed, on the lingering conflict and dangerous flash points on the Korean Peninsula, we urge the revival of the long-postponed Six-Party Talks among the United States, Russia, China, Japan, South Korea, and North Korea with support from the ASEAN region, which would contribute to enhancing political stability and security not only on the Korean Peninsula but throughout the entire Asia Pacific Region. We also urge dear friends, dear brothers, fellow Asians, peoples of the world that are assembling in this historic conference to devote time and effort to help revive and start off, with God's benediction—a new series of Interfaith Dialogues, which we initiated in the United Nations system in 2004, as a way of helping resolve geopolitical religious conflicts, strengthen religious moder-



ates, and isolate those who advocate terrorism and violent extremism in the name of faith and religion.

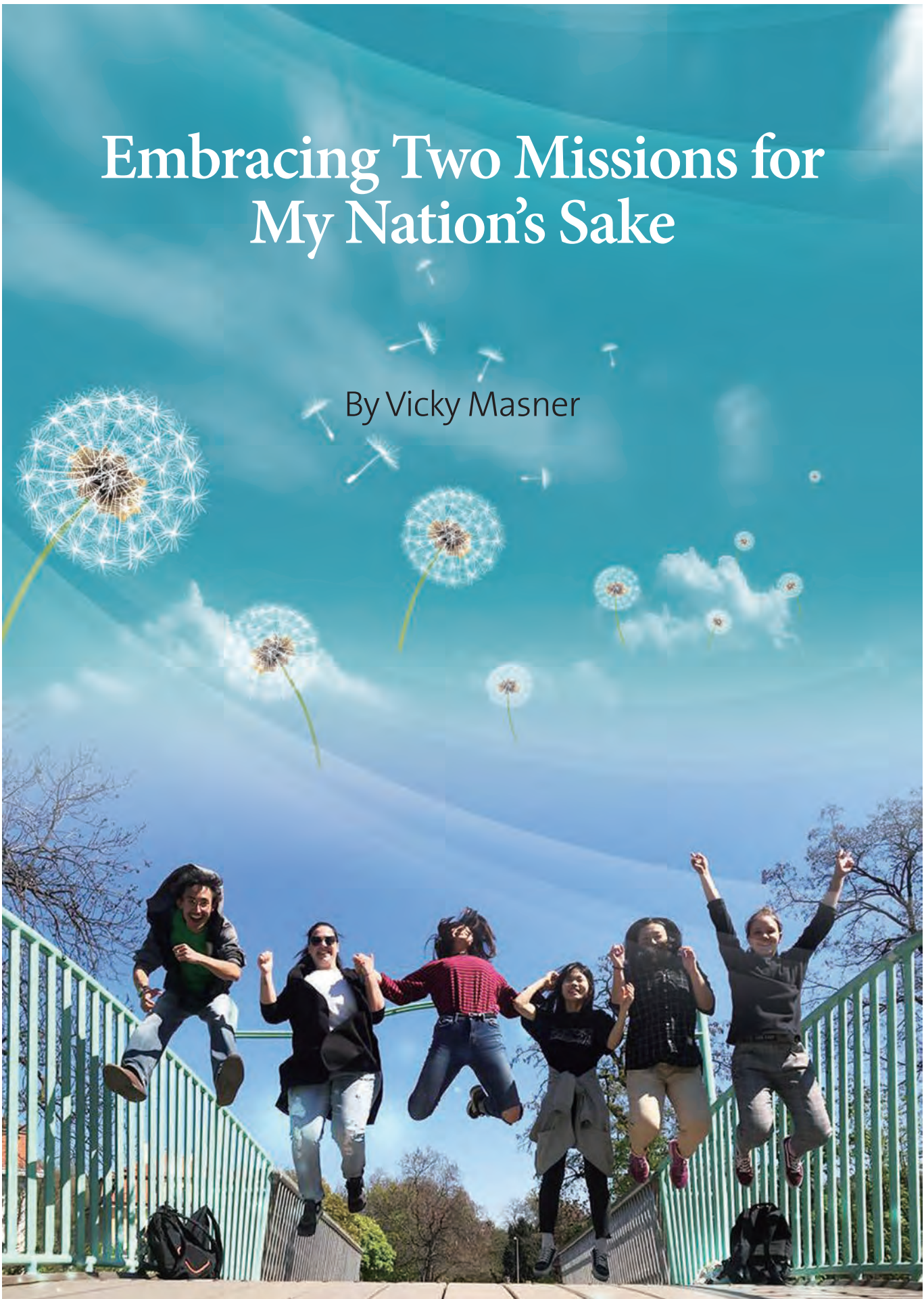
For, the Interfaith Dialogue upholds a global culture of peace and mutual understanding. In these moments of enormous challenge and uncertainty, we seek strength, yes, strength in unity—on a sense of shared purpose born out of our common dream—peace in our countries, in our region, and in the world. Thank you, dear friends from all over Asia, all over the world. Thank you, and good day. God bless you and your families and friends. *☩*

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*Jose de Venecia was Speaker of the Philippine House of Representatives (1992-1998, 2001-2008) and eulogized True Father at his Seonghwa Ceremony.*

# Embracing Two Missions for My Nation's Sake

By Vicky Masner



**T**wo years ago, in December 2018, I became responsible for CARP and IAYSP in my nation, the Czech Republic. Before this, I did two years of a gap year program called STF Europe. In this program, I could realize, not only my value as Heavenly Parent's daughter, but most important, I realized what my responsibilities are. Once I came home, I received the opportunity to become CARP and IAYSP leader for my nation. But I was feeling unconfident about taking this position. One day I was about to say no to the proposal by our national leader. But Heavenly Parent had a clear plan, as always and was not ready to give it up so easily. That same night I had a dream that changed my perspective. I was dreaming, that True Mother was preparing a big speech to give in Europe. I was helping to gather people to attend the speech. I went in the streets and preached that the Messiah will now speak. Thanks to that the whole room was filled with people and many more were standing in the back. When True Mother finished her speech, she was walking towards a door that I was standing by. Yet instead of opening the door to her, I was foggy-minded and looked around wondering how many people I had gathered. In that very moment, True Mother opened the door herself, and then looked at me and said, "You just missed the opportunity to open the door for the Messiah." When I woke up, I knew what that dream meant. If I receive an opportunity to open a way for our True Parents, I should not hesitate even for a moment. And this is how I came to

accept being the Czech CARP-IAYSP leader.

### Dual obligations

Being responsible for CARP and IAYSP may feel like wearing two different hats. However, I see it as a unity of mind and body. CARP is an internal program; members study the core of the Divine Principle, and as students on campuses, we offer a life changing experience to other young people. For me, CARP is the way in which we can guide people to truly attend our Heavenly Parent and True Parents. However, it takes an immense effort to raise even one young person to truly accept the Principle fully and decide to dedicate his or her life to achieving Heavenly Parent's dream. Today, we do not have much time left in reaching out to 7.8 billion people, which is why we have IAYSP. In IAYSP we reach out to even more people. IAYSP teaches the Divine Principle using a character education method. In the Czech Republic, we strive to introduce it through intercultural activities in orphanages, service projects and different character education programs. In this way, we can reach out to more people and spread True Mother's vision faster.

If someone were to ask me which organization I prefer, I would say I prefer when CARP and IAYSP work together, hand in hand, making this world the kingdom of heaven we are working towards. Thanks to CARP, I can see young people's lives turning around. I love to see the beauty of a young person, dedicated to sacrificing his or her life to fulfilling Heavenly

Parent's dream.

### Saving young people, saving the nation

The first time my spiritual daughter met True Mother in Albania in 2019, she could not stop shedding tears of joy and gratitude. Every time I remember this, I feel courage rising in my heart and it gives me the will to witness to all the young people in the Czech Republic. Of course, this is a big dream and may not sound realistic but seeing how much young people suffer from following unprincipled ideals and values pushes me toward wanting to help them and guide them back home. Our primary goal is to bring God back home into Czech people's heart. This goal for the Czech Republic, being the most atheistic country after North Korea, may sound quite impossible. But thanks to the work of many Korean, Japanese, American and European missionaries, we could bring the Principle and God into many young people's lives. In IAYSP, what warms up my heart is to see the impact, we, as youth, can have not only on our society, but on people's lives and decisions!

As I mentioned earlier, the Czech IAYSP reaches out to youth in orphanages. Before the pandemic, we managed to organize our first event. I will never forget the joy and love we felt from these children. Many of the children come from difficult households, where hate, alcohol and violence are obstacles. We wanted to bring them joy and love through an American Culture Night with games, sports, snacks and a guidance on how to grow their heart. The biggest sur-



CARP members with guests



A CARP discussion group



This service project to help homeless people made a profound impression on the young people involved.

prise, we all felt, was that the children gave us much more love than we thought we would bring to them. We won their hearts and they won ours from first sight. In that moment I could see that it is not about the event, not about the program; it is all about the heart. That day I also saw how much power we can have if we truly unite as young people and decide to do something for the sake of others.


#### **Working to help the destitute**

Earlier, in 2019, we had organized two service projects, in which we brought food and clothes to homeless people. We first went door to door to ask people for donations and then distributed the food and clothing to people in need. The first time we did it, we only went for the purpose of giving out external help, so actually we felt quite empty. We had the feeling that we

were helping them today, but tomorrow they may be hungry again. However, the second time we did the project, we brought the material things as an excuse; the main purpose was to speak to them, listen to their stories and give them some light of hope. That day, we felt truly fulfilled and felt as if we had achieved the main purpose of the project.

We stayed with the people living on the streets for the whole afternoon, listening to their stories and especially listening to their life guidance. Many of them had deep regrets, so they were guiding us and explaining to us how important it is to have big goals and dreams in our lives and to never give up, to stay away from addiction and to truly value the relationships we have in our lives. Receiving such guidance from people who had hit rock bottom in their


lives, brought lots of tears to my heart. Hearing from them all such beautiful encouragement but knowing that they themselves have given up on their dreams, gave me a new driving force to truly fulfill my life goals. I was even happier to hear, that I was not the only one feeling this way, but the whole project team felt exactly the same. As young people we really have the power to make a change. Even the smallest step can create a victory that can change someone else's life. That day, the homeless people did not want to let us go. Most of them haven't had a conversation with someone in a long time and they told us, that they felt their heart warmed up.

I am truly grateful for these amazing memories and experiences CARP and IAYSP afforded me. With this testimony, I want to encourage all our young people to seek to fulfill their responsibilities. Ask Heavenly Parent, How can I help you today? Seeing the impact we can have on other people by bringing them closer to Heavenly Parent and True Parents is the most valuable experience. Please everyone, let us combine our will and talents and dedicate our lives to creating the kingdom of heaven on earth today. Our dear True Mother, please do not worry. We will work harder and harder to make your dream come true. Thank you for always caring for and loving us. 

*Vicky Masner is the IAYSP and CARP leader in the Czech Republic*

## **KATE NGUYEN VICE-PRESIDENT OF YSP-CZECH REPUBLIC**

**M**y grandfather was a strong Christian. The devotion he had was passed down to me, so I grew to seek God naturally since childhood. This foundation guided me into this community, which I joined three years ago. I believe that true love can save all of us. Thanks to this community I could not only change my life but also improve my relationship with my family and resolve all my resentment through seeing from God's perspective. Growing up spiritually with second-generation members, I could see true love in action, and this created true everlasting friendships that anyone would wish for.

For me, spreading the Blessing is very important. One way to do this is by pouring my heart into IAYSP and CARP by reaching out one arm into the church community and the other arm outside of the community. In this way we can help youth like me realize Heavenly Parent's dream. Recently I came back from a one-year program. I think it is also important to receive training and work on ourselves, in order to be able to give our best to our nation. Whenever I see pictures of True Parents, I feel a warm embrace as if they were my real parents. Thank you for saving me and always loving me! Please take good care of your health, True Mother! 

# The Rally of Hope is Boosting Tribal Messiahship in Benin

*The Dangbo Heavenly Tribal Messiah Center (HTM center) opened in April 2019 and has been effective ever since at managing a tribe of 430 couples.*

*The first Rally of Hope marked a turning point in the culture of this HTM center.*

*It gave us an opportunity to connect our local, rather rural and remote activity, to the mainstream providence.*

By Laurent Ladouce





Laurent with Oumarou and Falilath in their new apartment



Members of Laurent's tribe gathered in the HTM center at 2:00 AM.

**W**e should be supportive of True Mother's wish to reach out to one-third of the human population by 2027. This aching desire occupies True Mother's mind; it should stir our minds, too. Can the daughter of God focus on anything else, anything smaller? Her position is to embody the divine determination of the Creator, "who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." (1 Timothy 2:4).

The Creator's heart boils with extreme patience, and extreme impatience. In a time of a global pandemic, everything has slowed down. We may thus figure out God's circumstances. "The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance." (2 Peter 3:9)

The Rally of Hope is a divine tool to convey God's passion. People all over the world may experience God's heart live, at home, through their devices. Yes, I may experience the event, the diligence of God to save me, through my smartphone, tablet or whatever. This desire to be saved and to save can be viral and contagious.

For God, there is no past or future, but a present time of longing and yearning, when he thinks of only one

thing, that is, the salvation of all human beings, on earth and in the spirit world. Tribal messiahship means experiencing this divine reality in our tribe. A heavenly tribal messiah represents God on the local scale. And the Rally of Hope combines the universal, global providence of saving all mankind and the local providence of saving this man, this woman, right here.

Whereas the world seems paralyzed by the pandemic, True Mother has reminded us of what humanity should focus upon. Our True Mother is still on earth, and the entire human population should be given a chance to attend her. With the Rally of Hope online, you do not need to gather people in a single venue. You can do something both much wider and more intimate. You can organize a program whereby all mankind, West and East, North and South, can attend the living God and his only daughter. New technologies offer an opportunity to create a thrilling event, where the living God speaks directly to all through the True Mother attended by the world's elites.

#### **Gaining from our first experience**

During a Zoom call, held three weeks before the August 9 event, Reverend Emmanuel Allognon, the national leader of FFWPU-Benin, asked the

tribal messiahs in Benin if we were confident to gather people to watch the event either live, at 2:00 am, or later the same day. There were various opinions about that. When my turn came to speak, I felt that I had no choice but to make a total commitment. I said that we would gather at least forty-three people in the HTM center at 2:00 am. To consider something different was not even an option.

With God's grace, the first Rally of Hope attracted fifty-one people to the Dangbo HTM Center. They could connect with the central providence and with our True Parents. It was a magic moment in which they spent the night together as one family under God. To simple people from a rural area came a possibility, once in their existence, to take part in a central event of the providence, not just as individuals, but as Heavenly Parent's Holy Community. They were particularly proud to see and hear African leaders like President Sall from Senegal and Prime Minister Rafini from Niger (both members of ECOWAS, like Benin). They were struck most by True Mother's divine mind.

Though we did both, I shall explain how we did the second rally and how God prompted us to do it better, more meaningfully, the second time. Forty-



three people attended the second rally on September 27. Quantitatively, it was a bit smaller, but we upgraded the quality and received many inspirations. The second Rally of Hope had a special focus on young people. About fifteen students of a good level attended the program. We also asked two smart CARP-Benin students to come to support the event.

We called our second event "The Night of Success and Hope." We wanted to match local success stories within our tribe with the topic of global hope for all mankind—a successful Dangbo for a hopeful humanity, if you prefer.

Like the first time, we offered a whole package to the people: they gather on Saturday evening, we serve them a good dinner, have fellowship, and listen to reports of local success in the tribe. They can rest a bit in the center and then watch the program live, during the night.

### **Linking success stories with rally viewing**

We believe that people can trust in a program of hope for a better world if they see signs of hope in their own local community. They want to see Cheon Il Guk here and now, in order to promote a culture of hope worldwide for the future.

Our first success story was given by Oumarou and Falilath Asso. Both are Fula people from the north of Benin and are Muslim. Fula people often experience discrimination in Benin. But Oumarou has been a brilliant student and is now completing a PhD in Mathematics in Dangbo's prestigious Institute of Mathematics and Physics (IMSP). It is the top institution of scientific research in Benin, just two miles from our HTM center. The very rural and illiterate people of our tribe seldom have a chance to interact with a man of this quality. Especially since he recently received the Blessing.

I met him a year after I had completed the 430 couples in Dangbo. One day, at 4:00 pm, I was alone in the center and had a sudden craving for a local donut. On that day, this physical desire could be used for a higher purpose. As I bought my donut from a street vendor, I saw a bright young man, also buying a donut. "Aren't you a student at IMSP?" I asked. He an-

swered that he was in the doctoral course there. The next day, he came to visit the center.

"Let us talk about divine mathematics," I said. "I shall tell you how each number, from 1 to 10, is connected to peace building." Oumarou enjoyed the explanation and came to study the Principle. When I came back to France after two months in Benin, we occasionally kept in touch, and in February 2020, I heard that he and his wife Falilath had received the Blessing.

I came back to Benin during their forty-day separation. A few days later, they completed the three-day ceremony. They came to see me with their two-year-old son Al-Assid. They looked happy, but Falilath had two requests. "I love my husband, but I want to move from this town, Dangbo, and live in a better place. Also, I want to work, to have my own income and not depend only on my husband's salary."

She was wearing a Muslim veil and had a very bright smile. Oumarou suddenly look downhearted. I then sat under the table, like an animal. And then, I sat on the table, watching both of them.

"Papa, what do you mean?" asked Oumarou. I replied, "Do you prefer your wife under the table, or on the table?" "On the table, I guess.... Yes, on top of the table." "Then, move from Dangbo and let your wife have a job. Make your wife two times happier."

That was a Saturday evening. On Monday, Oumarou called me over the phone. "Papa, we have moved already." "What?" "Yes, after hearing your advice, we searched for a much better apartment. It is two times more expensive, but Falilath is very happy."

Within twenty-four hours, on a Sunday, they had managed to cancel the first rent payment, make a contract with the new owner and move everything from one house to the next. At first, I felt that it was a divine fairy tale or soap opera. Then I became more serious and thought, "My God, the three-day ceremony had a powerful impact on a Muslim Fula couple."

I immediately went to see them in their new house and blessed it with holy salt. They now live in a very nice, small three-room house, with all the

conveniences. A few weeks later, Oumarou helped his wife open a shop, near their house, fulfilling her two dreams. Their simple love story moved the participants.

### **Vision-driven lives**

The next speakers were Victor and Firmine Topkanou. They were the very first couple to receive the Blessing in Dangbo, in April 2018. They completed the forty-day separation and three-day ceremony. Victor has a real gift for traditional medicine. After the blessing, he began his own practice in a nice building, eight miles from Dangbo. His clinic is modern and bright and consists of four treatment rooms. But Firmine had two miscarriages and the young couple was a bit discouraged. Finally, a few weeks before the Rally of Hope, she delivered a baby boy.

Through these two testimonies, we wanted to show what makes a successful life. These two couples are both guided by a vision. They say that the Blessing has profoundly changed their lives and they have experienced a new beginning and a greater happiness. After the two testimonies were over, the first part of the program ended and almost everyone found a place in the HTM center to lie down and rest.

I myself was following the rally in France, from home, but was kept informed constantly, through WhatsApp. I was overjoyed when I received the pictures and short videos of the people watching the program, especially when they were watching True Mother. The preparation of each rally involves much stress. But when everything is over, we feel joy.

Between the first and the second Rallies of Hope, the volunteers in my tribe held a blessing of eight couples in the HTM center. This Blessing Ceremony was prepared with unusual care and attention, and we followed each couple well during the forty-day separation. As a result, all the eight couples did the Three-Day Ceremony well. We saw it as a sign that the Rally of Hope marks a new beginning for HTM activities in Dangbo. 🌀

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*Mr. Ladouce, after working for two years at Peacetv, moved to Benin (West Africa) and lived six months with his tribe in Dangbo.*

# A View of the Martial Arts World

By Do-won Sung

I am sure you, dear Cheon Il Guk families, are spending your days feeling uncomfortable, unable to attend worship and that you have changed your surroundings due to the influence of the Novel Corona Pandemic. However, in the face of this situation, I think that our Martial Arts Federation for World Peace tournament has become stronger and more vigorous. Of course, martial arts are particularly at a disadvantage compared to other groups given that face-to-face education and social activities that require us to be together have been restrained or banned.

However, we have the exemplary Unificationist sport, Tong-il Moo-do. It is also a martial art among those using the *kata* method such as karate (a Japanese martial art), or the *haze* type to do alone, without a competitor. This is possible through online competitions because they can take place alone or in a group, unlike a game-style tournament that requires an opponent.

## A tournament during the pandemic

The competition featured seventy athletes from fourteen countries—Korea, Japan, the United States, the Philippines, Cambodia, Nepal, Thailand, India, Argentina, Malaysia,

Germany, Brazil, Zambia and the Republic of the Congo. Since the event was successful, we continued to hold this “dance” competition from August 2 to 10. It was similar to the “exemplary sport,” but different in that it is a dance competition, which focuses on art. The competition involved nine organizations from eight countries—Korea, Japan, the Philippines, Cambodia, Thailand, Malaysia, Brazil and the Republic of the Congo.

“I plan to bring sports and the arts together. I am trying to integrate dance and music with exercise. I want to create something that is not simply an exercise, like gymnastics, but dance-gymnastics combined with music. I am planning to transform even something like karate into an art. I am actually doing such exercises every day; they are exercises that integrate sports and art. In them God’s spirit is reflected.” (*The Philosophy of Peace*, Book 10)

Based on True Parents’ teachings, this new field, which is responsible for the integration of physical education and art, that is, the work of the culture of heart, was sponsored by the Hyojeong Cultural Center and the

Martial Arts Federation for World Peace. They began pioneering with the World Tong-il Moo-do Federation. The result of the tournament was that Japan, Korea and Congo came in first, second and third place, respectively.

In this “dance” competition, each of the contestants expressed Heavenly Parent’s wishes and Heavenly Parents’ hopes as well as advancement through the arts of martial arts and music. In addition, while each country had different cultural characteristics, the athletes demonstrated the integration of physical and artistic arts through a “uniform dance,” along with artistic performances. The event became an event in which the World Tong-il Moo-do Federation dancers demonstrated their hope for the realization of a peaceful world, centered on Heavenly Parent and True Parents, across cultures and borders.

## Some pertinent background

I have been involved in this activity for more than twenty years while also teaching dance and singing to non-Korean students who had come to Korea as Universal Peace Academy cadets and to local church members. Before I began teaching, I was first a student of many respected martial artists. I also studied in Sun Moon University’s



A demonstration by Tong-il Moo-do in front of True Mother.



Though it is more of a dance than hand-to-hand combat, the martial artists can hone their skills in front of a live audience and under pressure of performing in front of True Mother.

Department of Martial Arts. I maintained the attitude of a performer who wanted to learn various martial arts. At the time of its establishment, the Department of Martial Arts had an educational policy of teaching not only Taekwondo, Judo, Kendo, and Hapkido but also other martial arts as minor courses. They had no view or obsession that they should only teach one martial art. We kept an attitude of pursuing the best of what martial arts offers.

When I first met Dr. Jun-ho Seuk, the founder of Tong-il Moo-do, I mentioned my martial arts history, and he said, "Since you have faith, it is as if you have already learned the Tong-il Moo-do dance." In addition, Dr. Seuk Jun-ho said, "The Tong-il Moo-do dance is a martial arts that unites all martial arts around the principle of harmony, and from this humble standpoint, we are in a position to learn from all martial arts."

#### Martial arts and faith

Until now, in the martial arts providence, the central martial art changed from Karate to Wonhwado and then to Tong-il Moo-do. In the midst of these historical changes, senior practitioners who had been engaged in the martial arts were forced to abandon

everything they had, to shake off the conflicts between martial art forms, as True Parents taught us, with sweat and tears. Last year, during the celebration of the fortieth anniversary of World Tong-il Moo-do Federation, True Mother gave us a new message.

As the True Parents, we have earnestly sought to reach out to fallen humanity, trying to bring back one more nation, one more life, to Heavenly Parent during our lifetimes on earth, as well as guide them to a position in which they can receive blessings as true devoted children of Heavenly Parent. With such ardency we created Tong-il Moo-do.

I think this is a guide and foundation to bring about the era for the heavenly unified world. The martial arts providence has been practicing this. On the day True Mother said this, she also presented a new philosophy for the martial arts. This was convincing and shockingly true:

Unfortunately, the body does not follow what the mind desires. To bring unity in the family, nation and world when the individual still struggles from body-mind disuni-

ty is tremendously difficult. However, we know God, the Creator, our Heavenly Parent. We also know that True Parents are our True Parents. I know that most of you who have gathered here today have been blessed. We have responsibilities as blessed families. The place in which you reach absolute unity with True Parents is the place in which your body and mind becomes one.

In other words, if you leave True Parents and insist on mind-body unity it cannot be achieved in its true sense. I think this should be enough to deflate the pride and misconceptions martial artists have about their excellent knowledge in the area of mental-physical unification. This new concept of mental-physical, mind-body unity, was a paradigm shift. And from this point of view, when we look back on the history of the martial arts, we realize that even if you're a master of martial arts and an amicable person, the next question is whether you're absolutely united with your True Parents or not.

#### True Father's tacit approval

This year marks the eighth anniversary of True Father's Holy Ascension. A



A photograph with True Mother to mark fortieth anniversary of Tong-Il Moo-do after the demonstration they performed that day (pictured above) at the Hyo Jeong Cultural Center in the HJ Cheonwon Complex.

year before his Seonghwa at the Yeosu Training Center during the morning hoondokhae, I was called by True Father and demonstrated my skills. When he called me, I asked him if I could sing, I know it was kind of rude to ask, especially as we did not even have a sound system there. So, I asked Father, "Should I sing?" And when he said okay, I started to sing! I expressed my strong will. Father gladly approved and later asked everyone to clap and to sing "Arirang." And I did a martial arts demonstration to that song.

I can now say that this, too, was a form of energetic dance. After that, Father spoke about martial arts while enthusiastically mixing martial arts steps and movements. Looking at him, in those moments, I felt the value and absolute necessity for martial arts to be recognized. The reason I felt this was because, Father was tapping on the desk and talking, with excitement and a happy expression on his face.

If he was pleased with the performance of an inexperienced person like me, how much joy must it bring to Heavenly Parent and True Parents when younger blessed second- and third-generation members do these martial art demonstrations? This is why I learned all I could about martial arts and why I teach these skills to young people.

Our Martial Arts Federation for World Peace tournament has held a martial arts festival at this time every year since True Father's Seonghwa. We promoted not only Tong-il Moo-do but other martial arts such as Taekwondo and Judo. Other organizations participated in the festival. Originally, the mission given to the Martial Arts Federation for World

Peace Tournament lay in creating various martial arts and other activities for Cheon Il Guk.

### Clearing some confusion

In my opinion, many people seem to confuse the Martial Arts Federation for World Peace and the similarly named, World Tong-il Moo-do Federation. Oftentimes, the two organizations are mixed up. I ask myself, How are they different from one another? I will try and explain both. The Martial Arts Federation for World Peace is a providential institution established in 1997. As mentioned earlier, it engages in various martial arts activities for the creation of Cheon Il Guk. In simple terms, it is the "UN of martial arts." Of course, the founders are True Parents, who established Tong-il Moo-do.

On the other hand, the World Tong-il Moo-do Federation is not a providential institution but a corporate organization in the martial arts category of unified martial arts, like karate and judo. It celebrated its fortieth anniversary last year. The founder of this organization is Dr. Jun-ho Seuk. It is one of numerous martial arts groups under the Martial Arts Federation for World Peace."

### We have unity in True Parents

However, if you look at what True Mother said at the August 28, 2019 anniversary event, "The place in which you reach absolute unity with True Parents is the place in which your body and mind become one," which is because True Parents are the founders, which is why we have their pictures in our centers. We show respect to and honor our True Parents

during training. "Train your heart and body for courage in difficult times" and "With filial piety and patriotism, you'll always succeed" are mottoes True Parents gave us.

We read hoondokhae and bow before training. As far as I know, only martial arts organizations around the world testify to True Parents in an honest and fair manner without hiding anything from society.

Until now, many martial artists and martial arts organizations have not been able to meet Heavenly Parent's expectations. Even though we might be inexperienced or new in the field, the only martial art chosen by the heaven is Tong-il Mood-do. There is no room for any other theory here.

In the future, more martial arts organizations that try to contribute to world peace will be selected to be part of the Martial Arts Federation for World Peace tournament. In order to establish a heavenly unified world, we and the rest of the world are going to boldly march ahead. In any age and in any environment, martial arts exudes energy and can always move forward powerfully. So it is essential to combine the talents of *hyo jeong rang* [heavenly warriors] who will be in charge of the future era.

I hope that martial arts education will spread as quickly as possible in each church. In addition, I sincerely take to heart what True Parents want to convey through their own martial arts and pray that all of us can grow up healthy as filial sons or daughters as desired by Heavenly Parent and True Parent. ㄸ

*The writer is the secretary general of the Martial Arts Federation for World Peace.*

# The Grace of Holy Songs

## *Exploring the roots of holy songs and hymns*

*The writer was born in Shizuoka, Japan, in 1944. She is a pioneer choir instructor. As a member of the Holy Song Compilation Committee, she has engaged in compilation, popularization, coaching and writing holy song verses.*

By Terue Amano



The writer expresses her enthusiasm for and love from music through this article.

Since the release of my book, *The Grace of Holy Songs*, published by Kogensha in 2008, which explained the background of holy songs based on True Parents' life courses, we have been receiving questions on holy songs that I had not been mentioned in the book. Therefore, we are releasing an irregular series—*Sequel: The Grace of Holy Songs*, which I also wrote. As an introduction, we are exploring the roots of holy songs and hymns in this article.

### **Holy songs are heavenly treasures**

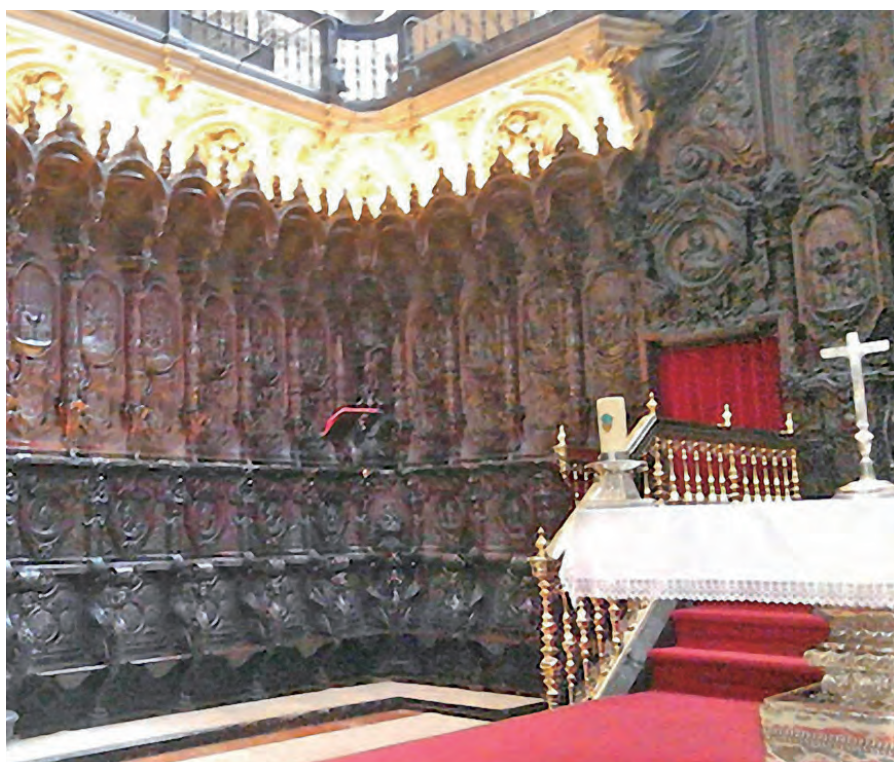
While paintings and buildings extant from religious history are tangible legacies, music is an intangible legacy, an invisible form of art that one may inherit and express when performing or listening. This is how music has enhanced peoples' interaction with the invisible spiritual world and supported our lives of faith.

According to the Bible, when Saul fell into a state of confusion because of an evil spirit, David played the harp and the evil spirit departed. Furthermore, to Martin Luther, music is a gift from God which drives away the devil and makes people carefree, and it has the power to cut off the devil's influence and connect us with

the sacred spirit world. [1 Samuel 16:23: And whenever the evil spirit from God came upon Saul, David took the lyre and played it with his hand, and Saul would be relieved and feel better, and the evil spirit would depart from him.]

The holy songs of the Complete Testament Age especially are heavenly treasures imbued with True Parents' courses and the history of the saints. Inspirations that moved peoples' hearts when they made or sang these songs remain in the spirit world as unchanging energy. When we sing holy songs with sensation, the angels and good spirits in heaven come to earth and sing along.

According to one early member, Chizuko Kasuga Runyon, when she sang "Blessing of Glory" in front of True Father to welcome him to Japan, she clearly witnessed a group of Christian spirits including saints and martyrs gather around her and singing along in tears. We are indeed "compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses" (Hebrews 12:1). This being the case, we sing "Grace of the Holy Garden" in the Cheonbo chanyang session, a song that praises the opening of a victorious spirit world, so the rhythm of the song will open the



The choir stalls were valued as the stalls of the angels. This is a photo of Mosque-Cathedral of Córdoba in Spain. It took twelve years for the sculptor to complete the choir stalls in which each stall is decorated with carvings of different biblical stories.

door to the good spirit world.

Music is closely connected to the invisible world. Brilliant individuals who have gone down in history as “master musicians” had heard and expressed the music of the spirit world. I have heard that those dwelling in the spirit world are ceaselessly creating musical masterpieces and beautiful verses. I have also heard that an office in the spirit world is responsible for discovering, educating and training talented earthy people who could “catch” these masterpieces and express them. Maybe some of you reading this article today are receiving such training at this moment.

In 1978, True Father said, “When you receive applause for a musical performance, don’t become flushed with your own success; return all cheers to the experts in the spirit world.” This is a surprising remark for musicians and artists. As Luther said, music is indeed “a gift of God.”

### **The roots of holy songs and hymns**

Music has such sacred and mystical power. In addition to such power, holy songs and hymns have the power of words. The power of words in holy songs and hymns are rooted in the Old Testament Psalms. The

Psalms is an anthology of 150 psalms about one’s laments, gratitude and happiness in daily life, or about a king’s accession or peoples’ suffering. They were written over a long period of time by many individuals and have been memorized and chanted, transmitting essence of the souls of people guided by God.

On reading the Psalms, I was often surprised to read psalms that begin with human-centric views. I believe many of you have also been surprised by the very up-front words used in some of the psalms and gasped, “Were you allowed to pray like that?” They complained of their sorrow or pain without politely disguising feelings. They were like little children desperately calling on their parents for help.

What surprised me even more was that God answered their call. Those who heard God’s voice and saw his historical path were deeply moved and gained the power to move forward with him once again. This shows the path to spiritual victory that uplifts one’s soul. The roots of holy songs and hymns are the path leading to God through the fight to separate from Satan. As such, a psalm, the original form of holy songs, was not written primarily for

humans, but rather as an offering to God. Since its value exceeds that of burnt offerings, it is called “the sacrifice of praise” [Psalm 49].

### **To sing the psalm is a “religious service” and a spiritual fight to return to God**

David is practically synonymous with the Psalms. He expressed just one hope, “God’s presence is my life.” He sought to hold services in God’s presence, which is why he reformed religious service by introducing music into it, which was not common in Moses’ time. David used various musical instruments and formed superb choirs.

Until the time of Babylonian Captivity, the tribe of Levi was mainly responsible for the choir. Their roots are in Moses and his older brother Aaron. In other words, they are the descendants of the people who survived the Exodus. When the Jews made the golden calf in the wilderness, the Levites received God’s love for maintaining their faith.

The name of one of the Levites, Asaph, appears in the Bible as one of the choral directors assigned by David. It is said that Asaph’s descendants came to lead the choir after that. He is the great ancestor of choir.



There is a theory that the pipe organ was made based on a testimony that the music of the spirit world is heard not from one direction but from all directions.

When you were to listen to researchers of ancient Hebrew, you would be amazed by the devotion they put into training the choir. Four thousand out of thirty-eight thousand Levites were chosen for the choir, and 288 among them formed twenty-four groups of twelve singers who took turns pouring their hearts out to praise the Lord in front of the Ark of the Covenant in the shrine, twenty-four hours a day.

They were trained so they could meet the requirement to unite their hearts (spirituality) and voices (expression). During the period of David and Solomon, they allowed only those who had gone through rigorous training to the age of thirty to serve as members of the choir.

The Levites did not receive an inheritance such as land. They inherited the right to serve the Lord. To sing a psalm was a religious service of superb offering and an earnest prayer. It was a spiritual fight to return to God.

In early Christianity (Ecclesia), people passed down the psalms to the next generation by adding Jesus' story within them. In times of suffering or in scenes of martyrdom, holy songs and hymns were with them. Jesus chanted a psalm before leaving

for Gethsemane. Furthermore, he cried out the opening words of Psalm 22 on the cross.

People say that Jesus' cry "*Eri, Eri, lima sabachthani?* (My God, my God, why have thou forsaken me?)" proves his lament for being forsaken by God, but this is not true. When you read the whole chapter, you will see God's glory shine in the end. Jesus overcame his suffering on the cross and entered the spirit world in order to prepare a foundation for the Second Advent. Let us understand Jesus' heart who is still doing his utmost in the spirit world up to this day.

#### **Music and truth that Judaism bequeathed**

The power of music and truth implied within holy songs and hymns and the encouragement such power has given to people have been passed on through history to the central religions that have taken charge of God's providence, from Judaism to Christianity and on to us in this new era of FFWPU.

The FFWPU Choir Contest has marked its tenth anniversary. Not many organizations hold choir contests for the purpose of nurturing choirs rather than for entertainment. I cannot be but more grateful for those

who have taken charge for this event. Endurance is indeed the power of prayer.


A choir to welcome the divine spirit to the altar! Such choir is about to be realized in our church. This is our pride and also our hope we must nourish with special care because usually, superb church has superb service and superb choir.

By the way, it is originally unlikely to play the piano or background music during representative prayers. This is something we must improve gradually. If you ask yourself, "Would I play the piano during True Parents' prayer?" the answer is obvious.

We adopted such custom in the early Japanese church in order to cancel out noise from daily life during services in private homes, and also to create an atmosphere where newcomers who pray for the first time can pray easily in workshops and services.

However, the music which used to be a "servant of prayer" have now become too habitual and audible. This can make your conscience follow the melody and distract the formation of the resonance sphere of your prayer. Getting rid of it may make you feel wistful at first, but as True Father said, "When you pray, you must listen to God's response as you listen to your prayer," we should become accustomed to pray without background music. However, this shall not apply to collective prayer.

To hold a deep root of prayer and focus on the stories that have carried the hearts of those who lived with God is like tracing a river to its headstream. There is endless source at the headstream. How wonderful would it be if we could hold such source of faith within us?

People will continue to sing on holy songs and compose new songs praising Heavenly Parent and True Parents in history. The inspiration will become our lineage and empower us. It will support our prayers and enrich our service by pouring water of life to our new culture. We sing in order to return to a loving atmosphere. Let us unite with the great power of heaven. 

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*The writer received the blessing among the 777-couple group on October 21, 1970.*

