



The Unfathomable Grace of the Blessing

By Thomas and Lynn Walsh



he Blessing tradition established by True Parents is the essential core of the religious and social vision of Heavenly Parents' Holy Community (FFWPU). It represents a vision that is on the one hand natural and traditional—affirming marriage and family as the foundational unit of society—and on the other hand modestly radical and socially, conservatively transformative. Celebrated with joy, dignity and hope, the Blessing Ceremony includes a rite of passage that marriage has always represented comparable only to birth and death in sacred and social significance and a statement of commitment to the wider world about the social and moral significance of the family.

At a time when, in most developing countries, marriage (and population growth) are in decline, and radical redefinitions of gender and sexual ethics are widespread, the Blessing offers an alternative vision that upholds the traditional purposes of the family, namely, reproduction of the species to sustain the existence of the community; the ordering of sexual instincts and energies for the benefit of individual and the society; and the formation of the minds and hearts of children from one generation to the next.

Moreover, the Blessing is understood in a profoundly theological way, as a sacred covenant between a woman and a man, pledging before Heavenly Parent, True Parents and the entire faith community, their commitment to cultivate and maintain natural affections, as a central aspect of their happiness and their growth; to remain sexually faithful to each other; to produce children and to raise them, as best they can, to be good sons and daughters of heaven, exemplary community members who develop themselves for the sake of effecting positive change in the world.

At a time when, throughout much of the developed world, sexuality and marriage have been secularized, redefined in purely biological and largely hedonistic terms, and alienated from long-standing moral traditions espoused by the world's religions, the Blessing affirms monogamous marriage and the related discipline of abstinence and the virtue of purity. The ordering of sexuality is essential in the ordering of the family and social life. Likewise, the disordering of sexuality lends itself to the disordering of the community, which adversely impacts a wide range of social realities such as economic development, the quality of neighborhoods, crime prevention, trust and solidarity, and not infrequently gives rise to unfulfilled hopes and general dissipation.

Sexual discipline is a neither a call for a narrow judgementalism nor a devaluing of biology and bodily existence. On the contrary, it is linked to a vision of spiritual and moral development and of a well-ordered society, and as a necessary prerequisite for happiness and fulfillment of our deepest aspirations for meaningful relationships. Seldom do we see positive consequences following sexual disordering, practices of license and sensuality. Indeed, the familial bonds of trust and mutual affection required for a stable, healthy society are best cultivated in a context of the exclusivity of intimacy. The uncoupling of sexuality from marriage and from reproduction not only diminishes its importance but contributes to unintended consequences that impact the stability of marriage, the health of society and the well-being of the next generation.

At a time when our moral obligations to our community and future generations have been more widely emphasized in discourses on the environment—requiring us to discipline our use of resources—or on the distribution of wealth—requiring us to overcome selfishness and to care for strangers—it is reasonable to recognize that the disciplining and ordering of our sexuality and the commitment to establish a thriving, welcoming environment to receive a child, are precisely acts that serve the next generation and the community.

Therefore, in ordering sexuality for a higher purpose, as well as for personal happiness; in making a spiritually and emotionally healthy marriage; in having beautiful children and raising them to be heavenly champions that carry forward the ideals of the community... one is exercising spiritual and moral agency at its highest level; and, not merely for personal happiness, though that is of great importance, but for the well-being of the entire society. Through marriage and by responsibly raising children, we contribute to social justice, crime prevention, mutual prosperity, stability in society, care for the environment, love for neighbors, respect for ancestors who have passed away, some with broken and unfulfilled lives, and respect for the integrity of future generations, starting with the loving environment provided for one's own children. There is no act of greater spiritual, moral and social significance! \mathcal{P}

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True Parents' Message and News



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CONTENTS



ARTICLE ONE

02 The Unfathomable Grace of the Blessing

THE HYOJEONG YOUTH BLESSING FESTIVAL

10 Pursuing the Blessed Family Vision

Hyojeong Sharing

- 12 A Recently Blessed Couple Within the True Family
- **14** Build Trustable, Secure Love
- **15** Believe in the Blessing
- **16** Embracing Four Ancestral Backgrounds

HEAVENLY PARENT'S HOLY COMMUNITY'S PEACE FESTIVAL

- **19** Welcome to the Peace Festival **Part 1: Who Is the Mother of Peace?**
- **20** Who Is the Mother of Peace?
- 23 The Man Who Carried Iron Rods

TRUE PARENTS' MESSAGES

- 04 The Marriage Supper of the Lamb
- **08** Embody the Blessing

Part 2: Who is Heavenly Parent?

- **25** Questions I've Been Asked
- 25 God Has Chosen You Mother Moon
- **27** Who is the Divine Being?
- 28 Religious Leaders Must Lead the Way
- **29** Understanding the Biblical Principle of Love



天一國 9年 (天曆) 4月 May 2021

31 Enduring Truths in a Time of Change

Part 3: Who am I?

- **32** A Lifetime of Grace-Filled Memories
- **35** A Peace Festival Celebrating New Life

THE WIDER WORLD

- **36** When East Meets West via the Arts
- **39** Helping Those in Desperate Need
- **42** The Value of Equality as Heavenly Parent's Children





The Marriage Supper of the Lamb

he marriage supper of the Lamb prophesied in Chapter 19 of the Book of Revelation was realized through the Holy Wedding of the True Parents. This was the fulfillment of the Book of Revelation, whereby Adam and Eve, whose fall from grace is recorded in the Book of Genesis, were recovered.

The Messiah is the Returning Lord whom God sent to earth in the Last Days of human history as the Third Adam, along with the spouse God had found for him, who is the Third Eve and the embodiment of the Holy Spirit. True Parents' Holy Wedding was the ceremony in which God blessed them as true husband and wife and as the true ancestors of humankind. Because human beings were born wrongfully, they need to be reborn; for this, they absolutely need True Parents.

On the basis of True Parents' Holy Wedding, restoration through indemnity could proceed beyond the top of the growth stage in the growing period—the level at which Adam and Eve fell and became the false parents—going beyond the point at which Jesus faced the disbelief of the chosen people of Israel and was made to shoulder the cross.

The first human ancestors were to start as the good parents, but instead

they started as evil parents. Hence, all human beings were born from the lineage of evil parents. The first human beings were supposed to directly receive God's complete love as if it were meant for them alone. Having been born as God's son and daughter, they were to remain so and live in God's bosom as his blood relations, born of his direct lineage. But this did not happen. This is why humankind must return to the original state.

For this we need the marriage supper of the Lamb at which we welcome the bridegroom and the bride. This means that the Lord who is to return must come to earth as the bridegroom. He must find the bride and engraft her onto the standard of Jesus, the standard that Christianity upholds.

Christianity is the religion that firmly pursues its purpose based on the standard of Jesus. This is why the democratic world is advancing on the basis of Christian values. The democratic world is advancing in this way in order to receive the True Parents. Religion to this day has been toiling to establish the one true son. This means that God has been endeavoring to find the one true son.

The reason the Bible is the greatest among the scriptures of the many religions is that it introduces God as the Father, the parent of humankind. This is the foundation of the Christian faith. Next, it refers to Jesus as God's only begotten son. The phrase "God's only begotten son" means that Jesus is the first person who could receive the fullness of God's love.

Another point is that the Bible introduces the concept of the bride. Jesus, God's only begotten son, came as the bridegroom. Hence, he needs his bride. Since there is the bridegroom, there also must be the bride. The bridegroom and bride are a man and a woman. On the day of their wedding banquet, God can finally appear holding the flag of love. God hoped to see such a banquet in the Garden of Eden. This hope was shattered; hence in the Last Days this wedding banquet must be held on earth.

Jesus said, "I am the son of God," "God is my Father," and "I am the only begotten son." The only begotten son is the prince of Heaven who can receive God's first love. Among God's sons, he is the only one who can receive God's first love and receive it in its fullness. Next, there must be the only begotten daughter. The bridegroom is the only begotten son; the bride is the only begotten daughter.

They must wed; this is the marriage supper of the Lamb. This means that when the Lord comes, he will have his wedding banquet and then raise a family. This is what God has desired ever since the creation of Adam and Eve. God's hope is for the only begotten son and the only begotten daughter to build a God-centered family, a family in which he can manifest his love in a real way.

The Bible states that in the Last Days, the Messiah will come and conduct the marriage supper of the Lamb, at which time a man and woman join together as husband and wife forging the bond of God's lineage. Once they emerge as the True Parents of humankind, Satan cannot continue to exist.

These two people, a man and a woman who are bonded to God's lineage, are the embodiments of God the Father and the Mother, and God's original internal character and original external form. The True Parents of humankind are motivated by God's love and move by the power of God's life. When they join together in complete union, God's love, life and lineage will be coursing through them. Each becomes the owner of the other with their





True Father during the portion of the Holy Wedding in which the groom and bride wore Western clothing

positions constantly changing: the man in the position of the woman and the woman in the position of the man. At that point, the seeds of life, namely, their descendants, will be connected to God.

This is the ideal of creation. But due to the Fall, this ideal was shattered. In order to recover the lost ideal of creation, True Parents need to recover all that was lost. In doing so, True Parents represent all creation, represent humankind, and represent our Heavenly Parent. This is the essence of the providence of salvation.

The Bible states that at the coming of the Lord, the marriage supper of the Lamb will take place. In order to have this wedding banquet, Jesus needs his bride. That bride is Eve who was with Adam before the Fall. Jesus is the Second Adam, and the Lord at the Second Advent is the Third Adam. The Third Adam needs to come as Adam before the Fall and find Eve before the Fall. And then he must hold the marriage supper of the Lamb. By their marriage the two of them will become the True Parents of humankind. Adam and Eve should have become the good parents of humankind, but they fell and became the evil parents of humankind. In order for us to be restored, we need to meet the good parents whom Adam and Eve would have become had they not fallen. Humankind absolutely needs the good parents. The purpose of the marriage supper of the Lamb is for the good parents to ascend to their throne.

The original human beings were not supposed to fall. They were supposed to receive God's Blessing at the right time, and within the right environment, to become the true ancestors of humankind. But they failed to do so; instead they became the fallen ancestors. Thus, the good ancestor, free from the Fall, should appear in front of all humankind. He is the one who can become the True Father to all in the spiritual world and the physical world. Christianity calls this person the Lord at the Second Advent.

The marriage supper of the Lamb is the banquet to which the returning Jesus comes as the True Father to bring forth a woman as the True Mother. This is the core truth of Christianity. The center of Christianity is Jesus, and the center of Jesus is love. The center of the Bible is also love. The center of love is the bride and bridegroom, and the center of the bride and bridegroom is the marriage supper of the Lamb. The paramount significance of the marriage supper of the Lamb is that the Returning Lord and his bride receive the Marriage Blessing at the time of God's choosing and in the right environment, whereby they become the true ancestors of humankind who can inherit heaven and earth

God has been looking for the persons who can represent Adam and Eve whom God had lost. The Bible calls Jesus the Second Adam. It calls Adam the tree of life. Thus, Jesus is the one who came in place of the tree of life that had been lost. However, he could not complete his original mission because he was not able to welcome the day of his wedding, when both God and the son could rejoice. That is why he left earth with the promise that he will return.

The day will arrive when God and Jesus rejoice together. The day will come when they can openly express their heart filled with six thousand years of bitter pain and sorrow. The day will come when the coming Lord can establish the bond of lineage linking God to his sons and daughters.

Suppose that when Jesus came to earth as God's only begotten son, he had not died on the cross. Since he was God's only begotten son, God surely would have sent his only begotten daughter to him. God has searched for 2,000 years to find the bride. Jesus emerged as the true son, but there is no mention of the true daughter anywhere in the Bible. That is why God's will was not realized.

The purpose of the two-thousandyear history of Christianity has therefore been to find God's daughter. The Holy Spirit came, but it represents this daughter of God only in spirit. God's bitter sorrow over this matter will be dissolved on the day that the marriage supper of the Lamb takes place.

Religion up to now has been seeking for the one ideal man and the one ideal woman. Through religion, God has been looking for the one man and the one woman of whom he could say, "You are my total love." The bridegroom and the bride in Christianity refer to God's will to seek throughout the world for the only begotten son and the only begotten daughter who can receive God's love in its fullness. When he finds that perfected man and perfected woman, God brings them together and holds a wedding banquet; from that point a new world can unfold. That is why on his return the Lord must find the bride and hold the marriage supper of the Lamb.

If the first human beings had not fallen, they would have borne sons and daughters without original sin and established a family that could directly enter the kingdom of heaven in heaven. They would have stood as the True Parents. Their family would have been one with God. Their sons and daughters would have been the offspring of God's family. However, the first family in Genesis did not fulfill the Will to establish that family; that is why, in the Book of Revelation, St. John raised the issue of establishing the bride and the bridegroom.

The bridegroom is the one who comes as the perfected True Father,



True Mother during the portion of the ceremony in which the bride and groom wore Korean wedding garb

and the bride is the one who appears as the True Mother, the beloved of God. If Adam and Eve had not fallen, they would have married centered on God, but due to the Fall they married centered on Satan. True Parents must reclaim Adam and Eve on behalf of God, and then conduct the Holy Wedding centered on God. This is the marriage supper of the Lamb that is spoken of in the Book of Revelation.

On the day when two human beings, a filial son of God and a filial daughter of God, can stand before God as the bridegroom and bride for the first time since the creation of heaven and earth, God will say to them, "You have worked so hard to come here seeking Heaven's heart and the heart of the Heavenly Parent, even amid all the adversity on earth!" He then will give his Blessing to this couple and install them as the True Parents who represent the incorporeal God in physical form. Such is the cosmic banquet, the marriage supper of the Lamb.

The marriage supper of the Lamb is offered based on the bridegroom and bride having become a true filial son and daughter, with the true bride having pledged herself to the will and having understood the will. From the day they receive the Blessing, they become the True Parents of humankind who represent the incorporeal God in substantial form.

If the first human beings had not fallen, they would have grown up in a good world and received the Blessing in the love of God. Adam and Eve would have become children who could intimately know God's heart. In their loving union they would have made a bond of heart with God that would have enabled God to say to them, "You are My filial son and daughter, and you can represent My heart." The new Adam and Eve cannot become God's filial son and daughter unless they feel connected to him in heart. Thus, they need to understand God's inner heart and the course through which he suffered. By doing so, they can meet the conditions required of Adam and Eve for realizing the ideal of creation. The marriage supper of the Lamb is precisely the event through which those conditions are met.

The day of the marriage supper of the Lamb is the day when we celebrate the wedding banquet of the True Parents, who finally were found after being lost for 6,000 years. Originally, it would have been impossible for unfallen human beings in the position of children to watch their parents, the True Parents, having their wedding banquet. However, since the True Parents arrived after the fact, the order was reversed. Originally Adam and Eve would have celebrated their wedding banquet while attending God the True Parent, and then they would have given birth to true children and built an ideal world. However, due to the Fall, fallen human beings multiplied first before the emergence of the True Parents. Therefore, your desire should be to meet the True Parents. You need to recover that which went in the wrong direction; this is restoration through indemnity. Hence, those fallen human beings who were born earlier than the True Parents must go in the opposite direction. You must go in the direction opposite to what the secular world wants.

For Jesus to fulfill his purpose in his lifetime, he needed to find his bride. But he was not able to do so. That is why he left the concept "I am the bridegroom, and you are the bride" as his last testament. The resurrected Jesus looked for the bride throughout the world. He searched for the best candidate among the most faithful believers within the realm of the Second Israel, regardless of nationality. For the past 2,000 years he made continual efforts in search of her. When he finds the bride, the true human ancestors can emerge; when the true human ancestors emerge, the True Parents can emerge.

Originally, in the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve should have become the true human ancestors and should have been installed as the True Parents. However, due to the Human Fall, it is only now in the era of the Second Coming, after 6,000 years have passed, that God could find the true ancestors of humankind. Finally a man emerged who prevailed over Satan's world and received the Holy Wedding from God. Now he has re-created Eve. By attaining that position, he has restored the standard for inaugurating the ancestors of humankind for the first time, 6,000 years after Adam and Eve. Only after numerous fallen children had multiplied did True Parents reverse the order and come forth.

The turning point in providential history

True Parents' Holy Wedding, held on April 11, 1960, was the historic moment when the history of restoration through indemnity climbed over the mountain of indemnity at the completion level of the growth stage. The Holy Wedding of True Parents was a global and cosmic event. True Father, who came as the perfected Adam on the foundation of the long history of the providence, laid the foundation on earth to receive True Mother, the original Eve. True Father represents heaven, True Mother represents earth, and their union finally connected the spiritual world and the physical world, which had been divided. Finally the standard required to break down the wall that had separated Adam and Eve from God had been met. 76

This is from Cham Bumo Gyeong, Book 1 Chapter 2 Section 1 to the end of the red part before 13.



Embody the Blessing

This was True Mother's message to participants in the Youth Blessing Festival, which she delivered from the Cheongshim World Peace Center on March 27.







- Gifts being presented to True Mother by participants in the Blessing Festival
 Shin-heung Moon and his wife Yume Iriyama sang "Lucky" by Jason Mraz and Colbie Caillat.
- A representative couple recites the Declaration of Commitment.

eloved second and third-generation youth of Cheon Il Guk from around the world! You are all True Parents' sons and daughters. Isn't that so? [Yes!] Through True Parents, may you grow beautifully and receive True Parents' Blessing. Then Heavenly Parent will dwell with you. [Applause] Being a moment wherein Heavenly Parent's dream and wish come true, it is essential that you accept this occasion in humility and gratitude. Heavenly Parent's wish was to live with the children he loved on earth, embrace them and bless their futures so that they would all strive to be at their best in all aspects of life as they work toward a joyful and bright future. Heavenly Parent created us so that, based on our lives on earth, we can enjoy life in the eternal world, the kingdom of heaven.

After Father's Holy Ascension, from the outset I was making effort for your education. In particular, at the Aloha Workshop (July 22, 2014), I called those of you who were born from the Blessing "pure water." This

pure water, which is like the water of life, cannot become stagnant. You must continue to broaden your environment and become models for the world. You must live a life that shows how the future unfolds for someone that has received Heavenly Parent's Blessing. So, while the True Parents, particularly now while True Mother, God's only begotten daughter, is here on earth, it is essential that you are united with True Mother. Can we leave the 7.8 billion people of the world ignorant of Heavenly Parent's dream? Living exemplary lives so that people come to know of True Parents' births and come to participate in our True Family Movement, a movement with which Heavenly Parent dwells, is your hope and your future. Do you understand? [Applause] The Creator... God, our creator, is our Heavenly Parent. The Creator created all things in heaven and on earth and wished to realize his dream through the first human ancestors. The time for that dream to be realized was spring. It was a spring day. Therefore, I wish to sing a song

for all of you. [Applause] This was a song I sang when I was still young, so I don't know if it will come out well.

Flow gently, spring breeze! Flow to me across the mountains and across the waters Flow softly so as not to disturb the baby sleeping in the shade of the tree. He is resting so gently on the warm

hillock, dreaming among the fluttering butterflies

So please flow gently so that he does not awaken.

A calm brook flows happily along. In the clear sky a lark is singing, while the baby sleeps among the flowers. So please flow gently. Embrace the flowers that bloom each year without fail, embrace the butterflies and the bees and dance with these good friends.

We will now greet the spring day, the anniversary of True Parents' Holy Wedding, when Heavenly Parent's dream, True Parents' dream, and your dream will be realized. Congratulations! 7

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Pursuing the Blessed Family Vision

An introduction to the Youth Blessing Festival

his an event that True Mother initiated. The first such festival, which Peacelink broadcast live online, took place on March 27, 2021, originating from the Cheongshim World Peace Center. More than thirty thousand young people in our second and third generations from 125 countries took part in it. This festival was an opportunity for these thousands of young people to pledge to Heavenly Parent and True Parents to preserve their sexual purity until they receive the Blessing.

We know that True Mother has a great love for the young people, who represent the future of Cheon-II Guk and has great interest in everything related to youth. True Mother loves poems. Among the poems True Mother loves is one entitled "Youth" by Samuel Ullman. True Mother loves this verse in the poem in particular: "Youth is not a time of life; it is a state of mind."

Everyone experiences youth, however, just as this verse says, youth isn't simply our young days. As long as one's inner heart continues beating, anyone, regardless of age, can live youthfully, like an evergreen tree. In True Mother's autobiography, on page 253, you can find the following paragraph:

Especially in our younger years, we face countless temptations, endless concerns and unbounded desires. The only way to manage these is to have a strong will, and this means having clearly defined objectives. The years of our youth are the best time to dedicate ourselves to exciting goals that make our hearts beat faster. Since our youth is brief, it is important to do this without delay.

In order to overcome the many temptations, worries and desires of their youthful days, according to True Mother, young people must pursue a dream or vision that makes their heart beat faster and be willing to completely devote their youth to realizing that dream and vision. As we have learned through the Bible, Heavenly Parent's first son and daughter, Adam and Eve, ended up falling during their growth period because they could not overcome self-centered temptation and desires. In other words, they could not pursue a dream or a vision that made their heart beat and to which they could completely devote themselves without hesitation.

That was why True Father, Heavenly Parent's only son, met Jesus at the age of sixteen and then pursued the heart-beating dream to realize Jesus' unfinished mission, while True Mother, Heavenly Parent's only daughter, at the age of sixteen established her vision to complete Heavenly Parent's providence within her lifetime, and following the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, the two began treading the True Parents' path together.

Unlike Adam and Eve, True Parents both established a heart-beating vision and dream centered solely on Heavenly Parent. They both dedicated their lives for that dream and vision. Likewise, True Mother has been running until now for that dream and vision.

True Mother is without a doubt still in her youth. Particularly after True Father's Holy Ascension, for the past eight years, regardless of her physical limitations and health, with which taking a step has been difficult, True Mother restored seven nations and seven religious groups and proclaimed the firm establishment of Cheon II Guk in 2020, to realize the dream and vision True Parents had established in their youthful days.

The reason Mother has continued to move forward for the sake of our Heavenly Parent is precisely because of her having formulated, during her youth, a dream and a goal that excited her heart. If this is the case, what kind of goal must those who are now in their youth establish? The following is from True Mother's memoir:

When we are young, we stand at a crossroads. We have to decide whether to take the road that satisfies selfish desires or the road toward a great dream. As we begin the stage of life following childhood, we should be beautiful young men and women ready to launch ourselves into the world with the courage that comes from having great dreams.

In order for young people to become filial sons or daughters, patriots that tread a path for posterity, working together with our Heavenly Parent, the first thing they need is determination to have hyojeong [filial devotion]—to give all that they have to Heavenly Parent and True Parents. Unlike Adam and Eve of old, who fell during their growth period, centering on our Heavenly Parent and True Parents, we must make the sacred determination to protect our purity, pursue the path of individual perfection, receive the Blessing from True Parents, perfect a family and then perfect our dominion over the creation, which is the path to the completion of the three blessings.

In particular, in this first historic year after the sixtieth anniversary of the True Parents' Holy Wedding, Heavenly Parent's Day and True Parents' Day became one day. In this special year, True Mother has permitted today's festival and Commitment Ceremony. Through this Commitment Ceremony, she is blessing young people as true children of our Heavenly Parent and True Parents and bequeathing to you their heart-stirring vision, their determination and their filial piety toward Heaven, which True Parents established during their adolescence and youth. That is why this is a truly joyful festive day centered on the Blessing, for which we can feel grateful.

The Blessing is the greatest gift from Heavenly Parent to you. It expresses the greatest love that True Parents can give you. Therefore, the Blessing is joy and happiness.

The following excerpt from True Mother's memoirs highlights additional points about the importance of the Blessing you receive from True Parents:

Every one of the nearly eight billion people in the world needs to meet the True Parents on earth. That is the purpose of the marriage Blessing. The fact that True Parents are with us is the fearsome yet joyful truth. Happiness is when human beings, who have lost their parents, find them again. There is nothing more joyful.

As the True Mother, the only begotten daughter and Mother of the universe, I have completed all the works of the providence and opened a new age. Now we need to engrave that truth in our hearts and act upon Heaven's will. Guided by the Mother of peace, the only begotten daughter, you will receive True Parents' seal and achieve harmony on the path of life.

This first Hyojeong Youth Blessing Festival was marked by a solemn commitment of the youth to Heavenly Parent and True Parents, which they expressed through the following resolution:

Declaration of Commitment

I offer my sacred determination in front of Heavenly Parent and True Parents.

I will keep my purity for my future spouse and work toward individual perfection.

I will receive the Marriage Blessing from the True Parents of Heaven, Earth, and Humankind and work toward family perfection.

I will participate in the ideal of one human family under Heavenly Parent and work toward the perfection of dominion over the creation.

On March 27, all participants in the Blessing Festival made this commitment.

A Recently Blessed Couple Within the True Family

By Shin-chul Moon and Ji-woo Chang



Shin-chul: Hello everyone! We are Shin-chul Moon... Ti-woo: And Ji-woo Chang

Shin-chul: Today, we are truly honored to be able to Sstand here to give a testimony in this Hyojeong Youth Blessing Festival. We actually received the Blessing from True Parents in 2020. Do you remember the day, last year on January 4, when True Mother announced our engagement in front of all the members and leaders by any chance? For me, that was the happiest moment, the most thrilling moment. As you can see in the picture [on the screen behind them] I could not stop myself from smiling. Yet, when I looked at my wife, she look completely stiff as though she was being sold. I thought to myself, "This is not the time of the Joseon Dynasty. If she doesn't like me, she should simply say so! It was to the point where my uncle actually hesitated over whether he should pass a microphone to her or not.

i-woo: That was actually not the case. I certainly didn't look like I was being sold. I was just so tense on that day. I kept wondering if I was the right person for Shinchul nim and I was making a determination to do my best for True Parents. I felt that kind of resolve and determination. Please trust me.

When I looked at that photo, the emotions I went through on that day vividly come back to me. I believe that many of the people who were engaged at this time, too experienced the same heart that we did. I pondered a lot on what we should share today through this hyojeong testimony. Thankfully, some of my friends who also hope to get Blessed, sent me many questions and their thoughts on this. So we picked three questions we thought were best, and we will share our stories based on those questions.

Q and A

i-woo: So let's begin with the first question: How is your world different before and after meeting your spouse?

Shin-chul: To be truthful, externally, not much changed, actually. Before the Blessing I would hang out with friends joyfully. I played most of the time, I would say. Internally, though, before the Blessing... For example, when I would be playing with my friends, it would be fun, I would be happy, but afterward, when I had said good-bye to them, I would go home and when I would enter my room, I felt such a huge gap between the emotions I felt with my friends and the emptiness, the loneliness, I felt when I was alone. Sometimes, I would ask questions... I couldn't find motivation in life.

But, as you can see, my wife expresses her emotions, and she's quite an attraction person, so thanks to that, I feel she has added colors in my life. Now, every single day is much happier, is much more diverse.

i-woo: Thank you. Please do not be lonely.... After receiving the Blessing, I became a member of the True Family. Externally, I went through many changes. Internally, before the Blessing, the unit standard of my life was actually me. All decisions would be made based on what I thought, but after the Blessing, I will always think of my husband first whenever I have to decide something. My basic unit for decision making became a couple, my husband and I, so more than anything else, to have a person who loves me and someone on whom I can depend on—the firmness I feel through my husband is probably the biggest change.

Shin-chul: [Spoken through laughter] If you know that, that's fine. We will move on to the next question.

Q2. How do you reconcile after fighting? Chin-chul: How do we do it?

D i-woo: Actually, nobody likes fighting with each other. Sometimes, even if you don't mean to, you can hurt your spouse. I learned that it is important to try to think from your partner's point of view. My partner is saying these things for this, this and this reason. I realized that point.

Shin-chul: It's actually the same for me as well. I do not think there is one exact answer for how to reconcile for a couple, but when you fight with someone you love, sometimes you will stop speaking to each other, and you may not feel great. But more than being hurt by your partner, because you love your partner, you want even more to reconcile quickly. I think that sometimes we just naturally reconcile



Shin-chul Moon and his wife, Ji-woo Jeong, sang "Uphill Road," a Korean song.

because of that kind of love. It's like we won't talk to each other for ten minutes, but after that, after five or ten minutes, we'll just reconcile.

Anyway, we are at the last question: What advice would you give to young people who are about to receive the Blessing? What would you tell them?

i-woo: Actually, we received the precious Blessing from True Parents, because of that, I believe it is essential to know the true meaning of the Blessing more than anything else. When different people, a man and a woman, meet each other, more than simply focusing on being happy with each other, it is always good to remember that responsibility follows a Blessed family, for which we need to become completely one and as a couple support and help True Parents in achieving their providential objectives. I believe that is the right standard we should have as a couple.

Chin-chul: I personally... Only one year has Depassed since we received the Blessing. So, I feel I am not in a position from which I can give you any advice regarding the Blessing. But if we have to say something, many second- and third-generation members try to keep faith in the church. As you all know the Blessing is our purpose and once you receive the Blessing, you have to create a beautiful family. So, it is beautified in many ways. We have this beautiful ideal in our head that when we receive the Blessing, we won't fight; we'll always be happy at all times, but then afterward, when we end up receiving the Blessing, we face different difficulties, including fighting, conflicts, etcetera, and get hurt even more. Sometimes, we might think, "Did I receive the wrong Blessing?" Some people may think that way. Even in society, they say that marriage is the bonding of two different cultures. Conflicts are unavoidable in that sense, so my advice is simply don't be disappointed but always regard the Blessing as precious. Also understand that your spouse is going through the same thing. If you do that, I feel, your Blessing will be OK.

Ji-woo: Thank you. Because we have a designated time to speak, we will conclude here. I hope we were able to convey our hearts to you, even in some small way. I would like to use this opportunity to thank True Parents for giving us this precious Blessing. We hope to become one with all blessed couples, so we can all greatly support True Parents. Thank you!

Shin-chul: Thank you all. The second second

Build Trustable, Secure Love

By Dan and Samia Burton



Dan: Greetings to all the thirty thousand powerful young leaders from all backgrounds assembled here for the Hyojeong Youth Blessing Festival hosted by True Parents.

My wife Samia and I are very excited to be with you today, because we are making history together with Mother Moon, the founder of this global movement for peace. Together with her leadership, she is influencing the world in two ways: First, she is bringing into focus faithful marriage and the family, which is the fundamental building block of a great society. Second, she is bringing a global realization among the leaders of the world that enemy nations can achieve peace.

Many of the most influential people throughout the world from business, politics, media, religion and entertainment are astonished and inspired by the fact that she has the wisdom and warmth of love that creates an atmosphere where enemies can come together and find ways to cooperate for peace.

We understand that twelve thousand of you are getting engaged and preparing for the historic Blessing Ceremony on April 25. Congratulations! True love is what it is all about. My wife and I rededicated our marriage with Mother Moon's prayer and blessing, and now Samia says I am a much better husband. [To his wife] That is right, isn't it?

I want you all to know that if you follow the teachings of Mother Moon on marriage and family, you will be sure to have God's blessing for a most happy, loving life. As you know, love is the most beautiful part of life when it is trusted and secure. That is why we encourage all to maintain purity before marriage. When your love is committed, you become secure in true love and you never betray one another. You build a love that is trustworthy. Marriage and family are the most beautiful and central purpose of life, and through the blessing you will influence others to marry with the commitment of living for the sake of their children and for the community. This clearly creates a better community and nation.

And always remember, you should treat each other like you want to be treated. Husbands, treat your wife like she is precious, and wives, treat your husband like he is a man of honor. We want to encourage you today. You can change this world by being strong for God and family. And finally, thank you, Mother Moon, for leading this world toward strong families and peace.

Samia: I congratulate you all for joining this Blessing Festival. Nothing is more beautiful than to see young men and women seeking to make a better world. My husband and I are so grateful for Mother Moon. Her leadership for peace is so significant and her encouragement for all to be blessed and create faithful marriages is the most beautiful thing in the world.

I want to encourage you to join the Marriage Blessing and to build a family of true love! It is where you will find the greatest happiness. \mathcal{P}

Mr. Burton was a congressman representing the US State of Indiana (1983–2013); Mrs. Burton is a medical doctor.

Believe in the Blessing

By Ilya and Diane Hack



ello everybody. Hi everyone. Thank you for inviting us. My name is Ilya. My name is Diane Hack.

lya: We live here in Kingston, in New York State, in America, and we've been blessed since last February, in 2020. It was a chaotic year but we made it. We just want to talk a little bit about our Blessing life, why we got married and why we got Blessed, and what we see in the Blessing. This past year has given us so much understanding of what True Parents saw in the Blessing and how much beauty there is in this interaction between me and her. And we saw this (I guess we can say) as God guiding us together. I say that a lot to other people about our relationship: it is a lot about what God guides us to do. After we listened to the signs that God gave us, we felt like we just had to do our five percent, to meet each other and to do our best to impact the world this way, and be an example to the world about what the Blessing means and what this interaction means. We felt a lot of beauty out of it.

Diane: And I think the most important thing or at least the first step we took before receiving the Blessing was working on ourselves. In the beginning as we were growing up we wanted the Blessing, so we decided to commit ourselves—doing the II Shim [eight weeks of a coming-of-age] program and keeping ourselves pure for each other. And I think that was our first step towards [blessed family life], and I think it was worth it. I am glad that we decided to work on ourselves first and then get into this relationship. And, like he said, God guided us to get to where we are right now. I think the reason we value the Blessing so much is because we received it also from our parents—we inherited that heart. And through True Parents and through our parents having received the Blessing, we wanted to continue that legacy and continue that lineage, which True Parents said is important. So that is why we decided to be blessed—to continue the lineage of True Parents continue what True Parents created in the beginning. I am glad that we decided to do it, because I can see God through him, the masculine side of God, in our relationship. I am grateful for that.

Ilya: And just the last point, this past year was a blessing despite the pandemic. It has been a grateful time for both of us. There have been a lot of ups and downs and there were a few arguments here and there, but I see every part of this—every step that we take—as something graced by God. And no matter if it's sometimes hard or sometimes very lovely, sometimes very beautiful, I can see that it is graced by God. So don't worry: sometimes you may get into ups and downs, but all of it is worth it.

Diane: And of course because we are different people and we come from different cultures as well, so we have our differences. But at the end of the day this is what God wants, and we can feel God when we are together and loving each other. So please take this time to commit yourself and believe in the Blessing because it is something so beautiful and something that we have that other people don't have. So we hope that you can value what you're doing today.

lya: Thank you.

📄 iane: Thank you and good luck! 🌾

Embracing Four Ancestral Backgrounds

By Ryan Hokanson and Chaisitdamrong Kamonchanok (Nok)



Ryan: Hello! Good morning! We are a second-generation international blessed couple. I am Ryan Hokanson. I have an American father and a Korean mother. As a child, I lived in Alaska in the U.S. and I moved back and forth between Korea and the U.S. Now I am working at the Korean Youth and Students for Peace organization to create cultural and educational materials for future generations of young people. Nowadays, I am working busily and happily like a mini-broadcasting station.

Nok: My father is Thai and my mother is Japanese. I was born in and lived in Bangkok, Thailand. I came

to Sun Moon University to study after receiving the Hyojeong Peace Academy Scholarship from True Parents. I am in my fourth year. I am also learning how to run a café as an intern at the World Youth Headquarters. My dream is to create an economic foundation and do business in the future to support members of the Thai movement and other people in need around the world.

Before I was blessed, seeing my own parents love for each other, I felt that two countries could become one in a family. I also prayed that I would meet someone with a background from two different countries and create a family in which those four countries become one.



yan: We were introduced to each other by our parents, and in February 2020 we attended True Parents' Blessing and became a couple. My wife, who is the most beautiful woman in the world, always cares for me, tries to understand, always makes me laugh and makes me happy. We mainly communicate in Korean, but communication is difficult at times. In that case, I use a lot of body language and sound effects. Some such expressions my wife would sometimes use are "It's ping, ping." "It's tong tong." "It's pyuha!" Yes, it is difficult to tell the exact meaning. Conveying meaning is a little slow and sometimes inaccurate, but on the contrary, emotions seem to be transmitted more effectively. We try to understand each other by listening to each other's hearts as well as our words. Along with Korean, we communicate through the language of love. In addition, we feel even more deeply the heart and love of Heavenly Parent and True Parents as I learn Thai and Japanese and my wife learns Korean and English and we embrace four countries and their languages.

Honestly, since we were blessed, we haven't been able to go on our honeymoon yet, due both to our busy schedules and the coronavirus, but since receiving the Blessing, we feel that all the time we have spent together has been like a journey. I always look forward to the "newness" we find in each other that is like a honeymoon.

Nok: I cry sometimes. I am deeply grateful to Heavenly Parent and True Parents that I could meet my husband. To me, I feel that my husband is a gift from Heavenly Parent and True Parents.

Sometimes I ask Heavenly Parent in my heart, Can you give such a big gift to me? I am lacking; how can I have found such a good husband? I felt that because Heavenly Parent loves me a lot, I could meet Ryan. After receiving the Blessing with Ryan, I thought that I should no longer receive blessings from Heavenly Parent and True Parents, but that we should return joy of filial piety to Heavenly Parent and True Parents as their son and daughter.

Ryan: My wife's phone number is recorded phone. Through her, I can feel the love of our Heavenly Parent, and I feel that we can become one and resemble our Heavenly Parent. After receiving the Blessing, my dream has been to go to Thailand to introduce True Parents' language, Korean, to people there and to spread the culture of true love.

Nok: Before the Blessing, I always had conversations with Heavenly Parent, but only in my heart. Now I am blessed and feel Ryan is my personal God who always listens to me and always comforts me. The lyrics of the song "First Love" express that we are each other's God, and we would like to sing this for you here. \mathcal{P}

This couple gave their testimonies during the entertainment portion of the Youth Blessing Festival.



PEACE FESTIVAL Heavenly Parent's Holy Community



Welcome to the Peace Festival

By Young-ho Yun

Beloved peace-loving citizens who have come to the Heavenly Parent's Holy Community Peace Festival, I am so happy to meet you. First of all, I sincerely welcome all of you who have come to this Peace Festival today. Today's Peace Festival is celebrated by not only the blessed families and members of the Heavenly Parent's Holy Community, but also our guests and contacts and lovers of peace who know of and are attending Heavenly Parent's Holy Community for the first time. Not only from our Cheonwon Church but from all of Korea, Japan and throughout Asia—more than three hundred thousand people have gathered here through our webcast and interactive platform. To welcome one another, let us all together offer enthusiastic applause!

Everyone! Peace is the common ideal that all humankind has dreamed of. From peace within ourselves, within a family, peace between ethnic peoples, between nations, and even world peace—everyone, across the borders of races, religions, and cultures, wishes for peace. Unfortunately, true peace has never been realized in all of history.

Dr. Han Hak-Ja, our True Mother, says that the reason for that is that humankind has not been able to accomplish the ideal of one human family under Heavenly Parent by serving God, the true parent of all of humankind, as their Heavenly Parent.

Yes, no peace can exist between siblings without parents. Because parents are the center for the brothers and sisters in a family. No true peace can exist in the world without God, who is our parent. Because of this, Dr. Hak-Ja Han, our True Mother, has traveled around the world each year, quickly moving to wherever she was most needed. She has visited the most remote corners of the world—remaining on the move throughout her life to help people understand God as their Heavenly Parent. Impressed by her lifestyle, heads of state and religious leaders began to relate with her beyond the walls of government and religion, calling her the Mother of Peace.

Our Peace Festival today is a festival and occasion of blessing, hosted by President Hak-ja Han Moon, the Mother of Peace. This is an excerpt from her memoir:

The desire of all people is to receive all the blessings of God. Happiness is when human beings, who have lost their parent, find him again after searching for six thousand years. There is nothing more joyful. To be religious is to search for and find such a parent.

Ladies and gentlemen! Through this peace festival today, I pray that through serving God as our Heavenly Parent under the banner of the Heavenly Parent's Holy Community, we can all become peace lovers that receive Heaven's blessings.

Furthermore, we plan to hold a Peace Festival on five occasions, starting with the theme "blessing" today, and then subsequently on the themes of joy, gratitude, happiness, and resolve. Through this festival, I pray that we can encounter our original Parent, who has been lost to us for six thousand years, and embark on a journey of blessing to find our true selves. \mathcal{P}

Who is the Mother of Peace? Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon

Hun Sen, prime minister of Cambodia

onorable Hak Ja Han Moon, co-founder of the Universal Peace Federation!

Today, I have a great honor and pleasure to address excellences, ladies and gentlemen at the Rally of Hope Virtual Summit organized by the Universal Peace Federation (UPF). We must promote mutual love, mutual respect and the value of humanity, coexist peacefully and harmoniously and respect the diversity of faiths, religions and cultures within and between societies. Cambodia is ready to contribute to this noble goal with all stakeholders.

Chuichi Date, former president, House of Councilors, Japan

f you compare the conflict between the countries of the world to a fight between siblings, what the world needs now is someone who can be like a mother to all humanity who reconciles the siblings. Dr. Hak Ja Han said in her keynote address, "Human-centered selfishness has exhausted not only human beings but also the beautiful earth. It is not possible for humanity to become one with thoughts and ideas centered on humans. We must properly understand God, the Creator, who is the origin of the universe." I keep those words in mind.

Evaristo Carvalho, president of São Tomé and Príncipe

e appreciate the numerous initiatives of the Universal Peace Federation in the person of the venerable Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, ardent defender of harmony among all people and tireless fighter for peace, justice and the well-being of humanity, particularly on the continent of Africa. Venerable Dr. Moon, we are convinced that your proclamation of the new age of heavenly Africa as a continent of hope that can bring about a world of freedom, equality, peace and happiness, will be a reality in the not-too-distant future if we all work together for it.



From left: Hun Sen, prime minister of Cambodia (1984 –) Chuichi Date, president of Japan's House of Councilors 2016–2019, Evaristo Carvalho, incumbent president since 2016 of São Tomé and Príncipe and Jimmy Morales, president of Guatemala 2016–2020



From Left: Yves Leterme, Belgium's prime minister 2009–2011; Ban Ki-moon secretary general of the UN 2007–2016; Newt Gingrich, speaker of the US House of Representatives 1995–1999; Richard Cheney, US vice-president 2001–2009

Jimmy Morales, former president of Guatemala

want us to acknowledge the effort of Mother Moon who, with her leadership, promotes peace, family and integration of the world with a message of a united family, based on love and fidelity.

Yves Leterme, former prime minister of Belgium

If the efforts you, Madam Moon, and your late husband have undertaken and are achieving, all the good and crucial work the Universal Peace Federation is performing day after day, is what makes a real difference, what brings lasting progress, and what today can bring back the hope we so much need in these dark and difficult times. This is the hope for citizens and societies, the hope for the values of peaceful coexistence, for international understanding, and for inclusive progress, respect, and human rights.

Ban Ki-moon, past secretary-general of the United Nations

r. Moon has devoted ceaseless efforts to bring together stakeholders from all realms of society to seek innovative ways to build a world of peace and to support peaceful reunification on the Korean Peninsula. Her sincere efforts aimed at furthering the cause of peace have led to the successful hosting of World Summit 2020 last February and have given much support for the Declaration of the Asia-Pacific Union. I believe this meaningful gathering will also serve as a platform that lays the foundation for Korea to turn itself into an innovative and inclusive nation as well as an economic peace community on the Korean peninsula, thereby being prepared for the next century.

Newt Gingrich, ex-speaker of the US House of Representatives

think that what Mother Moon has done in carrying on the work of her husband is to build a worldwide movement committed to the concept that we can find ways to talk with each other; we can find ways to work together. And now we need to place emphasis more on peace and on seeking a better future than on war. I think it's a very important thing that you're doing.

Richard Cheney, former vice president of the United States

The global pandemic has put every country to the test with disruptive consequences for practically every organization, yet the work of UPF continues, and that is a credit to the energy and the dedication of Dr. Moon. Since founding UPF fifteen years ago, she has assembled a broad diverse network of leaders and concerned citizens and made it a respected influence for the good.



From Left: Mike Pence, US vice-president 2017–2021; Brigi Rafini, prime minister of Niger, 2011–April 2, 2021; Pastor T. L. Barrett, Pentacostal preacher and gospel musician; Uzwi Lezwe Samuel Radebe, a South Afrcan prophet and pastor of the Revelation Spiritual Home

Mike Pence, former vice president of the United States

hank you, Dr. Moon, for living out your life's calling with compassion and grace.

Brigi Rafini, prime minister of Niger

t is the reality that Mrs. Hak Ja Han Moon is truly recognized as the Mother of Peace.

Reverend T. L. Barrett

G od is using True Mother, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, to bring much-needed change, not just in America but throughout the entire world. And I feel so blessed that I was chosen by God to be alive in this season for this divine reason, to be able to look and behold the face of God's most beautiful only begotten daughter, to be able to touch her, to be able to feel her heart, to be able to hear—not have to read in history books, but to hear with my own ears—her words of wisdom, her words of challenge, her words that will cause worldwide change. So, if my presence and my devotion and my allegiance will give her an ounce of strength, my dedication and devotion will not be in vain, because she deserves our support.

Prophet Uzwi Lezwe Samuel Radebe

have come to appreciate the vision and love of Mother Moon for all humankind. For me, she is a godsend. Her concerns for the fate of all the 7.8 billion people are clear and real. She has founded many new organizations and programs, especially the Sunhak Peace Prize, to support all the efforts for environmental preservation and to tackle poverty. More importantly, she liberated Africa in 2018 in Senegal. Last year, at the Hector Pieterson Memorial, she prayed for and liberated the youth who fought against oppression, injustice and gave their lives for the sake of this nation. I believe she created a new dawn for South Africa! Mother Moon is really a True Mother, the only begotten daughter of God! 70



The Man Who Carried Iron Rods

By Gyu-hwan Kim

ood morning everyone,

I am a former member of the Korean National Assembly. I am very pleased to meet you today. I am truly honored to be able to offer some remarks at the Heavenly Parent's Holy Community's Peace Festival. During my childhood about forty years ago, I worked in a company called Daew00 Heavy Industries. At that time, I was just a field worker; I would carry various heavy loads on my back.

One day, I saw that eleven cars had passed by and from the second car a person got out of the car and walked all the way down next to me. He said, "Look at this person's eyes!" Then other people began to gather around me. They asked me, "Who are you?" "What are you doing?" "What is your job?" "What are you doing here?" I said, "I am not an important person. All I do is work for Daewoo Heavy Industries; I'm carrying these iron rods to Tongil Heavy Industries. That [first] person looked at me and said, "You will be successful. You will be victorious. You can become one of the best in the world. You will be victorious. Help this person." Then, that person got in the car and went. I did not know who the person was who suddenly stepped out of the car and talked to me.

Forty years later, one day, I was in COEX in Gangnam [a convention center in Seoul] and Dr. Sun Myung Moon was holding a special festival to celebrate the publication of his autobiography. Later, when I heard about Dr. Sun Myung Moon, I wanted to go to that publication festival. I went to gate through which people go out. There was no seat for me, so I stood in one of the corners near a pillar, near the exit. Rev. Sun Myung Moon spoke for two hours and he receive a lot of applause.

As he was going out, many tall people were next to me, but I waved my hand. On his way out, he turned around and he came next to me and he said, "Hey you! You! What is your position now? I told Rev. Moon, "Yes. I am the young person who was carrying iron rods. Now, I've become one of the key engineers in Korea, one of the best engineers in Korea." Rev. Moon said, "Yes! I knew it." Rev. Moon said to someone, "Bring one of my books!" These books were not the ones that were published, they were huge. They weighed at least fifteen kilograms [thirty-three pounds] and they were covered in lacquer. On his way out of the venue, Rev. Moon gave it to me and this is what he said: "This person needs to work for the nation. He will become a great person for the nation of Korea. Help him and watch him! He will become a great person." Everyone applauded and left.

What was left to me is what happened later—amazing miracles happened to me. After I went to college, I became an emeritus professor even though I did not graduate from college. I was also elected as a member of the Korean National Assembly.

Later, I placed the book that Rev. Moon had given me in a frame and put it into the National Library of the Korean National Assembly. Each day, I remember what Rev. Moon had said. "What is Korea famous for? Switzerland is famous for its watches. America is famous for its aircraft industry. What is Korea famous for?" In order to raise Korea, I felt that Korea has to have the largest number of Nobel Peace Prize laureates. We have been making various laws to support students from primary school all the way to college. We were able to pass these laws that focus exclusively on raising young people to become Nobel Prize laureates.

One amazing thing that I want to mention is that in every law that I passed, I always put in Rev. Moon's photograph. One key person asked, "What are you doing?" I said, "I am doing something for peace." He asked, "Is this Family Federation?" I said, "Yes!" He said, "What is your name? Are you the person who worked forty years ago delivering to Tongil Heavy Industries? Are you the

one that Rev. Moon stooped and to whom he said, 'You will be a great person'? Are you Gyu-hwan Kim who used to carry iron rods?" That was Mr. Seongyeol Kim, a very high-ranking, leading figure and through him I met Gwanseok Seong the [then] head of the Universal Peace Federation-Korea. I also was appointed as the co-chair of the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace [IAPP]. I was able to go throughout Korea, to Nepal, to Japan. As a parliamentarian I was able to attend various IAPP gatherings. I was able to see with my own eyes the work that Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon is doing. I do not believe that anyone is doing more than Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon for the sake of peace on the Korean Peninsula and peace around the world. I believe that the key to peace on the Korean Peninsula lies with Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon. Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon is the Mother of Peace that the entire world, that all of humanity recognizes as the Mother of Peace. Heads of state are recognizing Dr. Moon as the Mother of Peace. Dr. Moon, the Mother of Peace, is the Mother of Unification, wouldn't you agree? She is the Mother of Korean unification and she indeed is the Mother of Peace.

I believe that if God looked at me and said, You have one wish, what is your wish? I would gladly and boldly declare, I want Dr. Hak Ja Han to live for a long, long time, and that she will realize her dream of world peace during her lifetime. My only wish to God would be to grant Dr. Hak Ja Han a long and healthy life.

Today, we are hosting this beautiful peace festival and Dr. Young-ho Yun sang so beautifully. I wondered how can he sing so beautifully? When I heard his song, I wondered, is he naturally gifted? Is he gifted by God with such a beautiful voice? But I believe that also Dr. Moon has gifted Dr. Yun with the gift of music. But today, we are all in the boat of world peace. Can I sing a song for you? I would like to sing a short song that came out on Miss Trot. [Trot is a Korean musical genre.] I looked for a song. It says, Let us sail along the ocean. After being invited to speak here, I rehearsed it, but I don't know if I can sing it well. Please forgive me if my ability is lacking, but I would like to sing for you "We Are All Sailing On the Same Boat." Let us all board the ship of world peace!

Truly, I believe that while we live our lives we must place Rev. Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon as compasses of our lives. I hope that Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon will live a healthy and happy life. $\not P$

Gyu-hwan Kim was a member of the Korean National Assembly 2016–2020.



PEACE FESTIVAL PART 2: WHO IS HEAVENLY PARENT?



Questions I've Been Asked

By Noel Jones

The question has been asked of me, who is the Mother of Peace? I think of her as a great lady who intensely corroborated her husband, the late Rev. Sun Myung Moon's lifetime mission. Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon interpreted her calling from God. She realized God had made her a gift to reconcile families, neighbors, provinces, states and even countries to each other. Her calling to be the Mother of Peace is rooted in her revelatory illumination that God has made of one blood all the peoples of the earth. Therefore, she adopted a group of leaders and followers who share her illumination, not merely as unattached partners but as her family, connected spiritually and literally by blood. The revelatory illumination drives her, yes drives her ebulliently to seek peaceful solutions to local and national differences among peoples of the world as a mother would in her family. Her vision for her family of humanity includes unity on the Korean Peninsula as an example of hope for all of the nations seeking peace. The Mother of Peace is determined to fulfill her calling as a champion of all humankind. That is the Mother of Peace.

The question has been asked of me, is God the Heavenly Parent of Humanity? My answer is a categorical yes! All major religions believe in the creative power of God. The definition and name of God may differ among religions, but one thing we all agree on is that God created humanity. Islam, Judaism, and Christianity concur with the Genesis account of creation and since we are Bible believers, we accept the Genesis account that God said, let us make man in our own image. Later the account says, "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him, male and female created he them." The question is not whether or not he is the Father in the parental scheme. Now, we can read and understand that the 8th Century Prophet Isaiah describes God as "one whom his mother comforts; so will I comfort you." That is what the Lord said. Then further, "Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? Yay, they may forget yet will I not forget thee." Those are the words of God so in the human parenting concept, the heavenly human parent, there is both male and female in the habitude of God towards humankind. So, yes, God is the Heavenly Parent of Humanity. 🌾

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



God Has Chosen You Mother Moon

By Mansour Diouf

y dearest Mother, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, affectionately called Mother Moon. First, True Mother, please allow me, through this message, to convey and send to you my most heartfelt greetings. I also extend these greetings to your family.

May the good Lord grant you iron health, a long life and may [the Holy Spirit] empower you every day and support you in your work for the sake of humankind. True Mother, as you know and as I have always said, I am one of the men of God who deeply believe God has chosen you, our Mother. Your daily life is the simple reason for this realization. In your actions, I see the work of the glorious prophets who came before us, who were there before us and who heralded the word of God. Initially, there were 124,000; then God called 313, and then he called twenty-five, until he finally called five.

These last five Great Prophets are: Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus Christ and Muhammad, who carries the seal of the prophets, peace and salvation be upon him. Looking at the work of these prophets, I find that their work is perfectly embodied in the work that you do in your daily life, which is characterized by peace, generosity, happiness, loving one's neighbor and the affection of a mother for all her children, the love of a mother for all humankind.

Therefore, I would like to repeat: You are the mother of all humankind. My dearest Mother, the good Lord has chosen [religious leaders] to carry out his mission and preserve faith. I count myself among the people who have faith. That is why as soon as I saw you for the first time, I told you that you are the Mother of Humanity, because I saw that God had chosen you. As I mentioned before, God is the God of all, the ruler of the world and of the heavens. We call upon God when we pray, and we confess that there is no God except the one true God. In Islam, we learn that there is no God except Allah. Allah rules supreme and decides everything.

God binds and unbinds. God does not rely on anyone's assistance, but we all need him. God is omniscient and omnipotent. He is almighty and can be found in all things. God existed before all of creation and is eternal. God sees, hears, and speaks but what he sees, hears and speaks goes beyond anything that is created. Nothing a human being or a creature can imagine or conceive in word or in thought can fully embody God's attributes. God is the master of all and all of creation belongs to him. However great creation might be, it still belongs to God. God gave us life through our parents. God keeps us alive, and God decides the time of ascension.

It is God who can resurrect us, and it is God who will bring us together for the Day of Judgment. Depending on whether we led lives of virtue or sin, God will render the ultimate verdict and send us either to Hell or Paradise. God understands everything and knows everything. God can do everything and decide everything. Anything he decides is decided through his will.

God has the gift of ubiquity. Therefore, however lonely we may be, let us never forget that God is with us. Whatever we do, we must never forget that God is a witness of our actions. My dearest Mother, this is the God we worship. Daily, I give thanks to God for guiding me to you, his chosen one and the Mother of humanity. Yes, you carry God's mission and God's message. You touch the hearts of individuals because you speak the God's word and you spread it in a deep, and loving way. You speak from the heart: no wonder you touch our hearts.

Dear True Mother, I recognize the importance of contributing to the work of peace. I am aware that as an Islamic religious leader, as a disciple of the Prophet Mohammed and as a bearer of the Holy Quran, my greatest blessing is to have met you. Together with you, we will bring peace to the world. We will humble ourselves and speak God's word to all those who are dear to us and to all the masses.

In closing, I pray once again that the good Lord will give you a long life and iron health. May his light shine brightly upon you for a long time. May God also pour his light, mercy and benevolence upon our glorious Father, Dr. Sun Myung Moon, who was your illustrious spouse. Thank you, and good day. \mathcal{P}

Sheikh Mansour Diouf is the co-chair of the Interreligious Association for Peace and Development for Africa.

PEACE FESTIVAL PART 2: WHO IS HEAVENLY PARENT?



Who is the Divine Being?

By Acharaya Dr. Shrivasta Goswami

P eace is the desired goal of any social, political system or spiritual discipline. Hindu scriptures say, "Peace is the highest achievement for a human being."

But as humans, our predicament is that we have to learn the various arts of living, including peace. That is where the Divine intervenes in our history to show us the way to peace. Peace requires care, understanding, love and selfless service. For all these qualities, our mothers are the first and the best teachers. Therefore, the Divine manifests best as a mother. We are fortunate to have Dr. Mrs. Hak Ja Han Moon. She is our beloved Mother Moon, who not only leads us to peace, but also nurtures and sustains peace, with her unbound love and care. Mother Moon is manifest in all beings as the Mother of Peace. Let peace be upon her.

Toward a proper religious and social behavior, the very first teaching a Hindu receives, is "Regard your Mother as God; regard your father as God." This teaching is a humble acceptance of the existential truth of ourselves coming into being, as a gift from our parents. This gratitude should not stop there. Parents shape and nurture our lives and for that we are always indebted to our parents.

To reflect that eternal gratitude, one of the most common Hindu prayer begins with the words: "You are the mother; you are the father, therefore you are the lord of my lords"

In Hindu understanding, the Divine Being is always a couple, with male and female energies, and so on. Their coming together is the cause of the cosmic manifestation of sentient and inert beings.

The Divine Parents not only give us birth but undertake the responsibility of shaping our lives in a proper way and direction. As parents, they nurture us, lifelong, with their love, care and wisdom.

In the same spirit, Father Moon and Mother Moon are the True Parents. As a divine couple, they are manifest in the world.

Let peace be upon them. (Aum shaanti, shaantih, shaantih) 7

The writer is chief priest of the Radharamana Temple in Vrindavan-India and chairman of IAPD-Asia Pacific



PEACE FESTIVAL PART 2: WHO IS HEAVENLY PARENT?



Religious Leaders Must Lead the Way

By Imboni Uzwi-Lezwe Radebe

ear True Mother, the Mother of Peace: Please receive our greetings from South Africa. I hope this finds you in good health. I would like to start by thanking True Mother for my appointment as the chairman of IAPD Africa. This is a great honor to lead spiritual and interreligious activities in Africa. This is a huge responsibility. However, I trust True Mother's judgment that I can fulfill this responsibility. After my appointment as chairman, True Mother gave me the opportunity to lead the Water Ceremony for peace for the fifth Rally of Hope. What a great honor!

Recently, I have been appointed as a spiritual advisor of the Ama Hlubi Kingdom. This kingdom, which started in the 1500s is currently ruled by King Langalibalelle II, who has forty traditional rulers under him, with his people scattered in different parts of South Africa as well as in Lesotho.

The more than eleven million Ama Hlubi people are known as people who love peace and who have lived peacefully with others. The Ama Hlubi kings are famous for being wise leaders with spiritual gifts of healing and prophecy. This is the first appointment of an indigenous spiritual guide by a king since the arrival of colonizers in South Africa in 1652. This nomination as a spiritual advisor is indeed aligned with True Mother's mandate given to spiritual and religious leaders in 2020.

True Mother said, "It is all of you, particularly religious leaders in America and throughout the world, that must let people know about True Parents and lead everyone to become Heavenly Parent's children. You have the responsibility to embrace and guide all people with one united heart. When you fulfill that responsibility, it will create a new history. I'm saying that God will be with you, with us, only when we let go of everything of the past that has human-centered origins, and advance to a position that focuses on True Parents and our Heavenly Father, Heavenly Parent."

Umfihlakalo, the Creator is the God of all people, the Heavenly Parent of humanity. In African spirituality, Umfihlakalo, is the sustainer of life, working through the angels and our ancestors to guide our lives. For Africans, Umfihlakalo is not just a concept whom we just believe exists. Nevertheless, there is absolutely the need to relate to our creator. Indeed, a life without him has no meaning. It is unfortunate that most people have lost their connectedness with Umfihlakalo. Modern lifestyle and culture have separated people from their roots. In today's world we can see that nationalism, racism, materialism, and selfishness are rampant. It is about time we all realized the need to develop our spirituality, as we are first and foremost spiritual beings, by nature.

True Mother, the only begotten daughter of God is absolutely right when she says that we all need to know and attend God as our Heavenly Parent, and that, once we do that, all our problems will be solved. We all need to work to build a world of interdependence, mutual prosperity, and universal values in which we all value, respect and love one another as children of the same parent, our Creator, Umfihlakalo.

As a spiritual leader and chairman of IAPD Africa, I will accomplish my duty and responsibility to let people know about the Creator as our Heavenly Parent, our True Parents and I will contribute in building one human family under God, as mandated by True Mother. True Mother, your desire and wish for Africa shine vibrantly with people knowing and attending Umfihlakalo, our Heavenly Parent, will be fulfilled.

Mother, I am grateful for your blessing, prayers and support. I am up to the task given to me. I thank you. \mathcal{P}

Imboni Dr. Uzwi-Lezwe Radebe is founder of the Revelation Spiritual Home.



Understanding the Biblical Principle of Love

By Yeong-gyu Park

ello! I am the senior pastor of Pamphylia Church, and chair of KCLC in the Seoul and Incheon area. I would like to first congratulate Rev. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon on the sixty-first anniversary of their Holy Wedding. Also, I sincerely thank you for giving me this opportunity to express my religious opinion on Heavenly Parent through the Heavenly Parent's Holy Community Peace Festival.

I am a Protestant pastor and theologian. This morning we are celebrating Easter Sunday, the day Jesus was resurrected and came back to life after dying on the cross. Though this is a difficult time for me to come here, I felt a sense of mission; I had to come, which is why I stand here on this very special occasion.

Christianity, which has inherited Jehovah God and God's tradition from Judaism, has only understood God as a father with dignity. When Christianity began with the work of the Holy Spirit, God's work was understood as being male-centered and exercised under paternal authority. As a result, the reality of God's maternal love could not be revealed at all.

Ever since, I came to know Hak Ja Han Moon, True Mother, I came to realize the maternal principle of God's love in the Bible. I was able to understand the androgynous existence of God. For God to relate with humans, he must be an androgynous God. Hence, I confess that God the Father, as understood in Christian tradition, is also God the Mother at the same time.

Through the creation of Adam and Eve came about the subjectivity of application and multiplication based on the marital relationship led by the Holy Spirit. However, Adam and Eve did not realize any of these wonders, and ended up falling. As a result, no one among humanity was ever able to understand the concept of a true couple. As a result, a true family could not be created and humanity had to follow the way of the Fall. Therefore, the mission of the messiahs, who come for the salvation of humanity, must be the work of restoring families through God's only begotten son, True Father, the Rev. Sun Myung Moon, and God's only begotten daughter, True Mother, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, who are filled with God's Holy Spirit.

The World Clergy Leadership Conference

In addition, I remember what Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon said at the inauguration of WCLC in New York in December 2019. Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon clearly stated that she was the True Parent and God's only begotten daughter on that day, and the approximately thirty-five thousand people from seventeen countries participating on that day quite naturally listened what True Mother said.

Though several nations and several races had come together on that day, it felt like one family. Christians in Korea tend to understand the Bible from a quite doctrinal standpoint. However, as I observed the Family Federation and their work, it hit home to me that looking at the Bible from a global perspective was the new standard. I was deeply moved through the Family Federation church communities—how they were practicing the true family movement, knowing that one has to work on one's family to become an ideal family.

Religions have a lot in common in that each desires goodness and peace. Tolerance between religions is essential. A great point I commend about the Heavenly Parent's Holy Community, led by True Mother, is that it is trying to harmonize and become one by embracing other religions. This, however, would have been impossible if it weren't for the peace philosophy of loving humanity.

As the incarnation of the Holy Spirit sent by Heavenly Parent, wherever she goes, God's only begotten daughter, True Mother, has been enlightening people with the truth that humanity is one family under Heavenly Parent, and showing people the right way to serve and attend Heavenly Parent. Since the Heavenly Parent is a God of fullness, I would like to say thank you to the Mother of Peace as we can now feel Heavenly Parent's love through her.

I would like to conclude my message with my most sincere hope that a day will come when all people on earth can follow Heavenly Parent and live as one family. Before ending, I would like to recite this poem, "Mother Christ."

Mother Christ

Where is the woman dressed in divine green clothes who can stand in front of creation as the star of the spring day?

Once again, where is the woman with foresight and insight to answer all the fundamental questions of life, and who has the skills to feed her children?

Until a woman with a heart of love that can persuade us to resemble her, appears, we are like lonely people who are like orphans, widows, and travelers with a thirst that we cannot but be compared to summer droughts.

A love that I could only watch, but can now touch with the eyes of my body – the truth about identification. In front of it, O existences who have experienced eternal motherly love, go into the room where children with God's nature are conceived.

Then, having transformed into a woman that creates the divinity of Christ as a mother, show firmness as a leader of all people! On the cross, having discovered my mother Just as I made the resolve with noble eyes, Facing that silent woman standing in front of me.

With the confession of faith that can tell you she is your mother, let us all celebrate the green sunshine of May.

Gather around my beloved children! And welcome with joyful hearts the Mother Christ who has clearly appeared, and who is shining brightly within the eternal image of the mother. Amen Hallelujah!

Thank you. 🌾

Poet Young-Gyu Park is the senior pastor of Pamphylia Church KCLC Seoul-Incheon Chairperson.

PEACE FESTIVAL PART 2: WHO IS HEAVENLY PARENT?



Enduring Truths in a Time of Change

By Monk Do-bong

R ev. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon are Buddhas. In Buddhism, they say that the heart is Buddha. Hence, Buddha is the true 'I'. The true 'I' however reaches perfection and maturity on the basis of having received grace from one's true parents. Hence, both Rev. and Mrs. Moon can be said to be budhas.

First of all, I sincerely pray that Buddha's grace be with Rev. and Mrs. Moon and all of you here today.

I am truly grateful for being invited to such an important occasion.

Today, more than talk about interreligious dialogue or initiatives, I would like to use this opportunity to give a frank talk about my sincere feelings and heart as a religious person on Rev. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, who have dedicated their entire lives for the realization of a world of peace, continuously devoting and investing themselves to this cause. In particular, I couldn't help but feel deeply moved and grateful as a religious person when I saw the recent activities carried out by Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, the Mother of Peace.

Mother of Peace Publication Celebration

The World Summit event, the Sunhak Peace Prize, the Publication of Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon's Memoir, and other events held in Ilsan KINTEX last year in 2020 helped me better understand the great path Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon is undertaking for peace in the world.

I attended those events at the invitation of the Korea Religions Association. I was quite surprised at the size of the event, and the diverse people attending from across the world. Even if you had the money, you cannot hold such an event. It wasn't an event that the government could even hold. This was an event that Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon could host because she and her late husband had dedicated their lives toward this cause. This was an event that people participated because of their trust in Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon. I came to learn the tremendous trust she is receiving worldwide. And I was more touched by the fact that all her efforts were being directed toward the realization of peace on the Korean Peninsula.

I was also truly grateful for the chance to go on stage to cut the celebration cake as a representative of my religion during the publication of Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon's Memoir as the Mother of Peace. It was indeed an honor to be able to do so in the presence of Dr. Hak Ja Han moon, the Mother of Peace who has dedicated her life for world peace, a moment that I will never be able to forget. Following the events, I avidly read Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon's memoir and became more involved with interreligious activities together with the Korea Religions Association.

Beloved FFWPU members! You are truly happy people. Now that you have also established a heavenly parent-child relationship in addition to the existing human parent-child relationship, I sincerely hope that you can offer even more devotion on this path with True Parents. You can only be dutiful children to your parents when they are still alive. Hence, the principle that filial duty is the basis of all actions has always been regarded as a fundamental principle of all people training in Confucianism and Buddhism. I will also do my utmost best to participate in the heavenly unification movement that is being carried out by True Parents.

For more than one year, we underwent a period of tremendous pain and change due to the COVID pandemic. This big change humanity faces today may be forecasting the arrival of a new age. However, no matter how much the world changes, the one thing that will not change ultimately is humanity's search and ardent hope for the ideal world, which in Buddhism we call the pure land of the west, or the Buddha-land. I am actively participating in the peace movement, heavenly unification movement, the interreligious movement centered on God that is being carried out by Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon. The God within all religions, whether it is the Christian God, Buddha in Buddhism, Allah in Islam, etc. are all like parents. Therefore, I am confident that the Heavenly Unified Korea Movement that she is currently carrying out will play a decisive role in achieving world peace and stability.

Just as the sun rising in the east and setting in the west is an unchanging principle, I believe that Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon is seeking for such unchanging principles. Who would dare speak of, and reveal the truth without knowing the way or history? Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon is a parent who is already walking the true path on the foundation of the historical truth.

There is one truth

Anyone who seeks the truth, whether it is a religious person or just anyone, need to work together with Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon for the realization of a heavenly unified Korea. If the way the True Parents are taking is the path to a heavenly unified Korea, then, a heavenly unified Korea is the Buddha land. This is because the heart of True Parents is the true heart, and the true heart is the truth.

In this 21st century, the new millennium age, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon who is leading the great flow of this age, is now the True Parents of humanity, and as the Mother of Peace, I sincerely pray that Buddha's grace is eternally with you in bringing about peace to humanity, and peace in the world. $\tilde{\gamma}$

Venerable Do-bong works in the headquarters of the fiftieth diocese of the Jogye Order of Korean Buddhism.



A Lifetime of Grace-Filled Memories

By Hye-seon Jeong

y name is Hye-seon Jeong, and I'm an actress in Korea. Today, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to True Mother for inviting me to this precious occasion of the Peace Festival. Whenever there was a big event, I came here to Cheongpyeong. However, when I came to Cheon Jeong Gung, my heart became solemn. After being there a number of times, it feels like my home now and I feel very comfortable.

First encounter with the church

In 1957, when I was in my f1rst year at Sudo Girls' Middle School, I met a good friend and classmate who was a devout Unification Church believer, and my friend brought me to Cheongpa-dong Church for the first time. I was a Sunday school teacher, and my whole family was attending a Presbyterian Church. I was young but interested in religion, so I think that is why I followed her.

One day, the friend took me to the Unification Church revival meeting on a white sandy beach on the Han River. This was probably around 1957. At that time, there were many revival meetings, and students interested in religion went to that sandy beach after class.

Our church president, Sun Myung Moon, who was a bachelor at the time, was very handsome and famous. Speaking in the language of these times, he was as popular with the students as steamed buns! When I went to church meetings, he gave amazing sermons. There was probably no one who could resist after listening to his sermons. Looking back now, I think how happy I would have been had I become a devout Unificationist, going to the Cheongpa-dong Church with my friend and going to revival meetings. Though my mind told me, "I should go to the church," I regret that I did not keep up my faith and have been reflecting on all this. But now a lot of time has passed.

Destiny: meeting again as a peace ambassador

As the years went by, I worked as an actress. Through fellow celebrities, it was suggested to me, quite by chance, to attend an Ambassador for Peace educational trip. Back then, I was busy making broadcast appearances and couldn't actually afford the time to go to Osaka due to my busy schedule. My heart, however, told me to attend, regardless, and I ended up doing so. I realized that those "destined to meet » do end up connecting in this manner.

Several celebrities attended the Osaka training, which took place over four days. Dr. Min-ha Kim took care of us like a homeroom teacher, and UPF chairman Jeong-ro Yun gave the main presentations. At that time, the lectures firmly caught my attention, and I always sat in the front seat and listened with my head raised. I listened so seriously that I ended up feeling unwell with exhaustion.

Ever since, I have participated in various activities as a peace ambassador whenever I get the chance. To mention some of the most memorable events, I remember volunteering at a dumpling restaurant run by North Korean refugees, sending rice to North Korea, and visiting a nursing home in Daejeon to sing to the elderly people there. I also remember many of us peace ambassadors gathering on the street with Sun Moon University President Sun-jo Hwang to do a campaign entitled "Food is Love."

"When we communicate, we can do good things together and help each other. Otherwise, it is impossible to love those around you," he said. I remember walking around the streets wearing a sash. At that time, I did a lot of volunteer work with the peace ambassadors, and I believe that it is thanks to this that I now enjoy such good health and happiness.

After I became a peace ambassador, I had more exchanges and got closer to Dr. and Mrs. Moon. Through this, I came to discover new traits in them that I had never imagined. One day, I heard that they were leaving the country, and because they were traveling to and working in various countries, I felt we would not be able to see them for several months, so I went out to the airport to see them off.

I remembered that Dr. Moon liked fishing, so I bought him sunglasses for sun protection and a muffler for President Han. However good something may be, I was worried for a while and wondered if I should indeed give it to them as they most probably have everything they need. But I was very happy because Father and Mother liked them and thanked me as they received them. These two people hold the position of chairman and chairwoman, yet once again I felt they value other people's hearts.

The news of Dr. Sun Myung Moon's ascension

When I heard the news of Dr. Moon's Ascension, I went to pay my respects and offered a deep bow, and I couldn't stop myself from weeping so much.... I had met him when I was in junior high school and came to see him like this after several decades. I couldn't stop shedding tears out of gratitude but also regret for a sinful person like me to have had the opportunity to meet not just an ordinary person but someone like Dr. Moon, and to have had the chance to come to know him up close. Even now, my heart is still pained with these memories.

Recently, I attended a Rally of Hope that Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon had hosted, and I was surprised. I was amazed that the world could communicate through online video, and it was truly touching and impressive to see Dr. Han, feeling so different from her young days, speaking with a strong voice.

I heard that HJ Cheonwon is called the Revival Plaza. I am deeply grateful to Chairwoman Hak Ja Han, the Mother of Peace, who is reviving the world through the Rallies of Hope and taking the lead in resolving issues to do with peace on the Korean Peninsula and the environment.

In my personal opinion, how difficult it would be for someone who is of a certain age, and who should be living a comfortable life, to go to various countries around the world and speak about peace and environmental issues. When I see Mother, who invests everything including putting her health, her body, on the line for world peace, I am convinced that she is truly one whom Heaven has sent and an apostle of peace.

A few days ago, I received a gift of a copy of Mother's memoir, Mother of Peace, from her daughter-in-law, UPF Chair Yeon-ah Moon and UPF President Hyunyoung Lee. I haven't read it all yet, but I am coming to clearly know, in keeping with the title of the book, that Mother is the Mother of Peace.

However, I cannot deny that I am concerned about Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon's health and hope that she can look after her health, and that her children and all members can quickly bring about the completion of both Rev. Moon's and Mrs. Moon's holy work. To simply have Dr. Han working so hard for the providence and always being there and in good health, is indeed a blessing to all of you blessed families, here today.

Peace cannot be achieved by human power alone

As Mother said at the Rally of Hope, I have come to feel that the reunification of Korea, and peace, cannot be achieved by human power. Now, as God is with us, I believe that we should not relax, but that we should work together to make it happen.

People around me know that I am going to gatherings or meetings of the Unification Church, and they sometimes ask me what kind of place it is. Every time I tell them that I would have become an enthusiastic participant had I were younger because the church is full of peace and love. Whenever I saw Father and Mother Moon holding hands together and see the smiles of the Unification Church members, I feel somewhat envious of them.

I proudly speak of all the good people from the Family Federation who always take care of me with love. I pray that you will find the strength to accomplish the work you want to do in attendance of Mother. I am an ambassador for peace. Together with all of you, I will work to promote UPF as a UPF honorary ambassador. Once again, I would like to thank Mother for inviting me to this event today. Please continually become healthier and healthier. Thank you! \mathcal{P}

The writer has appeared in more than four hundred television productions since her debut in 1961.



A Peace Festival Celebrating New Life

n April 4, the first Peace Festival of Heavenly Parent's Holy Community took place at the Cheonwon Church. Via the online platform Peacelink, this successful event brought together more than three hundred thousand early and recent members, as well as peacemakers from Korea, Japan, other parts of Asia and the rest of the world. The event highlighted the culture of the era of Heavenly Parent's Holy Community and demonstrated a new way to attract new members.

This first peace festival was organized around the theme, "You are a blessing from Heaven," which started off with a wonderful musical that tackled this theme by beautifully depicting the cultivation of the heart characterized by interaction with others in joy and gratitude. It featured talented actors whose fine performances showed the audience all the courage and selflessness displayed by True Parents as they revealed the existence of Heavenly Parent and the essence of truth to the peoples of the whole world.

A special feature of the festival is that it had three parts, each of which revolved around a theme. The first part had the theme, "Who is Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, the Mother of Peace?" During this part, eminent leaders from Korea and around the world bore witness to the works of True Parents, who have devoted their entire lives to building a true world of peace and realizing the ideal of one human family under God. These leaders' testimonies aimed to reveal to the public the immensity of True Parents, in particular that of True Mother, who pursues the noble task she started with her late husband, despite difficulties (personal health issues, restrictions during the Covid-19 pandemic, etc.) and whose ultimate goal is for all the people of the world to accept True Parents and serve our Heavenly Parent.

The second part aimed to provide answers to the crucial question, "Who is the Heavenly Parent?" It was an opportunity for important religious and spiritual leaders, enjoying great notoriety in various parts of the world, to shed light on this fundamental question of faith and religious belief. Their findings reinforced the idea that God is represented as male and female and is the Heavenly Parent of all mankind.

The third and last part pushed the festival participants to engage in genuine introspection. This part of the program sought to illicit answers to the well-known existential question, "Who am I?" Personalities in entertainment, blessed couples and other members of the Family Federation tried to answer the question by sharing their touching experiences. Among other things, they recounted key moments in their lives that strengthened their faith in God and led them to discover their inner strength and their true personality.

This first peace festival of Heavenly Parent's Holy Community had a few moments of gaiety, notably with musical performances by internationally renowned singing artists. Another moment full of emotion was the symbolic gesture of Dr. Young-ho Yun director general of the FFWPU International Headquarters and Mrs. Wonju Jeong McDevitt (chief of staff of True Mother's Secretariat) presenting bouquets of flowers a couple representing all the new members to welcome them and show them all the love that the blessed families in Heavenly Parent's Holy Community feel for them.

By initiating this festival of peace, the FFWPU International Headquarters has a clear and precise objective: to increase membership and be part of the process of restoring a third of the world's population, as True Mother has repeatedly requested. Mother. He should also help blessed members and families to fulfill the purpose of the forty-three families and become victorious heavenly tribal messiahs registered in the Cheonbowon. The Heavenly Parent's Holy Community Peace Festival will continue with four other editions, each with a theme: Joy, Gratitude, Happiness and Determination. 7

A True Peace magazine staff member created this article.

When East Meets West via the Arts

By David Eaton

n a meeting with True Mother in May of 2020, she mentioned that one of the reasons that she asked me to move to Korea was to assist in the process of bringing harmony between the East and West by way of the arts. It was clear that she viewed the arts as a way to facilitate that harmonization. Her comments reminded me of True Father's words regarding art and the need for East and West harmony. In *Cheon Seong Gyeong*, Book 10, Chapter 3 Section 3 Paragraph 5, we read:

"The ultimate goal of artists, and those who work with the arts, is to reach the world of God's heart. God, the Creator, wants to feel boundless joy through all the different things he personally created with his own hands, one by one, as works of art. God's heart is such that he wants to give again after he has given. After doing things for others, he wants to do more for them, and even after investing unconditionally he wants to forget what he has done. That heart is the basis of the world of true love. God's ideal of creation for the created world arose from that heart. The starting point of art is the desire to represent that heart."

Accordingly, in the world of art there are no national boundaries. The purpose of art is not to serve as a tool of an ideology or an agenda. Its fundamental principles are harmony and unity. Divisiveness and conflict are fruits of fallen nature. Therefore, the world of art demonstrates universal characteristics in all directions, bringing the East to understand the West and the West to accept the East.

Beauty has a transcendent aspect and whether we experience beauty through nature, or art, or through human relationships, we can be uplifted by it and attain a deeper love relationship with our Heavenly Parent. In this sense music can be considered religious. True Father often said that "music and religion go hand in hand." The word religion stems from the Latin *ligare*, which means "to bind." Religion, then, is a process or method by which we can "re-bind" to God. Implicit in this explanation is the idea that at one point God and humankind were not separated. This separation occurred and religion became a way to "re-bind" Heavenly Parent with the children who were lost due to the human fall.

According to the Divine Principle, when Lucifer rebelled against God due to his feeling jealousy and a lack of love, he distorted the truth about God, Adam, Eve's position and himself. These lies led to the illicit relationship between Lucifer and Eve and it was the ultimate creative act of conjugal love that Lucifer used to reverse dominion and claim false lordship over humankind and all creation. This is why we read in scripture that all creation "groans in travail" awaiting the revealing of the sons of God, and we the redemption of our bodies (Romans 8:19–23). Attaining the Three Blessings and going the way of restoration is how we "re-bind" with Heavenly Parent and bring the creative process out of Lucifer's domain and back to its rightful and godly position and purpose. Because Lucifer usurped creativity's true purpose in Eden by way of false love, many artists have been similarly seduced by false attitudes regarding their creative gifts, and this has resulted in immorality, self-aggrandizement and selfishness in the artistic sphere for thousands of years.

Art as influence

According to the beauty, truth and goodness paradigm described in the Divine Principle, it is important to assess art in three ways: aesthetically (beauty), intellectually (truth), and axiologically (goodness). Axiology is the study of values; specifically, morality and ethics. Too often in contemporary society there is a tendency to overlook the axiological aspect of art. In her memoir, True Mother mentions that art and culture are more powerful than politics in their ability to bring about change in society. Her view resonates with the views of the ancient philosophers of China, Greece, Israel and early Christianity in



The Athenian philosopher, Plato, circa BC 428-348, was among the Greek philosophers who warned that the arts could have a pernicious influence on society.

Europe. Art has a certain "moral power" and artists need to understand that what they create and put before the public has consequences. Music historian Richard Taruskin makes the point that "music is a powerful form of persuasion," and that "serious art possesses an ethical force and exacts ethical responsibilities." In this context the role of the artist in the creation of a culture of peace is no small matter. Artists do not create in a social vacuum; therefore, they ought to take into account how their art affects the communities in which they live and work.

It is fairly well known that the philosophers of ancient Greece understood the "moral power" of the arts as it pertained to creating an ethical society. Damon of Athens, son of Damonides, was one of the first Greek philosophers to study the effects of music on our psyche—psychoacoustics in modern terminology—as well as the social and political consequences of music. Plato cites Damon's concerns about the influence of music in *The Republic*:

"The care of the governors should be directed to preserve music and gymnastics from innovation; alter the songs of a country, Damon says, and you will soon end by altering laws. The change appears innocent at first, and begins in play, but evil soon becomes serious, working secretly upon the characteristics of individuals, then upon the social and commercial relations, and lastly upon the institutions of the state; and there is ruin and confusion everywhere."

In our contemporary culture we can clearly see how unfettering art from moral and ethical constraints has led to various artistic expressions that a few short decades ago would have been considered objectionable. The loosening of moral standards has had the effect of normalizing decadence and lowest-common-denominator values in the pursuit of commercial success. A great deal of popular music has become "objectified" and is now viewed as a commodity to be marketed and sold for profit. The intrinsic spirituality of music has been diminished or removed altogether. As a result, our popular culture has become coarser, far less enlightened and lacking redeeming values. Objectifying art in this manner is not unlike pornography in that it objectifies sexuality, thereby removing its divine purpose and reducing it to being a purely physical dimension in order to sell it for profit.

What might not be so well known, especially in the West, is that the Chinese philosophers of antiquity held views that were similar to those of the Greek philosophers with regard to the moral power of the arts and the role of artists in society. In the Analects of Confucius, we find several insightful references to music and morality:

"If a person be without the virtues proper to goodness, what has he to do with the rites of propriety? If a person be without the virtues proper to goodness, what has he to do with music?"

Also from the Analects:

There are three types of delights that improve you, and three types of delights that diminish you. To delight in *li* and music, to delight in speaking of others' good points, to delight in having many worthy friends—these improve you. To delight in arrogant pleasures, to delight in idle wanderings, to delight in banquet parties—these diminish you.

In Confucian terminology *li* refers to propriety, ritual or rites. Propriety can have several meanings including modesty, politeness, respectability and decency. These attributes were considered important in the development of one's character and in becoming a respectable person. Music in ancient China was viewed as an important aspect of an individual's character development as well as an important means for establishing a moral and ethical society and modes of good governance.

Other ancient Chinese texts offer corroborative views regarding music, its usage, its ethical connotations and its origins. The ancient Chinese text "The Memorial of

Music" states:

"Therefore it is, that when music is generally taught, the duties of the five relations [as defined by Confucian thought] are thoroughly comprehended; the ears and eyes are quick and penetrating; the animal spirits and the emotional nature are in perfect calm; public manners and customs are reformed, and the whole empire enjoys profound tranquility."

The connection of music with the ordering principles of physical laws and metaphysical ideals was considered important due to the belief that the same laws and principles contained within music and sound production were present in the celestial order that governed the entire universe. Those who possess even a cursory understanding of the Chinese philosophical tome the "I Ching" understand that the Taoist axiom of harmonizing the polarities of yang and yin is one of its central tenets. The fusion of Taoist principles and Confucian ethics would give rise to various rationales that guided the Chinese in matters of art and social governance.

The issue of political and social governance with regard to music was of great concern to Lu Bu Wei (291–235 BC), who was a politician in the Qin region of China. He wrote extensively on the matter of music and its effects on society and governance. In his Spring and Autumn Annals, he writes:

"The will of people living in an area can be known by examining the customs that prevail there. And their virtues can be known by examining their will. Whether a state will become prosperous or face its downfall, whether its sovereign is sensible or unworthy, and whether a person is honorable or base, can all be known by the music they enjoy."

This perspective echoes that of Damon of Athens with regard to a society's moral and ethical well-being and the music it listens to. He goes on to say:

"Music is a product of the heart. When the heart is moved, the feelings can also be reflected by harmonious sounds. And when a harmonious tune is heard, the heart can also be touched by it. Hence, the customs of an area can be known by examining its tunes. ... When their virtues are well cultivated, they can compose music. If the tunes composed are harmonious, they will resonate pleasantly, and they can edify and direct the common people to pursue Tao."

Tao in Chinese philosophy means "path" or "the way" and is usually associated with the beliefs that can edify and guide a person toward living a virtuous life. Tao is considered to be the natural order of the universe and one must discern through intuition the proper "way" to live one's life in order to realize the potential for individual wisdom. This intuitive knowledge of life cannot be grasped as a concept; it is gained through the actual living experience of one's everyday being. This concept aligns with "Godism" as explained in Book 10 of *Cheon Seong Gyeong*. The "ism" in Godism means "way of living," thus



Chinese philosopher Confucius BC 551-479

"living" in accordance with axiological tenets as defined by the Divine Principle and Unification Thought is "the way" to attain our true authentic self. For artists it becomes "the path" to discover their authentic muse their artistic Tao.

Too often we discuss issues of governance, education, commerce, the arts and journalism according to the ideological perspectives of "left" or "right," when we ought to be more concerned with "higher" and "lower" virtues and values. As the ancient cultures of both the East and West instruct, there should be serious consideration given to the true purpose of art and culture in relation to creating a moral and ethical society. This begins with a belief that God exists and God's ultimate purpose is love. Art that is created in that spirit and with that intention—combined with highly developed technique and aesthetic sensibilities—can be art that moves the soul and opens one's consciousness to a higher love. In that way artistic achievement can facilitate greater harmony between the cultures of East and West in accordance with True Mother's desire to create hyo jeong culture. 7

Dr. Eaton is chairman of the Cheon II Guk Holy Song Composition Committee and director of the Hyo Jeong Youth Orchestra.

Helping Those in Desperate Need

UPF and a Y Service Club join forces for relief efforts from Hurricanes ETA and IOTA in Honduras

By Mario Salinas

n the late 1970s, True Father said that Unificationists should work in conjunction with Christian organizations, such as YMCA International. On July 16, 2012, in the framework of the launch of the Global Network of Women Leaders for Peace (The Abel Women's United Nations), True Father said:

So far, we have worked as a consultative body to the United Nations with a network of individuals, ambassadors for peace.... However, the work for world peace carried out so far does not have to remain at that level. It already has the potential to expand and develop to the next level—working in solidarity and cooperatively with other NGOs around the world and following the path toward the final establishment of world peace.

As already published in previous articles, UPF-Honduras has been working on strengthening its efforts with municipalities both nationally and internationally, such as its association with the mayor's city office in Tela, Honduras, and Nutley, New Jersey's town office in the United States. Both cities, together with UPF, are execut-



ing Peace Parks in cooperation with the NGO International Cities of Peace (ICP) and did establish these cities as Cities of Peace in 2018 and 2019, respectively.

Next, mutually cooperative ties developed with Y's Men International (a YMCA Service branch) to initiate training in character education for the school system in the city of Tela, aimed at advancing the city's natural tourist industry. This training was to begin in April 2020, but due to the pandemic, the activity has been postponed until conditions are more favorable.

On top of the Covid-19 pandemic, Honduras was recently hit by two consecutive hurricanes, Eta and Iota, between November 3 and 13, horribly affecting the already fragile situation of the port city, Tela. Subsequently, the Y Service Club of North Jersey (US) called upon Mario Salinas, director of UPF Honduras (who was also recently installed as president of the Y Service Club of Tegucigalpa, Honduras) to immediately set up a relief plan for the smaller communities most affected by landslides resulting from the hurricanes, leaving them isolated from the larger communities.

The Y Service Club of North Jersey carried out a fundraiser in the US, and UPF Honduras and Y Service of Tegucigalpa director Mario Salinas, together with Dr. Maritza Morel, a journalist, and Pastor Elsa Moncada, a member of the Interreligious Association of Peace and Development (IAPD) Honduras carried out the project. They reached an agreement with the authorities of the Municipality of Tela, that is, with Mayor Darío Munguía, his son Gerardo Munguía, Lilian García, director of Social Development of Tela, and Public Relations Officer Larisa Calix, and with the support of community leaders and the Tela Police Department on how and where to best use the donated funds.

The donations were used to acquire bags of food, clothing, baby milk and bottled drinking water for the people most severely impacted by the hurricanes. These efforts clearly supported opening greater lines of communication, exchange and cooperation, affirming the principles of interdependence, mutual prosperity and universal values for the sake of future activities.

Reaching isolated villages

On the morning of December 3, 2020, a joint UPF and Y Service delegation traveled from the capital city of Honduras to the city of Tela, and then to the smaller villages left isolated by the floods or landslides caused by the hurricanes, to deliver the humanitarian aid donated by the North Jersey Y Service Club.

The group traveled three hundred kilometers from Tegucigalpa to Tela on a Thursday morning, made the deliveries on Friday and





traveled back home on Saturday. Upon arrival in the city of Tela, Mayor Darío Munguía immediately gave a summary of his communities' entire situation and offered all the details regarding the needs of their people. In addition, he provided logistical and other support from his office to make possible the delivery of the aid to the neediest people.

Early on Friday morning, we joined the Tela team, made up of architect Gerardo Munguía (the mayor's son), who has always been supportive of all the initiatives that Mario Salinas has presented since 2018; Mrs. Lilian García, and Mrs. Larisa Calix, together with other city leaders and the Tela Police Department.

The first activity that day was to load the vehicles with the donated bags of food, clothing from the Good Will people of Tegucigalpa (the capital city) and milk and water donated by the municipality. For the sake of transparency and to avoid the inevitable political implications, donated goods were delivered through use of one vehicle provided by city leaders, a second personal vehicle owned by Gerardo Munguía and a third vehicle belonging to the police. Mayor Munguía came to greet and thank the team. At that time, Daniel Mohan, the president of the North Jersey Y Service Club, was calling to thank the delegation for the mobilization and to offer best wishes. The mayor and Y Service President Mohan had the opportunity to exchange a few words by video call.

The challenge was to reach the communities of San Juan, Jerusalem and La Fortaleza that had been isolated by the landslides and that otherwise had no means of transportation to go down to the city and obtain food. The municipality made efforts to clean up the roads to allow for vehicular passage. It was incredible watching the vehicles bounce up and down due to the deep potholes; normal cars would never have been able to manage.

At the beginning of the trip, the weather was dry and sunny when the group arrived at the community of San Juan where the first delivery was made. Then, going



further up to the next village, named Jerusalem, as the vehicles ascended the steep hills, the weather changed dramatically from dry to cool, cool to cold, and cold to rainy; at the top it was cloudy and misty. At this point the road was completely muddy, so that the vehicles could not advance any farther. The group was lucky that one of the bulldozers, sent by the mayor's office, was actually in the process of opening the road and came to their rescue. Only two vehicles were able to finally arrive in the cold, rainy, cloudy and foggy village of Jerusalem. The families were already waiting for the convoy in a small community hut where the goods were distributed.

News of casualties

After this visitation, the group drove back down to where the other members had been waiting and found the next crossroad to go up higher, where it was even more steeply sloped and impossibly muddy, rendering it necessary for the young people and adults (beneficiaries) to come down from their village to push the vehicles in order to reach La Fortaleza where a large number of families were waiting—the elderly, adults, children and infants. They met at a school where the roof had been blown off by the force of the hurricane. Most of those people had lost their homes and a young man shared with sadness and tears how he had witnessed his wife and two daughters, thirteen and eight years old, say goodbye before slowly being swallowed under the mud, without being able to help them since he was equally stuck in the mud.

At the end of the project, Elsa Moncada (IAPD) gratefully shared with tears that she was happy to have been part of this first joint service activity between UPF and the North Jersey Y Service Club USA. Maritza Morel said that it was gratifying to see how UPF had such a strong connection with the authorities of the city of Tela, especially thanks to the work of Mario Salinas over the last three years. Without the help of the local authorities, it would have been impossible to deliver these supplies. She recognized the city leaders' great willingness to serve their people since this type of aid is usually only given to easily accessible areas, leaving the distant villages to care for themselves. We were all grateful to be able to assist on this occasion.

From the bottom of our hearts, UPF Honduras deeply thanks the people from New Jersey, USA who, with unconditional love, offered their help for people they did not know. A special thanks to the Y Service North Jersey Club, which was inspired to search for donors under the vision and leadership of its president, Daniel Mohan.

President Mohan met UPF Director Mario Salinas and was introduced to Honduras' needs at the end of 2019 through UPF–USA member Carol Pobanz, making our True Father's direction to "work in solidarity and cooperation with other NGOs around the world...," together with ambassadors for peace, all the more powerful and true, "We have the potential to expand and develop to the next level... following the path toward the final establishment of world peace." $\not \!$

Mr. Salinas is secretary-general of UPF-Honduras and is the president of the Tegucigalpa Y Service Club.

The Value of Equality as Heavenly Parent's Children

rue Peace magazine is produced by Peace Tv, which also broadcasts providential events live in a variety of languages and provides additional fuel to energize members' hearts through HJ Global News. On March 27 HJGN news presenters reported that the Women's Federation for World Peace International had joined hands with the International Association of First Ladies for Peace to hold a forum to discuss issues and developments as part of the sixty-fifth session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW).

Thus, WFWPI held a parallel event discussing progress in the area of equality between men and women, which the UNSCW calls for. The theme of their event was "First Ladies and Emerging Leaders: Intergenerational Dialogue: the Journey of 1325 and Women's Leadership." The number refers to Security Council Resolution 1325, created by the UNCSW on raising the status of women, which the UN passed in the year 2000.

The United Nations Security Council Resolution on women, peace, and security states, "Resolution 1325 urges all actors to increase the participation of women and incorporate gender perspectives in all United Nations peace and security efforts. It also calls on all parties to conflict to take special measures to

Sun Jin Moon (top) speaking during WFWPI's virtual event held alongside an annual review by the UN Commission on the Status of Women







In ordinary times, the annual session of the United Nations' Commission on the Status of Women takes place at the United Nations Building in the Borough of Manhattan in New York City. This year, both the main session and supportive ones like that held by WFWPI were virtual events held online.

protect women and girls from gender-based violence, particularly rape and other forms of sexual abuse, in situations of armed conflict."

The key speakers for the event were the First Ladies. The emerging leaders, which this short article will not cover, were Amanda Bradley, a Legal Service Team Assistant at the law office of Davis Polk Wardwell in New York City; Jungsoo Moon, a first-year Master's student studying Public Policy and International Relations at the University of Tokyo; and Sruthi Lekha, a UN Representative at the WFWPI Office for UN Relations in Geneva.

The first speaker was Mammusa Masekoalane Majoro, the spouse of Prime Minister Moeketsi Majoro of the Kingdom of Lesotho, who stated, "Global peace is a high ideal, lofty to achieve, but not impossible. The women, peace and security agenda stands at a juncture, with significant potential to prevent conflict, protect human rights, promote recovery from conflict, and advance every effort to meeting the commitments enshrined in the journey of 1325."

In her opening address, Sun Jin Moon, senior vice president of WFWPI, told the virtual audience of 275 people worldwide, "We are proud to uphold and support Resolution 1325 which has led the world in addressing the critical issues of security, status, human rights, protection, relief, and inclusion of women in the role of peace and freedom. We hope today that WFWPI's journey carries our cause forward with greater leaps in progress as in these critical times women and girls are at even more risk and it will take the collective work of the UN, UN NGO's, global leaders, and each and every one of us to further that advance.... This journey is by no means coming to a close, but coming together with a culture of heart [with which] as my father foresaw, "women will save the world." Maria Fernanda Flores de Aleman, First Lady of the Republic of Nicaragua 1997–2002 then spoke. "Women in my country, Nicaragua, have played an active role in the different stages of conflict throughout their history. In the 70's and 80's, Nicaragua experienced years of war... [including] a civil war where more than 50,000 men and women lost their lives. But it is also worth mentioning that it was a woman, Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, the first woman president of Nicaragua, who served as an instrument of conflict resolution and whose government began a period of transition toward peace and the end of armed struggle."

Fionnaula Kenny, spouse of the Republic of Ireland's prime minister, 2011–2017, said, in part, "A more peaceful, equal and sustainable world is the overarching goal of our foreign policy. Ireland was last year elected to the United Nations Security Council for a two-year term, and as a nation with no colonial past and a real understanding of conflict and its effects, particularly on women and children, due to our recent experience with Northern Ireland, we will use our term to move that goal forward. Our experience in Northern Ireland also shows the invaluable contribution women can make to peace.

The final first lady (2010–2012) to speak was Callista Jennie Mutharika of Malawi, who stated, "Our country has never experienced war. Unfortunately, as women, this has not saved us [from having to] fight for our rights, to fight for autonomy, to fight for agency and to fight for authority.... We need to arm our children not with knives, guns and bombs but with the psychological armory, the mental fortitude and the indefatigable belief that for women to possess power, to possess authority, to possess agency is an absolute and an inalienable right." ϕ

A True Peace magazine staff member created this article based on information submitted by WFWPI to Peace Tv.

