

American leaders and District Pastors visit True Parents' Han Nam Dong house

Michael Balcomb
February 20, 2016



FFWPU USA leaders inside the Han Nam Dong house

On February 20, after taking part in the Foundation Day festivities in Korea, FFWPU USA leaders and District Pastors took a trip to the Han Nam Dong house, True Parents' official residence in Seoul from 1983 to 2006. For some, this visit was a trip down memory lane, of working with True Parents there many years ago. For others, this was their first time seeing the Han Nam Dong house; yet for all, the experience was a deep one.

"This was the first time I've ever been to the Han Nam Dong house, so it was an entirely new experience for me," said FFWPU USA Vice President Miilhan Stephens. "We didn't have too much time to learn the history, but it was wonderful to be able to experience the atmosphere and be in the places where True Father conducted so many historical activities."

"It was a deeply moving encounter with the spirit of True Parents," said Dr. Michael Balcomb, FFWPU USA President. "Living in England and later the United States, I didn't have many chances to visit the Han Nam Dong house, but one occasion that is forever lodged in my mind was back in 1988 at the time of the Seoul Olympics."

"After two successive Olympic boycotts in 1980 (Moscow) and 1984 (Los Angeles)," he recollected, "True Father sensed a possible breakthrough in relations between the democratic and communist blocs, both of which came in full force to the Korean games. Accordingly, he called church representatives of all nations to come to Seoul and outreach with our countrymen and women—athletes, coaches, diplomats and spectators—throughout the two-week Olympiad. It was my privilege to be invited to attend."

The campaign was successful, and at some point along the way Dr. Balcomb ran into Simon Winchester, a reporter for the Manchester Guardian who was covering Olympics and had just written an acclaimed book about Korea, "A Walk Through the Land of Miracles."

"We spent a day or two together," said Dr. Balcomb, "and his account of our meeting appeared in the paper soon afterward."

When they arrived at Han Nam Dong, just as the sun was setting, the group said they could feel True Father's spirit so powerfully, and were deeply affected as they thought back to the time when True Father was still on earth.

Olympics tailor-made for a Moon mission

Suitably impressed, **Simon Winchester** reports from Seoul on the Rev. Moon's smart idea for winning hearts and minds

ANYONE who experienced distress last weekend at seeing the Mongolian athletes in their Genghis Khan kilt-dresses, who thought the Shintoistic kilt or the Samson grass-skirts somewhat less than edifying or who found something wanting in the ceremonial splendour of the Chinese Olympics, can now rest easy. Every single one of the 1,000 athletes and officials from the Third Communist world will now go home demonstrably more warmly clad than on arrival.

Each of the men will have a brand new hand-made three-piece suit and every woman will have a custom-tailored dress. The fathers of Seoul have their clothes already, the lights have long in the two-storied of the cultural and the eating rooms are thronged with the unexpected activity.

It is unexpected because the decision to clothe those who are

expected to be "less fortunate" participants in the Games has only just been made. It was on the day that "come to the table", as the saying is, in the west, who regards the Olympics as a God-given chance to receive his missionary message of global unity and salvation.

And so, slipping into the limelight this week, perhaps looking a little older so long in the shadow of his American prison term, is an old friend — the Rev. Sun Myung Moon. It is Rev. Moon who, with characteristic almost insouciance, has set himself the task of seeing some of the Olympic athletes looking like better dancers.

The Moon headquarters in Seoul, which manages a massive Korean commercial empire — it includes financial institutions, media agencies, gaming facilities, car transportation plants, a daily newspaper, catering factories, schools and more — is a

little in the realisation that such Lunar positions could be extracted from the Games. Only three weeks ago did the word go out to the Moon men in the field, announcing that he had to be in Seoul.

"We got a telegram," explained Michael Balcomb, a missionary at the Unification Church's British headquarters in Philadelphia. "It came from him. Moon himself, asking every reason except to send two members to Rome right away. We had the impression that the other churches were going to use the occasion of the Olympics to make a major push. The Rev. Moon wanted us to make sure we were up to it. So one of us have others from everywhere. Africa, America, Ireland — you name it. We are carrying out the instructions to ensure we get the message across."

"One of the ways we thought was to offer a little charity. The Rev. Moon thought most of the athletes have very poor and that a little cash was a good and very Korean gift to give them. So that was our first allotted task — a very welcome one, isn't it you think?"

Mr Balcomb's very much wanted to come to Seoul. He, with a Japanese woman, he married on Moon's suggestion at a most ceremony six years ago, was not so sure about the way just about to give birth itself did, while her husband was on a mission on his two-day short-sleeved missionary flight here. "I'll see the little girl when I get back. But now I'm here I'm finally working for Rev. Moon. I'm totally committed to the work."

And so, day after day and through the good offices of Mr Balcomb and his colleagues, the Olympics are being joined, capital, persuaded and ordered into something some of the Moon language or something some of the many Moon functions now being named in Seoul.

The New York City Symphony Orchestra, which Moon owns, is playing Beethoven's Ninth. His Universal Ballet Company offers performances of "A traditional Korean silk-dance choreographed in the style of Balanchine."

And for those who weary of watching pre-pubescent Russians on the beams and bars, Moon's very own Little Angels

Dance Troupe will show off the talents of his small girls performing military routines every afternoon outside their school.

Should we even this grave sufficiently allowing, Mr Balcomb and colleagues will lead the nations on tours of the Moon-owned plant that makes a completely impenetrable connection called the Moon's remote McGee, or to the factory that makes all the power for Moon sports to the sunlit world (This is made of inferior white glowing and is not, the knowledgeable say, worth anything.)

One can also visit a Moon music academy that has no sweeter than 10 following grand piano, said to be a record. And those past eager to reveal in the pleasure of Moon magic can drive down to the Olympic Stadium Centre and, in the private company of the Prince Royal, watch two of the Reverend's children performing through as part of the Korean riding team.

One what not even the most privileged, not a Carl Lewis or a Greg Luegish, apparently can do is see the Rev. Moon himself.

"The, we're very much here in Korea," says Mr Balcomb. "I was armed with a sword which is a strong bond with his other staff. But he's keeping himself under wraps for a while."

"You'll understand, of course he's just not seeing anyone from outside."

The message from Moon has in any case been left to do with the Reverend and his own doctrine. Much more with Korea in general. "We believe, as we have always believed, that Korea is where the next religious revival is going to be centered. Korea will be the pre-emptive force of the world. It is the chosen land and Koreans are the chosen people. That is all we're saying."

In the Columbia mountains near the Soviet weight-lifters and the Japanese archery team would do well to consider this next week as they struggle with their North and head off back home. They have spent briefly into Paradise and Sun Myung Moon is going to make sure, providing the athletes with out and the business built on, that they never forget it.

Reporter Simon Winchester spins an ironic account of Unification outreach during the 1988 Olympics in Seoul

"I felt sure that he would be sitting in the living room just as he was that summer in 1988, when he would have three large TVs on the go at once in an effort to support all the teams in all the sports," said Dr. Balcomb. "The feeling of his presence was so overpowering that by the time I stood inside those sacred walls, I was so choked with emotion I could barely speak."

After a tour of the house, the group emerged into the early dusk to see the lights of Seoul and the Han River twinkling below, a memorable end to a most memorable day.



Outside the Han Nam Dong house