

## Assessing Interest in a September 2017 Comfort Blessing

Michael Balcomb  
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We've just learned that there will be an opportunity for members who wish to receive a Comfort Blessing to join and be blessed at the Cosmic Blessing Celebration in Korea, on September 7th, which is also the 5th anniversary of True Father's holy ascension. As far as we know, this will be the first time that participants in a comfort blessing will participate in the general blessing ceremony.

We are now being asked to quickly report a prospective number (not a goal) of likely candidates so as to assess interest in the Comfort Blessing. The Blessed Family Department is reaching out to individuals who have previously expressed interest in the comfort Blessing, and I am writing to ask each of your help in also getting this news out promptly. This is a sensitive issue and I want to handle it compassionately.

Of course everyone's situation is different. Many of those whose spouse has ascended are simply not interested in remarrying or having a comfort blessing, and we respect that decision. At the same time there are others who feel ready to enter into a comfort blessing. Others have been unsure, given the on-again, off-again status the comfort blessing, which has been "on hold" but is now open again.

One thing we have heard is that all applicants should be living a public life, and should have completed the Ancestor Liberation and Blessing providence before attending. At a minimum, this will probably mean the liberation and blessing of 210 generations that True Father directed before his own ascension. Eventually, we are all encouraged to strive towards 420 or 430 generations. This is consistent with True Parents' consistent and long-standing concern that the spiritual world and physical world be united.

We are working as quickly as we can to find out the conditions and qualifications that would need to be met to receive the grace of the comfort Blessing. Our current understanding is that all the following types of application are welcome:

- 1) Those who already have a prospective partner in mind.
- 2) Those who would like help in finding a prospective partner through a mediated "matching" or "advisement" process.
- 3) True Mother will not look for the partners.
- 4) Those who have already entered into a Comfort Blessing in the past and would like to receive grace through True Parents' direct officiation.
- 5) Both first and second generation spouses with ascended partners

We realize that this leaves a lot of questions hanging in the air, but nevertheless as mentioned above we are being asked to quickly report a prospective number (not a goal) of likely candidates so as to assess interest in the Comfort Blessing.

Thank you

Dr. Michael Balcomb  
President  
Family Federation for World Peace and Unification  
Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity  
[mwalcomb@unification.org](mailto:mwalcomb@unification.org)