

FFWPU Europe and the Middle East: Mother Moon's 81 Birthday Celebrated - She Blesses 70 Couples

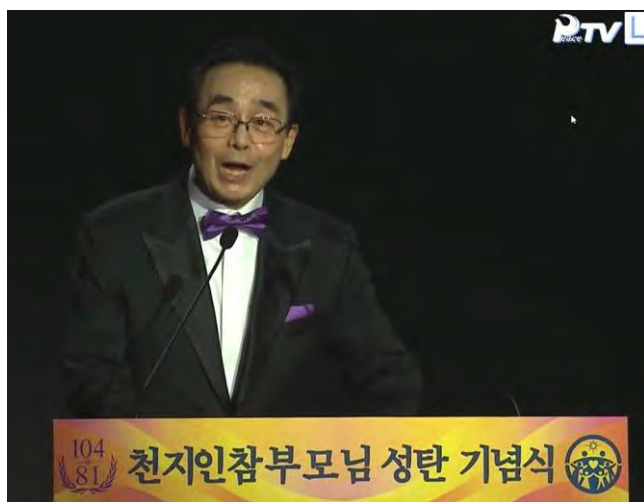
Knut Holdhus
February 15, 2024



[Mother Moon](#) at the [Marriage Blessing](#) ceremony in South Korea 15th February 2024

Mother Moon's 81st birthday celebrated as she blesses 70 young couples

[Mother Moon](#)'s 81st birthday was celebrated in grand style with a cultural event and a wedding of 70 young couples at Hyojeong Cultural Center in [Gapyeong](#), northeast of the South Korean capital Seoul 15th February.



[Dr. Yong-cheon Song](#) 15th Feb. 2024

At the same time, the birth of [Father Moon](#) was commemorated. He was born in 1920 and would have been 104 years today. According to the Oriental lunar calendar, their birthdays fall on the same date, the sixth day of the first month. The master of ceremonies, Dr. [Yong-cheon Song](#), International President of the [Family Federation](#), mentioned this in his welcoming remarks,

"Today is the most blessed day as the [True Parents](#) are both born on this day."

The program included an invocation prayer by Rev. Masaichi Hori, the head of the Asia-Pacific region of the [Family Federation](#), presentation of flowers and gifts to [Mother Moon](#), cake cutting, and entertainment.



New publications in Korean being presented to [Mother Moon](#) on her birthday 15th Feb. 2024

Several new books published by the movement in Korean were presented to her. The central part of the entertainment was a dramatized overview of the life of [Father](#) and [Mother Moon](#) titled "Light of Peace - the [True Parents](#) of Humanity". Through narration, song, and dance key events in their life courses were highlighted.



Nan-pa Hong performing 15th Feb. 2024

Professional singers backed up by a choir of members of the [Family Federation](#) and a philharmonic orchestra. Video footage from milestones in the life of [Sun Myung Moon](#) and [Hak Ja Han](#) was displayed on a giant screen behind the performers. Famous Korean singers like soprano Nan-pa Hong, tenor Sun-sang Lee, soprano Mija Pak, as well as traditional singer Ae-ri Park took part.

Immediately after the birthday celebration, a special [Marriage Blessing](#) of 70 young couples was held, where [Mother Moon](#) officiated. There were participants from many countries, including European ones.

The first part of the ceremony after [Mother Moon](#) had entered the stage through two lines of attendants, was the sprinkling of holy water on all the couples. Representative couples were on stage in two lines in front of [Hak Ja Han](#). Attendants sprinkled the water on the other couples. [Mother Moon](#) then read the Affirmation of the [Blessing](#) Vow, to which everyone shouted a loud yes. Essentially, they promised to do all they could to be a loving and responsible spouse, establish a harmonious family, that would strive to build the kind of world that [God](#) originally envisioned, an ideal world where the family is the cornerstone.



[Mother Moon](#) sprinkling holy water on representative couples 15th Feb. 2024

In her benediction prayer, she prayed that the young brides and grooms would help [God](#), the Heavenly Parent, to create the environment where He/She could realize the dream that God has waited for thousands of years to see fulfilled.

[Mother Moon](#) prayed for [God](#)'s guidance for the specially selected couples so they would dedicate themselves to the task of saving the eight billion living on the earth today, who "still do not know" the Heavenly Parent. She prayed they would "[live for the sake of others](#)" and thus help to purify the world, expanding an environment of goodness.



Close-up from the exchange of rings 15th Feb. 2024

The couples then exchanged wedding rings. [Mother Moon](#) personally gave the rings to representative couples on the stage. Finally, she proclaimed the couples taking part in the ceremony to be truly married and [blessed](#). Flowers and gifts were presented to her by representative couples on behalf of all the couples. [Mother Moon](#) then gave a special gift to each of the couples participating.



From the entertainment 15th Feb. 2024. Ae-ri Park and her husband performing

Congratulatory songs and dances were performed by a variety of artists.

"Birthday Celebrated with Big Marriage Blessing" - text: Knut Holdhus, written based on live transmission by PeaceTV.

More on birthday celebrated: [Grand Celebration of 80th Birthday](#)

More on birthday celebrated: [Mother Moon Celebrated as She Turned 80](#)

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Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon – Mother Moon

In a nutshell

Name: Hak Ja Han (pronounced with long a), sometimes written Hak Ja Han Moon. In Korean 한학자 (Han Hak-ja – the family name always comes first in Korean). Written in Chinese characters, the name is 韓鶴子. Many call her Mother Moon.

Born: 10th February 1943 (6th day of the first month according to the Oriental lunar calendar) in the village of Shineui in the district of Anju of South Pyeongan Province in Korea, now North Korea).

Married: 11th April 1960 to [Sun Myung Moon](#). Together they realize the ideal of [True Parents](#). They had 14 children together.

Positions:

- President and co-founder of Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP, founded 1992)
- Co-founder of [Family federation for World Peace and Unification](#) (FFWPU, founded 1996)
- Co-founder of Universal Peace federation (UPF, founded 2005)
- Co-founder of Sunhak Peace Prize (founded 2013)
- Founder of International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP, founded 2016)
- Founder of Interreligious Association for Peace and Development (IAPD, founded 2017)

Memoirs: "Mother of Peace"

Awards:

- Honorary Doctorate of Humanities from Bloomfield College, NJ, USA (1990)
- Honorary Doctorate of Humanities from Bridgeport University, USA (1995)
- Honorary Doctorate of Literature from Taiwan University of Culture (1999)
- Honorary Doctorate of Pedagogics from Stefba Theological College of Bahia State, Brazil (1999)

Dr. Hak Ja Han was born on 10th February 1943 (6th day of the first month according to the Oriental lunar calendar) in the village of Shineui in the district of Anju in present day North Korea. Her parents were committed Christians. She became an only child because her parents were separated due to political unrest.



North Korea. *Public domain image. Cropped*

[Unification Church](#) founder [Sun Myung Moon](#) (1920-2012).

Over the next 21 years, the couple had 14 children – seven girls and seven boys. Mother Moon, as she is fondly called by members, is now a grandmother with over 40 grandchildren and has also become a great-grandmother. In addition to taking care of all the children, she has always been involved in activities with her husband.

This led to an extensive travel itinerary. In [Sun Myung Moon's](#) autobiography "As a Peace Loving Global Citizen", he writes that she was always concerned about the children: "So great was her love for the children that she did not let a single day pass without writing and sending letters and postcards to the children when she was away from home and traveling with me to various places in the world on speaking tours" (translated from Korean version, pages 226-7).

After the family moved to the United States in 1972, she and her husband completed countless public appearances at conferences and festivals, seminars and Unification Movement events.

She also spent considerable time with [her husband](#) and other family members in nature – salmon fishing in Alaska and trips to the South American Pantanal wetlands. Both she and [her husband](#) were very concerned with green issues and the environmental crisis, which is described in detail in "As a Peace Loving Global Citizen" (pages 307-311).



- Honorary Doctorate of Pedagogics from Kyrgyzstan State Pedagogical University (2000)
- Honorary Doctorate of Philosophy from Upper Volga University, Russia (2000)
- Honorary Doctorate of Humanities from Federico Enriquez Carbahal University, Dominican Republic(2000)
- Awarded with the Grand Prix Peace Award of International Association of Educators for World Peace (IAEWP) (2001)
- Honorary Doctorate of Literature from Sunmoon University, South Korea (2002)
- Honorary doctorate from University of Peace, Costa Rica (2022)

Children:

- Ye Jin Moon, daughter, born 11th Dec. 1960.
- Hyo Jin Moon, son, born 3rd Dec. 1961, ascended 17th March 2008.
- Hye Jin Moon, daughter, born 27th July 1964, ascended 4th Aug. 1964.
- In Jin Moon, daughter, born 18th July 1965.
- Heung Jin Moon, son, born 23rd Oct. 1966, ascended 2nd Jan. 1984.
- Un Jin Moon, daughter, born 23rd Nov. 1967.
- Hyun Jin "Preston" Moon, son, born 10th Apr. 1969.
- Kook Jin "Justin" Moon, son, born 14th June 1970.
- Kwon Jin Moon, son, born 20th Jan. 1975.
- Sun Jin Moon, daughter, born 15th June 1976.
- Young Jin Moon, son, born 17th May 1978, ascended 27th Oct. 1999.
- Hyung Jin "Sean" Moon, son, born 6th Aug. 1979.
- Yeon Jin Moon, daughter, born 3rd Jan. 1981.
- Jeung Jin Moon, daughter, born 14th June 1982.



Hak Ja Han became the first president of the Women's Federation for World Peace, a women's movement she and **her husband** founded in April 1992 in Seoul.



From that year, she embarked on several speaking tours. She gave public speeches in more than 100 countries all over the world. In 1993, she spoke at the UN building in New York and at the Capitol, seat of the US Congress, in Washington DC.

During a visit to Beijing, a meeting was arranged with the son of Chinese President Deng Xiaoping to promote a charity project. Hak Ja Han received much media attention when she spoke with former US President George W. Bush and his wife Barbara at peace events in September 1995 in Tokyo and other cities in Japan.

Hak Ja Han holds several positions. She is co-founder of the **Family Federation for World Peace and Unification** and the **Universal Peace Federation** – just to name a few.

She has been awarded many honorary doctorates.

After her husband's death in 2012, she has only continued her lifelong efforts to build a **kingdom of heaven** here on earth, a peaceful world based on harmonious families and individuals. She has also launched notable new initiatives such as the founding of the Sunhak Peace Prize.



She is particularly interested in the reunification of the Korean peninsula, and in recent years took the initiative to large rallies for peace in the largest South Korean cities as well as speaking at large peace meetings with over 10,000 participants in major cities around the world, including Vienna, New York, Sao Paulo, Tokyo, Bangkok, Busan, Osaka and Nagoya.

Hak Ja Han is perhaps best known for the large **mass weddings** which she and **her husband** officiated for many years. After he passed away in 2012, she has continued with such **large weddings** every single year.

Together with her husband **Sun Myung Moon**, Hak Ja Han holds the title "**True Parents**".

Her name is sometimes written Hak Ja Han Moon, especially in the Western world. In South Korea, women do not take the husband's name when marrying, but in Western countries "Moon" is often added after her name to make it clear that she is **Sun Myung Moon's** wife.



In Korean writing, the name is 한학자 – Han Hak-ja. The family name always comes first. The family name Han is pronounced with a long a. Hak Ja are the two first names, sometimes written Hak-ja, pronounced with short a's.