

FFWPU Europe and the Middle East: Large Wedding On Mother Moon's Own Anniversary

Knut Holdhus
April 24, 2024



[Mother Moon](#), [Hak Ja Han](#), sprinkling holy water on couples 24th April 2024

Large wedding held as part of celebration of Father and Mother Moon's own Holy Wedding in 1960

A large wedding for 2100 couples took place 24th April 2024, with the main event in Hyojeong Cultural Center in [Gapyeong](#), northeast of the South Korean capital Seoul. The large ceremony was officiated by [Mother Moon](#) on the same day as her and her late husband [Father Moon](#)'s 64th [Holy Wedding](#) anniversary was celebrated.



[Mother Moon](#), [Hak Ja Han](#), sprinkling holy water on couples 24th April 2024

[Mother Moon](#), [Hak Ja Han](#), opened this latest [mass wedding](#) ceremony she and her husband are so famous for, by sprinkling holy water on representative brides and grooms on the stage. The 13 couples on stage were standing arm in arm with the bride holding a flower bouquet in her right hand. Attendants sprinkled the water on the other couples in the hall.

The master of ceremony pointed out,

"The holy water ceremony is an important ritual through which you cleanse your past life and are reborn anew. [...] It is the [True Parents](#)' hope that you all grow to become [...] treasured families of our Heavenly Parent."

The 2100 couples who received the [marriage blessing](#) came from 16 countries. 500 couples took part in the ceremony in Gapyeong, the other 1600 couples participated in smaller ceremonies around the world.

Everyone was then asked to affirm the [Blessing](#) vows read out by [Mother Moon](#). All the couples shouted

a loud yes after she had finished reading,

"As a family with the responsibility to fulfill the perfected families envisioned by our Heavenly Parent in the beginning, do you promise to become couples for eternity, continue the traditions established by the [True Parents](#) and form ideal families that seek the realization of [God's kingdom](#)."



One of the couples 24th April 2024 exchanging rings

eternal love.

It was then time for the couples to exchange their blessing rings. Again, 13 representative couples come up on stage. [Mother Moon](#) and two assistants presented the rings to those couples.

All the brides and grooms both on stage and in the hall faced each other. The groom placed the ring on the ring-finger of the bride, before she placed the groom's ring on his finger. The rings symbolize the eternal and the couple's

[Mother Moon](#) then proclaimed,

"I proclaim in front of heaven and earth that the holy marriage of the couples participating in this cosmic blessing ceremony officiated by the [True Parents](#) of heaven, earth and humankind, have been established through the grace of the Heavenly Parent and the [True Parents](#) of heaven, earth and humankind."

Then followed the blessing prayer by [Mother Moon](#).



Large Marriage Blessing in Hyojeong Cultural Center in Gapyeong, South Korea 24th April 2024

She prayed that all the 2100 couples taking part throughout the world would be like pure water and become the precious and ideal men and women that our Heavenly Parent had envisioned at the beginning of the creation. She asked that such "pure water" would continue to grow and spread throughout the world, across the oceans and all continents.

She prayed that the couples would praise and glorify our Heavenly Parent based on the victorious foundation laid by the [True Parents](#).

"All the blessed couples who received the [blessing](#) today are the ones who are realizing Heavenly Parent's dream," she said. "May they give birth to many pure children."

She asked also [God](#) that all the people around the globe would hear about this great [Blessing](#) and news and join in.

She prayed that all the difficult things - all the chaos that is happening across the globe, all the conflicts that have been caused by the ignorance of the fallen humankind, and that give such pain to our precious

earth and create environmental problems, and also all the natural disasters as well as diseases - would no longer threaten the life of the [blessed](#) families.

And with such a protective [blessing](#), she asked [God](#) that the blessed families would work towards restoring the earth to its original healthy state and work to create an ideal world and happy families that would give joy to our Heavenly Parent and realize [God's](#) dream here on the earth.

After the prayer, flowers and gifts were offered to [Mother Moon](#) by representative couples.



Aeri Park and Poppin Hyunjoon singing and dancing 24th April 2024 in Gapyeong

The ceremonial part of the program was followed by a special performance by a couple who themselves 14 years ago had participated in one of the [marriage blessing](#) ceremonies of the [Family Federation](#) - Korean singer Aeri Park and her husband and hip-hop dancer and singer Poppin Hyunjoon.

Text: Knut Holdhus, written based on live transmission via PeaceTV. The words of [Mother Moon](#) referred to and quoted are an unofficial version based on the simultaneous translation into English.

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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*

When the communists took power in North Korea, the then five-year-old Hak Ja Han was imprisoned together with her mother for eleven days. To escape the bloody persecution of Christians, she fled in 1948 with her mother and grandmother, who both belonged to charismatic movements, to South Korea, where the three eventually settled in the city of Daegu. Her mother, Soon-ae Hong (1914-1989), met in March 1956 the then newly founded [Unification Church](#), which she joined together with her daughter.

Hak Ja Han was trained as a nurse at a Catholic vocational school. On 11th April 1960 (16th day of the 3rd month according to the Oriental lunar calendar) she married [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.



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Large Wedding Ceremonies

Large wedding ceremonies since 1960 – door to true marital love



For more than 60 years, [Father](#) and [Mother Moon](#) have organized large wedding ceremonies in order to realize [God's](#) family ideal. People from all races, cultures, religions and nationalities participate. After [Sun Myung Moon's](#) death in 2012, his wife [Hak Ja Han](#) has officiated at the major international ceremonies.

Since 1960, millions of couples have been blessed in such large wedding ceremonies as a way to realize their desire to achieve the eternal ideal that true conjugal love represents, and at the same time raise their children with an absolute and unconditional parental love.

Among the many who have had their marriages blessed by [Father](#) and [Mother Moon](#), there are thousands who asked [Father Moon](#) to choose a spouse for them. He had received from [God](#) the ability to see the individual's spiritual character and inherited qualities. This enabled him to suggest with whom a person was best suited, and what kind of partner one would need for his or her spiritual growth. That tradition came to an end some years before [Sun Myung Moon](#) left this world in 2012.



"While marriage counselors and parish priests are wringing their hands over the breakdown of family life, the [Unification Church](#) is doing something about it. The [God-centered](#) family is not merely a nice slogan or a spiritual ideal suggested by the church leaders. It is the essential core of community among the faithful of the church. It is also a deeply motivated system for restoring marital fidelity and family stability to modern society."

(*Marriage, Family and Sun Myung Moon*, article by [Father Joseph H. Fichter](#) (1908-1994), Jesuit and sociologist of religion, published in the Jesuit magazine *America* 27th Oct. 1979.)

Couples who are already married within the framework of their own religion also participate in these ceremonies. They do not need to change their religion, but on the contrary find that such an experience gives them the opportunity to deepen their marriage and sacrifice it to [God](#), as they renew and strengthen their faith. At the same time, they also decide to realize [God's](#) ideal in their family.





There are many who have come to positive conclusions after closely studying the life of families of believers who base their marriage on [Father Moon's](#) teachings and tradition. In the above mentioned article, Jesuit sociologist Father [Joseph H. Fichter](#) (1908-1994) writes about the impressions he got when he studied the couples who have chosen this path. He says that a pragmatic sociologist might very well have concluded that the [Family Federation](#):

"has discovered an effective family plan. [...] one has to recognize its systematic program for the restoration of 'old-fashioned' morality, its emphasis on chastity before marriage, prayerful preparation for marriage, a readiness to accept guidance in the choice of a partner, marital love reflective of love of [God](#), transmission of spiritual perfection to children." (Fichter)

The New York Times writes that the [Family Federation's](#)

"teaching on marriage does not exalt the romantic, personal side of a marriage. Marriage, according to Mr. [Moon](#), is more than a man and a woman seeking the blessing of their church on their decision to live together. With as much fervor as other world religions stress celibacy as a means to a godly life, Mr. [Moon](#) writes that marriage is necessary to complete one's godly duty of seeking perfection in individual and communal life."

("Marriage Seen As Godly Duty", article by Charles Austin, The New York Times 2nd July 1982, section B, page 1.)

We hold seminars on the meaning of the marriage blessing. You do not have to be a member of the [Family Federation](#) to participate.

"Large Wedding Ceremonies" – text: Knut Holdhus



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