

Two Major Unificationist Holy Days, True Children's Day and Foundation Day for the Unified Nation of Heaven and Earth, to Celebrate in November 2012

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Rev. and Mrs. Moon, known by Unificationists as “True Parents” bless the offering table prepared to celebrate the 50th True Children’s Day on November 11, 2009 according to the Gregorian calendar (10.1 Cheon-gi heavenly calendar).

True Children’s Day and Foundation Day for the Unified Nation of Heaven and Earth will be celebrated November 14 and 16, 2012 respectively. Both are among the eight major Unification holidays, according to the official church calendar. The dates for the holidays are based on the 1st day and 3rd day of the 10th month according to the lunar calendar. Rev. Moon proclaimed the start of the “Cheon-gi,” or “heavenly” calendar, centered on the lunar calendar, on the solar date of February 14, 2010.

Origins of True Children’s Day (참 자녀의 날 “*Cham ja nyeo ui nal*”)

Rev. Sun Myung Moon, known affectionately by Unificationists as “True Father,” declared Children’s Day to be celebrated on the 1st day of the 10th month of the lunar calendar. The Children’s Day celebration first was held November 19, 1960 (according to the Gregorian calendar) at the former Korean headquarters church in Cheon Pa Dong, Seoul. Thirty-four years after the declaration, True Father added the word “True,” to the holiday and three other major holidays (True God’s Day, True Parent’s Day, and True Day of All Things).

On the first celebration of Children’s Day, held during a Thanksgiving service, True Father stated, “This Thanksgiving Day we are celebrating a truly festive day of heaven eagerly awaited by God for 6,000 years since the creation and the onset of human history. Henceforth, the 1st day of the 3rd Month [Parents’ Day, now called “True Parent’s Day] and the 1st day [Children’s Day] of the 10th month on the lunar calendar [now *Cheon-gi* “heavenly calendar”] will be celebrated every year as an important festive day. In particular, today marks the day of the children and the season of fruition.”

Although the Unification Church’s “True Children’s Day” bears a similar name to the May 5th national Korean holiday of Children’s Day, the two holidays have different meanings. The Unification Church’s True Children’s Day is a day for people to inherit the name of “children of God” and to become engrafted to God’s lineage. “To seek such real and ideal sons and daughters is the ultimate goal of God’s providence,” said Rev. Moon on November 15, 1962. “Parents wish that their children would become better and greater than themselves in all aspects. This is the heart of the parent. How much more our Father [God], would like to see wonderful children who resemble His perfect image, and see the children multiply generation after generation.”

The national celebration of Children’s Day in Korea, on the other hand, is meant to celebrate childhood and to promote children’s rights and happiness. According to various Internet sources, in 1922, Jeon-hwan Bang, a children’s story-book writer, declared Children’s Day, and it became a national holiday in 1975.

There is not a permanent Children’s Day observation made at the national level in the United States.

Prayer at the Nineth Children’s Day Ceremony

The following are the words of Rev. Sun Myung Moon on November 20, 1968 (10.1 by the Cheon-gi heavenly calendar) at the former headquarters church in Seoul, Korea.

“Heavenly Father, today is November 20, 1968, (10.1 by the lunar [now *Cheon-gi* heavenly] calendar), the day on which Children’s Day was newly proclaimed on this earth nine years ago. During that time, we have lived through many days and years. As we walked the course following

the Will, we have yearned to become the true children You would desire to have, and whenever we are in attendance on an occasion such as today, we, knowing the standard you desire of us and seeing ourselves falling so short of it, cannot help but feel ashamed of our present selves before You. Heavenly Father, please look upon us with compassion.

“Father, we are aware of the fact that to celebrate this joyous occasion on this day, all of your children spread out across the land of Korea are offering our bows before You in the direction of the headquarters, with sincere hearts full of devotion. Not only those in Korea, but also many of Your children scattered around overseas and weary in their lonely courses of pioneering, are thinking deeply in their hearts about the value of being in attendance of this day, and are waiting keenly with earnest hearts for the day when they can receive this day in the land of Korea, and praying with tears for that day. We know all this, and, though their situations and circumstances are different from one another, please be with them all and sympathize with their hearts and thoughts, and liberate them from their anguish. We beseech you from the bottom of our hearts to do so.

“There are so many religious believers on this earth walking the path of righteousness and offering devotions, so please let them find their desired places and attain the glory of children, and since their desire to find the day of liberation should achieve success on this earth at any cost, please bring under Your control their hearts harboring admiration and anticipation for it, so that they may actually meet with Father on this earth and take part in celebrating this day together with us.

“We know that not only those on earth, but also the many martyrs of the past and our ancestors in the spirit world have walked the course of indemnity for restoration of earth until now. We are also aware that when an individual failed to fulfill his responsibility, You established the next descendant to pioneer the course of restoration through indemnity. Though the great number of our ancestors who have passed on into the spirit world had endeavored in accordance with the Will and established the foundation for the public good, the day of liberation from anguish could not be instituted on earth. And yet, when we consider the fact that we of this day and age can be liberated through the establishment of Children’s Day, we should realize fully that our receiving this Children’s Day is of great significance in cosmic history, so please help us comprehend this amazing truth.

“Whenever we are in attendance in one of such occasions, please permit us not to think of them as just perfunctory and customary gatherings and ceremonies of the world. We are truly grateful, and we truly commemorate the fact that such holidays as today have come to be for the first time since the onset of history. Please allow us and help us to become Your sons and daughters who can remember Your loving heart and show gratitude for the fact that You have labored hard and incessantly to pioneer the path of the providence of restoration.

“Please remember Your sons and daughters present here today, and though it is disappointing that not all the members of the nation could be gathered at the same place to hold this ceremony, since You know that it was not possible to do so on account of environmental conditions and everything else not under our control, please comfort and solace the hearts of the sons and daughters who could not be here with us. “We should bring about the day whereon we can serve You, offer obeisance before You, and celebrate all we want to our hearts’ content in a free environment as quickly as possible. Realizing that the disappointment we feel in such situations as these are all due to our failure to fulfill our responsibility, let us feel even deeper in our hearts our given mission as pioneers of tomorrow, and help us make resolutions anew to prepare the foundation for the restoration of our people and the world.

“Please allow us to clearly comprehend that the position we occupy as the members of the Unification Church is a very important position of the great mission of cosmic magnitude. Permit us to know the truth that You have established each and every one of us to do away with the historically embedded grief and sorrow, and that by establishing our families You have created the framework for the cosmic liberation from anguish. Help us to know all this and become Your children who can be grateful of this amazing mission and responsibility given to us.

“We hope and pray that You will bestow more blessings on all Your blessed children celebrating this day. Grant them grace thousands of times and tens of thousands of times more, so that it will overflow in their hearts and bodies. We ask You from deep within our hearts to let the remainder of this day be a day of joy before Your Will and a day to be commemorated in all solemnity. Please let the many peoples living around the world feel Your loving touch so that they too may be restored as new peoples who can prepare for the coming Kingdom of Heaven, and since the forces of evil are still mighty, dampen their spirits and establish the standard of goodness that can serve as the beginning of the new promise to work directly through Your children gathered here today to push forward and accomplish Your work.

“We pledge to dedicate to You our remaining days, and to do our utmost best even on this one day to bring about results of loyalty and filial piety in front of Your Will. We hope and pray for the glorious victory of Your sacred Will, and that every day will be a source of joy to You. Heavenly Father, we implore you to grant the victorious foundation to the many spirits in the spirit world that they may work on this earth in a free environment. By so doing, such a day as today can also be a blessing to them as well as to the people on this earth and the entire cosmic world. We ask you to allow all this.

“We request you earnestly to preside directly over all that we do from this time onwards, and I offer this prayer in the holy name of True Parents. Amen.” (21-178)



The day after the closing ceremony of the 1988 Summer Olympics in Seoul, True Father established the holy day Foundation of the Unified World, renamed to Foundation of the Unified Nation of Heaven and Earth.

Origins of Foundation Day for the Unified Nation of Heaven and Earth | (통일국 개천일 “Ton gil gyo Gae cheo nil”)

After the success of the 1988 Seoul Olympics in Korea, on October 3, 1988, the same day as Korea’s National Foundation Day, True Father declared the Foundation Day for the Unified World at the Yong In Factory of Il Hwa Co., Ltd in South Korea.

True Father and True Mother renamed the Holy day as Foundation Day for the Unified Nation of Heaven and Earth on the 17th celebration of the holiday in 2004. In accordance with the *Cheon-gi* heavenly calendar, Foundation Day for the Unified Nation of Heaven and Earth is now celebrated on the 3rd day of the 10th month.

According to True Father, the ceremony of the Foundation Day for the Unified World was a major accomplishment. In his speech, “Children’s Day 1988 – From the Viewpoint of the Providence,” True Father said, “on that day, [October 3rd], the Korean nation celebrated the foundation of its nation 4,321 years ago. On October third [1988], we declared Foundation Day for the Nation of the World of Unification. This is not a secular nation but the heavenly, unified nation of the world. This means that spirit world and physical world are one...The restoration of each nation has become possible. Beyond communities and societies, nations can now be restored into the one heavenly world community.”

October 3rd is the National Foundation Day of Korea (개천절 or “Gaecheonjeol”). The literal translation of “Gaecheonjeol” is “The day when heaven opened up.” This day marks the founding of the first nation of Korea by Dangun in on the 3rd day of the 10th lunar month 2333 BCE according to Korea.net, the official multi-language website of the Korean government. For convenience sake, Koreans celebrate their national foundation on October 3rd according to the solar calendar

Declaration Prayer of Foundation of the Unified World in 1988

The following are the words of Rev. Sun Myung Moon on October 3rd, 1988, the year of the Seoul Olympics, (10.3 by the Cheon-gi heavenly calendar) at the Yong In Factory Il Hwa Co., Ltd. In Korea.

“Beloved Heavenly Father! The flow of history has been one of intense grief, and the history of Your providence has been one of despair. This was caused neither by God Himself or the creation. It was solely due to the mistake of Adam and Eve, who were the owners of all creation, and the archangel, whose responsibility it was to manage and nurture them into maturity, that such a wretched flow of history has been handed down. When we think of this fact, and how much God must have bemoaned it, we cannot help but reproach the unforgivable actions of humanity in bringing about the ruin of the world.

“However, because You are of love, Father, You have persevered to this day to reestablish the standard of the original ideal of creation through the history of re-creation, not casting us away even after being compelled to retrace Your steps tens of thousands of times, over and over again, on the sorrowful path of the historical eras, devoting your everything again and again, working for our sake and never forsaking us from such a position, and forgetting Yourself at all times even when Your heart marked with love was torn into a thousand, ten thousand pieces. We cannot but be grateful for the fact that such a great God is there.

“Since such a heart of the providence was brought about through the wrongdoings of humankind, human beings have the responsibility to perceive it, and for this reason many saints and sages have appeared in the historical eras, and many religious leaders have come and gone as well. However, because none of them knew the story hidden behind this valley of heart, nor could they unveil this hidden truth, and so did not come to learn what was the cause of this bitter grief of Heaven, from what motive the Devil came to be originated, or what are all the conditions for Satan to accuse and condemn us in these historical eras. Therefore, until now, there has not been found the way to eliminate and defend ourselves from it in the religious world.

“We are aware of the fact that all those who believed in religion, revered Heaven and were resolved to fulfill the duties of loyalty and filial piety, and risked their lives as they fought their way through, all fell into the trap in the end and perished as the sacrifice of Satan, and that many people were sacrificed at the crucial moment in the path of indemnity, that moment when the eight stages were to be surmounted.

“Therefore, I ask the spiritual world to enlighten the people who were sacrificed in the process of passing through the barriers of religion in the course of history. Thus, let them once again inherit the heart of sincerity towards Heaven and regain the mind to serve True Parents on earth with the sincerest of hearts, so that they can become one with True Parents' family, and make contributions to True Parents' nation, True Parents' world, and the great cause of the victorious Kingdom of Heaven they have established. By so doing, centering on the relationship between the children of True Parents and the church members of True Parents, please allow all the ties of lineage that were severed to be renewed and engrafted.

“All our ancestors who have preceded us into the spiritual world are like the firstborn sons, and those of us living on this earth today are like the second born sons, so please help us become one in union. Since we know that when the spirit and the flesh are made into one, and Cain and Abel are united into one, the original right of the eldest son can be established and the path seeking after the liberation of Father be connected on the victorious foothold of the vertical Cain and Abel realm, we ask you to call upon and awaken all the spirits in the spiritual world that were sacrificed at each and every stage of the religious era, that they may be re-indemnified before all religions of the physical world.

“Hereupon, bestow on them all the authority necessary to make them one with the religious leaders and, by establishing the basis with the help of Heaven whereon to restore the right of the eldest son of Cain and Abel and the domain wherein to live in attendance to the parents, be liberated and released in accordance to it and come down to earth and be united.

“Father, it is the earnest desire of True Parents to have liberated the wretched religious leaders, and furthermore, to have come down to earth all the conscientious and good people, who sacrificed themselves and struggled to live in accordance with their conscience and conscientious duties in the provinces, trying to follow the path of morality left behind by their ancestors before them in history, and we beseech you to open the gates through which they can enter, following behind in attendance to True Parents, into the Kingdom of God, by cooperating with their substantial object partners on earth.

“Now that the era is come in which Satan will have to retreat, we ask You to bring under control

and establish as a part of Your household in Your realm of love all those who were in the religious realm and the conscientious realm, and moreover, even those who were in the embrace of the satanic world, and have them form blood ties with True Parents so they can enter the realm of global fortune wherein they too can receive the grace to seek after the truth. Just as Korea became one with the unified external foundation at the time of the Olympics, we have become one in heart with the internal God on this day, and thus centering on the victorious domain of the Cain and Abel realm, we hope to march forward into the unified realm of both external liberation and internal liberation, so please, Father, be with us on this day and at this hour.

“To come so far, this son, in the name of True Parents, has had to struggle for 40 years. And yet, how could that be compared with the standard of Your own toils and labors? Personally feeling my insufficiencies as I could not live up to Your desired standard, I have lived under the shadows. Still, You did not forsake me, but righted my way night and day, and I am truly grateful for the innumerable helping graces You have given me behind the arras to aid me in pioneering the difficulties in my environment and overcoming crises in my path.

“Father! I know how much You have been disappointed and driven to despair in the course of guiding me thus far, so please forgive this son of Yours. Also, I pray You will forgive at this hour all the wrongdoings committed by the members as they followed me through the process of establishing the Unification Church. Don't leave them in wretchedness, but please embrace them in Your bosom so that they can receive the blessing of Heaven as the standard-bearers and warriors You desired and as the princes of love You have appointed, and please establish them as Your children in whom You would not feel ashamed to take pride. Though I am embarrassed to say, I have raised my hand to bless them on behalf of Your heart in the name of True Parents, so Father, Father, I truly hope and pray that You will also make amends for it.

“Father, You know of our situation, writhing and struggling because we don't know the way to get under control the phenomena being manifested, and Father, You know we cannot follow the path of bloodshed brought about by our own hands, so we ask You from the bottom of our hearts to please embrace all of us with the love You have given us, widen the path of seeking after the truth, and take charge of our future.

“I have declared to forgive with the love of True Parents everyone from the very first of our ancestors in the spirit world to the succeeding generations to the five billion world population currently living on earth, even those in the communist world including their leader, Mikhail Gorbachev and Deng Xiaoping, and even the president of the United States, Mr. Ronald Reagan, and such people. To do so, I have presented to Heaven all the necessary conditional offerings, so please allow all this not to go to waste, but instead have them embedded in Your realm of heart together with the declaration that can bring together both worlds, and make use of them as the driving force propelling us into the liberated world, and accept them as such. We truly hope and pray You will do so.

“A week after performing the ceremony of unified conversion which in turn leads to the providence of restoration, at this moment, the day on which the South and the North can be united, the world can be united, and the Kingdom of Heaven on earth and in heaven can be united, this Foundation Day for the Nation of the Unified World has been declared along with the liberation of all nations on the foundation of the epochal point placing the unified realm of heart of True Parents. Therefore, may all those in heaven and on earth who have ears and eyes hear and see and cooperate in this great task to march forward into the unified world of liberation.

“Beginning with the liberation of the South and the North, in order to have this extended to the liberation of Asia, liberation of the world, liberation of the physical world as well as the liberation of hell in the spiritual world, and a step further to the liberation of the wishes of True Parents and the world of the true liberation of God, we have been assigned the task to fight our way through in the remaining process of unification, centering on love and devoting all we have, and so we have raised high the banner of love in 120 nations and established new lighthouses of unification and turned their lights on, so just as their lights never go off, we are firmly resolved to advance into the world of the unified kingdom together so that this heart of love we have pledged before You may never go off, so, Father, we ask You to accept all this.

“We declare once again in the name of True Parents that You accept the declaration made today as Yours, and at the same time, as the unified declaration of the spiritual world and the physical world. May this nation carry on forever as one that lives everlastingly under the eternal reign of the True Father, True Parents and the True Children! I offer and declare all this in the name of True Parents! Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. (181-335)