

## New England Unificationists Thank Richard and Marjorie Buessing for Seven Years of Service

James Edgerly  
November 10, 2013



*Rev. and Mrs. Buessing listen to the numerous heartfelt testimonies given about them during the Farewell Sunday Service for their seven years of service as New England's District Pastors.*

The Boston Family Church packed the house on Sunday, November 10, 2013 to express shared appreciation to Rev. Richard and Marjorie Buessing for their seven years of service as New England District Pastor. Despite their normal Sunday obligations, pastors and members from several nearby states joined Boston “*shiku*” [the Korean word for family] to celebrate a job well done.

Rev. Buessing performed double duty that day. In addition to being honored, he delivered the day's message, with a sermon titled “Knowing God.” At the end of his message, and following excellent music by the Boston church band, “Tommy Noda and the No Debts,” Rev. Jim Edgerly, the local pastor took the stage to initiate the festivities.



*Rev. and Mrs. Buessing accepted a custom-made plaque from several pastors of the New England District.*

Rev. Edgerly noted that when he thinks of Rev Buessing as the District Pastor, the image that comes to mind is Rev. Buessing's Hyundai Sonata, with an odometer that reads close to 300,000 miles. That mileage (plus 80,000 miles on a second car) was logged, driving from church to church and family to family over the past seven years. Rev Buessing was a regular at Massachusetts State Leadership Team

meetings for six years that typically required an hour and a half drive each way.

The churches in Massachusetts uniquely benefited from Rev. Buessing's leadership. Not only did he attend the meetings of the State Leadership Team, he also served on the Finance Committee, gave sermons whenever asked, and led an energized ACLC (American Clergy Leadership Conference) with Rev. Bismarck Bamfo, for many years. The Buessings, as a couple, played a leading role in Blessed Family Ministry providing both education and extensive counseling. Both Rev. and Mrs. Buessing had made a major contribution to the management and rehabilitation of the District Headquarters at 46 Beacon Street in Boston.



*Rev. and Mrs. Buessing blow out the candle of the celebrative cake prepared by the friends and family of the New England District.*

Rev. and Mrs. Buessing lead the New England District through many challenging transitions, beginning with the graduation to American district leadership after two and a half decades of Korean leadership, the introduction of new pastoral leadership in Worcester, the ambitious startup and eventual cessation of Lovin' Life Ministries, the momentous passing into the spiritual realm of Father Moon, the period of Rev. Hyung Jin Moon's (Rev. and Mrs. Sun Myung Moon's youngest son) leadership with the introduction of District and National Councils, and now the transition towards church autonomy and governance by Local Councils.

The Buessings were acknowledged for the important role they played during the many speaking tours that always passed through Boston and often passed through Bridgeport. These included Father Moon's final tour, with his unforgettable pre-dinner address that ended at 10:45 PM! Several visits by Mother Moon, including a Boston banquet we organized for over 900 people with only eleven days of lead time, plus subsequent tours by Hyun Jin (third son) and Kook Jin Moon (fourth son). Every one of those tours was immensely challenging, requiring the mobilization of a lot of money, and most important, a hall full of people.

A major contribution of the Buessings was the creation of Camp Aurora, founded by Marjorie Buessing and Heather Thalheimer, which held its nineteenth session last summer. Also, for several years the Buessings lead a fall retreat for Blessed Families in Waterville Valley, New Hampshire called "Family School of Love Weekend."

Over the years, the Buessing have been heavily relied on by families throughout the region as a valued source of personal advice for guidance matters involving the matching and the Marriage Blessing. Rev. Edgerly admitted how much his family has relied on guidance from the Buessings over the years. He also acknowledged the dozens and dozens of blankets Marjorie Buessing knit over the years for Blessed Families, particularly upon the arrival of newborn next-generation Unificationists.

After Rev. Edgerly's remarks, a number of others came to the podium bearing gifts and giving thanks to the Buessings for their service: Silvia Quesada (Pastor, Gloucester Family Church), Catherine Ono, Shelley Watanabe, Greg Odlin (Pastor of Maine Family Church), Grace Ross (Chairperson, Boston Local Council), Chris and Christine Hempowicz (Pastor Bridgeport Family Church), Noah Ross and finally Mark Beaudoin (Pastor, Rhode Island Family Church) who has been newly appointed as the New England District Pastor.

Among the recollections offered was appreciation for our District Sunday Services and the valued role the Buessings played at many weddings and *Seonghwa* (Ascension) Ceremonies.

A beautiful celebration cake was ceremoniously lit and cut. Finally several gifts were presented, including a beautiful custom made plaque with inscribed signatures from pastors of each of the eight churches in the New England District: Bridgeport, Connecticut; Boston, Massachusetts; Colchester, Vermont; Worcester, Massachusetts; Westbrook, Maine; Worcester, Massachusetts; Manchester, New Hampshire; and Gloucester, Massachusetts.

The celebration was concluded with brief remarks from the day's honorees, Rev. and Mrs. Buessing. They graciously thanked our True Parents, expressed appreciation to everyone's for their support and for their participation in the day's events.

Together we shared a beautiful morning, filled with precious memories, a strong sense of community, and sincere gratitude for the grace received by our Blessed Families. The members and Blessed Families of New England extend our very best wishes to Richard and Marjorie Buessing and their Blessed Family for all that lies ahead.

*Photos courtesy of Will Moik*