

What's So Special About Oceania?

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The following consists of some of my reflections and reasons why I think Oceania is a jewel in God's Providence to substantiate the Cheon Il Guk and how Oceania links to the world Providence. Plus I want to share some prophecies related to the Last Days in Oceania.

True Father when he visited Sydney in 1992 wrote calligraphy in Korean that translates to read "The Unified World Begins in Oceania". It now hangs on a wall in the Oceania Peace Embassy in Sydney, Australia.

In October 2000, our True Parents visited the Marshall Islands on the invitation of the Honourable Kessai H. Note, President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands. The President accorded True Parents a State level welcome. True Father proclaimed the official beginning of his last ten years course of public mission, cantering on Oceania.

The inauguration of the Oceania Interreligious and International Peace Council (IIPC) in March of 2004 was hosted in Samoa by the current Prime Minister, the Hon. Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi. In fact the Samoan government co-sponsored the event. In attendance were four current Heads of Government, four current First Ladies along with four former Heads of Government. Additionally some of the highest church leaders throughout Oceania attended. Throughout the regions of the world was there even a single current Head of Government present at any of the inaugural meetings of the IIPC or later UPF? Admittedly, apart from Australia and New Zealand we are talking about nations that have tiny land masses with very small populations. Nonetheless we are talking about sovereign states with a vote at the UN.

If you observe the VIP attendance lists of the IIFWP/UPF Summit Meetings and similar level gatherings, since 2000, you will notice that the current Heads of Government and First Ladies of Palau, Solomon Islands and Marshall Islands have been regular attendees. Indeed the former President of Palau, the Hon. Tommy Remenengasau and the First Lady received a special visit by Rev. Kwak who shared Holy Wine with them and his education on the Blessing. This happened while they were in office.

In February of 2005, it was publicly announced that Cabinet of the government of Palau gave it's endorsement for a nationwide initiative to deliver character education curricula to all government schools. A successful 12 month pilot programme was conducted.

In a speech on April 30th 2004, True Father explained the stages by which God's nation (Cheon Il Guk) is restored. It starts with the island nations. The victory then is passed onto the peninsula nations and finally to the continental nations. This means that before the Korean Peninsula can be restored, some island nation/s must be restored. The island nations Providence is the grass roots foundation for world restoration.

In the Book of Acts 1:8 Jesus declares that the Gospel will go "to the end of the Earth". In actual fact it has taken almost 2,000 years for the Gospel to come to the Pacific Ocean region. The Bible also records that the "first shall be last and the last shall be first" Of the Pacific region, Melanesia (consists of dark skinned tribes from Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, New Caledonia and Vanuatu) was the last area in the Pacific to be missionised and arguably represents the "end of the Earth".

At the Cheon Il Guk Leaders Assembly 2005, on the last day (February 17th), True Father gathered the entire Oceania delegation of leaders to the front of the Main Hall at Chung Pyung. There he spoke to us privately as if addressing a football team. His words included the following:

If Oceania becomes one, then the way to unify North and South Korea will open up. I will be working on that in the background...If Oceania becomes one, North and South Korea will be united, and then after that, the 33 nations of Asia and beyond that the African continent and North and South America-no problem. Cantering on Oceania, the North-South American continent and the African continent are twins. With Oceania in the middle cantering on that, the two continents will become one."

In **Exposition of the Divine Principle** (page six of the red letter text) it states that:

*First, the essences of all civilizations which developed on the land should bear fruit in Korea...Next, the essences of civilizations born on the shores of rivers and seas should bear fruit in the **Pacific civilization** [emphasis my own] to which*

Korea belongs...Last, civilizations born out of different climate zones should bear fruit in Korea.

We can see in modern day Korea the best fruits of religion and science. However the text refers to a three stage process. The first and third stages clearly emphasize the centrality of Korea. However the second stage refers to the essences of civilization bearing fruit in the “Pacific civilization” per se “to which Korea belongs”. The second stage refers to a greater entity than Korea herself, pointing to the Pacific island nations.

REASONS THAT INDICATE THAT THE SMALL ISLAND NATIONS OF OCEANIA (ARE WELL POSITIONED TO SUBSTANTIATE *CHEON IL GUK*

1. Predominantly Christian

Oceania is the only region in the world where all the nations are predominantly Christian. This is amazing given the plurality of today’s modern world. Faiths other than Christian have only a token presence in the small island nations of the Pacific. Most of the smaller nations in Oceania are poor, yet local churches are the most prominent and are the largest buildings of all. In places like Samoa it is not uncommon for parishioners to donate up to 80% of their income for projects such as the construction of a new church building.

2. Strong Family and Community System

Oceania has a family system that remains relatively intact although threatened by the secular humanist trends coming in from the outside. Traditionally such a family system recognizes the importance of sexual purity before marriage, the sanctity of the two parent three generational family and fidelity within marriage.

In the Pacific island nations, families interact communally forming tribes and clans. Tribal chiefs and elders maintain their moral authority above national governments.

3. Unquestioned Belief in God and the Spiritual World

The existence of the spiritual world and our interaction with the spirits of deceased ancestors is commonly believed and practiced. In the islands, when you speak of God and family, people relax. The motto of the Republic of Nauru reads “God First”. Those that quote the Bible are seen to be more credible.

4. Harmonization of Church and State

The separation of church and state is a foreign concept for Pacific islanders. It is a rule of thumb that public meetings both within and outside of parliament, begin and end with prayer. Failure of foreigners to do so raises suspicion. In Tuvalu, the tribal chiefs recognize the authority of the church above all secular matters. This is reflected in their meetings of tribal elders where the head of the Christian Church of Tuvalu (92% of the population) is the one who speaks first and last and sits in a central position.

5. Vertical Tradition

In most of the Pacific island nations, the traditional community structure remains intact. The structure is hierarchical whilst incorporating consensus. Elders are respected. There is clearly a structural foundation for God’s Kingship to be established in the Pacific island nations and for True Parents to be received. (democracy has been described by True Father as “brotherism”. Without parents, brothers fight.) In any ideal system, the parents’ position must be established)

6. Prophecies Concerning the Last Days

Prophecies abound in the island nations that are concerned with the Last Days and the Second Coming of Christ. [see below]

7. Oceania is Where the World Meets

Oceania is home to 23 nations in total. This includes 14 UN nations (independent nations) and 9 territorial nations. The UN nations are: Australia, New Zealand, Samoa, Tonga, Fiji, Tuvalu, Kiribati, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Palau and Nauru. The territorial nations are Niue, Cook Islands, New Caledonia, French Polynesia, American Samoa, Guam, Wallis and Futuna, Tokelau and the Northern Marianas Islands. These territories remain as ‘outposts’ of some of the major developed nations of the world, that is, USA, New Zealand, France and the United Kingdom. In addition to this, nations that include Japan, China, Taiwan and Australia maintain a continual presence through humanitarian aid efforts and business interests. In a real sense, these small nations are points which represent the coming together of the world. It is also the intersection of the modern world with traditional cultures. Auckland in New Zealand, has the largest Polynesian population in the world.

8. Resource Rich

The World Bank has declared that the richest nation in the world, in terms of natural resources (particularly gold, oil and diamonds) is the Solomon Islands. The second richest is neighbouring, Papua New Guinea. New Caledonia has 30% of the world’s nickel deposits. These nations are tropical paradises. God’s ideal involves the harmonization of the spiritual and the physical to create most comfortable living circumstances. Can such natural material blessing in Oceania, be coincidental?

9. Childlike Nature of the People

Pacific Islanders have a child like nature. Jesus says that “to enter the Kingdom of Heaven you must become like little children” He did not mean childishness but childlikeness which is a quality of innocence and openness. People grow up in the islands where they learn to listen more with their hearts than their heads. The islands have a foundation to establish a culture of heart which is what characterizes the Kingdom of Heaven

Some Prophecies Concerning the Last Days in Oceania

SOLOMON ISLANDS

In the Solomon Islands there is a preacher by the name of Michael Maeliau, of the South Sea Evangelical Church, a small denomination that has received revelations concerning the last Days and Oceania. This group is praying that the Solomon Islands will establish the blueprint, or model of God’s Kingdom on the Earth. “We are asking God how He wants a nation to be” said Michael at a prayer meeting in Vanuatu. It is their belief that God will transform the nations of Oceania, starting from the Solomon Islands. Maeliau said that in 2004, 40 nations in the world will have elections, and “we are praying for God to establish Godly nations”. Melanesia is externally speaking, a small insignificant part of the world, yet “Melanesia is David” says Maeliau, up against the rest of the developed world that is Goliath. Prophecy concerning Solomon Islands speaks of the Solomon Islands “going down to the deepest valleys of her life” but “will come back again soon”. In July 1999, conflict between the peoples of Malaita and Guadalcanal erupted. The Solomon Islands entered the darkest hour in her history during the middle period of 2003. Eight hundred people died in bloody clashes. Then in July, when the nation was facing total anarchy the Solomon Islands Government took the unprecedented step to invite the Australian military and police to enter the country to restore law and order. Australia responded immediately and called upon her regional neighbours to join in their efforts, hence the operation came to be called the “Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands” (RAMSI). RAMSI has not only restored law and order but also convicting people of crimes against the nation. The mood of the nation is that the majority of people, who have nothing to hide and want to see justice come to pass, have rejoiced at such a development in the history of their nation. As if it were an act of Providence, those who oppose such a seemingly foreign invasion, only draw attention to themselves and with it suspicion, from the authorities. Deuteronomy 28:1-13 is often quoted as being relevant to the Solomon Islands indicating that if the Christians of the nation keep faith then the nation will “become the head and not the tail”.

VANUATU

On Tanna Island, the John Frum Cargo Cult emerged back in 1939. Members of the group live separately from other Tannese observing strict community rules. Prophecy indicates that the Lord of the Second Advent will come to Tanna and the “hills will be levelled” to fill the valleys and thus create a “flat land”.

In Oceania there is a regional prayer group called the Pacific Prayer Assembly (PPA). This group is significant for at least three reasons. Firstly, it’s members come from different nations of Oceania. Secondly, the principal members are high level political leaders. The Chairman is the Honourable Nipaka Natapei, former Prime Minister of Vanuatu. The “First Member” is Ati George Sokomanu, former Head of Government of Vanuatu. The “Second Member” is the Attorney General of the Cook Islands. The concept of religious and political leaders working closely together is acceptable and considered necessary, in most of the Pacific Island nations. Thirdly, the PPA sees itself to be a movement of unification and reconciliation. Late in 2004,, following a Prayer Breakfast in Vanuatu, all the prayer warriors journeyed to the island of Erromango. In 1839, a missionary by the name of John Williams, was murdered by locals there. Since that time an evil spirit has held a curse on Erromango. The prayer group flew there to make reconciliation with the people and pray over the people, in order that the evil spirit would leave. Such liberation allegedly took place.

At a Prayer Breakfast in 2002, there was a call for reconciliation of all island groups. In Vanuatu there is an organization called Imere Christian Council (ICC). “Imere” means to “come together in peace”. This is a movement on the village level to unify the churches. In two major villages this has already happened, including the village called “Mele” which was the headquarters of Christianity about 100 years ago. Part of this unification includes a handful of resident Moslems.

It is also interesting to note that two of the islands in the Vanuatu group include Pentecostal Island and Espirito Santos.(Latin for “land of the Holy Spirit”) named by a Spanish explorer.

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