

## The Future of Barrytown College

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We are no longer wandering around the desert, or fighting battles to establish a secure foundation. Cheon Il Guk (CIG) is assured. We just need to decide how CIG (the Kingdom of Heaven) can be built.

Sometimes I sit and contemplate how such a simple ideal – that God's blessings will pour down upon mankind when we learn to build loving, enriching families – seems to have become so lost within the organizational structure of the Unification Movement.

The Principle of Creation lays it all out, very simply. The human world will mature and develop if each generation is a little bit better than the last – a bit more loving, a bit cleverer, a bit more reflecting the image of God. The principle of inter-generational

improvement applies to every other living organism on earth, and it applies to us.

Like several other species that do best when they pair-bond for life and raise offspring. Lifelong marriage – which Unificationists name the Blessing – is our species' way of getting best outcomes – for both children and adults. Research from around the world shows the numerous positives that marriage, on average, offers both kids and adults when compared with other forms of family constellation. Marriage is our species' way to receive God's continual blessings. If any society in history lost marriage, it declined very quickly and was gobbled up by its more pro-marriage neighbour.



Our struggle, as individuals, is that when we enter into marriage, we also bring our immaturity and our brokenness. This makes it harder for us to create the God-centred families we dream of. Ideally then, we prepare ourselves before marriage, mature ourselves in some way before we enter marriage. We ideally learn attitudes that will help us give in our relationship, and also learn skills that allow us to maintain a deep sense of appreciation in the goodness in our life-long partner – the two core skills that allow us to build a relationship over the long term (Principle of Creation 4:3:1 – love and

beauty). We hopefully learn that our relationship challenges are there so we can learn something more about love – not just point the finger or play victim. And we develop a variety of forgiveness strategies so we can forgive our partner and seek to give again. And lastly, we seek, ideally, to understand some of the brokenness we carry within us, and seek to heal some of it, or at least understand how it forms a part of us in order that we might be more aware of it when it surfaces in our marriage.



These concepts are at the core of Unificationism. This is the core of the theology if I am not terribly mistaken – the fulfilment of the 1st and 2nd blessings which lay the foundation for the 3rd blessing.

So why, if this is at the very heart of what this movement is all about, does the middle management of the movement seem to be interested in almost everything else but understanding the 1st and 2nd blessing. I offer some examples:

- Why still, after 50 years since Father Moon came to the USA, is there not one officially movement sanctioned marriage education or parenting program – to help members with their blessings and child raising. Add to this, there is not even a movement sanctioned Principle centred personal development program – one that helps members understand how the Principle can be specifically applied to bring about a more successful life course through fulfilling the first blessing. If the movement had something Principle-based to use, members could also teach and help their friends and neighbours, or help other faiths. Witnessing would be a natural encounter of one family helping others in a sincere and helpful way.

- If marriage and family is so important to Unificationism – why did Mobile Fundraising Teams (MFT) sell pictures and pompoms and a variety of other useless stuff for years – instead of selling well researched books or videos on personal development, building a good marriage or parenting? If MFT had been doing it for years, the brand name of the movement would be well known – Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU). The fundraisers would have years of experience in explaining concepts connected with personal development and family love. And, we would have developed a variety of member-run businesses focussing on 1st and 2nd blessing issues based on this foundation. Over the last 50 years marriages have rapidly declined in developed nations. Yet almost everyone has met a Unificationist fundraiser several times. How many marriages might have been saved? How many people might have found Principle centred material, connected to the 1st and 2nd blessing, a refreshing alternative?
- If it's true that as individuals we enter in marriage weighed down by some historical spiritual chains that cause heavy challenges for our marriage – and it is my personal experience that we pretty much all are – then ideally, by now, middle management in the movement should have shown interest in forming some sort of institute that would set about categorizing each of the different types of 'fallen nature', discovering how each type harms relationship bonding. If this had happened we would be well on the way to developing a range of healing methods beyond the standard 'unite with your central figure' or 'make conditions'. Ideally we would research each healing practice, find out if they sincerely help heal our inner traumas, discover why a method might work on certain types of personality but not others, etc. Put simply, if we honestly believe what the Divine Principle (DP) says, we should be at the forefront of the field of personal healing – either developing our own methods or becoming fully aware of existing methods that offer hope in order that they might be brought into a Principled context (e.g. family constellations or cognitive behavioural therapy). Ideally, by now, we would have a research and training institute, and members would be making money doing something they love – healing individuals who want their marriages to work. And marriages around the world would be improved through connection with our movement.

The above are just some of many ideas that develop when one connects to the original goals of the Principle of Creation and the Principles of Restoration via a Family Federation approach to life. What we have now as a movement is what happens when we wander down other paths that often have little to do with the core of the Principle. Last autumn, I had an encounter with one of the Continental Directors of the Unification Movement. I asked him about his vision. He mentioned none of the above, and when I introduced some of the ideas, he rejected them outright.



There is also a reporting system that in no way reflects the movement's core goals. Do you love your wife or husband better than your parents loved each other? Have your children shown more love and kindness than you did at their age?

Instead, it's- How many Sunday services did you attend? How many people did you witness to? Have you tithed? And when I run my Principle-centred personal development seminar or have a marriage strengthening seminar, attendees are not listed as people who have been 'witnessed to'. Rather than

celebrating the massive improvements that many of us have made, thus inspiring us to do more, we seem to end up just feeling like incompetent failures – unable to fulfil some goal that seems to have little to do with the Principle of Creation – and we wonder why the movement is stagnating.

All around the world societies are going into decay. Marriages are struggling, young people need guidance, more people than ever are on anti-depressants, faiths are at war, and racial conflict in developed nations needs solving. For Unificationists, marriage, raising honourable kids, interfaith harmony, personal growth, this is our bread and butter. The world is crying out for what we have. I am sometimes astounded at the beauty of the 2nd Gen – and I know our work and sacrifice has been worthwhile. We just need to package what we have, what we love, what God loves, into formats that others can use. If we can do this, with the movement middle management leading the way, then the movement would soon be seen to be relevant in world that is struggling to understand its divine nature.

Many years ago when I joined this movement – I joined because of one core concept – “Healthy world through healthy families”. It made complete sense. I think many other members did the same. Finally, after all these years of laying the foundation and entering CIG, I finally see shoots of healthy CIG building in the USA. I see the Blessed Family Project. I saw a nationwide blessing enrichment seminar last month. I see the development of three, pre-blessing stages of education for 2nd Gen run by wonderful experts who have been developing themselves over the years. And I see UTS extend into Barrytown College – and Richard Panzer starting the college by focussing on the core things that we as a movement

want to bring to the world – Interfaith and Marriage. Richard is a man with a vision. He understands that the Principle offers something good to the world because for the last 20 years he has been saving kids lives using Principled-based material. He understands that we have the Principle – but that we just haven't found out how to show the world how useful the Principle is. Because of his previous work he has a vision – to make Barrytown College into the centre for excellence in the key areas of life that we hold dear and true. He, and those with whom he works closely, seek to develop an institution that will ultimately develop very clear ideas of how character education and positive psychology, marriage and blessing enrichment, interfaith, the psychology of healing, and the business world are all enhanced through application of the Principle. Some call it “applied Unificationism”; others may say it is our path to become Principled-centred people, living our lives with God's principles embedded within us.



Those who catch Richard's vision are deeply inspired by it. For years we have see-sawed back and forth – we are a church, no a movement, no a church, no a movement. His vision seeks to steer a pathway between these two different visions – to embrace both aspects wholeheartedly – to create a living Principle movement. The goal is to clearly capture the inner essence of the Principle and ask how is each aspect of life enriched by it.

I can easily connect with Richard's vision because I have spent the last 10 years of my life teaching courses at university – courses on topics such as the ones above. I

have spent countless hours racking my brains – seeking to merge the Principle into my courses. I am often woken up with small eureka moments sent from the spirit world at 4 in the morning. As the years have passed, I have been ever more astounded at the beauty of the Principle, finding rich treasures in passages that normally I would skip over. I recently spent three years developing positive psychology course using core aspects of the Principles as the base. Many of my secular students enjoyed it immensely – and I can teach the same course to members, and they feel deeply at home with the material too. I have developed other Principle based courses for my students too. They all feel enriched by the wisdom hidden there.

The point I want to make is that the Principle is highly applicable to the real world. We, as a movement, have been fighting a war over the last 50 years to establish the foundation for CIG. We found it hard to provide resources and create a space were long-time members could come together to create the models, the paradigms and the theories that are essential to the creation of a Principle-centred world. Models and theories like those of Maslow, Hertzberg, etc. are typically developed in universities. It is a university setting that creates the quiet, thought-work space needed to push the intellectual boundaries. Atheistic socialism – the left over life-force of Communism – is alive and well in almost all western universities today. Atheistic socialism thinking processes are taught in the majority of classes. Even MIT students say all their courses are left of centre in political content – with aeronautics being the least left of centre. How did this come to pass? How did an anti-God, anti-marriage, socially destructive thought system that says the state can fix all things, come to be taught in almost every top western university, in almost every course?

It came to pass because at the start of the 2nd world war the USSR set up the Frankfurt School in the USA. The aim: “How to create the theoretic models that are needed to bring down the West”. After years of thinking, teaching and writing, and more thinking, teaching and writing, the models emerged. The Frankfurt school developed two core models – that is all that was needed.

- The first was Critical Theory. It does what it says on the label. How do you get good at criticising anyone or any institution? This creates separation, anger, entitlement, a ‘you against us’ mentality. Thus, today, almost all universities in the USA have a department of feminism or African studies – where grudges and past harm are constantly gone over. The world really needs departments of men and women studies. How can the two relate better? But, instead it got something that is often far more destructive in nature. The current Ferguson riots are linked to this theory, as is the hatred of big business and the military.
- The other theory was a more general one: Destroy Marriage and the Church. The plan was to accomplish this through constant criticism and by encouraging a ‘free-sex society’.

These two theories have found homes in millions of western minds over the last 60 years. We are all weaker as nations because of those two theories.

The key point I wish to make – all this would never have happened without investment in education. It was the ‘thinking-teaching-writing’ process that ultimately allowed for atheistic socialism to spread worldwide. The university system is the ideal place to train young minds towards a particular worldview.

So here we stand, the era of CIG has started. We are called to stop fighting a war, and we are asked to

deeply reflect on how we will bring about CIG in reality. Will it happen solely through directions from an enlightened leadership? Or, will it happen through ever greater numbers of good people taking the essence of the Principle into their lives – being enriched by it – and passing on their transformation to others? If you believe that CIG comes through the fulfilment of the 3 blessings – you have to believe that the world will ONLY be transformed through ever greater numbers of individuals identifying with and living Principle-centred lives. This can ONLY happen if the Principle is shown to be useful for living life well – that when it is applied it brings success and positive transformation. But to get to a stage within our movement where we have books, materials and articles that clearly show the beauty and life-giving force of the Principle – you have to invest in an educational institution that will take people on the applied Unificationism journey.



I would argue that if the movement is not willing to make the investment needed to take the Principle into the real world, the movement will carry on its non-growth trajectory for years to come. I meet with wonderful 2nd Gen who see little connection between the Principle and the real world, and they sadly drift away. I would argue that the Principle is highly relevant to success in most walks of life – and that most successful business and marriages are only successful because people have discovered key

aspects of the Principle through trial and error. But many of our 2nd Gen have yet to see the wonder of applied Principle and thus they take elements of the Principle into their lives by osmosis, but most don't know how to consistently apply Principle as a philosophy of life so as to bring about the success that is possible.

Because of this, I would argue that firing Richard and closing down his degree program would be akin to closing down the one path that can lead to the greatest returns in the USA movement – because the pathway to success for a movement that can only grow through education is only an educational one. I believe closing down the Barrytown College degree program would set back the development of the movement by some 20-30 years to say the least. If Paul never had shown how Jesus' words and actions were deeply relevant to people's personal lives, Christianity would never have developed. If Lenin had never taken Marx's theory and made it easily understandable to the working man, Communism would never have been born.

Application of faith or philosophy to real life is the hallmark of sustainability and growth. Richard's goal – undergraduate degree program, master's program, doctoral program – focuses on getting members to think-teach-write – to do the mental work that is needed in order to build strong connections between the Principle and real life. Through seeking to understand how the Principle can enter into the life, heart, soul and thinking process of ever greater numbers of people around the world our members will take the world down the path to CIG in ever faster strides. The key thing is to recognize that for the western movement to develop – these things have to be developed ONE DAY. We can do it now, or wait another 20 years and try again. I would argue that now is by far the best time. Why? Because the movement has many elderly members with profound wisdom to offer – and if these members are offered space and a bit of encouragement – they could work with Richard to develop many of the models, paradigms and education programs that can bring the Principle into real life. In 20 years time, their wisdom will be harder to access, much of it lost. To find it again will take many years of sacrifice by today's young Unificationists.

Because of this I would argue that far from closing down Richard's degree program – the movement in the USA should be investing even more in it. Please note, I am talking about the educational-based degree program and its future hope to life-giving words and principles to a thirsty world. If I was leading the American movement I would speed up the process of starting a Master's program in one or two or three of our core areas of interest. I would bring together some of those who have invested years in the field of education – those who have taught children from kindergarten to 12 grade, or taught character and sex-ed, or marriage and parenting-ed. One could also bring in those who ran successful businesses – and develop a Principle-in-business master's program.

I would not only ask these specialists to create a master's program, but also to work together to create Principle-based education materials that can be used easily by ordinary members in their tribal messiah work. Barrytown College students studying media arts as part of their degree program could work on making dynamic videos to create home education resources. They could also run training courses with these educational materials – for members or other faiths – to gain credit for leadership development. Put simply, the goal would be to create easily accessible Principle-based educational resources that are available for members and for other faiths. There's a profit to be made here. Also, the materials would reach out across the seas and help development in Europe, Africa and S. America. As such it would be wonderful if all these 4 continents came together to support this education-centred path forward.

Through this whole process a new energy would be created. Members would eventually be better trained

to be tribal messiahs – to their families and their communities. They would have easy-to-understand Principle-centred material to offer, to enhance others' lives and their own. The Principle's path from 7 day workshops into real life would accelerate rapidly. Books would be written, training programs offered, conferences held. Some of the 2nd Gen who graduate from the degree program could take the materials forward into the real world as a businesses. Steven Covey's principle based management training showed there were a lot of people thirsty for healthy thinking, and a lot of money available for those who get it right.



Personally, I believe such a path forward offers the American movement its best path forward. If planned well, in 5-7 years the movement will be in a far healthier space. Nothing is lost through investing in education. Those friends, family, neighbours, teachers, businessmen, social workers, etc who love the materials – they would find out that behind all the educational resources there is 'The Principle' which they are welcome to study if they want. It would be a natural process of enquiry based on the stimulation of the original mind. This is how Communism grew. The passionate became the advocates.

Of course this is a challenge for the American movement. There is the degree program. Then there is our beloved Barrytown campus that is in need of much needed repairs. Richard wanted a degree program to be a seed for the future hope of the American movement – but he's also got with his dreams a building which was left to decay for many years. He didn't cause this. And this building is a serious drain on national resources – something we all understand. So what choices exist to find a place for the degree program:

#### **Option 1: Find new ways to use Barrytown campus in order to generate a cash flow.**

- Massena House/ summer – weekend wedding venue. Provide wedding services (eg. Film and camera, flowers, food etc – services provided by students to help them pay tuition fees – and more will come from Africa and Europe and S. America.)
- Massena House/ winter – weekends – provide a venue for spiritual groups to hold workshops, retreats, poetry reading societies, artist weekends, – large number of groups in NY. Also marriage enrichment weekends. Can make money from food, drinks etc.. You can add on services – like making videos for filming lectures, etc.
- Massena House /year round on week days – open it up for hire for a range of small conferences, meetings – for local town departments, businesses, training facilities, making corporate videos, model photo-shoots, etc. Also for the individual trainer running training courses.
- The College – Connect with links in Japan and Korea (China) and run 3 week English courses throughout the summer. Make extra money from outings, events, car rental, etc.
- College – Winter – develop a series of paying weekend conferences
- The Grounds – Develop various sports facilities and create a local tennis club, fitness gym, etc. In summer months create a 18 hole – long putting golf course on some flat land on the road up to Massena. Set up a coffee shop there. Nice afternoon out in fresh air for the family. Family get to go for a walk down to the river. Sell everything they need for a picnic.
- Many other ideas are available
- Put simply – with a proper business manager, one could expect an income of \$500,000 – \$1,000,000 a year within a couple of years without massive investment. True this would not cover all the costs of restoration in the short term.

#### **Option 2: Move the degree program to somewhere smaller**

- Mothball BC and see how the educational strategy pans out over the next few years. If all goes as planned, maybe in 5-6 years a large facility will be needed to run training programs and conferences + degree programs, etc – and Barrytown college can be reborn. This strategy in no way restricts the opportunity to start making money from Barrytown Campus from today – but it does come with the long-term extra expenses of bringing a new small campus up to requirements plus the question of how easy it will be to reach out to new students from outside the movement if the new campus doesn't really look like

one.

These are just some ideas. I'm sure there are many more available.



For me, the key thing is to understand how, through support for the educational pathway, Barrytown College represents the opening up of a whole host of new, developmental, exciting possibilities – possibilities that develop members, develop non-members, develop the movement and bring a positive contribution to this world; a world that is getting more and more lost by the year. If anyone else has a better plan as to how to use the money in the budget of the USA movement – it would be good to hear it. For me, the choice is simple.

Teaching the Principle to the world takes educational know-how. There are hundreds of ways to teach Principle content. The quicker we start down this educational path, the quicker we will grow and the more relevant we will be seen to be to a struggling world that lacks a clear vision.

For sure this decision to close down Barrytown College didn't come from the HSA board alone, but the question is – can the board of HSA USA find any way keep the work of Richard Panzer developing? Any way at all?

Stephen and Barbara Stacey