

True Mother's Rally of Hope: In Pursuit of Heavenly Parents' Lost Ideal

Thomas Walsh
November 2020



With its powerful and inspiring vision, the Rally of Hope is providing much needed insight, broad perspective, and the road map for a path forward during a time of crisis. In the era of Covid 19, the entire world is confronted with challenge, disruption, and uncertainty. In its wake, the pandemic has contributed to the rise of numerous associated threats, including the deterioration of international relations, a recession in the global economy; and, in many of our societies, a decline in the levels of trust and mutual respect, leading to division and polarization.

During the first Rally of Hope, UPF's Founder, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, called us all to abandon the one-sided pursuit of materialistic and self-serving interests. Instead, she called us to embrace and put into practice spiritual, moral and altruistic ideals. Only in this way, she proposed, can our world find its way forward through the

challenges we face.

She underscored the principles of interdependence, mutual prosperity and universal values, indicating that by applying these core principles, we will not only prevail during the current crisis, but we will learn to thrive together, charting a course of creative development for the whole human family. This message struck a chord with millions.

Beyond its technological advancement, when we think about the Rally of Hope, we should not imagine an entirely new concept or idea, but rather an idea or vision that originates with God's ideal for humanity, with True Parents' vision of establishing God's kingdom and one family under God. The ultimate goal of God's providence has never changed throughout the course of history. Neither has it during the history of True Parents' lives in which they demonstrated attendance to God. That ultimate goal is to restore Heavenly Parent's lost ideal. To achieve this ultimate goal, True Parents have worked on many levels simultaneously, some profoundly internal and others relatively external. There are aspects to God's providence, and special conditions that have been set, that are known only to God and our Parents.

With this in mind, on the occasion of its fifteenth anniversary, and in honor of the eighth anniversary of the ascension of Rev. Sun Myung Moon, UPF recently convened its first virtual International Leadership Conference, ILC2020. ILC2020 featured more than thirty high-level sessions over the course of three days, running day and night and moving from time zone to time zone. With 250 expert speakers, ILC2020 was viewed by hundreds of thousands from over 170 countries.

ILC2020 explored at a deeper level the core principles of interdependence, mutual prosperity and universal values, drawing out their applicability to the search for solutions to our world's critical problems. It also highlighted the broad reach and outstanding capacities of UPF's global network, showcasing its fleet of primary associations, each of which engages leaders in key sectors: current and former heads of state (ISCP); first ladies and woman leaders (IAFLP); parliamentarians (IAPP); religious leaders (IAPD); media professionals (IMAP); academicians (IAAP); and business leaders (IAED).

All together this framework, rooted in core values, provides a context for meaningful dialogue, mutual respect and constructive collaboration. UPF's multi-sectoral approach is bearing fruit and is catching on, just as former UN Secretary General Ban indicated when he spoke during the first Rally of Hope, describing UPF's approach as an exemplary model of peace building and a cornerstone in the effort to create a world of lasting peace. UPF and the Rally of Hope are increasingly recognized worldwide as bearers of desperately needed inspiration, insight, analysis and innovation.

For this historic achievement we are indebted to UPF's Founders, True Parents. Over many decades, without any reservation, they invested their blood, sweat and tears, and certainly their treasure as well, pouring out all their passion, creativity and spiritual energy in service to God, the Heavenly Parent, seeking to fulfill the hope of all ages, a unified world of peace. In such a unified world of peace, as Dr. Moon says in the subtitle of her memoir, *Mother of Peace*, "God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes." This is our dream. This is our hope. May the Rally of Hope hasten that day, as I truly believe it will.