

The Unification Movement: A Profile - Vienna University invites Unification Movement to present its Teaching & Projects (26 May 2014)

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As a representative of the Austrian Unification Movement, Rev. Peter Zoehrer was invited to present a profile of the Unification Movement in front of students of the study of religion at the University of Vienna. The lecture room was filled to its last seat with some 40-50 students, so-called “sect experts” and local Unification Church members.

In his presentation Rev. Zoehrer introduced himself and gave his testimony of how he joined the Unification Church. He went through the most essential points of the Divine Principle such as the four position foundation, the three great blessings and spiritual growth as well as important aspects of the Fall, the Trinity, the history of restoration, eschatology and the providential parallels. After explaining the meaning and value of the Holy Blessing marriage ceremony, underlined by pictures of the recent Blessing in which his daughter and youngest son attended with their spouses, Rev. Zoehrer showed slides that elucidate the True Father’s most important initiatives, including the providential organizations such as FFWPU, UPF and WFWPU (with ECOSOC status at the UN) and the Middle East Peace Initiative (MEPI).

A Q&A-session followed after the presentation and questions were asked about True Parents’ family, the role of women, homosexuality, the providential significance of Korea, the CIG- constitution and others. Mr. Zoehrer’s answers were short, but authentic, and after the event many students took a folder, that contained a timeline of the Unification Movement and a selection of quotations by True Father, as well as True Father’s autobiography for further research. The professors who had organized the event expressed that the feedback of the participating students was very positive and there was not even a single negative reaction to the presentation.

Prof. Pokorny was especially pleased to hear part of Rev. Zoehrer’s testimony during the introduction. This gave him the idea of launching an additional research project on “conversion narratives” (testimonies) of members of the Unification Movement. He wants to start with interviews already this June.

Our national leader himself said that he could sense tremendous spiritual help and he feels very grateful for all the prayers and support of the brothers and sisters to make such a successful historical event possible.

Dr. Lukas Pokorny, is an expert on New Religious Movements in East Asia (currently at the University of Stockholm) and he has done research on our movement for several years. He has visited Unification Church sites and institutions in South Korea and Japan and has frequently visited Vienna’s church center. He has done profound research on the Austrian Unification Movement’s history and present situation through extensive examinations of our local church archives and many personal interviews with members. The results of his research have been published in the Vienna Journal of East Asian Studies and a new scientific journal titled Religion in Austria.

Im Anhang
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Twelve Unique Characteristics of the Divine Principle



- 1) **The Divine Principle makes God more human.** It reveals the suffering Heart of God and His yearning for human beings, His partner of love. God remains imperfect as long as the relationship between God and mankind is not restored.
- 2) **The Divine Principle makes man and woman more divine.** A marital union aligned with God's purpose of creation represents the image of God (cf. Gen 1:27) and forms the base for fulfilling God's original ideal of love.
- 3) **The Divine Principle emphasizes the relevance of the human portion of responsibility and freedom within God's providence.** God's omnipotence and omniscience is self-constrained due to the co-creatorship of men and women. Spiritual progress in life and the process of building the Kingdom of Heaven requires human effort and a conscious and sincere engagement.
- 4) **The Divine Principle elevates the position and significance of women.** God is understood as a being of masculine and feminine characteristics and is thus referred to as "Heavenly Parents". Moreover, the significant role of providential female figures appearing in the Old and New Testaments and throughout the course of restoration is clearly illuminated through the perspective of the Divine Principle.
- 5) **The Divine Principle provides a comprehensive theology and a contextual interpretation of the Bible that puts the family at the center.** The Divine Principle systematically deciphers a restoration pattern in the constellations of the various providential families in the Old and New Testaments and thus reveals the meaning behind often obscure passages.
- 6) **The Divine Principle solves paradox traditional concepts of Christianity.** Thus, it offers an enlightening perspective on themes such as the nature of God, the origin of evil, Christology, Logos, the Trinity, Eschatology, Resurrection, Predestination or the history of salvation.
- 7) **The Divine Principle harmonizes the religious traditions of East and West.** It inherits and builds upon the core truths which God revealed through the Jewish and Christian scriptures and encompasses the profound wisdom of the East Asian philosophies of Buddhism, Confucianism and Daoism.
- 8) **The Divine Principle is characterized by its consistent content and logical explanations.** As the age of blind faith is over and while modern people are not satisfied anymore with mere dogmas and assertions, the Divine Principle offers reasonable and coherent answers to the existential questions of mankind.
- 9) **The Divine Principle recognizes the mutually complementing value of religion and science and the necessity of both ways for the complete realization of human happiness.** There is no perfection in ignorance.
- 10) **The Divine Principle introduces the unique concept of "True Parents" and a new understanding of "Messiahship".** The key to building the Kingdom of Heaven lies in inheriting the true love of God and planting beauty, truth and goodness into our environment.
- 11) **The Divine Principle states that the Kingdom of Heaven is to be substantially realized on Earth.** Cultivating a Culture of Heart starts in our own marriage and family life.
- 12) **The Divine Principle reveals a clear understanding of life after death and the existence of the spirit world.** We do not take any material possessions into the next world, only our experiences, our thoughts and our character.

A Timeline of Sun Myung Moon's Unification Movement¹

- 1920:** **Sun Myung Moon was born on January 6, 1920, in Jeong-ju in what is now North Korea, then under Japanese occupation.** As a boy born into a farmer's family he studied at a Confucian school and was a keen observer of the natural world. Around 1930, his parents became fervent Christians (Presbyterians) and the young Sun Myung Moon became a Sunday school teacher.
- 1935:** **A Calling from Jesus Christ:** Early Easter morning 1935, Jesus appeared to the young SMM as he was praying in the Korean mountains. In that vision, Jesus asked him to complete the task of establishing God's kingdom on earth and bringing peace to humankind. The young Korean was stunned by this encounter, and especially by the request that had been made of him, and at first he refused. However, after deep reflection, meditation and prayer, he pledged to take on the overwhelming mission.
- 1935-41:** **Rev. Moon Receives and Develops the Divine Principle:** After personally accepting Jesus' call, the young Moon set out to discover the meaning of this unusual call. SMM ceaselessly studied the Bible and other religious teachings in order to unravel these mysteries of life and human history. During this time, he went into deep communion with God and entered the vast battlefield of the spirit and flesh. He came to understand God's own suffering and His longing to be reunited with His children. After receiving his commission from God, he knew he could not succeed in his task without a profound understanding of the Creator and His creation. He intensified his quest for the truth, spending days and nights in passionate prayer, rigorous fasting and study. His method was to posit specific questions, research answers in the physical and spiritual worlds, and then seek confirmation for those answers through prayer. On several occasions he was guided directly by Abraham, Moses, Jesus, Mohammed, Buddha and other saints and sages of all faiths, who met him in spirit and contributed to his understanding of God and the complex history of God's relationship with humankind. By the age of 25, he had developed the fundamentals of the Divine Principle and Unification Principles.
- 1941-43:** **Studies in electronic engineering in Japan. Imprisonment and Torture in Japan due to SMM's participation in the Korean independence movement against the Japanese occupation of Korea.**
- 1943-46:** **Return to Korea (Seoul), Outreach to Christian Churches, Imprisonment and Torture through Japanese authorities. Systematization of his teachings (the Divine Principle).**
- 1946-50:** **Preaching in Communist Pyeongyang (the "Jerusalem of the East"), North Korea. Imprisonment in Heungnam prison, the Soviet-style North Korean gulag (April 1948). Escape to the South after liberation through the UN forces (June 25, 1950).**
- 1950:** **Evangelization Begins Anew in the Refugee City of Pusan, South Korea:** As a one of hundreds of thousands of war refugees, Rev. Moon arrived in the southern port city of Pusan, where he and one disciple built the first Unification Church from discarded army ration boxes.
- 1954:** **The Founding of the Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity (known as the Unification Church) on May 1, 1954 in Seoul. Repeated accusations from established Christian churches and imprisonment through the authorities.**
- 1958-59:** **First Missionaries Sent to Japan and the United States.** In the late 1950s, the first international missionaries were sent, one to neighboring Japan in 1958 and two to the United States in 1959.
- 1960:** **Marriage to Hak Ja Han on March 16, 1960, followed by a series of group marriage blessing ceremonies for their followers.** With an unwavering life of sacrifice, courage and dignity, Hak Ja Han has stood by her husband through every hardship, borne 14 children and is the grandmother of more than 40 grandchildren.
- 1962:** **Founding of the Little Angels Children's Folk Ballet.**
- 1965:** **Rev. Moon Makes His First World Tour, Visiting 40 Nations.**
- 1968:** **The International Federation for Victory Over Communism (IFVOC) Is Founded.**

¹See <http://www.reverendsunmyungmoon.org/> for further details.

- 1971:** **Rev. Moon's Ministry in America Begins.** In 1972 SMM Makes His First Public Speaking Tour "Day of Hope" in Seven major US Cities.
- 1972:** **The Unification Church Is Established in All Fifty States of the US.**
- 1974:** **Rev. Moon Speaks to an Overflow crowd of 25,000 in New York's Madison Square Garden and Holds Speeches in All Fifty States.**
- 1974:** **Rev. Moon Meets with President Richard Nixon in the White House (during the Watergate Crisis).**
- 1974:** **After initial welcome in America: Persecution in Begins due to Religious and Racial Bigotry.** The enthusiasm and idealism of his young followers was reinterpreted as "brainwashing." As a result the rapid growth of the movement in the United States, it went through a period of persecution similar to what other new religious leaders and movements have faced in the past--the new was seen to be strange and threatening.
- 1975:** **The Unification Church Spreads Worldwide, Sending Missionaries to 120 Countries.**
- 1975:** **Rev. Moon speaks to 1.2 million people in Seoul at the Yoido Island Rally for the "Protection of the Fatherland" at the height of the Cold War during a time of great tension between North and South Korea.**
- 1975:** **The Unification Theological Seminary (UTS) Is Founded in Barrytown, New York.**
- 1975:** **International Interreligious Work Begins:** Initiative of the Assembly of the World's Religions in 1985, attended by 1,000 distinguished religious leaders and scholars. A key social teaching of Rev. Moon is that the world's most difficult problems will be best solved by religious leaders working interreligiously rather than by purely political and economic initiatives.
- 1976:** **During America's Bicentennial Year Rev. Moon speaks to 300,000 Persons at the Washington Monument on the Theme *God's Hope for America*.**
- 1978:** **Rev. Moon Found the "Home Church" Movement.**
- 1983:** **Politically-crafted Investigation and Indictment against SMM by the United States Government.** No one in the United States has ever been indicted for tax evasion of such a small amount. The indictment's real purpose, however, was to spur Rev. Moon to leave America.
- 1984:** **Top Religious Leaders Call the Indictment a Serious Violation of Religious Freedom.** Christians, including the National Council of Churches headed by Rev. Dean Kelley and non-religious groups representing more than 160 million Americans, came to his legal defense.
- 1984:** **US Senate Subcommittee Publishes a Report That in Rev. Moon's Tax Case: "*Injustice rather than justice has been served*".²**
- 1984-85:** **Incarceration in Danbury Federal Prison.** Upon Rev. Moon's release, major Christian and civil rights leaders, including Rev. Jerry Falwell of the Moral Majority and Rev. Joseph Lowery of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, held a press conference decrying the persecution and imprisonment of Rev. Moon and to welcome him back.
- 1984:** **The Washington Times Is Founded: the Number Two Daily Newspaper in Washington, D.C.** The WT was instrumental in the peaceful fall of communism, a goal achieved in conjunction with the Reagan Administration, and then with the end of the Cold War, promoted family values and the role of religion in society.

² "We accused a newcomer to our shores of criminal and intentional wrongdoing for conduct commonly engaged in by a large percentage of our own religious leaders, namely, the holding of church funds in bank accounts in their own names. Catholic priests do it. Baptist ministers do it, and so did Sun Myung Moon... We didn't seek a civil penalty as an initial means of redress. We didn't give him the benefit of any doubt. Rather, we took a novel theory of tax liability of less than \$10,000 and turned it into a guilty verdict and eighteen months in a federal prison."

- 1990:** **Rev. Moon and Mrs. Moon Meet with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.** Founding of the “Universal Ballet Arts Company” with Soviet-born Oleg Vinogradov as its arts director.
- 1991:** **Rev. and Mrs. Moon Meet with North Korean President Kim Il Sung.**
- 1992:** **The “International Women's Federation for World Peace” Is Founded, and Mrs. Hak Ja Han Moons Begins Her Own Public Activities for Peace:** World speaking tours in 1992, 1993 and 2006.
- 1996:** **The Family Federation for World Peace Is Founded.** In 1996, Rev. Moon announced the end of the era of the Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity. In its place, he founded the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification, building a network of families from every race, religion and culture, united in the belief that centered on God's love, happy marriages and successful families are the cornerstones for solving the most fundamental problems of society.
- 1999:** **International and Interreligious Federation for World Peace Is Founded.** The IIFWP, a Non-Governmental Organization with Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the UN, became later known as the Universal Peace Federation (2005).
- 2001:** **Rev. Moon responds to September 11 by Organizing Conferences to Address Interreligious Conflict in New York and in Indonesia.**
- 2003:** **The Middle East Peace Initiative Begins.** The MEPI exemplifies SMM’s approach to peace by calling on leaders of all fields, including government, academia, religion and the arts, to join in interreligious peace missions to the trouble spots of the world.
- 2005:** **Universal Peace Federation (UPF) Is Launched on Six Continents.** The mission of UPF is to create a global council of religious and other leaders to supplement and support the peace-making work of the United Nations. It has a Global Peace Council with distinguished leaders from all continents and will have a Peace Force to mediate in the world’s trouble spots.
- 2005:** **Bering Strait Tunnel Project Is Announced.** It aim is to connect the Russian and American mainlands as well the building of an international highway system.
- 2006:** **Cheon Jeong Gung Peace Palace, Museum and Meeting Center Inaugurated in South Korea.** Called the “Vatican of the East,” the Cheon Jeong Gung Peace Museum and Meeting Center in the mountains of the beautiful Korean countryside two hours outside Seoul and close to the North Korean border. With state-of-the-art meeting facilities, it is designed to be a foremost conference center where world leaders will meet to make plans for the new era of peace and prosperity.
- 2012:** **Sun Myung Moon passed away on September 3, 2012 in Cheongpyeong, South Korea.** He leaves behind a worldwide foundation that is dedicated to realize his vision of a peaceful world a united family of mankind. About 35,000
- 2013:** **The wife of Rev. Moon, Mrs. Hak Ja Han, conducts a special blessing ceremony on February 22, 2013 (“Foundation Day”).** She announces the “Cheon Il Guk Constitution” and the three basic Scriptures of “Cheon Il Guk” as well as the future objectives of the international UM (summarized as “Vision 2020”).

Sources for further information

- Introduction to the Divine Principle and the UM: <http://www.dplife.info/>
- The Teachings of Sun Myung Moon: <http://hdhstudy.com/>
- Austrian Family Federation: <http://famfed.org/>
- Universal Peace Federation: <http://upf.org/>
- CAUSA Foundation: <http://www.causafoundation.org/>
- Wiener Institut für Vereinigungsphilosophie: <http://www.vereinigungsphilosophie.org/>



**A Selection of Words given by the Founder of the
Unification Movement,
Sun Myung Moon (1920-2012)**

Purpose and the Ideal World

“What would the ideal world be like? [...] It would be a world where the success of one person would be the success of everyone and the joy of one person would be the joy of everyone. The pleasures and joys of one person could be shared by everyone in the whole world.” (*Sun Myung Moon, 1967.5.28*)

“The Original Mind [=conscience] is God’s starting point and the origin of the Kingdom of Heaven.” (*Sun Myung Moon: The Way of God’s Will (185), 1980*)

“We have two purposes in our life. One is the purpose of our own lives. The other is the purpose of our lives in relation to others—to our family, our nation or the whole world.” (*Sun Myung Moon: A Prophet Speaks Today (25), 1975*)

“We should not be dominated by money. Can money alone save a nation? Establishing a Heavenly Way of Life comes first; then material will naturally follow.” (*Sun Myung Moon: The Way of God’s Will (107), 1980*)

“As isolated individuals we can never find happiness; rather, we need another element with which to bring it about—another person, material things, or an intellectual goal. Happiness is always found within a proper relationship of subject and object partner.” (*Sun Myung Moon: A Prophet Speaks Today (40), 1975*)

On True Love and Family Values

“To resemble God, the original Being of true love, we should become the owners of true love. We should embody true love and practice it in order to develop our character. This is the way each of us can become true parents.

Then, what is a life of true love? True love is the spirit of public service. It brings the peace that is at the root of happiness. Selfish love is a mask for the desire to have one's partner exist for one's own sake; true love is free of that corruption. Rather, its essence is to give, to live for the sake of others and for the sake of the whole. True love gives, forgets that it has given, and continues to give without ceasing.

True love gives joyfully. We find it in the joyful and loving heart of a mother who cradles her baby in her arms and nurses it at her breast. True love is sacrificial love, as with a filial son who gains his greatest satisfaction in helping his parents. God created the universe out of just such love: absolute, unique, unchanging and eternal, investing everything without any expectation or condition of receiving something in return." (*Sun Myung Moon: God's Ideal Family – The Model for World Peace*, 2005.9.12)

"The parent-child relationship is the fundamental axis of the universe. Such is the relationship between God and mankind." (*Sun Myung Moon*, 1980)

"The family is the only institution created by God. It is the school of love where people can learn how to love each other and live together in peace, and it is the training center where we practice how to build a palace of peace in the world." (*Sun Myung Moon: As a Peace-Loving Global Citizen* (212), 2010)

"No matter how much politicians may put their heads together, they will not bring about peace. Formidable military power will not bring peace. The starting point for bringing about peace is the family." (*Sun Myung Moon: As a Peace-Loving Global Citizen* (208), 2010)

"Through marriage, a new future is created: Societies are formed; nations are built. God's world of peace is realized with married families at the center. It is in the family that God's Kingdom of Heaven is brought about." (*Sun Myung Moon: As a Peace-Loving Global Citizen* (207), 2010)

The Spiritual Path

"There can be no perfection in ignorance." (*Sun Myung Moon*, 1992.5.31)

"Don't seek happiness through relative things. It is more important to discover your True, Original Self." (*Sun Myung Moon: The Way of God's Will* (180), 1980)

"Religions should be concerned with God's will for world salvation more than with the salvation of the individual or the welfare of their own denomination. I think that now is the time for all religious bodies together to search again for the true will of God.

As far as I know, God is not sectarian. He is not obsessed with minor details of doctrine. We should quickly liberate ourselves from theological conflict, which results from blind attachment to doctrines and rituals, and instead focus on living communication with God. I think we urgently need to purify the religious atmosphere into one in which believers can have living faith and every soul can communicate with God.

In God's parental Heart and His great love, there is no discrimination based on color or nationality. There are no barriers between countries or cultural traditions, between East and West, North and South. Today God is trying to embrace the whole of humankind as His children. Through interreligious dialogue and harmony we should realize one ideal world of peace, which is God's purpose of creation and the common ideal of humankind." (*Sun Myung Moon: Founder's Address, Assembly of the World's Religions*, 1985.11.15)

"A true person is he who resembles God. To realize the world in which true people abound, not a human revolution but a "revolution of character" in man must take place. This character revolution is to transform men into true men and women into true women who will come to resemble God. This character revolution is to uplift the human character and bring it closer to God's own character. God, who is already omniscient and omnipotent, does not need any more knowledge, nor more power, but even God needs His partners of love, man and woman." (*Sun Myung Moon, 1986.11.28*)

"In perfection you don't need prayer. You live heart to heart with God. You no longer need religion, nor do you need a savior. All these things of religion are part of the mending process, the process of restoration. A man of perfect health does not need a doctor." (*Sun Myung Moon: A Prophet Speaks Today (22), 1975*)

On Education

"To open up a new future, we need, on the one hand, to pass on to our descendants the tradition that has been handed down to us over thousands of years and, on the other, to also supply them with education concerning new things. When tradition and new knowledge are appropriately integrated in our lives, they give birth to an original culture. (...)

There are two things we must leave our descendants when we die. One is tradition, and the other is education. Tradition is the soul that allows a people to continue; a people without a soul cannot survive. The second thing of importance is education. A people will also fail if it does not educate its descendants. Education gives us the power to live with new knowledge and objectives." (*Sun Myung Moon: As a Peace-Loving Global Citizen (156), 2010*)

"Any individual who sacrifices for his family will become the lord of his family. Anyone who is willing to sacrifice for his society will become its leader. Those who are willing to sacrifice in order to save their nation will be the leading group of that nation. Any nation which sacrifices and serves in order to restore the world will lead the world." (*Sun Myung Moon: A Prophet Speaks Today (50), 1975*)

"The pursuit of true freedom requires three fundamentals: Recognizing the principle of cause and effect, taking responsibility for one's actions and producing good results that bring happiness." (*Sun Myung Moon, 1998*)

"Before seeking to rule the universe, first perfect your ability to rule yourself." (*Sun Myung Moon: As a Peace-Loving Global Citizen (177), 2010*)

"Love Heaven, Love Humanity, Love the Earth." (*Sun Myung Moon's Motto of Education*)

On Science and Technology

"The blessings of science and technology are meant for all humankind, and they should be shared. Every nation should have an equal chance to utilize technology for the people's well being, just as all nations' athletes should enjoy high-quality coaching and be able to compete on a level playing field. Otherwise, the advanced nations will be resented and hated by those

who are deprived. The Unification movement is committed to sharing the blessings of technology with all nations and to helping the developing nations establish their own industrial base as the key to economic independence." (*Sun Myung Moon: Founder's Address at the 17th ICUS: Absolute Values and the Reassessment of the Contemporary World*, 1988.11.25)

"[The] view of the unity of science and knowledge about which I speak does not mean simply reducing all knowledge to a single academic discipline. Instead, it is a unity grounded in a fundamental purpose. (...) Despite the deep desire and diligent efforts of most scientists and scholars to establish peace and prosperity, poverty, illiteracy, disease, strife and hostility still prevail in even the most advanced nations. Despite great advances in science and technology, humankind continues to suffer from sorrow, pain and distress.

How has this come about? The main reason is that the standard of value which regulates human behavior has been undermined. As ethics and morality have lost their power, the standard of goodness has all but disappeared. Part of this loss is due to the misguided foundations of science. By attempting to be value-neutral, science has often excluded the questions of humanity and moral values in the process of its development. Over time science has gradually fractionalized, each field becoming more specialized, analytical and materialistic, thus ignoring the questions of morality and values. Hence, human dominion over science has weakened to the point that no one can be sure of the fate of human existence on this planet.

I have long been interested in the aims of religion, philosophy and science. As I have already stated, these conferences which I have initiated stem from these concerns. While religion has concerned itself with metaphysical and moral questions, science has limited itself to understanding the laws of nature and the transfer of energy and motion in space and time. It is true that science has contributed to the tremendous advances in knowledge during the last few hundred years. Nevertheless, science without a standard of value to guide it could lead to global destruction. In my view, the whole range of knowledge from theology to science has no meaning without an understood purpose and a standard of value directing this knowledge." (*Sun Myung Moon: Founder's Address at the 12th ICUS: Absolute Values and the New Cultural Revolution*, 1984.9.3)

The Founding of the Universal Peace Federation

"I have always prayed sincerely that the United Nations, founded after the Second World War, would be an institution of peace, and that it would uphold God's will for the realization of eternal world peace. The United Nations has made important contributions for peace. Nevertheless, at its 60th anniversary there is a broad consensus, both inside and outside the organization, that the U.N. has yet to discover the way to fulfill its founding purposes. The number of member states approaches 200, but the offices of these states do little more than represent and even insist on their own interests. They seem inherently unable to resolve conflicts and achieve peace.

For these reasons, I declare today before all humanity the founding of a new international organization, the Universal Peace Federation. Its mission is to renew the existing United Nations and provide a new level of leadership." (*Sun Myung Moon: Inaugural Convocation of the Universal Peace Federation*, 2005.9.12)