

## **In Pittsburgh Spirit Was a Movin' on Martin Luther King Day**

Tom and Rita Baldwin  
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Edited by Emily Courrier

*The following testimony came from Tom and Rita Baldwin, a Blessed couple from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.*

Recently, I have been reacquainting myself with minister outreach. I had made several visits to Dr. Lorán Mann at Pentecostal Temple Church of Christ and with Rev. and Mrs. Garmon with Trinity Baptist Church. This past Sunday I decided to visit Dr. Mann with my Bible and with Father's autobiography, *As a Peace Loving Global Citizen*. My longtime friend, Mrs. Lourdes Swarts, mentioned that Dr. Mann is a good friend of Pastor T.L. Barrett from Chicago, who had a wonderful testimony of how Father brought Pastor Barrett's marriage back from divorce to a Blessed Marriage. Dr. Mann shortened his service and invited us to join him at an ecumenical service.

The service was sponsored by East End Cooperative Ministries and the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. The program was a real testimony to a spirit of cooperation. It was hosted by a Jewish Synagogue and co-sponsored by a Pentecostal Temple and by a Society-of-Friends Meeting. The program included a choir from a Catholic school, bilingual readings of the Torah and the Koran, and selections from some of Dr King's speeches. For the service I left my Bible behind and only carried a copy of Father's autobiography.

After refreshments there was a small-group question session with the keynote speaker. As I was walking out, I stopped to talk with a guest, Barry Foster. He said that he had been noticing the book that I was carrying. So, I introduced Father's work as the inheritor of King's mission. He seemed interested in Father's work, so I convinced him to take home Father's autobiography. He told me he would call with his comments after he had read it. As we were leaving the church to walk to our cars, two people joined us, and I spoke to the need for religious people to guide society across all barriers of sect and denomination. One of my new companions then passed me a flyer on a ministry she supports under the name "God belongs in Our City."

On Monday, Jan. 16, 2012, I went out for the Martin Luther King Day celebration in Wilkinsburg, sponsored by the Wilkinsburg Ministerial Alliance. I felt that this was a great opportunity to reacquaint myself with pastors that I had met before and to make new acquaintances. I was able to meet Mayor John Thompson, the mayor of Wilkinsburg and the pastor and several members of South Avenue United Methodist Church.

I wanted to share this testimony to show that outreach is being supported very strongly from the spiritual world, and that our couple is anxious to expand outreach.

The vision that I have for myself is to reach out to the church communities as pastor of our small Unification community, and my wife, Rita, wants to work with women in those same churches to build a foundation for Women's Federation in Pittsburgh.

I feel that right now the time is ripe to reach out to local politicians with Father's autobiography and invitation to truly become an Ambassador for Peace representing our Heavenly Parent and our True Parents.