

Why do non-Koreans join (and stay in) the Unification Church?

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June 28, 2012

A Book Project of Coliseum Publishers, Seoul, Korea and Maarten Meijer, Phd, Cheongpyeong, Korea.



Maarten

Dear brothers and sisters,

I would like to invite you to contribute to the creation of a book I have been asked to write by my Korean publisher. The theme of the book will be “Why do non-Koreans join the Unification Church, and what motivates them to continue to stay involved?” The book will be written (at least initially) for a Korean audience, curious about why a Korean man, Rev. Sun Myung Moon, has been able to attract a large international following. Koreans are always concerned about how the international community perceives them, and a Korean having a global impact is a phenomenon naturally of great interest to them. If the book does well in the Korean-language version, there may be Japanese, English, and possibly other language editions afterward.

The president of the publishing company is not a Unification Church member and the company is in a good position to market the book to a non-Unificationist readership. International Unification Church President Rev. Hyung Jin Moon is aware of the project and is supportive of it, but it is not an official “church publication”. This book will be written in good faith and the entire writing and editing process will be open and transparent. I hope it will be an asset to the Korean UC membership and hopefully to brothers and sisters in other nations as well. Although different UC members may be asked to read the manuscript, comment on it, and make suggestions for improvement, in the end, I alone am responsible for the content and its presentation.

I expect people contributing their stories/ testimonies to be current members or people who, though they may not consider themselves “card-carrying members,” and despite various reasons for present inactivity or distance, are sympathetic with True Parents (Rev. Moon) and the UC community of families. I do not want to make the “gate too narrow.” I am interested in *sincere and creative* contributions.

You can send your response to Maarten Meijer. In the response, a separate Microsoft Word document (2003, 2007) is preferred, but if this is somehow difficult, an email text is acceptable as well.

Just to give you an idea of who I am: I joined the Unification Church in 1980 and was blessed with my wife Myra in Madison Square Garden in 1982. I was a state leader in Oregon and Montana, and a missionary in Russia for nearly a decade, part of which I served as Moscow regional church leader. I graduated from UTS with a M.Div. and from Moscow State University with a PhD in Russian literature. I have written half a dozen books which were published in Korea, Australia, Russia, Germany, and the Netherlands. Currently, I teach world religions at Cheongshim International Academy, the junior high and high school established by True Parents in Cheongpyeong, Korea. Myra and I have a daughter and three sons – two children were born in America, one in Russia, and one in Korea.

Thank you, and God bless you.



Maarten and Myra