

FFWPU USA: Devotional Period for True Mother Starts Today

Demian Dunkley
July 22, 2026



FAMILY FEDERATION

The Newsletter

July 22, 2026

Hello family. Quick Connect update. Join the 40 Day Devotion. Join the Higher Ground Revival Sunday Service. Bitter Winter article. Pastor Mark Burn's reflection.

News

Devotional Period for True Mother Starts Today



On today's Quick Connect, the 40-day devotional period for True Mother starts today, a Buddhist priest warns that all faiths are under threat in Japan, and Pastor Mark Burns' reflection after visiting the DMZ.

[watch here](#)

Join the 40 Day Devotion



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As you know, Friday, July 10, was the final hearing in True Mother's trial, with the verdict expected on August 31, 2026. During this critical time let us harness the power of collective prayer and action to unite our hearts with Heaven, and offer something through which God can work to lessen True Mother's burden. I invite all of you to participate in a 40-day period of devotion from July 22 through August 30, completing 40 days leading into August 31.

Let us pray together in Cheon Shim Won, in our homes, and with our families. Let us read True Mother's words or her memoir, participate in a chain fast, and take personal action to share her life, heart, and message with others. Each person and family can decide what offering they will make, and I hope that all will participate with sincerity.

True Parents have carried the burden of Heaven and humanity through their entire lives. From the spirit world, True Father continues to work together with True Mother for the completion of Heaven's providence. During these 40 days, let us unite with

both True Father and True Mother and, with one heart, offer our sincere devotion for the victory of Heavenly Parent’s dream.

[join devotion](#)

Join Us for the Higher Ground Revival Sunday Service



The Higher Ground Sunday Service series is BACK! Join us this Sunday, July 26, at 10 a.m. EST for worship, praise, and spiritual renewal.

[join here](#)

Bitter Winter: Buddhist Leader Shindo Mizuta Speaks Out on the Unification Church Case in Japan

Kongoji Temple’s Chief Priest warns that the dissolution is reshaping Japan’s treatment of religion in ways that threaten every faith community.

read more

Pastor Mark Burns' Reflection from the DMZ



Pastor Mark Burns traveled with a delegation of Korean and American religious leaders to the DMZ in January. This is his reflection immediately after.

[watch here](#)



Support religious freedom

Your generosity is helping us promote religious freedom in South Korea, Japan and domestically. From rallies to high level meetings, your donation is making a difference.

[support here](#)



Daily Hoon Dok Hwe

Let God's word be heard with a daily reading of scripture right to your phone. Download the Godible app to listen to hundreds of episodes of Hoon Dok Hwe.

[download Godible](#)



Join a CSW Prayer Vigil

The Cheonshim Won (CSW) is the central place for offering devotion. Join a prayer vigil via Zoom or in person at CSW locations across North America

[join a prayer vigil](#)

Follow Us



Did a friend forward this to you? [Subscribe](#) to The Newsletter.



40-day Special Devotion for True Mother

July 22 - August 30, 2026

True Parents have carried the burden
of Heaven and humanity throughout
their entire lives. During these 40 days,
let us unite with one heart.

”

“

— Rev. Demian Dunkley

Letter from Rev. Dunkley

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As you know, Friday, July 10, was the final hearing in True Mother's trial, with the verdict expected on August 31, 2026. During this critical time let us harness the power of collective prayer and action to unite our hearts with Heaven, and offer something through which God can work to lessen True Mother's burden.

I invite all of you to participate in a 40-day period of devotion from July 22 through August 30, completing 40 days leading into August 31.

Let us pray together in Cheon Shim Won, in our homes, and with our families. Let us read True Mother's words or her memoir, participate in a chain fast, and take personal action to share her life, heart, and message with others. Each person and family can decide what offering they will make, and I hope that all will participate with sincerity.

True Parents have carried the burden of Heaven and humanity through their entire lives. From the spirit world, True Father continues to work together with True Mother for the completion of Heaven's providence. During these 40 days, let us unite with both True Father and True Mother and, with one heart, offer our sincere devotion for the victory of Heavenly Parent's dream.

Please review the international memo about this global condition [here](#), and please visit devotion.familyfed.org for suggested prayer points and sign-up to join a chain fast.

Let us continue to invest in our communities, sharing the Blessing and sharing about True Parents and True Mother.

Thank you for your prayers, efforts, and investment in Heaven's providence.
In gratitude and unity,

Rev. Demian Dunkley
Continental Director

Suggested Prayer Points

- 01

True Mother’s safety, health, wellbeing, and complete freedom.
- 02

The protection and fulfillment of True Parents’ lifelong work and dream of realizing one family of humankind attending Heavenly Parent.
- 03

For the chosen people who have received Heavenly Parent's Blessing to fulfill their responsibility.
- 04

Your own personal commitment to fulfilling True Mother’s dream for you.
- 05

For the future and for our descendants.

* If you feel called to chant or pray for the judge in this case, the presiding judge is **Woo In-seong** of the Seoul Central District Court.

Hoon Dok Hwe Daily Reading

The Epic History of the Chosen Han People of Korea

The Value of True Parents in Heaven's Providence

*The Only Begotten Daughter True Mother in
the Words of True Parents*

North America Chain Fasting

You can also sign up for a North America Chain Fasting, to offer one or more 1-day fast (all day or breakfast) within the 40-day period.

[Sign Up for a 1-day Fast](#)

International Memo

You can read the full international memo about the Worldwide Blessed Families 40-Day Period of Special Devotions for Holy Mother Han by clicking the button below.

[Read the International Memo](#)

© 2026 FFWPU USA [HSA-UWC] ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

[PRIVACY POLICY](#)



Heavenly Parent's Holy Community Family Federation for World Peace and Unification

324-275 Misari-ro, Seorak-myeon, Gapyeong-gun, Gyeonggi-do, Republic of Korea 12461
Tel: +82-31-8078-2565 Fax: +82-31-8078-2565 E-mail: ffwpuihq@ffwpu.org Homepage: www.familyfedihq.org

Ref. No. FFWPUWMH 2026-050

To: Continental Directors, Vice Continental Directors, Regional Directors, Vice Regional Directors
Cc: Heads of Providential Organizations, Personnel-in-charge in Continental and Regional Headquarters
From: Heavenly Parent's Holy Community Family Federation for World Peace and Unification
World Mission Headquarters
Date: 6.5 by the heavenly calendar in the 14th year of Cheon Il Guk (July 18, 2026)
Re.: Worldwide Blessed Families 40-Day Period of Special Devotions for Holy Mother Han

May the blessings and love of Heavenly Parent and True Parents always be with you.

"Let us attend Heaven. Let all nations that attend Heaven fulfill Heavenly Parent's dream—the kingdom of heaven on earth—as sibling nations;" "Heaven will surely realize that dream here on earth."

We would like to ask the blessed families and members, with this faith and vision once again inscribed in their hearts, to offer a special 40-day period of special devotions.

We pray that this can be a precious time for communities of members in each nation to unite in heart in offering their sincere prayers and devotions, so that Heaven's providence may be established ever more firmly, that the dream of one peaceful family of humankind may be fully achieved, and that these blessings may be passed on to our children and to future generations.

1. Details of the Special Devotions

- A. Title: Worldwide Blessed Families 40-Day Period of Special Devotions for Holy Mother Han
- B. Participants: Blessed families, members, and ambassadors for peace worldwide
- C. Period: 40 days - July 22 to August 30, 2026
- D. Methods of offering devotions:
 - 1) Prayer
 - a. For the realization of a peaceful world of one family of humankind attending Heavenly Parent
 - b. For the well-being, safety, and comfort of Holy Mother Han, True Mother
 - c. For the chosen people who have received Heavenly Parent's Blessing to fulfill their responsibility
 - d. For the future and for our descendants
 - 2) Hoondokhae: Daily reading of *The Epic History of the Chosen Han People of Korea* and Chambumo Ron (*The Value of True Parents in Heaven's Providence; The Only Begotten Daughter True Mother in the Words of True Parents*)
 - 3) Relay fasting: 40-day relay fasting (one-day or breakfast fasting) by church or by organization

2. Administrative Matters

- A. The implementation of these devotions and other additional devotions may be discussed and decided in each continent in alignment with the common purpose.
- B. Inquiries: General Affairs Department, World Mission Headquarters: generalaffairs.ihq@gmail.com

Family Federation for World Peace and Unification
World Mission Headquarters



You are here: [Home](#) » [From the World](#) » [Testimonies Global](#)

The Unification Church Case in Japan: Buddhist Leader Shindo Mizuta Speaks Out

by Massimo Introvigne | Jul 21, 2026 | Testimonies Global

Kongoji Temple’s Chief Priest warns that the dissolution is reshaping Japan’s treatment of religion in ways that threaten every faith community.

by Massimo Introvigne



The Ogawa-Mizuta conversation.

In a [video-recorded conversation](#) with literary critic Eitaro Ogawa, Chief Priest Shindo Mizuta of Kongoji Temple offered one of the most unusual and thoughtful religious responses to the dissolution order against the Unification Church, now called the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification.

Mizuta’s background is far from typical. Before entering monastic training at Zuiganji, the National Treasure in Matsushima, he completed a master’s degree in engineering and was preparing for an academic career. His father urged him to return to the temple, and after two years of rigorous practice, he became a Buddhist priest.

Mizuta explained that the dissolution order compelled him to speak because Buddhist principles oblige religious leaders to respond when state power intrudes on spiritual life.

Mizuta began by describing a core Buddhist teaching through a comparison with science. Both Buddhism and science seek truths that remain unchanged under all conditions. In Buddhism, the purpose of knowing the truth is to reduce suffering. One essential method for doing so is to refrain from dividing reality according to subjective judgments. He illustrated this with everyday examples. People offer different amounts of money at shrines on New Year’s Day. Whether an amount appears generous or excessive depends entirely on personal circumstances. A third party cannot impose a universal standard.

He extended this reasoning to the Family Federation. The widespread habit of declaring the movement evil is an act of subjective discrimination. It reflects personal impressions rather than an objective criterion.

He explained that Buddhism does not define good and evil as social conventions do. An action is good when it moves a person toward truth. An action is evil when it moves a person toward ignorance. He recalled that the Buddha left his wife, child, and kingdom to pursue liberation. Social norms would condemn such behavior, yet the Buddha acted from a profound desire to understand the nature of suffering. Mizuta argued that this example shows how easily society confuses moral judgment with spiritual insight.

Search

NEWSLETTER

Email address:

Your email address

Sign up

SUPPORT BITTER WINTER



MOST READ



The Unification Church Case in Japan: Buddhist Leader Shindo Mizuta Speaks Out



Reactions Mount Against the New Chinese Law on Ethnic Unity



“Brainwashing” Accusations and the Persecution of The Church of Almighty God



Hong Kong: Booksellers Raided, Arrested for Selling Emily Feng’s “Red Flowers” Book



Century New City Church, Kunming: Prayers Requested for Three Detained Christians



India, Pakistan, and the Indus Waters Treaty. 1. The Architecture of Inequity

LEGAL

Privacy Policy



Chief Priest Shindo Mizuta during the conversation.

He then examined the main accusations directed at the Family Federation. The first is the claim of large donations. Mizuta responded that the size of a donation cannot be judged without knowing the donor's situation. A sum that appears enormous to one person may be reasonable to another. He warned that imposing a single standard is a form of discrimination.

The second accusation is the use of terms such as “cult” and “mind control.” He described these words as dangerous because they lack scientific definition. He compared them to negative ions, a term used in Japanese marketing without any established meaning in physics. When undefined labels are used to attack or exclude a group, the result is discrimination. He emphasized that discrimination increases suffering and therefore contradicts the purpose of Buddhism.

The third accusation concerns the Family Federation's alleged closeness to the Liberal Democratic Party. Mizuta pointed to an accident off Henoko involving protest boats. One captain was a pastor of the United Church of Christ in Japan. Another had previously run as a candidate for the Japanese Communist Party. If proximity between religion and politics is inherently wrong, then the criticism should apply to all such cases. Singling out only one group reveals a double standard. Mizuta expressed concern that some Buddhist priests repeat these accusations without examining their meaning. He said that doing so distances them from the essence of Buddhism.

The conversation then turned to the practical consequences of a dissolution order. Mizuta described what would happen if such an order were issued against his own temple. A court-appointed liquidator could enter Kongoji and take control of all assets. This would include buildings, land, bank accounts, ritual garments, and ceremonial implements. Those living at the temple could be required to leave immediately. Since many temples also serve as the priest's family home, the priest and his family could lose their residence. Mizuta explained that more than eighty percent of Kongoji's activities involve wakes and funerals held in the main hall. If the premises were placed under restriction, these ceremonies could no longer be conducted. He could lose his position as chief priest and become unable to perform funerals for the community. The temple would cease to function.



Kongoji Temple in Shizuoka, Japan.

He compared the present situation to the Purple Robe Incident of the Edo period, when the shogunate intervened in the Imperial Court's religious authority. He called the dissolution order against the Family Federation the Purple Robe Incident of the present (Reiwa) era. He recalled how Zen master Takuan and others protested the shogunate's actions. He questioned why so many religious leaders remain silent today.

Ogawa agreed. He argued that there is no legal basis for a liquidator to restrict the freedom to hold funerals. He described the situation as religious repression on a national scale. He noted that if events from forty years ago can be used as grounds for action, consistency would require authorities to examine the conduct of the warrior monks of Mount Hiei eight centuries ago. He said this illustrates the weakness of the logic being applied.

Ogawa also criticized what he called information magic. Media amplify the voices of some who identify themselves as victims while obscuring the many believers who remain satisfied with their community.

Mizuta and Ogawa both condemned the silence of religious leaders who have not spoken out. They described this silence as a sign of moral decline. They concluded that religious leaders must return to the essence of religion, recognize that the dissolution order is a threat to all faiths, stand together, and act.

Japan, Religious Liberty, Religious Persecution, Unification Church



Massimo Introvigne

Massimo Introvigne (born June 14, 1955 in Rome) is an Italian sociologist of religions. He is the founder and managing director of the Center for Studies on New Religions ([CESNUR](#)), an international network of scholars who study new religious movements. Introvigne is the author of some 70 books and more than 100 articles in the field of sociology of religion. He was the main author of the [Enciclopedia delle religioni in Italia](#) (Encyclopedia of Religions in Italy). He is a member of the editorial board for the [Interdisciplinary Journal of Research on Religion](#) and of the executive board of University of California Press' [Nova Religio](#). From January 5 to December 31, 2011, he has served as the "Representative on combating racism, xenophobia and discrimination, with a special focus on discrimination against Christians and members of other religions" of the [Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe](#) (OSCE). From 2012 to 2015 he served as chairperson of the Observatory of Religious Liberty, instituted by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in order to monitor problems of religious liberty on a worldwide scale.

[www.cesnur.org/](#)

f in X W U



READ MORE



After the Unification Church's Dissolution in Japan. 2. In the Aftermath of the Abe Assassination

Jul 14, 2026



After the Unification Church's Dissolution in Japan. 1. Dissolved Without Having Committed Crimes

Jul 13, 2026



How Japan's Unification Church Case Went Off the Rails: Attorney Nakayama's Inside Account

Jul 10, 2026

NEWSLETTER

Email address:

Your email address

CESNUR

Via Confienza 19
10121 - Torino
Italy

FOLLOW



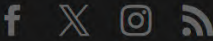
SUPPORT BITTER
WINTER

Sign up

info@bitterwinter.org



Copyright CESNUR 2025



Notice at collection

Your Privacy Choices

