

## **Working with Christian Ministers**

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### **History:**

Marshall da Souza started the BCLC in 2000. But it was closed down after a few years so in 2005 I suggested to Simon Cooper that we should begin again to work with Ministers as I felt that it was important to reach out to Christianity, and he asked the name to be changed. I am very grateful for the support and practical help received from various brothers and sisters who made it possible to go forward. Since that time we must have contacted about 70 Ministers. We have taught Divine Principle to 7 Ministers in the past year. 2 Pastors have heard all the Principle, and we are in the process of teaching 6 more. We have 12 signed up Pastors as ABC members, 5 have been blessed and I would say that 6 are close to us.

### **Providential Significance:**

Several months ago Matthew encouraged more Blessed families to work with Christian Ministers. The reason is twofold, firstly True Mother said that the Christian foundation in Europe is very important for what it has accomplished in the past, and she wants us to help connect the Christians to True Parents Providence. Then, working with Christian churches can help us to fulfil our Heavenly Tribal Messiah goals, for it is possible to bless religious congregations.

Also, I recently learnt some encouraging news, that connecting the Christian Churches to True Parents' Providence will help to restore Britain's role as an Eve nation.

Christians were supposed to welcome the Marriage supper of the Lamb and work together with the Lord of the Second Advent to build the Kingdom of Heaven on earth. Even though mainstream churches rejected True Parents, since True Father's Seong Hwa, with True Father and True Mother working together, I have found that it has become easier to approach Ministers/Pastors, and they are more open, particularly the more Independent Churches, like Pentecostals. It seems that when True

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Mother spoke at Madison Square Garden - she broke some spiritual barrier that is now enabling Christians to be even more open to us. Evidently the Women Pastors loved True Mother's statement that she was the "only begotten daughter of God".

### **Who is involved?**

I do not worry about the fact that African Pastors are responding more than traditional English Ministers, because True Father said that the Africans Pastors would come before the Europeans, and all these African Pastors know European Pastors, and they will bring them if we treat them with respect and love. Anyhow we are working with a few English Pastors.

### **Outreach direction:**

We really need the Christian Churches, because they have the numbers to build Cheon Il Guk, so that we can restore the Nation of Great Britain. The society around us is very secular and difficult to witness to. However Christians and religious people believe in God, so if we approach them correctly and educate the clergy properly, together we can bless their congregations.

### **Preparation & Approach:**

Before trying to meet Ministers: pray to find Ministers who are looking for more, for the next level, who are open minded and searching for answers, not close-minded fundamentalists. Ministers who are totally focussed only on the words of the Bible and who are not open to new revelation will be closed and not open to the Blessing or Divine Principle. Do not try to replace Jesus with Rev Moon or the Bible with the Divine Principle. They can still preach Jesus' theology, it will take time for them to understand how Divine Principle can deepen their life of faith and relationship with God, and how they can also teach their congregations. Some believe that Jesus was with God at the beginning of creation; and it will take time for them to understand deeply that True Parents are the Lord of the Second

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Advent. We need to show respect for their faith or religion and not try to change or convert them. We need prayer, as it is prayer that opens the windows of hearts, and can touch or move hearts.

### **What to say:**

I would like to share some points to consider when working with Christian Ministers or any religious leaders. Some people say to me that they don't know what to say to Christian Ministers. It is not difficult – comment on their service, sermon, find out what their goals for their Ministry are, any Ministry challenges, ask about their church, when, how it was established, who is the founder.

### **Show interest:**

Be interested in their family, their interests and recreation e.g. golf, youth, their occupation.

### **Support them:**

We should think first of how we can help them, what might they need, support their services, prayer meetings, bible study sessions consistently, with a genuine heart; create a friendship, win their trust and love them, take them to dinner.

### **Bring gifts!**

I always take a gift of fruit whenever I visit a Pastor.

### **Focus on one church:**

It is better to focus on one church and really care for and help them, arrange chairs for meetings, even witnessing with them. It doesn't matter if you bring people to Jesus, in fact it is easier, for eventually they will be blessed by the Minister and come to know Divine Principle.

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### **From the beginning; how to start:**

When first contacting a Pastor, it is probably better to start by attending their services. I do not always tell them straight away that I belong to the A.B.C. I think that it is better to win their trust, respect and love and appreciation for your support. And then I invite them to an A.B.C. event and then begin to ask them to study more deeply with me. However this is not fixed in stone. One has to just be prayerful, as I know some people who meet Ministers when witnessing on the street and straight away start explaining about the Principle/A.B.C. and they invite the Pastor to a meeting straight away. Nevertheless I do believe that we are most successful when we make good relationships first with people before trying to teach them. You can hold an event with only one Minister and a few members to support. That was how we started.

### **Relationship with Jesus:**

We need to show that we respect and love Jesus. If you have not had experiences with Jesus make a condition to do so. Jesus will help you, as He and the Spiritual/Religious Leaders are desperate to find blessed members with whom they can work, to teach and bless religious congregations. And it is important to show respect and familiarity with the Bible and understand Christian values. Miss Young Oon Kim told me that we can have experiences with True Parents and Jesus if we do a 40 Day condition for that purpose.

Remember Ministers are steeped in Jesus; in witnessing to Him, to building up their congregations. It is their mission and profession, their culture and way of life. Some are more loyal to their religion than to Jesus, they follow their religion. So it is really important to build a good relationship with them and to earn their trust, this takes time.

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### **Serve their church:**

The foundation for witnessing to Ministers is to first consistently serve that church. It has taken me 18 months to 2 years supporting different Pastors before they were ready to be taught the Divine Principle.

### **Teaching the Principle:**

Invite Ministers to study the Divine Principle by explaining that it is clarifying the Bible through a deeper understanding; for much of the Bible is written in parables that are not so clear, and sometimes it can be contradictory. And Jesus commissioned and helped Rev Moon to fulfil his mission. So many churches have been established simply because of different interpretations of the Bible, and this causes much disunity amongst Christians.

### **Use Kevin McCarthy's Book: "The Master Plan":**

We do not teach the Ministers the straight-forward Divine Principle, but use the lectures and book given to us by Kevin McCarthy, as they teach Divine Principle through Bible verses. This helps the Ministers to be more open to hearing Divine Principle, when it is presented as a Bible Study. It doesn't matter if you can't give the lectures yourself, you can read the content and study together with your Pastor, with a Bible for reference.

Kevin McCarthy's book is called "The Master Plan: God's Hope to Heal Humanity", and can be bought on Amazon.

### **Use Kevin McCarthy's Videos:**

We also have videos of Kevin teaching that can be used as well. I can forward all the lectures that you can print. If anyone can't print them out I am sure that we could help send printed copies if necessary. The Ministers like studying this way as it shows the value of God's word in the Bible and the significance of Jesus which is very important to them.

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### **How to educate ministers:**

We do not tell them straight out that True Parents are the Lord of the Second Advent, that is something that they need to understand from their own conditions, prayer and fasting, it is more meaningful for them then. We must recognise and understand the faith given by Jesus and God, and help them to understand the anointing of True Father by Jesus as the Messiah of this Age. True Father used to tell the Ministers that they too were to become Messiahs (become one with God and save souls). This doesn't knock Jesus from continuing to be the Messiah; (His spiritual salvation stands for all time). It is adding to their faith. In fact True Father said that the main things Christians need to understand are the suffering heart of God; why good people suffer and evil people prosper; and restoration by indemnity (reversing the fallen nature, and the process of Restoration).

### **Faith in Action:**

We need programmes and solutions that help in everyday life. They need to understand the purpose of marriage and families; how to treat each other, the value of the family from God's point of view. We need to rebuild Families and Communities, so we need programmes for helping families-character education, WAIT programmes. CARP Principles for young people, UPF and WFWP programmes etc. We need to help them understand how to live/ practise Divine Principle. We must live a Principled way of life otherwise we won't be able to inspire and motivate anyone. It must make a difference in our life. It must be worth their while to follow us. It must help them to be successful in life. We still need to develop more programmes that show how the Divine Principle can contribute to the well being and improvement of the community and nation. Highlighting moral issues, and encouraging Christians to stand up and take action is also something positive that we can do, and it resonates with Christians' consciences.

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### **Blessing & How to Approach 5 steps:**

I want to add a note about the Blessing. We can bless Christians in the same way that Interfaith Blessings are conducted, through Family Values, and Principles of Peace, clarifying the broken state of families today, the necessity for families to be renewed, protected, to build harmony and unity, what the ideal for the family is, and the need for God to be their centre. We can explain that Jesus asked, anointed True Parents to be the Model Family, to restore the families back to God. One has to be sensitive to the Pastors, and congregations, you cannot make them do the 40 days and 3 days Restoration Ceremony if they are not ready. It would only make them negative. In fact one of our best, most supportive Ministers left us completely when told that he had to do the 40 Days condition and the 3 days Ceremony. Sometimes the wives are not ready, and don't understand the Divine Principle. Where Pastors really understand the significance of True Parents it is not difficult for them to understand the Restoration process. But even if they do, it takes much time before their congregation can understand fully. True Mother has established Zambia as the central nation for the Tribal Messiah providence, and wants us to learn from them. Many times they bless people through Family Values and Principles of Peace, and then go back to educate them more deeply through teaching Divine Principle. If the people are not able to do, or complete, the full restoration process straight after the blessing, they are encouraged to do so when they are ready. They find that it is easier to teach Divine Principle, and how to live a life of faith after people have been blessed, for then they are more open spiritually to understand. I would like to emphasize that it is not wise to tell Pastors or anyone that they **have** to do the 40 Day condition after being blessed, they have to understand the significance of it and be open to the idea, and be willing to do it, as it is something that is difficult for married couples, otherwise they will become negative and have nothing more to do with us. It is also very important that both spouses understand the Principle and that both are united in doing the 40 days condition, as one

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Pastor nearly got divorced because the wife didn't know the Principle and didn't understand the significance of the 40 day sanctification/separation condition. It might be wise to advise couples to sleep in separate beds, or even separate rooms during this period, if they think that it might be difficult to accomplish.

I know that True Mother would like all blessed couples to fulfil the 5 steps, and we need to do our utmost to unite with that direction, but I just want to share that in the Cheong Syeong Gyeong True Father said that the most important thing about the Blessing is the change of blood lineage; that through becoming blessed they are engrafted to God's lineage, and when they die they go to God's realm even if they have not completed the physical restoration by completing the 40 Days and the 3 days ceremony. I have also had testimonies from people I could only bless where the deceased spouse appeared to the living spouse informing him of the incredibly beautiful realm that she was in, which was only possible because they had taken the Holy Wine; as they were not religious.

However our first goal is to encourage, with sensitivity, respect and patience the fulfilment of the 5 Steps, as the whole point of the Second Advent is that True Parents are restoring the physical body by Blessing families, who can then realise spiritual and physical unity.

### **Witness through your lifestyle:**

Finally I would like to say that witnessing is not new. Many of our early members were devout Christians, who were guided by Heaven to True Father. Many times the Pastors' Biblical knowledge will be greater than ours, however we should not be intimidated if we are living a Heavenly lifestyle, and do our best to increase our Biblical knowledge and understanding.

Written By June Darby: 10<sup>th</sup> January 2018