My Unificationist Memoirs Chapter 54

J. Scharfen August 16, 2021



MFT brought us together through shared prayer, work, suffering, and joy. We devoured fast food and slept in close quarters, then collapsed exhausted in sweaty clothes at the end of interminably long days. We worked extra hard through holidays like Christmas or Mother's Day, and deeply missed our physical families. Sometimes we would fall asleep counting money, having drooled on our ties and shirts as our teammates looked on with good humor and empathy. Even though pained and exhausted, we still prayed, planned, and prepared our product for the following day.



Male and female, we came from diverse racial, national, and socio-economic backgrounds. We told radically different stories of ourselves. Not only stories drawn from our varied pasts, but from our daily

present. As we worked our way through America, our black and Latino members had experiences that shocked the conscience of our white members. Our Asian members encountered old resentments from both bygone and recent wars. The opportunities for discrimination and resentment seemed endless, though the cause universal: ignorance. As we listened to each other, we taught each other and our hearts expanded and grew capable of empathy. Despite our diverse backgrounds, what we shared proved far more resilient, far more influential, and far more powerful: the Heart of God and the love of our True Parents.



We shared persecution as well. This suffering on behalf of the providence became the strong bond that has glued us together for decades and will certainly continue into eternity. True Parents trained us to face the animosity of our enemies by declaring that we had no enemy. Our daily lives became the means by which God spoke to each of our hearts and instructed us in service, sacrifice, and humble attendance. We walked the course of Jacob to win the heart of Esau. This narrative defined our struggle, from early morning until late evening, day after day, month after month, and year after year.



By walking this course in faith, we learned not to be victims of our circumstances but to pull our

circumstances by prayerful and determined effort. We learned to love while being cursed, to forgive while being arrested, to stand up after being brought down.

The author and commentator Shelby Steele tells the story of his father, taking his family into a park to picnic as an act of resistance to southern segregation in the early 1950s. A white racist walked up to his father and punched him in the face. His father stood, accepted it. He gained moral authority by saying nothing, but instead displayed his humanity, looking his aggressor in the eyes. In that moment, the racist saw himself, what he had done, and begged his father's forgiveness. He walked away a changed man by virtue of Mr. Steele's moral character.



I believe True Father trained us on MFT in the hope we would cultivate Mr. Steele's moral authority and spiritual strength. We can pull our historical circumstances if we strive to embody this strong character and heart. Moreover, in these times, our shared heart and experience, shaped by True Parents, ought to be our gift to America and the world.



The politics of resentment cannot heal our sins or provide balm for our wounds. We must break with the historical cycle of anger not perpetuate it. In the tumult of the present moment, we can easily be pulled by the passions on the left or the right. Always resentment arrives framed in the language of justice and seeking the righteous redress of wrongs, wrongs which may be very raw and real. Nonetheless, we have a counter narrative to draw upon, one which has been proven in the crucible of our lived experience. We

can speak with confidence from our own hearts, shaped by our years spent with True Parents, and deepened by suffering and sorrow, forgiveness and love.

So what is Headwing? We are Headwing. Our principled engagement with the issues and struggles of our own age will define the mediating philosophy which will be America's salvation. If we draw on our deepest resources, on the lessons of MFT, on our many memories of brothers and sisters, and always measure our response to the political moment by a conscientious engagement with True Parents' words, we will be the answer that our fellow citizens seek in these troubled times. I, for one, can see no other political promise on our country's horizon.





The Unification Church National Policy on Fundraising

In order to best reflect the principles of the Unification Church and the teachings of Reverend Sun Myung Moon, certain Church policies pertaining to the solicitation of contributions should be clearly understood by all members. While these policies have always been in effect, problems have arisen in isolated instances where certain members may have misunderstood one or another of these guidelines. Accordingly, we urge strict adherence to the following guidelines:

1. Before any fundraising activities are to begin, members should be aware of State and local solicitation laws, and, where appropriate, approval must first be obtained from the proper municipal or state officials. If permission is denied for any reason, a report should be made to the national MFT staff. Remember that any application or report filed will reflect upon the Church, and all factual information must be accurate. If any question arises as to the factual matters or interpretation of the law, the regional or national staff should be contacted.

2. When speaking about the extent of the work done by our Church, clearly present those aspects which you know to be true and correct. Vague, misleading or misrepresentative statements that imply something other than the true nature of our work can only cause serious complications and damage. You will be successful if you explain the real work that the Church is performing.

3. The virtues of love, service, humility and sacrifice, which are known to both God and Man as being good and eternal, shall be practiced and expressed by all members. Overagressiveness, rudeness or use of high pressure tactics are stricly forbidden, in accordance with our religious teachings.

All members must clearly display official Unification Church Identification Cards on their outer garment.

5. All irregular solicitation, i.e., indoor theatres, funerals, church services, etc., is not condoned by the Church.

6. Solicitation at street lights or intersections must first be approved by the proper authorities.

7. Solicitation in residential areas shall be conducted only during the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 8:30 p.m. Semc lecel ordinances may further restrict the time or manner of residential solicitations

(rev'd 3-77)

All municipal regulations pertaining to the solicita-8. tion of funds, i.e., time or place, must be followed, and all rights of private property respected.

Always be truthful when speaking with municipal of-9. ficials or police officers. Have a sense of promoting good community relations in every situation. Remember, others will want to come back to the same city sometime.

10. All members should provide literature to anyone expres-

MISREPRESENTATION

The greatest policy of all is simple, honest, truth. God will certainly bless our efforts if our presentation is clear, precise and direct. The following is a list of activities that your efforts go to support. You may select from this list an activity or activi-ties you would like to mention:

- Domestic and foreign missionaries 1)
- 2) Unification Theological Seminary
- 3) Evangelical tours
- Preparations for a University
- Religious publications 5)
- Other Church sponsored cultural and 6) civic programs
 - a. New Hope Singers International

 - b. Sunburstc. Voices of Freedom
 - d. Go World Brass Band
 - e. D.C. Striders Track Team

Steer away from using vague phrases such as: Christian youth counseling, youth development, or young people with emotional prob-lems. These can be used as adjectives in describing our work, but they are certainly not nouns or the formal title of our Church. Too often people mistakenly interpret these phrases as the official title of group soliciting.

Do not ever say that we:

- 1) help crippled or mentally retarded children
- 2) operate drug programs or rehabilitation centers
- 3) offer marriage or psychiatric counseling
- 4) operate orphanages for underprivileged children

Although our work affects all these things, they are not our main focus, and may be misunderstood if mentioned in this way.

CORRECT TERMINOLOGY

Since we are not selling items, but asking for donations, two words that create a wrong impression are "buying" and "selling". The use of these two words imply that our solicitation is of a commercial or marketing nature. Funds solicited are strictly on a donation basis and a distinction must be made between the two concepts. The easiest way to phrase the amount we would like to receive as a donation is, "Most folks help with one dollar," or, "Most everybody gives one dollar."

Remember that no product used in connection with solicitation of contributions may be offered for sale. The product must be made available to all those willing to listen to your witnessing on the teachings and activities of the Church, whether or not a contribution is actually made.