

ON THE WORLD STAGE

1992 TO THE PRESENT

Although Rev. Moon is first a spiritual leader, he has always been on the frontline of the struggle to end war, injustice, poverty and environmental degradation. He believes that the task of true religion is to establish heaven on earth for everyone, a world where people of all nations, cultures, races and religions may rejoice together.

Starting out as an evangelist in war-torn Korea in the early 1950s with a handful of followers, Rev. Moon now has groups and organizations under his leadership in more than 180 countries. From the early 1990s, he began to develop a broad range of activities focused on the quest for world peace, beyond religion, race and culture.

The World Culture and Sports Festivals (WCSF) which began in 1992 have included celebrations of marriage Blessings for hundreds of thousands of new couples and married couples rededicating their marriage by affirming their commitment to God and to each other.

Although the Blessings were originally limited to members of the Unification Church, from 1992 the Blessing movement has expanded far beyond those origins. Leaders of many faiths join in prayers giving a larger meaning of marriage that transcends nationality, race and culture and is linked to creating world peace and harmony. Despite the apparently simple nature of these ceremonies, a growing number of people have found real power to reconcile and strengthen their relationships through the Blessing.

Restoration of Our Marriage

Pastor T.L. Barrett, Church of God in Christ, Chicago, Illinois

After twenty-four years of marriage and seven children, my wife Cleo and I separated eleven years ago and she remarried. Like so many couples in and out of the church, our marriage lost its way and fell victim to our limitations and immaturities.

When I encountered Father Moon's teaching and example of True Parents, I began to understand God's ideal for the family. Every time I listened to his clear teachings on love, life and lineage and the sanctity of marriage, my desire to be reunited with my wife, my true love and the beloved mother of seven of my children, only grew stronger.

One night during the 52-city "We Will Stand" revival, I came to his room after midnight. He challenged me that I should seriously think about marriage. If I was to truly teach the ideal of God-centered families, he said, I had to set an example myself. I told him that I wanted the very same, but that I was still very much in love with my children's mother, my true wife. I believed in my heart that somehow God would bring her back to me.

He bowed his head and closed his eyes. After a few quiet moments he told me, "Yes! It will happen very soon!" I was moved and grateful for his concern and confidence, but

knowing how distant my wife and I had become and how much pain we had been through, it was hard for me to share that optimism.

During the following week I had two unsettling dreams about my wife. I called her to make sure that everything was all right with her. To my surprise, she informed me that things were not at all well and that in fact she was getting a divorce. When I shared with her all that Father Moon had said, she was deeply moved and shared my conviction that his words were inspired by God.

We prayed together, seeking confirmation of the love and commitment buried deep in our hearts, which had now been unearthed. We both knew that despite the confused and divergent paths we had walked, that we were always meant for each other.

Cleo and I rededicated our union at the Blessing of 60 clergy couples on May 27, 2001. The impact of our reconciliation upon my church has been tremendous. That same night, I was amazed to see another couple that had been separated enter the church together! They too had felt some unexplained move of the Holy Spirit that brought them together. From then on, a spirit of reconciliation has seemed to permeate our congregation

The WCSF include several other components. Youth conventions and sporting contests draw students from around the world for symposia, service projects, athletic competitions, talent exhibits and even the 'Mr. & Miss University' talent contest. Leading scholars and Nobel laureates have also attended conferences to discuss the pursuit of absolute values and the search for an underlying harmony among the fields of knowledge that will lead to world peace.

The International Peace Sports Festival (IPSF) reflects Rev. Moon's vision of a 'Religious Olympics' that will bring harmony among the young people of the world's faiths. Already, more than 1,200 athletes gather every two years in Korea for a wide-ranging competition of men's and women's sports. All the athletes also participate in community service activities and share in their cultural and learn about each other's religious backgrounds.

Rev. Moon's love for sports and his vision of the role that sports could play to create peace began in the early 1970s, when he founded the Seongnam Ilhwa soccer team in Korea. By the 1990s, the team was regularly winning the Korean national championships—more than any other team. In South America, he invested in the Cene and Sorocaba teams. In 2003, Rev. Moon founded the Peace Cup, an international competition for the top clubs in the world, followed by the Peace Queen Cup for women's national teams. The FIFA-endorsed Peace Cup has become one of the most prestigious club contests in the world, and will be hosted by Real Madrid of Spain in 2009.

The Summit Council for World Peace convened meetings with former heads of state, drawing upon their wisdom to develop initiatives to promote world peace and human welfare. Rev. Moon has also invested in the media, including newspapers in Korea, Japan, the US, the Middle East and Latin America. If lasting peace is to be based on a true system of values, then the media will be more effective in accomplishing this than military might.

Rev. Moon said it is his intention to continue to hold such festivals as occasions to celebrate the brotherhood and sisterhood of humanity and the creation of ideal families. Today, the Global Peace Festivals (GPF) carry on the quest to create a model of 'One Family under God,' based on true love.

Many of those who have studied Rev. Moon's teachings or who have participated in these festivals say they feel that he has been chosen by God. People are finding hope in his effort to guide the world to build lasting peace based on spiritual rather than material values, and the practice of love.

In 1992, Mrs. Hak Ja Han Moon launched the Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP). She took up the mission of proclaiming God's family ideal and set out on a world speaking tour. In promoting the central role of women in creating a peaceful and harmonious society, she spoke in venues such as Capitol Hill in Washington, DC, the United Nations in New York City, the Kremlin, the Great Hall in Beijing, and congressional buildings in Japan, Korea, and Canada. Her first world tour in 1993 took her to 41 nations.

In the meantime, interreligious outreach was growing, with Assemblies of the World's Religions bringing together leaders from different traditions, challenging them to respect each other and work to prevent conflicts and wars between people of different religions. Young people of different faiths began working together on service-learning projects sponsored by Religious Youth Service.

In 1992, in a special address entitled "The Reappearance of True Parents and the Ideal Family," delivered in Korea, Rev. Moon made the extraordinary announcement that through these events, he had fulfilled his mission as the Lord of the Second Advent.

Dr. Richard Rubenstein
President, University of Bridgeport

I must confess that as a historian of religion who received his scientific training at Harvard University, your explicit and unambiguous sharing with us of your understanding of who you are is *one of the most extraordinary moments of my entire career.*

Indeed, you yourself have described the announcement of your calling as 'astonishing and fearful.' For myself and for many of my peers whose vocation is the scientific study of religion, awesome religious inspiration is something that happened, if at all, long ago.

We are most comfortable studying derivative accounts of religious inspiration and revelation in books and manuscripts. Engaged in this labor, we are interested in our subject matter; we are calm; we are dispassionate and without inner disturbance.

The situation is radically transformed, indeed it is, as you say, truly 'astonishing,' when we are confronted by an inspired religious leader whose vocation is in the process of unfolding in our own times and even before our very eyes.

We are not accustomed to such a manifestation of spiritual power and charisma. Our scientific and professional training has not prepared us for the encounter. Hence, we guard ourselves against it by inventing psychological categories to neutralize its potency as well as our discomfort before it. Nevertheless, the spiritual power is there, and, whatever may be the religious tradition in which we are rooted, we feel it.

Of one thing concerning your messianic vision I am certain: all of your works, from which the world has already derived so much benefit, have sprung from your messianic vision.

Without it, there would be no International Conference on the Unity of the Sciences, no Professors World Peace Academy, no Washington Times, no Assembly of World Religions, no Little Angels School, and no revived University of Bridgeport.

Without your messianic vision, your original tiny church in Busan would never have become the worldwide religious force for human betterment you now lead.

In 1996, Rev. Moon announced the end of the era of the Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity (HSA-UWC). He said that he had never intended to create a new church or different denomination, and that the time for religion itself would soon pass.

In a ceremony attended by two former US Presidents—George Herbert Bush and Gerald Ford—he created the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU), as a network of families from every race, religion and culture. The idea behind the new Federation is his belief that God's love, happy marriages and successful families are the cornerstones for solving the most fundamental problems of society.

Another important task in building God's kingdom is to restore the environment. Throughout his life, Rev. Moon has expressed a keen and active love of nature. In his early years in Korea, he was an avid hiker and often held church services on a mountain peak after a long climb. From the early days in the United States, he became an ardent sports fisherman, and still holds the record for tuna off the Northeast coast.

In the late 1990s, Rev. Moon visited the Pantanal area in southwestern Brazil and was fascinated by its pristine beauty and abundance of plant and animal life. He invited families to come for forty days to renew their relationships and see for themselves the beauty of the Pantanal. Concerned about the rapid destruction of the environment by governments and corporations, he brought in experts from Australia and the United States to study the feasibility of reforestation. Not forgetting about the local population, he opened several schools and donated ambulances to over 30 cities. Perhaps even more important in that soccer-loving land, he invested in the local football team and became its sponsor.

He next founded the Interreligious and International Federation for World Peace (IIFWP) in 1999, leading up to the founding of the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) in 2005. These organizations have been active in 190 countries with thousands of Ambassadors for Peace who work for peace in their nations and internationally.

AFTER 9/11

Rev. Moon was profoundly moved by the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States. His closest disciples reported that for several days he remained deep in prayer and reflection. Later he said he was deeply concerned about the possibility of a religious war between Christianity and Islam, and was asking God how this could be avoided.

The following month in New York City itself, he gathered several hundred or religious and political leaders from around the globe and laid out his proposal for interreligious peace.

The tragedies that took place in New York, Washington D.C. and Pennsylvania on September 11 truly shocked the entire world. Along with the concern over peace and safety, we came to reflect upon fundamental and serious questions of modern civilization and future of humankind

Religious leaders and believers should be the guides who lead people to peace. If religions only emphasize narrow-minded denominationalism and fail to teach true love for God and the universe, we will never free humankind from the horrors of war. In the face of this global crisis, religious leaders have to practice true love, humbly following God's Will, walking hand in hand beyond the boundaries of their own religion

Two months later, he sponsored a conference for Muslim leaders in Indonesia in December 2001, titled: Islam and the Future World of Peace. In the face of many who then questioned the possibility of a peaceful reconciliation between religions, Rev. Moon has always believed in Islam's potential to be a major partner in the quest for peace.

Rev. Moon is dedicating himself to address the world's most unsolvable challenges: achieving peace in the Middle East and a peaceful reconciliation between North and South Korea. The Middle East Peace Initiative (MEPI) exemplifies his approach to peace by calling on leaders of all fields, including government, academia, religion and the arts, to join in inter-religious peace missions to the trouble spots of the world.

On September 12th, 2005, after the UPF Inauguration at the Lincoln Center in New York, Rev. and Mrs. Moon set out on a peace speaking tour of 100 world cities in 100 days, with the goal of establishing the organization throughout the world. The mission of the UPF is nothing less than to bring about God's kingdom of peace on earth:

I have always prayed sincerely that the United Nations, founded after the Second World War, would be an institution of peace, and that it would uphold God's will for the realization of eternal world peace.

Nevertheless, at its sixtieth anniversary last year there was a broad consensus both inside and outside the organization that the U.N. had yet to discover the way to fulfill its founding purposes. The Universal Peace Federation's mission is to renew the existing United Nations, and provide a new level of leadership as an "Abel-type" UN. It will unite heaven and earth and form the kingdom of the peaceful, ideal world.

During the tour, Rev. Moon also promoted his vision of the Bering Strait Peace Tunnel, an ambitious proposal to unite the North American and Russian continents by rail. The tunnel will help create the global village as well as being an important link for peace.

As an early action step, UPF is advocating the urgent creation of an international council of religious, civic and political leaders to supplement the work of the United Nations. Through service projects, peace education and Global Peace Festivals, the UPF is working to support the UN Millennium Development Goals. However, the fundamental mission of the UPF as an 'Able UN' is to emphasize the importance of spirituality and universal values for peace.

Many of his family members have embraced this mission, and become international spokespersons for peace, and they have traveled the world on numerous speaking tours since 1992. In 2006, three generations of his family – including his wife, children and grandchildren – took on various legs of the peace tour. Later, religious leaders and Ambassadors for Peace took up the task in more than 12,000 cities worldwide.

Finding a Defining Character

By Hyung-jin Moon

I searched for months for a single Chinese character, ascending to the holy rock to pray whenever I was home. I wanted a defining word that could sum up and embody the heart of *Hananim*, God.

I yearned to find a single character that could be a reference, a point of continual re-entry, into the Divine. I first thought of *Maum Shim*, the Chinese character meaning spirit, mind, heart but something was missing.

When my father returned from abroad, I asked him to share with me what character was most precious to him. I had been waiting for this moment, for this teaching, for this wisdom. I had earnestly searched but found a character that as missing something.

Without hesitation, he wrote a single character. It is a moment, an enlightenment, that I shall never forget.

The word he wrote was *Jeongseong Seong*, sincerity. This character, he explained, was the combination of the characters for word and to become.

On further reflection I realized that the left side of the character symbolizing west was word and that the Western Religions (Judaism, Christianity, and Islam) were faiths of the Word (Torah, Bible, Qur'an).

The right portion of the character symbolizing east means to become, and the Eastern Religions (Buddhism, Hinduism, Taoism, Confucianism) were faiths of becoming, primarily utilizing the psychological technology of meditation.

In this single character, right and left, Eastern and Western traditions, we brought into union to form a single, dynamic character—*Jeongseong Seong*, sincerity.

I realized that without sincerity, heart is just a muscle pumping blood. But with sincerity *Hananim's* heart and our own would have no duality, no separateness. Without *Sung*, we would be eternally apart. With *Sung*, we would be one.

From: *A Bald Head and a Strawberry*.
Tarrytown, NY: Sincerity Publications, 2004.

Hyung-jin Moon is the youngest son of Rev. and Mrs. Sun Myung Moon. He is now the pastor of the Headquarters church in Seoul, Korea.

Rev. Moon has always emphasized that the world of goodness is not something that will just appear: it can only come about when the world is filled with people of good character. Recognizing this, the UPF is providing character education to children of all ages around the world, based on the *Discovering the Real Me* curriculum and numerous training programs, internships and volunteer outreach.

The International Leadership Conferences (ILC) invite political, religious, civic and community leaders to make a commitment to be role models of good character. The conferences are being held every month in partnership with many national parliaments and other partners.

VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Throughout his entire life, Rev. Moon invested himself completely to realize God's dream of building the Kingdom of Heaven on earth and in heaven. For this he lived a life of true love, living for the sake of others. At the age of 88, he is still on the frontline, working harder than before. On his birthday in 2007 he reflected,

Ladies and gentlemen, once someone becomes an old man of eighty-eight, he would normally look back on his life and quietly prepare to enter the next world. Yet, my life begins from now. It is not because I have many lingering attachments to this life. It is because I still have yet to fulfill the mission for which I received my call as the True Parents -- to save people, who are suffering in the fallen realm, unable to escape from it.

Despite his many achievements, he has always been the first to say honestly that he is not sufficient. God, the Heavenly Father, is still not liberated from pain and suffering. Parents cannot be happy until their children are happy. Thus, he is still humble before God, and ready to do more to realize God's dream of the Kingdom of Heaven on earth.

Yet Rev. Moon cannot do everything alone. As children of God, and as brothers and sisters to one another, we all have responsibility. Only

when each and every one of us fulfills his or her own responsibility can the whole human family be happy.

For this reason, Rev. Moon is still praying and working for all the human family to return to God through joining the international and cross-cultural marriage Blessing. The Blessing is a ceremony performed by the Rev. and Mrs. Moon, the True Parents, through which human beings become one family by joining the lineage of God's true love. Blessed family members pledge to keep purity before and fidelity within marriage.

In the earlier days, only the members of the Unification Church were able to participate in the Blessing. Today, however, the gate is open for everyone to join in this important ceremony and work for peace.

I leave you with a choice. There can be no perfection in ignorance. The message from Heaven that I convey to you today is both a blessing and a warning to this generation. I will take the lead in establishing true families, societies, nations and a true kingdom of the peaceful, ideal world.

Will you join me as I rise and gain strength in accordance with heavenly fortune? Or will you remain captive behind the same old walls, all of them Satan's handiwork: the wall of your religion, the wall of your culture, the wall of your nationality and the wall of your race, and spend the remainder of your time on earth in agony and regret?

Heaven is summoning you to be the wise leaders who will set aright this world of evil and establish a new heaven and new earth, a new culture and an ideal kingdom.

From "God's Ideal Family and the Peace Kingdom"

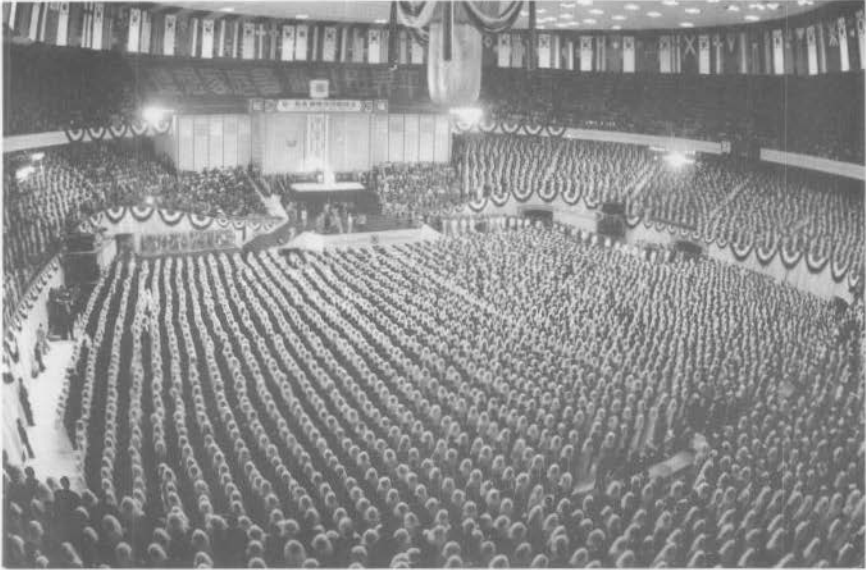
With these words of invitation and hope, the UPF would like to invite all people of good will to participate in the noble work of building the world of peace.



The Interreligious Peace Sports Festival brings young athletes from around the world to develop athletic abilities and build new friendships beyond race, religion and culture.



Rev. and Mrs. Moon meet with Pele in a planning meeting for the Peace Cup, which has rapidly become one of the top club competitions in the world



The 1982 Blessing at the Jamsbil Gymnasium celebrated "World Peace through Ideal Families." The heart and soul of Rev. and Mrs. Moon's ministry as True Parents is the Blessing. Through the Blessing, people are reborn into the family of God.



One of the many happy international and interreligious couples Blessed by Rev. and Mrs. Moon



At the Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza near the United Nations headquarters in 2003, religious leaders from many faiths joined a march and rally for "Peace Under One God."



Rev. Moon calls on the United Nations in 2001 to consider establishing an interreligious council and to develop 'peace zones' to reduce global conflict.



On September 12, 2005, at the Lincoln Center in New York, Rev. Moon announced the inauguration of the Universal Peace Federation with the mission to bring together all nations and religions to 'live for the sake of others.'



Those who hear the UPF message have commented that it helped them focus on the need for new ways to overcome the barriers and prejudices confronted in daily life.



Rev. Moon speaking in Busan during the 2005 Peace Tour on the subject of "God's Ideal Family and the Kingdom of the Peaceful Ideal World," calling for intercultural marriage and interreligious dialogue as the best way forward to reach a world of peace.



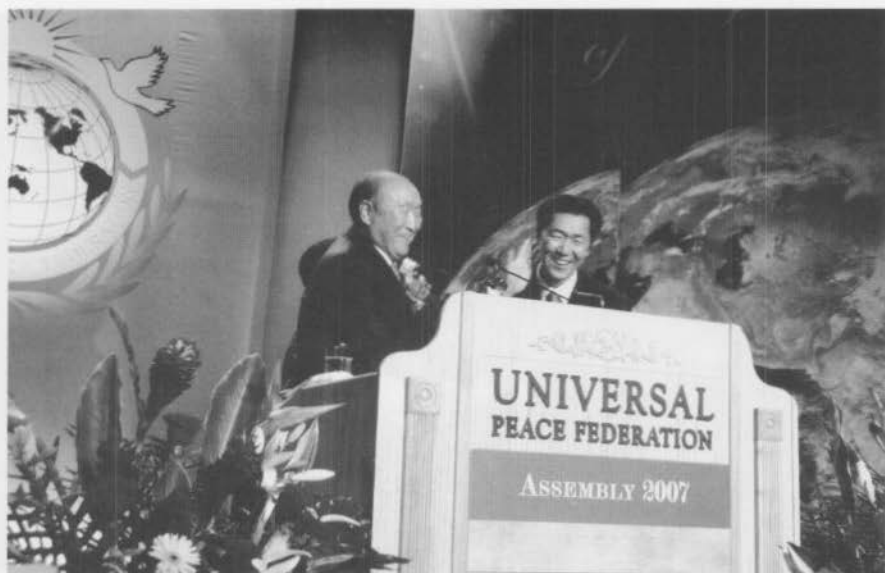
Rev. and Mrs. Moon being welcomed to Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, with a traditional drink of mare's milk during their 100 city peace tour in 2005.



The President of the Philippines, H.E. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, greeting Rev. and Mrs. Moon on a visit to the Malacanang Presidential Palace in December 2005.



At the Manbattan Center on September 23, 2007, delegates from 194 nations promised to lay the foundations for a new 'Abel' or 'Peace' UN worldwide



Rev. Moon pictured with his third son, Hyun-jin Moon, at the UPF Assembly 2007 in New York, where he spoke of the coming age of peace centered on the Pacific Rim.



Rev. and Mrs. Moon greet two of their grandchildren'