

Fourth Town Hall Meeting with Rev. Hyung Jin Moon Takes Place in Chicago

Kazuo Takami and Ariana Moon
September 24, 2012



Rev. Hyung Jin Moon and his wife, Rev. Yeon Ah Moon, pray during the conclusion of the Q&A session.

More than 350 Unificationists from IL, MI and WI gathered at the Unification Church of Chicago in order to welcome the newly-appointed president and CEO of HSA-UWC of the United States, Rev. Hyung Jin Moon, and his wife Yeon Ah Moon on September 24, 2012. Chicago, IL was the fourth city of Rev. and Mrs. Moon's national 12-city tour, which they undertook to listen to the comments and questions of fellow church members during a time when many are re-evaluating their life of faith.

The main program began with worship songs followed by offering a bow to a portrait of founders of the Unification Church Rev. and Mrs. Sun Myung Moon, or "True Parents." During the four-hour Q&A session that ensued, Rev. Hyung Jin Moon and his wife sat facing the audience town-hall style, while individuals stood one by one to ask questions. The topics addressed were related to the recent issues pertaining to the late Rev. Moon's wife and children, or, "True Family," church organizational system and leadership, and new direction in this new administration.

"Despite of having a slight fever, Rev. Hyung Jin Moon took the time to answer each question deeply and sincerely," said Rev. Kazuo Takami, Unification Church Pastor of District 7 (IL, WI, and MI). "His answers helped people understand many of the details currently surrounding specific situations as well as to convey the basic attitude and direction that he is going to take in his leadership for America. The interactive style of the meeting made the time go very quickly as well. Towards the end of the meeting, people were more relaxed, often laughing and smiling. It felt as if the atmosphere gradually turned lighter and brighter."

The meeting concluded with the chant *Chambumonim, Eog Mansei* and a prayer.



More than 350 Unificationists from District 7 of the Unification Church (IL, MI and WI) gathered to share their hearts with Rev. Hyung Jin Moon and his wife.

Testimonies from Q&A Session:

Pastor Jario Vincenz-Gavin: "Thank you Rev. Hyung Jin Moon and Yeon Ah Moon for coming to share your love. Your embrace of all members and even all questions was amazing. America is totally blessed to work with your couple at this time. Thank you for helping us digest this difficult situation and at the same time giving us support and direction for moving forward."

Rev. Kunihiro Sagisaka: "I appreciate that Rev. Hyung Jin Moon clearly explained why he and his elder brother Hyun Jin Moon cannot simply reconcile. The main issue is how you see who True Father is – either the Messiah or a peace activist. Also, we have a tendency to judge our former senior pastor. But it is true, as Rev. Hyung Jin Moon explained, that she resigned without making any division in our Unification Movement. The meeting helped me understand those issues more clearly."

Mrs. Tomoko Lange: "Overall, I felt that the Rev. Hyung Jin Moon's town hall meeting opened the door for solutions to make us better. Even though Satan tries to bring more problems, we can use them to repent and correct ourselves and

make a stronger unification community according to the Divine Principle and True Father's words."



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Mr. Ron Rabottini: "I was moved by Rev. Hyung Jin Moon's heart in speaking to us and answering the questions given to him by the members. Even though he was not feeling well, he responded to each person's question, taking the time to address the points they brought up. I am grateful to him for the heart he expressed in regards to Rev. In Jin Moon, our former pastor, when he said, 'we must hate the sin but love the sinners.'"

Mrs. Noriko Ogden: "I'm grateful for Rev. Hyung Jin Moon and Yeon Ah Moon to visit all cities in the United States. They listened attentively to all the questions and gave lots of information and guidance to us. Their presence is healing the spirit world gradually as they go through the cities throughout America. I hope this effort can turn around the negative feeling influencing the members. And we can move forward to our lifetime goal to realize Cheon Il Guk on earth."

Mrs. Patricia Fliginger: "I was very impressed with the large attendance from far away, even on a weeknight. Rev. Hyung Jin Moon proved to me that he is a leader who listens and his detailed answers showed he understood. One word which sums up my experience with Rev. Hyung Jin Moon and Yeon Ah Moon it would be 'settlement': After the long, arduous course which they have walked together with True Parents, they are now ready, willing, and able to reach out to us. Let's remind ourselves of the expression of God's love and encouragement we felt through this visit. I hope that we sent some of the same with them on their journey. Together with Rev. Hyung Jin Moon and Yeon Ah Moon, we can build a strong, sturdy bridge, enabling us to cross into Cheon Il Guk with our True Parents."

Christopher Ogden: "It was very moving to witness the very able spirit and attitude of the Midwest brothers and sisters. Even though there is a great deal of pain in many hearts at the breakdown of trust, somehow an atmosphere of love and reconciliation was able to be felt throughout the evening. When pain showed through in some of the questions, Rev. Hyung Jin Moon was unchanging in his heart and attitude in answering each point of every question. It was also very beautiful to witness the open expression of love shown by Rev. Hyung Jin and Yeon Ah Moon as a couple.

"Probably the most penetrating question of the evening was asked by Sarah, the only second-generation Unificationist, who spoke asking how should we view True Children, who we have tended to idolize. However, I felt the questions in most part were not focused enough on some of the core issues that have arisen, such as: How to rebuild trust for the young people in our communities some of whom had worked in Lovin' Life Ministries or Generation Peace Academy; How this affects the vision and confidence of Blessed Couples still trying to resolve issues in their own marriages; The sanctity of direct dominion, where we should not be able to commit a sin as we know the pain it will bring not only to Heavenly Father but in this case to True Parents

"Also, another area possibly that did not help to recreate trust is there was such a large contingent from Unification Church USA Headquarters surrounding Rev. Hyung Jin Moon at a time when brothers and sisters confidence in Headquarters is at a very low trust. This also has created the dynamic where we are receiving information/news from other sources at the very time when we first need to hear it from Headquarters.

"Even though we have all been deeply shocked by the past few weeks, I have confidence that we can rebuild, and the love and natural relationship offered by Rev. Hyung Jin Moon's couple is a great first step moving us forward."