

Becoming Lights of the World through Filial Hearts for Heaven

The Commemorative Pledge Service Celebrating the Ninth Anniversary of the Holy Ascension of Sun Myung Moon, the True Parent of Heaven, Earth and Humankind featured an online event that reached 194 countries. This article describes that event.

The commemorative ceremony celebrating this year's anniversary of True Father's Holy Ascension took place from 9:00 am on August 24. While strictly observing their respective governments' social-distancing guidelines, political, economic and religious leaders from around the world joined blessed family members from 194 countries at the service.

Under the theme, "Becoming Lights of the World through Filial Hearts for Heaven," due to the Covid-19 pandemic, it took place in the form of an online-platform-based event using augmented reality and a two-way video communication system. Out of consideration for non-Korean participants, simultaneous interpretation was provided in sixteen languages.

At the Commemoration of the Ninth Anniversary of True Father's Universal Seonghwa, True Mother said, "Due to global warming in many parts of the world caused by human activity, forest fires continue to occur because of drought, and torrential rain has resulted in many casualties. While attending Heavenly Parent, we must become one with True Parents on earth and work to solve these problems." Based on many proclamations over the past sixty years, she ultimately announced Foundation Day in 2013 and declared the establishment of Cheon Il Guk after having created an environment in which we can attend our Heavenly Parent. We need to educate and guide billions of people so that we all live as one family, just as it was conceived at the origin, at the time of the Creation."

True Father taught us that the Seonghwa Ceremony begins the moment we leave our physical body behind. "At that moment," he said, "we are born again into the realm of the infinite expansion of love, and we enter the world of joy and victory." Accordingly, the Family Federation conducts the Seonghwa Festival as a means of celebrating True Father's new start in his eternal life in the spiritual realm.

True Father was born on January 6, 1920, in Jeongju in North Korea's North Pyeong-an Province and went the way of Seonghwa on September 3, 2012. In 1954, True Father founded the Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity, which has grown into a global organization with chapters in 194 countries.

The ninth anniversary of the Holy Ascension of Sun Myung Moon, the True Parent of Heaven, Earth and Humankind started with an opening performance, the entrance of numerous national flags and an opening address by Dr. Young-ho Yun, director-general of the FFWPU International Headquarters. Yeon-ah Moon, representing her ascended husband Hyo-jin Moon and Hoon-sook Moon, representing her ascended husband Heung-jin Moon, lit candles. Including those from the Confucian, Islamic, Protestant, Buddhist, Daejongist and Chondoist religions, members of seven other religious groups participated in the Family Peace Blessing Ceremony. The leaders of the non-Unificationist religions cooperated in making this year's Blessing Ceremony possible.

Following the Peace Blessing Ceremony, everyone sang the Cheon Il Guk anthem, recited the Family Pledge, participated in a Cheon Il Guk service and heard messages from prominent figures from various countries, such as Newt Gingrich, a former Speaker of the US House of Representatives, Goodluck Jonathan, a former Nigerian president, Fatmir Sejdiu, a former Kosovar president and Il-shik Hong, the former chairman of the Sun Hak Peace Prize. In the end, Wonju Jeong McDevitt, chief of staff of True Mother's Secretariat, read a tribute and part one of the memorial ended with a hyojeong cultural performance by the Little Angels.

Part two consisted of a speech by True Mother, the reading of a tribute by former US Senator Orrin Hatch, another special hyojeong cultural performance and three cheers of Og Mansei.

In the coming months around thirty events will be held to commemorate the ninth anniversary of the Holy Ascension of Sun Myung Moon, the True Parent of Heaven, Earth and Humankind, among those will be The Think Tank 2022 Rally of Hope, The Think Tank 2022 Forum, The Peace on the Korean Peninsula Summit 2021 and The Heavenly Unified Korea Peace Forum, as well as five regional Rallies of Hope, an International Leaders' Conference, Peace Road 2021, a Hyojeong Cheonbo Special Great Works and a Heavenly Parents' Holy Community Peace Festival. Commemorative events will be held all over the world in an online socially distant format with the goal of peaceful reunification on the Korean Peninsula. 

Declaration to Heaven

By Ki-seong Lee



Most noble and precious Heavenly Parent! Beloved True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind!

Today, the seventeenth day of the seventh month in the ninth year of Cheon Il Guk, we are celebrating the ninth anniversary of the Holy Ascension of Sun Myung Moon, the True Father of Heaven, Earth and Humankind. We have prepared a sacred, commemorative altar here at the Cheongshim World Peace Center. It is with the sincerest devotion that all members of the True Family as well as blessed couples both in the spiritual and physical worlds render all glory and praise to you on this day, and it is with this heart that we are holding today's commemorative Pledge Service. Please therefore accept all glory and praise.

Our True Father of Heaven, Earth and Humankind to whom we are grateful, you came to a world full of sin, and after fighting with billions of Satan's minions, you discovered the Divine Principle. You found God's only begotten daughter, and you finally emerged together as the True Parents of humanity. As the True Parents, you shed blood, sweat and tears for the world and were successful in your work of restoration. Even if earth and heaven collapse, your greatness as the True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind will shine and be remembered forevermore.

In order for True Mother to realize your will and fulfill her promise to accomplish it after you ascended to the heavenly realms nine years ago, she invested herself completely with a life-or-death resolution to overcome a situation in which she could not see even one step ahead and endlessly journeyed to all corners of the world—to the east, west, north and south, seeking to embrace the world. She carried the heaviest cross of tears in the world and victoriously concluded her seven-year course.

She embraced the world as the Mother of Peace, wiping away humanity's tears, the Mother of Love, and the Mother of Blessing. As a result of these efforts, True Mother opened a new history through her proclamation of the firm establishment of Cheon Il Guk and of Heavenly Parent's Holy Community. Hosting the Rally of Hope series, she has gathered leaders from all over the world and launched Think Tank 2022. It is based on this triumphant expectation that we are celebrating the ninth anniversary of True Father's



Holy Ascension.

Through all the commemorative events held over the ensuing six months, we will let all people know that True Father is working inexhaustibly with True Mother twenty-four hours a day with the authority of the Lord of Truth, Holiness and Virtue in Cheon Il Guk!

Help us to know and believe the truth and attend the True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind, who are working both in heaven and on earth! Please allow this festive period of miraculous great triumph to bring us awareness of what a blessing it is for humankind that True Parents have come to our world, which will inevitably perish if we continue on with our sin, conflict, sicknesses and environmental problems and awareness of what a great joy it is to attend Heavenly Parent's only begotten daughter, the True Mother of humankind!

Dear Heavenly Parent! Please also work so that the tragedy of Covid 19—the end of which we cannot predict—becomes a condition of restoration through indemnity, so that all world leaders and all of humankind can move forward to victory in 2027 under the embrace of the Heavenly Parent's Holy Community! To the True Parents of Heaven, Earth, and Humankind at this time we wish you infinite honor and glory! Those of us who have received the grace of Cheonbo through victory in tribal messiahship, please make this a time of determination when we swear to take the path of loyalty and filial piety with absolute faith, absolute love and absolute obedience!

Drawing together the conditions that the Cheon Il Guk leaders and blessed families of Heavenly Parent's Holy Community have set, I report and offer this in our names, Ki-seong Lee and Yoon-jung Jang, of a blessed central family. Aju! 

Rev. Lee is the chair of the Cheoneuiwon-Korea and president of the Cheonshimwon.

A POEM IN MEMORY OF TRUE FATHER

Building a Mansion in the Homeland I've Longed For

By Wonju Jeong McDevitt



A longing that would make even clouds shed tears...
“Beyond that mountain is my old hometown, where I once lived.”
Father longed for his hometown, Jeongju
and the surrounding fields where wild plants grew.
Often, his eyes would well up with tears and his voice would break.

So strong was his longing and nostalgia for his hometown
that one hot summer midday, just before he ascended to heaven,
Father visited the Osan Middle and High School in Hannam Ward,
remembering his student days there when it was located in North Korea.
As he looked at the playground, hallways and empty classrooms,
Father let himself be washed in nostalgia for his hometown,
bringing back memories of long before, like waves breaking on distant shores,
falling like rain, then flowing like white bubbles.

Boldly and eloquently, like a powerful waterfall, Father addressed the world.
He cracked open the Iron Curtain in the cold lands of the Soviet Union,
and in Red Square in front of the Kremlin in Moscow,
he unrolled the World Media Conference carpet of peace.



Calling for the Juche ideology flag at the Mansudae Shrine in Pyongyang to be lowered, Father tightly embraced Kim Il Sung, resolving that the two would become an older brother and younger brother that attend Heavenly Parent.

Finally, after forty or so years of longing, Father arrived in his hometown, Jeongju. Yet, even after his reunion with his sisters, even at Mt. Myodu in the setting sun, as he greeted his parents, Gyeong-yu Moon and Gyeong-gye Kim, who rest in the family burial ground, Father remained resolute.

Like Jesus, who had to spread God's word in a wilderness swept by the wind, Father's sole aim was the liberation of God's homeland and the unity of his people. He did not hesitate to take on the wilderness course, with its raging wind and rain. Yet, deep down in Father's heart, flowed a river of longing that could not be described in words.

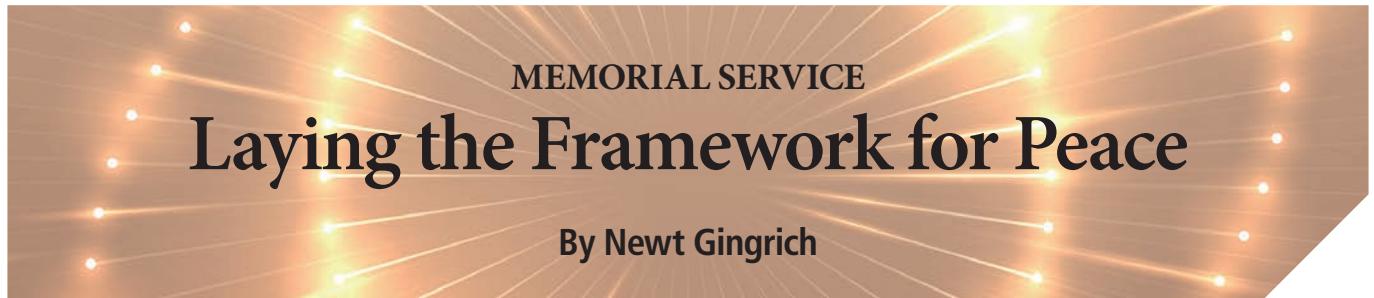
As Father ascended to the spirit world he held Mother's hand. His last words were, "Omma, thank you. Please take good care of everything." Mother began offering prayers at Father's tomb, Bonhyangwon, the original garden. For three years of 365 days, whether there were storms or blizzards, True Mother stoically offered devotions in remembrance of True Father and waited for the absent prodigal son to return. She lit the wick of a lamp, left the door open, and counted the stars in the night sky after each sunset and moonrise as she waited anxiously.

"I am the only one left." With a desperate heart, and only Heaven to hold on to, Mother went into the wilderness, buffeted by the wind and rain, to embrace the 7.8 billion people of the world. The Mother of Peace who wipes away the tears of humanity proclaimed the firm establishment of Cheon Il Guk and opened a new era under the great umbrella of the Heavenly Parent's Holy Community.

In an era of despair amid the coronavirus pandemic, Mother hosted online Rallies of Hope, marking the thirtieth anniversary of their visit to North Korea with public slogans for peace. She has brought the vision of a heavenly unified Korea to germinate, and the flower of hope to blossom.

Think Tank 2022 for peace has taken off
for the reunification of the Korea Peninsula.
To realize this miracle of reunification,
Mother is sending flowers of peace across the mountains and streams of North Korea,
and has hung a beautiful flower lamp whose light
will liberate God's homeland—True Father's lifelong wish.
Heading across Gaeseong's Sonjook Bridge and Mansudae in Pyongyang,
toward Jeongju and Anju, the original garden of Eden,
and reaching the palace of flowers by the Dallae River in her hometown,
where rose and lily petals shimmer,
Mother continues to offer her utmost devotion today
and waits anxiously for God's land to be free.

Though we cannot even handle one thread of God's providence,
you have still blessed us as Cheon Il Guk Citizens and allowed us the grace of Cheonbo.
We are ushering in the providential spring of the new era of the heavenly heart.
O God! Please allow us to strike the Boshingak Bell of Jongro with our heads,
so that the sound of the dawn bells ringing in Cheon Il Guk will be heard throughout the world!
Allow us to shout out the advent of God's only begotten daughter, the Mother of unification!
Allow us to cut down cinnamon trees from the moon and pine trees from Mt. Baekdu to our heart's desire,
to build a mansion in that original garden by the Dallae River,
where we will attend our True Parents for eternity!
True Mother, please live long and remain in good health! 



I want to welcome all the dignitaries, parliamentarians and heads of state who gathered for this ninth annual celebration of the struggle for peace, led initially by Father Moon, continued now by Mother Moon. They are people who personally know the value of peace, people who experienced the pain of communism. In Father Moon's case, he was a prisoner in a North Korean communist prison. Mother Moon managed luckily to escape from North Korea before the war began, but both have an intimate deep knowledge of tyranny and of its cost to everyday normal human beings.

This is a particularly important time for you to be gathering to celebrate this effort. The uncertainties created in the world by the process in Afghanistan mean that all over the world people are going to be looking and saying, How can we move toward peace and not war and how can we move towards stability and freedom and not tyranny and dictatorship?

What you are doing is very important. Once again, Mother Moon and the worldwide effort she is leading is trying to help lay the framework for peace for all of us. And by participating, you are helping in that extraordinarily important process. I also want to thank Mother Moon and Father Moon for the enormous commitment they made in developing *the Washington Times*, reflecting their belief that having a strong solid America is so important to the whole process of trying to achieve peace.

The Washington Times is a leading voice for the efforts needed in order for us to have a peaceful world. So, thank you for participating. I think you will find this a very important moment that you will remember for the rest of your life. I think that it is vital, everyone, at this particular time, that you are willing to spend your time working on this effort to have peace. *TP*

Newt Gingrich was Speaker of the US House of Representatives 1995–1999.



Our Dear Mother Moon, the Mother of Peace, Your Excellencies, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen:

On behalf of myself, my family, the International Summit Council for Peace, ISCP-Africa, and indeed the entire college of ambassadors for peace, I wish to salute you on this special anniversary of the passing of Father Moon, the co-founder of the Universal Peace Federation.

This occasion, which marks the ninth anniversary of the passing of Father Moon serves to remind us, and all partners of the Universal Peace Federation, of the life and times of Rev. Moon. It is a time to reflect on the vision of peace, reconciliation and harmonious co-existence that Rev. Moon led and pursued with vigor.

I recall with a deep sense of nostalgia my last personal encounter with him on his visit to Nigeria in July 2011, when I was president of my country. It will be recalled that Nigeria was the last country in his life that he visited outside his country of residence. He believed in Nigeria and never hid his love for her and her people. The message of peace and reconciliation which he shared remains with us until today.

As a peacemaker, he lent his efforts to the successful peace process in many countries including Poland, Germany and the then USSR. It will also stand to his memory and indeed, to the credit of all of people of peace, when his dream for the reunification of the North Korea and South Korea, for which the multinational Think Tank has been set up, is achieved.

As we remember him today, ISCP Africa, which I chair, hereby restates our readiness to collaborate with bodies such as the Universal Peace Federation to promote dialogue, unification, peace and development in a unified Korean nation.

We also wish to congratulate Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, the co-founder of the Universal Peace Federation, for her capability, wisdom, commitment and untiring advocacy for global peace and harmonious existence and for carrying on with the initiatives which she co-founded with Rev. Moon.

As we reflect on Rev. Moon's legacies of love and peace, I urge the leaders of Korea to be open to continuous partnership with both local and international organizations in order to achieve lasting peace on the peninsula and the world. Let the healing of the world begin with reunification on the Korean Peninsula.

Once again, to all world leaders, let us reflect on the vision of Rev. Sun Myung Moon, and promote policies, programs and initiatives that will bring peace and harmony to our world. May the world stand with Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, so that together we shall continue to move with the laudable programs of the Universal Peace Federation, which is dedicated to world peace. I wish you all a happy anniversary celebration. I thank you all. *TP*

Goodluck Jonathan was president of Nigeria 2010–2015.



Dear Mother Moon, Your Excellencies, Ambassadors for Peace, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I greet you all, wishing that you are healthy and doing well. I am honored to be able to address you at this significant event, held on the occasion of the ninth anniversary of Rev. Moon's ascension.

To remember the day of Rev. Moon's passing, not in mourning but by celebrating his legacy and achievements is wonderful. We have a meaningful expression in Kosovo, "Let us not be sad that he left us, but let us rejoice and celebrate that we had him among us." I had the privilege to participate in the International Leadership Conference organized by UPF in February 2011. I met Rev. Moon at that time, when he was ninety-one years old.

I was amazed by the grandiose event itself, but I was especially surprised by the likability of a ninety-one-year-old man who could speak for hours—and with such passion. Throughout his life, Rev. Moon was a champion of interfaith cooperation, good governance, family values, reconciliation and service to others. Indeed, he lived his life for the sake of others, and his achievements are recognized and respected throughout the world.

For me to participate in the great work of the Universal Peace Federation which he founded together with Mrs. Moon is an honor. Today I am happy to see that Mother Moon is successfully continuing her husband's legacy of love and peace. Her visionary leadership can be clearly seen through the series of World Summits that UPF has held around the world in recent years, and through the Rallies of Hope that are being organized during the pandemic, which millions of people participate in online.

In December 2019, I had the opportunity to meet with President Moisiu from Albania and participate in the Continental Summit and Peace Blessing Festival held in Johannesburg, South Africa, where one hundred thousand people filled FNB Stadium; it was a truly amazing experience!

I believe that the work of UPF and its global peace initiatives will be increasingly needed and recognized as we live in a time of crises never seen before. It is a time for world leaders to reflect deeply, come together and develop a strategy to help humankind live as one world family.

As the pandemic continues to spread, we can see that the world was not prepared at all for this phenomenon. Surely this is a lesson for world leaders to start thinking differently. We should work together cooperatively and in consultation with one another for the sake of mutual prosperity and peace and be prepared for crises in the future.

I am convinced that UPF and its global network of ambassadors for peace have an important role to play as we pursue these efforts. Thank you once again for allowing me to address this important gathering. God bless you. 

Mr. Sejdiu was president of Kosovo 2006–2010.



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s a person who has always respected Rev. Sun Myung Moon's exceptional peace ideology and great achievements, I am honored to have been chosen to give this speech in memoriam of him on the ninth anniversary of his Holy Ascension.

I believe Rev. Moon was the first pioneer to propagate Korea's culture and ideology to all parts of the world, as well as being the most widely respected Korean in the world.

My first meeting with Rev. Moon dates back forty-some years to 1980. At the time, I was working as a professor in Korea University's College of Liberal Arts and serving as the director of the Research Institute of Korean Studies, and as such I was quite immersed in the compilation of a Chinese-Korean unabridged dictionary. We had been having much difficulty in procuring funds for the compilation, when Rev. Moon readily provided what was then quite a large sum in support of our project, even though he and I were complete strangers. He said, "The compilation of the Chinese-Korean unabridged dictionary will not only serve as a cornerstone of exchange between Korea and China in the future, but will also be directly linked to the fate of Korea in the coming days." His words and determination, shown at a time when Korea was yet to establish diplomatic relations with China, made me realize what a great and remarkable man Rev. Moon was.

Afterward, through various other experiences, I realized that Rev. Moon's great ideology, philosophy and vision are the new peace ideology for humanity created by fusing the West's Christian ideology with traditional Korean ideology.

Recently, the international community, including the UN, is holding active discussions on global citizenship, which entails all of humanity coming together in solidarity transcending nationality. Long before this, however, Rev. Moon went a step further and spoke of "one global family." To bring about a peaceful world with humanity living as one family, Rev. Moon invested endless passion, superhuman energy and an enormous amount of money to carry out his interreligious, international, interracial movement on a global scale.

Moreover, he attained incredible results in many fields, which is an almost impossible feat for a single individual. It is important for us to not only revere his greatest achievements but also to take the next step and reflect upon what he believed in and dreamed of. This is because human thought is flexible, unrestricted and limitless, to the point where it can transcend the entire universe.

Isn't it true that all kinds of unique cultural phenomena originating from the young Korean generation are spreading like wildfire across the world today? For the first time in history, Koreans and Korean culture have moved from the tributary to the mainstream in the creation of human history. Instead of being a passive object, they have become the active subject and moved to the center where they are now leading others.

However, when we reflect upon it, we can see that this great and unbelievable change is not mere coincidence. We cannot help being deeply moved, for we know that this phenomenon is actually the germination of seeds sown earlier by Rev. Moon despite all kinds of difficulties.

In 2012, two years after Rev. Moon ascended to the eternal realm, I was made chairman of the Sunhak Peace Prize Committee created by Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon to memorialize his great peace ideology and achievements, where I served faithfully until the fourth award ceremony. I believe that Rev. Moon in heaven is feeling deeply rewarded to see what has become a global peace prize in so short a time.

My firm belief is that Rev. Sun Myung Moon's heartfelt love for humanity will become a great beacon in human history and light the way for us all in the future. Dear Rev. Moon, who I am sure is looking upon us from the spirit world even at this very moment!

Please give us much wisdom and courage and help us bring together all of humanity as one global family through your great ideology, philosophy and vision. I pray for Rev. Moon in heaven to be eternally at peace. 

Dr. Hong is chief director of the Research Institute for Cultural Territory and a past president of Korea University.



Though this day comes around every year, I always miss him with all of my heart. I cannot help but long to once again see the face of Rev. Sun Myung Moon, who brought sunlight to Pyongyang with his bright yet rumbling voice, with Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon by his side.

One reason for my missing Rev. Sun Myung Moon so much could be the harsh reality I am facing, in which my brethren, my family, my brothers and sisters and my friends are still unable to escape from the “Republic of Darkness.” Looking upon today’s situation, in which we talk of justice and peace and yet cannot say even a word to the leading characters in that Republic of Darkness makes me realize once again what a bold and heroic man Rev. Sun Myung Moon was.

Though we talk of peace and prosperity, we are as yet unable to grasp unification even in its simplest form, which would entail nothing more than our sitting together with our separated families and sharing a meal together. Perhaps that is why I miss Rev. Sun Myung Moon all the more.

Nowadays, grand words related to unification and peace flood our conversations. However, those words have as yet failed to bring about such historic results as shining warm rays of sunlight directly on the suffering residents of North Korea. Indeed, Rev. Moon stood boldly, courageously and, at the same time, endearingly, in Pyongyang, the center of the Republic of Darkness, and solemnly declared the end of the Juche Ideology, saying that it is wrong, and inadequate for uniting our homeland. I truly, truly miss him and how heroic he looked that day.

On this day, I cannot help missing him to my very core. On the other hand, today is also the day on which the more we miss him, the more shame we feel as we reflect upon our being unable to follow him undauntedly upon the path he trod during his lifetime. We cannot help feeling ashamed at the thought that, if we had inherited his courage, his Unification Thought and his achievements completely, our present situation would perhaps be different from what it is. However, we will stand up and march forward once again.

We will inherit the achievements accomplished by Rev. Sun Myung Moon in Pyongyang and once again march forward determinedly toward a heavenly unified Korea under Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon’s leadership. This determined pledge is also the pledge we renew every year on this day when we miss Rev. Moon more than ever. We will not hesitate. We will follow in the footsteps of Rev. Sun Myung Moon. 

Myung-chul Cho is a professor at Sun Moon University. After defecting from North Korea, he served as a South Korean National Assemblyman 2012–16.



On the ninth anniversary of Reverend Sun Myung Moon's passing, I welcome this opportunity to share a few thoughts on the life and legacy of a good friend.

Reverend Moon was a powerful voice for freedom in the world. As a young man, he endured unspeakable horrors in a North Korean prison camp. Thankfully, he escaped and found refuge in South Korea, where he committed himself to fighting the evils of communism. He understood—perhaps better than anyone else—the destructive potential of the communist ideology.

And so, he devoted his life to building up the strongest bulwark against tyranny: the family. He was a spiritual leader and a role model to countless across the globe—and he used his influence to affirm the centrality of the family in a world that had long ago forgotten its value. His beloved wife, Mother Moon, was his partner in this cause, and together they worked to bring hope and happiness to families across the world.

I believe that an attack on one religion is an attack on all. That's why I supported Reverend Moon when it appeared that his religious beliefs were being threatened. Whether you wear a mezuzah or go to a mosque, whether you follow Buddha or the Bible, the US Constitution empowers you to worship God according to the dictates of your own conscience. Reverend Moon believed this as well.

Reverend Moon used his global platform to defend the ideals of freedom, faith and family through the Washington Times, which he established in 1982. To this day, the publication has a dedicated readership and a talented stable of writers who ably defend American values through the written word. Reverend Moon's legacy lives on not only through this paper but through the millions of individuals he touched over a lifetime of service. I am grateful to have known Reverend Moon and I wish peace and blessings upon his family, friends and loved ones as we look back on his remarkable life. 

Orrin Hatch was a United States senator 1977–2019. He chaired the Senate Hearing on Religious Liberty on June 26, 1984, at which True Father testified.

