HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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True Parents celebrated their birthday in Korea on February 23rd. Below, Dr. Yang and Rev. Jenkins present a painting of all the American Presidents as a gift from the American Church. See centerfold for more Birthday photos.
by Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon

This is the address Father gave at the True Parents’ Birthday (88th birthday by Korean counting), held at the Cheon Jeong Peace Palace, Korea on February 23, 2007. This is also “Peace Message 12.”

Distinguished former heads of state, guests from home and abroad who love peace and who have come from every corner of the earth to celebrate and commemorate this day:

First of all, my wife Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, our entire family and I would like to welcome you all to this occasion. We would like to express our sincere gratitude for your efforts on the front line in fulfilling our mission of advance- ing the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) and realizing peace for all humanity.

As you may know, following the coro- nation ceremonies at which I was acknowledged as the King of Peace - held both in a United States Senate Office Building and at the Korean National Assembly, in 2004 - I founded the Universal Peace Federation in New York City on September 12, 2005. On the foundation of those victories, on June 13, 2006, we held the Entrance Cer- mony for the Cheon Jeong Peace Palace and the Coronation Ceremony of the True Parents as the King and Queen of Peace in Heaven and on Earth. These were each steps toward the establish- ment of the kingdom of heaven on earth, which in Korean I call Cheon Il Guk. Heaven's providence is progressing rapidly each day. In its course for the establishment of Cheon Il Guk, a day can feel like a thousand years and a thousand years can feel like a single day.

Distinguished world leaders, this year, 2007, the seventh year of Cheon Il Guk, is a jubilee year in the provi- dence. In this holy year, today is also the sixty-fifth year of Cheon Il Guk, is a jubilee year in the provi- dence. In this holy year, today is also the establishment of Cheon Il Guk, a day can feel like a thousand years and a thousand years can feel like a single day.

Ahn Shi Il • 6th, 14th, 22nd, 30th

In resemblance of God and obtain the in order to instill in them absolute val- ues, which spring from an absolute standard. Thus, human beings must follow the way of that unchanging stan- dard in keeping with the demands of the heavenly path. This means we must follow our destined life course in order to attend God, our eternal parent. In other words, for us to perfect ourselves in resemblance of God and obtain the stature of people of character who can be called sons and daughters of the

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Citizens of Cheon Il Guk Are Called to Fulfill

eternal God, we must follow the path based on the unwavering standard God has determined. The essence of this path is the standard of absolute sexual purity.

The first stage is maintaining absolute sexual purity prior to getting married. After we are born, we go through a process of growth. We pass through infancy and childhood in a very safe and secure environment under our parents’ love and protection. We then enter the period of adolescence, which signifies the start of a new and dynamic life. This is the moment when we begin to travel the path to becoming a mature human being - internally, through the perfection of our character, and externally, by reaching adulthood. During this time there is a strict requirement that everyone must meet, no matter who they are: that is, maintaining their purity.

Second is establishing the model of absoluteness in the relationship of husband and wife. It is the heavenly law of total marital fidelity that is more precious than life itself. Husband and wife are eternal partners given to each other by God. Through having children, they become the co-creators of true love, true life and true lineage, and the origin of that which is absolute, unique, unchanging and eternal.

How could people who preserve their purity before marriage, and whom God bonds together in purity as husband and wife, ever deviate from the heavenly way and go astray, following a wrong path?

Ladies and gentlemen, absolute and sacred conjugal love is the greatest blessing that Heaven has bestowed on humankind. Yet, without adhering to the principle of absolute sexual morality, the path to the perfection of one’s character - spiritual maturity - is closed. Furthermore, without securing the foundation of absolute sexual purity within a true family of perfected individuals, it is impossible for God to manifest His presence in dignity as the incarnate God of character. Therefore, if Adam and Even had achieved individual perfection - the perfection of their character - by upholding the strict principle of sexual purity in accordance with God’s will, and then entered into conjugal relations that were in accordance with the Holy Blessing, they would have attained complete oneness with Him. God would have dwelt with them in their union. The difference would have also been linked to this holy order of true love, and enjoyed a direct relationship with God. This is the principle of absolute sexuality that we maintain today.

The Attributes of True Love

What is true love? Its essence does not lie in receiving but in being the first to give, in living for the sake of others and not for the sake of the larger whole. True love gives, forgives, and continuously participates without ceasing. True love gives joyfully. We find it in the joyful and loving heart of a mother who cradles her baby to her arms and nurses it at her breast. True love is sacrificial love, as with a filial son who gains his greatest satisfaction through helping his parents.

When we are bound together in true love, we can be together forever, continualy rejoicing in each other’s company. The attraction of true love brings all things in the universe to our feet; even God will come to dwell with us. Nothing can compare to the value of true love.

It has the power to dissolve the barriers that humans have created, including national boundaries, the barriers of race, culture, nationality and religion. Among the three, the barrier of race is the greatest obstacle. It is the sacred rite of the change of lineage, through which everyone can be re-created through the True Parents. They are the King and Queen of Peace, the manifestation of God in substance, who enable Him to exercise His power.

The Importance of Lineage

Do you know what has pained God’s heart most, causing Him the greatest grief over the long history since the Fall of Adam and Eve? God lost His lineage. With it, God lost the basis of human brotherhood and even His ownership over the creation. God’s lineage is more precious than life itself. Yet, this was lost. Without it, the fruits of true life and true love never matured.

Ladies and gentlemen, lineage is more important than life and more precious than love. Love and life come together to create lineage. Lineage cannot be established if either life or love is missing. Therefore, among the three - love, life and lineage - lineage is the fruit. God’s lineage contains the seed of true love. God’s lineage provides the context and environment for a true life.

Hence, for us to become the ideal people envisioned by God, that is, people of ideal character, and to create ideal families, we first need to be linked to His lineage. To take it a step further, only when we are linked to God’s lineage is it possible to create God’s homeland, the ideal nation.

Please insert the importance of lineage in your hearts. I cannot emphasize this enough. This is because the parent-child relationship is the highest and most important of all relationships, and the model for the heavenly relationship between parent and child is the only way through which God’s lineage can be bequeathed and made to last forever. You must be clear on this point.

Cross-cultural Marriage Blessing

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, our bondage to the lineage of Satan has caused so much suffering throughout history. It was instituted by the True Parents, who bring God’s true lineage to humankind. Without changing your lineage, you cannot change your seed. The best way to create people is to change the position of children of God through changing their lineage. This is what we call the Holy Blessing. These marriages contribute to the great task of transcending the barriers of race, culture, nationality and religion, and to creating one family of humankind. It is a revolutionary occasion, creating the heavenly lineage on a completely new level, transcending the obstacles of race, culture, nationality and religion. It is an act that blesses people of all ages.

The path is open wide for all people to change their lineage through the Holy Wine Ceremony. This is an act that the Holy Blessing is yours that you may establish true families. The responsibility you are called to fulfill is to teach others, without fail, that the perfection of a life of absolute sexual morality through the cross-cultural Marriage Blessing is the ultimate means and method to establish a peaceful, ideal world here on earth.

A Family of Three Generations

Ladies and gentlemen, the family sets the pattern for living together. The family is the foundation that is based on love and respect between parents and children, mutual fidelity and love between husband and wife, and trust and mutual reliance among siblings is the manifestation of the ideal family of peace. This means that you need to establish a true family, where in the stem of true love emerges from the root of true love and bears the fruit of true love.

In this manner, the three generations of grandparents, parents, and children should live together as one family and serve God with a heart that desires to see such families, and it is your responsibility as tribal messiahs and ambassadors for peace to strive for this.
CITIZENS
from page 3

and establish them - families of Cheon Il Guk, the kingdom of God.

Ladies and gentlemen, you should form families that God will miss and yearn to return to after He has been away. He should feel comfortable to visit your home like any parent coming to visit his or her children. This is what it means to live in service to God. With- in such a family, God is the vertical subject over your conscience, and your conscience is the vertical subject over your body. Thus, unity with God brings your mind and body into harmony.

- Family members who have estab- lished that vertical axis can perfect the four realms of love and heart - parental love, conjugal love, children’s love, and siblings' love. That family links all direc- 

tions - up and down, front and rear, and right and left. They revolve around each other in everlasting spherical motion. This is the eternal God's model, ideal family, which expands to ideal nation models and a peaceful, ideal kingdom.

This means we need a movement to realize a society of interdependence, mutual prosperity and universally shared values. We need to make humanity one great family, by breaking down the walls in our hearts and eliminating even the boundaries between nations. This move- ment begins from each family. If only the entire world were filled with such true families! It would be an orderly world where people governed themselves by the heavenly way and heavenly laws, with no need for lawyers, prosecutors or even judges.

Who would be most fully aware of your good and bad deeds? It would be your grandparents, your parents, your spouse and your children. Is there any- thing that cannot be resolved within the family? When parents and children, husband and wife, and elder siblings and younger siblings set an example of living for the sake of one another, why is it impossible to forgive any mistakes? What reason would they have to com- 

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Birthday Celebration!

by Rev. Michael Jenkins

Words cannot describe the emotions we went through on this particular birthday celebration. The former Prime Minister of Korea gave a tribute to Father that was astounding. A few years ago not one Korean Congressman could publicly stand with us, but the reality of Father’s education of 20,000 of the top leaders of the nation in Japan over the last two years has had enormous impact. The Prime Minister who also was the former President of the prestigious Seoul National University. He strongly testified that Father’s work was real and substantial and not only the most significant work to bring North and South Korea together it is a well recognized work that is the most significant and comprehensive work for peace combining all nations, religions and peoples. It is truly unbelievable.

We are in tears here in Korea. Father’s life is being recognized. Though we still hold, today to day and so many seem to not understand truly the providential time has changed. 98 means a new beginning twice. For Father he feels he is just beginning the true life in the Kingdom.

At the morning pledge at 8 am True Father and Mother came in silver crowns and golden and brightly orange matching robes. The dignity and honor there carry is beyond words. The UPF conferences were in attendance at the 10 am ceremony and Father and Mother were in western clothes. The former Prime Minister of Mongolia gave a profound affirmation that the leader of the world of peace is Father Moon. The delegations at the conference were a completely different level. So many sitting together of our world. So many first ladies of countries, former and current heads of state. Without question the world leaders are directly being educated.

At the core the religious leaders stand out. Sheikh Sajid who has gained metoric recognition by Tony Blair as the concerns over extremist Muslim acts have put him in a key role. Another very very important Muslim leader was Sheikh Muhammad Kanaan, the Supreme Judge of the Sharia Courts of the Sunni faith in Lebanon, his recent role has done much to heal this country together during these troubled times.

Another key was the Bishop of Jerusalem. Another key leader was Lord Ahmed the first Muslim house of Lords. He visited Palestine and Jerusalem with me a few times. He met the speaker of the Israel Knesset and had a respectful but very frank dialogue. In the Middle East Peace Initiative he opened the session by saying I must first announce that the largest prison in the world is the Gaza strip. He then went on to give a very balanced view of Great Britain.

To everyone surprise Dr. Glaubach got up and with no shred of anger he said, Lord Ahmed, I agree with what you say. I would like to hug you as my brother. Lord Ahmed said anytime that will be fine. How about now Dr. Glaubach said? He said great and he hugged. Taj Hamad did an amazing job with this and as always Dr. Kaufman guided the deeper sensitivities of the religious leaders concerns always working to promote understanding and reconciliation. Imam Elahi gave a strong condemnation of Muslim based violence as an incorrect understanding of Islam and the Koran. He did not mince words however on how serious the west must be to not generalize and discriminate against Muslims who for the vast majority of 1.3 billion are traditional family people who believe that the people of the book must cooperate together to build a peaceful world. They-majority of mainstream muslims respect all believers.

Dr. Yang did a very through power-point on the MEPI development presenting many statistics gleaned from Palestinian and Israeli sources. All it was all it was quite an impact. Bishop Stalling then concluded with a written statement to the conference from Rev. Fauntroy who couldn’t attend because of a death of a very close personal friend. Rev. Fauntroy called upon UPF to lead the way to solving the conflict in the Middle East and the North South Korea noting that it is the lead organization most prepared to do this. To our surprise he announced the formation of a Bipartisonif coalition of high level U.S. congressmen who are backing this efforts along with major Mainline churches from the U.S. and from the Middle East.

The UPF’s strength is that it brings the most significant religious majority on the ground in the Middle East to an effort that promotes dialogue and creates the use of violence. UPF offers the highest and most recognizable names in the Muslim, Jewish and Christian world. It is surprising that is the reality because the UPF which supports King Abdullah its similar initiative that Religious Cooperation toward peace cannot be done through tolerance of one another but must go deeper to the realm of genuine acceptance that these faith traditions came from God. That has been the core teaching from Rev. Moon for over 60 years. It is documented and very high level people are paying attention. Most of the Middle East is watching.

Dr. Thomas Walsh and Dr. Chung Hwan Kwak and Dr. Thomas Walsh must be very deep respect and gratitude, UPF is given such a heavy burden but they are successfully leading us to fulfill the ideal of the one Family Under God.

Have confidence my brothers and sisters. The Kingdom of Peace is coming and cannot be stopped. All of God’s people which is the vast majority of the 6.5 billion people on earth are behind this. They believe in the sanctity of the ideal of One Family Under God. This is our theme and our covenant. There is one God. And we are his people.

Praise God, Glory to the Parents of Heaven and Earth and the King and Queen of Peace. The Scripturists are being fulfilled through True Love. Each family will be blessed and engraved to the True Olive Tree which come from the one True God (Allah) of mankind. ﷺ
The Universal Peace Federation is developing rapidly as a leading movement for world peace. As we look ahead in 2007 we have a clear mission, method, strategy and set of objectives. Today I would like to share with you some of the highlights of our Agenda 2007.

In terms of UPF’s mission, we can say confidently say that it is building a world of lasting peace: one global family under God. That is a world in which people of every race, religion, nationality and culture can live together in mutual respect, love, harmony and co-prosperity. The essence of our methodology is unselfish love, living for the sake of others. We seek dialogue, reconciliation and cooperation. Peace is not achieved through struggle, opposition, polarization and division. A peacemaker is one who seeks to build bridges of dialogue and understanding.

There are two primary areas of work for UPF: peacebuilding and human development. We understand both areas in a very comprehensive way.

What do we mean by comprehensive?

First of all, it means that we understand “peace” or “human development” as related to all the essential spheres of human life, from the individual, to the family, to the community, to civil society, to the nation and on the global level. Additionally, it means that we understand that both peacebuilding and human development are to be addressed from a multi-sectoral or collaborative perspective or strategy. We do not pursue peace simply from a political or military perspective, or human development from simply an economic perspective. Rather, to effectively address the critical issues of peace and development, we approach problems comprehensively, with all available resources and tools, and pay attention to all relevant factors: politics, government policies, governance, religion, education, culture, family, arts, sports, media, economics and business.

It is in this respect that the various associations of Ambassadors for Peace such as Women for Peace, Youth for Peace, Parliamentarians for Peace, Business Leaders for Peace, and so on, are critical and essential. Each has something unique and essential to contribute, just like the players on a football team.

Throughout this coming year, we will intensify and upgrade our efforts for peace in the Middle East, in Northeast Asia, and other trouble spots around the world.

In addition to these peace initiatives, there are two core projects that grow out of our mission to influence the development of our human development, and humanitarian work.

The first is the Bering Strait Peace Bridge and Tunnel Project. This is a good example of a project that is multi-sectoral or collaborative effort and a comprehensive vision. The Bering Strait crossing will require intergovernmental agreements between the US, Canada and Russia. It will need a clear business plan and substantial financial investment, as well as scientific feasibility and environmental
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This address was given in Seoul, Korea, on February 21, 2007.

The UPF Summit was held in Seoul, Feb. 20–24, 2007, on the theme is “Forming Alliances at a Time of Global Crisis" has concluded successfully. Four key groups of leaders from a wide range of professional fields came together, including current and former heads of state and government, distinguished religious leaders, parliamentarians and outstanding women leaders, to explore new options for peace.

As taught by UPP’s Founder, there are three core or root causes of our world’s problems. The first relates to lineage, that is, to marriage and family. Unless marriage, as the means of reproduction through love, is fully aligned with a vision of peace centered on God, there is little hope that the next generation will have the tools needed to transform this world. Marriage is to be a partnership of man and woman, and when it is centered on the highest spiritual principles, it is the most powerful instrument of peace that has ever existed.

On the other hand, family breakdown destabilizes not only the husband and wife but also their children and extended family. Families are the core component of our society, and their breakdown through infidelity, promiscuity and thievery undermines peace.

Secondly, there is the loss of true sibling love, that is, the love, harmony and cooperation that should exist between brothers. This tragic reality is seen in the story of Cain and Abel. In the first family, after Adam and Eve had been expelled from their place in God’s garden and had married, their elder son, Cain, killed their younger son, Abel. This story illustrates the human problem. As we examine the conflict between nations, religions, races, ethnic groups, political ideologies, and economic classes, we see the recurrence of the Cain and Abel pattern.

Abel was slain by his brother, even though he was relatively closer to God and more pure-hearted. The essence of the Abel-like person is to live for the sake of heaven and for the sake of others. For this reason, Father Moon encourages us to become Abel-like persons, to develop Abel-like institutions, governments, nations and even religions. In fact he also be said of the UPF to become an “Abel-type” United Nations, "offering its efforts for peace to heaven and ceaselessly living for the sake of others.”

Thirdly, humanity has lost its relationship with the material world. We are not true owners or stewards of the things of this world. Instead, we have been so corrupted by greed and selfishness that we do not take care of the things around us, including the earth itself, and we do not serve the public good in our use of more knowledge and technology. This leads to increased poverty, disease, and selfish materialism that result in environmental decline.

Given this reality, how can we move forward and create a world of true and lasting peace?

Three Core Principles

When Father Moon first began speaking of a vision of a universal family of humanity, known in Korean as cheonilguk, he said there are three core principles. First, purity and fidelity are needed to protect the sacred value and integrity of marriage and family. Secondly, we must each have respect and reverence for not only the rights of each and every human being, but for one’s heart, that is, each person’s essential core, which is their desire to be fulfilled in true love as a son or daughter of God. And third, we need to have a correct attitude and practice in the use of public money and public goods.

The starting point and front line of peace is not to be found in some external institution or situation. The starting point is within me. The question we each must ask is, “Can I recognize and overcome the corruption within my own heart?” Before I ask my neighbor to change, I must look deep within myself, understand my faults and set out on a course of self-correction.

The next focus of peacebuilding is with those who are near and dear to me, my family, my school, my social groups and so on. The third focus is to work with those who are far away, those who are not only in this world but also in heaven. In heaven also, we have our place and role, and we are called to work. We are here to fulfill a divine mission and task to reestablish heaven on earth. This mission is to work with the powers of heaven to develop the strength to love the enemy, to overcome hate and to overcome violence and armaments.
Blessing should be perfected in five ents. The providence of the Marriage recover the true lineage that was lost glory. blossom and bear fruit in blessing and You have the mission to make this era begun is a time of dramatic change. Our Mission as Cheon Il Guk, a counterpart to the ty of universal peace known in Korean carry out the role of an Abel-type peace True Parents’ blood, sweat and tears. It is the realm of heart in which the spiritual and physical worlds are bound together as a unified realm with True Parents, the King and Queen of Peace. In other words, it is the time of the kingdom of peace and unity in heaven and on earth. our resources can be of significant help multi-sectoral support. UPF believes that is an enormous challenge and requires specific focus on helping the most vul- Millenium Development Goals. These religious leaders should be at the fore- this project, as a humanitarian, peace awareness of the enormous potential of religious organizations to Enlisting religious organizations to rally involved in the work of the UPF. Our Goals for this Summit programs to be carried out this year. with reference to some of the specific and old people alike with a vision of not ignore the larger purpose and the rights and responsibilities, but also their moral and spiritual responsibi- These are some examples of the UPF’s approach to peace and development, with reference to some of the specific programs to be carried out this year. Our Goals for this Summit Most of all, we want you to be cen- trally involved in the work of the UPF. We believe that each of the four core groups at this summit can con- tribute greatly to the primary pro- gram initiatives of the UPF: Middle East peace, North- east Asia peace, the Bering Strait Pro- ject, and the efforts to support the Un- ited Nations in the achievement of the Millennium Devel- opment Goals. Additionally, within the UPF’s twelve regions, there are substan- tial programs and peace initiatives. Throughout this Summit I hope you can give serious attention and consideration to the ways in which you might contribute effec- tively to the mission and work of the UPF. We hope you will participate in UPF’s Ambas- sador for Peace Associations, as well as in the regional and national Peace Councils of the UPF. Heads of state and gov- ernment, reli- gious leaders, women leaders and parliamen- tarians all have essential roles to play. Additionally, in the course of our Summit you will have the opportunity to learn of many other programs and projects being carried by UPF in 2007. In conclusion I want to thank all the members of the Presid- ing Council, the Global Peace Council and the Secretariat. Much work has gone into refi- ning and developing UPF’s charter and governing structure, as well as its capacities for implementation. These improvements call for increased involve- ment of the members of the Presiding Council, the Global Peace Council, the Regional Peace Councils, and the affiliated organizations. Step by step, we are moving forward. Increasingly the world is taking notice of our work, our vision and methods, and the outcomes of our efforts. This trend will continue to increase significantly throughout this year. May God bless each one of you, your family and your nation. Thank you.
Chung II Guk Leaders Assembly 2007
SEOUL, KOREA • February 24 – 26
ACL New York Prayer Breakfast

by Rev. Tom Corley

The New York ACLC February breakfast meet-
ing was held February 10th 2007 at the Manhattan Fami-
ly Church located at 4 West 14th Street in New
York City. It is also the home of the UTS extension, which
was our host for this month.

All participants were warm-
ly welcomed by emcee Sister Davetta Oziolou.

Dr. Ronald Brown, a pro-

fessor of world religions and

adjunct professor at the UTS

extension, was invited to give
welcoming remarks. He noted
how wonderful it was to see
so many people in attendance
early on a Saturday morning
when so many other things
compete for our attention.

Rev. William Shultz read

a poem in honor of black his-
tory month focusing on two things: peo-
lle’s search for love and their own iden-
tity. Rev. Juanita Pierre-Louis offered
the invocation, noting that every cell in our
body needs prayer, and she asked us all
to think of how great God is.

Following Rev. Shultz, Dr. Lonnie McLeod,
who is pastor of the Living Hope Church
in East Harlem and professor at the UTS
extension, among his many other respon-
sibilities, was called upon to say a few
inspirational words. He began by declar-
ing all he ever wanted to do was to pro-
vide enrichment and add life for God’s
people, and that what attracted him to
the Unification Theological Seminary was
its focus on the family. Dr. McLeod served
as president of the ExodusTransitional
Community, an organization that deals
with the re-entry of prisoners into socie-
ty. Many come from broken families. He
explained that we can do what we can to
fix the cracks that result from mistakes
in the foundation, but that unless we solve
the problem of the foundation, these prob-
lems will only get worse. He said the fam-
ily is that foundation, and that is why he is
at UTS. After all, he said, God started
with the family. We cannot hope to unify
the world, a man who has dedicated his
entire life, his fortune, his family, to build-
ing the Kingdom of God on Earth. Yes,
there have been speeches and sermons,
but they have been backed by correspon-
ding action. The Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon
is extolling us to action, just as Christ ex-
tends us to action in the scripture.

Rev. Moon is telling us it is
time to do something more
about the human condi-
tion.

Following Rev. Hard-
away’s sermon, Rev. Grodner,
with Rev. Wesley and Gladys
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Los Angeles ACLC Prayer Breakfast

by Joy L. Garrett

The first prayer breakfast of 2007 was held by the Los Angeles American Clergy Leadership Conference on February 24 in the Fellowship Hall of Hayes Tabernacle CME Church located in South Central Los Angeles near the famous Watts Towers.

Even before the official program began, ACLC members and guests began networking. This was due to the fact that one of the first two guests to arrive proved to be “Sweet Alice” Harris, executive director of Parents of Watts (PWW) in Los Angeles, and probably one of the most gifted, effective networkers to ever walk the halls of California’s state capital. As a veteran community activist of 35 years and the winner of the Lieutenant Governor’s 2002 California Woman of the Year award, Sweet Alice—yes, everyone calls her Sweet Alice—presides over more than 15 community-based programs striving to empower people in every aspect of their lives. Because of her years of caring involvement, she knew nearly every minister and guest who attended and they all knew her. Teacher Jack Ashworth, who has worked and fished with her for many years, invited her.

Dr. Nicholas Benson, First Summit Evangelical Church pastor, served as MC and brought the breakfast to an enthusiastic beginning as well as asking for a moment of silence to remember ACLC former co-convener Rev. Godfrey D’Silva. Rev. Ronald Stovall then opened with the invocation. Rev. J.L. Briggs of Christian Light MBC Church gave the New Testament reading from John 15:8-19, and Lutheran pastor Rev. Carlos Torres read excerpts from “The True Owners in Establishing the Kingdom of Peace and Unity in Heaven and Earth” by Rev. Sun Myung Moon.

Gracious Hayes pastor, Dr. Joseph Gardner, then offered the table grace prayer before the delicious breakfast buffet began. The more than 80 attendees did not mind waiting for their turn in the buffet line, either, because Keith Williams and Magdalene Millnap, Sadoc Christian Peace Family Church choir leaders, had them clapping and stomp- ing to their inspirational music while they waited.

As breakfast ended, Dr. Benson introduced Darlene D’Silva who thanked the many ACLC members who had visited Godwin and her family to comfort and pray for them. Darlene warmed up the audience by reminding them how powerful God’s love is and how real the spiritual realm is.

Rev. Margaret Tate, co-pastor of Christ Community Truth Church, then ignited the core breakfast program with her review of the ACLC National Goals and Objectives. Rev. Dr. William R. Johnson’s keynote address, “The Renewal of Community and Dissolving Racial Barriers,” set the program on fire. Rev. Dr. Johnson, Los Angeles ACLC co-chairman and pastor of Kashaway Community CME Church, traced the history of racism in the United States and then drove the point home that there is no place for racial discernment if we are to renew the community and fulfill the mission of ACLC as modeled by Rev. Moon and embodied in the Word of God through Christ.

His prophetic words echoed as the Sadoc Christian singers reprised the Middle East peace anthem, “Peace, Shalom, Salam Aleikum” during the offering. Supt. Charles Moore, of the Greater All Nations Pentecostal Church of Jesus Christ gave the offering prayer. The inspiration continued to flow as Norma Foster, president of the Hollywood Bowl Easter Sunrise Service, invited all the attendees to participate in the April 8th Easter event. ACLC actively supports this ecumenical, community-wide event. Father Pedro Contreras of the Old Catholic Church wrapped up the program with a report on the impact of his recent trip to Mexico on behalf of “Married Priests Now.” Participants then rose in unison and joined together for the closing song “Let There Be Peace on Earth” and the final prayer.

N. Ohio ACLC Prayer Luncheon

February’s ACLC Cleveland Prayer Breakfast was held February 24, 2007 in the Greater Gospel Temple OHOCOG. What a bright spirit this church has inside and out.

All gathered in the dining room for a down-home breakfast complete with fish fry. 30 people enjoyed the meal and then moved to the bright sanctuary for fellow-ship. Rev. Louis prayer echoed with love and power and Evangelist Aunta Wilkins testified boldly to Jesus. Sister Ann Grace rented a beautiful poem and Sister Green sang a won-derful gospel hymn. Dr. Thelma Johnson, our 6th District Co-Convener, spoke about ACLC goals and objectives and called on local members to stand and be recognized.

Keynote speaker Evangelist Carol Sowell was introduced by her sister Rose Sowell and shared her message on the “Power of Love” which is our current theme. We all felt a loving heart of a mother through her words as well as the great meal she had just prepared for all of us. She is truly a talented and warm sister who is living proof of love’s power in her daily life.

Brother Joel Lindstrom gave a beautiful prayer over the offering and Rev. and Mrs. Biddle performed the True Love Blessing Ceremony. A nicely prepared closing statement was given by Dr. Johnson. We offer our sincere thanks to her for working so hard and her sensitivity to make this event a success. Thanks always go also to our supportive Second Generation kids who help to make a rich and joyful spiritual atmosphere at our monthly gatherings.

As this meeting brought mostly new people to fellow-ship with us. Surely it will take time for new friends to understand well about ACLC. However all new contacts are clearly inspired by this unique and diverse group of saints and will come back to learn more.

Let us continue with faith to make this one world of friends and family under God! Aju!

PASTOR WANTED

The First Church of Omaha, Nebraska is seeking a qualified blessed couple in good standing, with high English proficiency and demonstrable pastoral experience (especially in youth ministry), to lead our church. References will be required.

The Omaha church consists of approximately 20 First Generation adults and 30 Second Generation children aged infant through 18.

We have our own small church building with a 3-bedroom house attached for the use of the pastor and his or her family.

For more information, call Eugene Curtin at (402) 201-2509

"The True Proposition" set the program on fire. Rev. Dr. Johnson, Los Angeles ACLC co-chairman and pastor of Kashaway Community CME Church, traced the history of racism in the United States and then drove the point home that there is no place for racial discernment if we are to renew the community and fulfill the mission of ACLC as modeled by Rev. Moon and embodied in the Word of God through Christ. His prophetic words echoed as the Sadoc Christian singers reprised the Middle East peace anthem, “Peace, Shalom, Salam Aleikum” during the offering. Supt. Charles Moore, of the Greater All Nations Pentecostal Church of Jesus Christ gave the offering prayer.

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Mr. Robert Beebe recently completed a trip to Tokyo, Japan, to present UPF’s Character Education Initiative to a forum of Ambassadors for Peace on January 26 at the Hotel New Otani. Present at the forum were approximately 20 Ambassadors for Peace, including several professors, religious leaders, social workers and politicians. Mr. Katsumi Ohtsuka, president of UPF-Japan, opened the program with some words about the importance of character education and how countries around the world have been adopting such programs in response to mounting youth problems. This was followed by Mr. Beebe’s PowerPoint presentation entitled “The Need for Character Education” in which he introduced UPF’s character education curriculum, “Discovering the Real Me.”

The topic at the UPF Forum was especially timely as the Japanese parliament (Diet) recently passed a resolution calling for reform in its education system to promote more family values. In the discussion following Mr. Beebe’s presentation, many at the forum expressed the opinion that UPF’s curriculum should be presented to the Ministry of Education as a resource in the creation of a curriculum in the implementation of the new resolution. Steps were taken in that direction through meetings with three members of the Diet’s House of Representatives during the day before the evening UPF Forum. Mr. Beebe and Mr. Yoshio Watanabe, secretary general of the Federation for World Peace of Japan, met with representatives from Diet. All three were very responsive to information about the UPF curriculum. They specifically asked for copies of the books for translation and offered to organize meetings with his contacts in the Ministry of Education to discuss the possibility of utilizing UPF’s curriculum in the education reform package.

The RYS project in Thailand was co-hosted by the Regional Office of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Asia and the Pacific which was held on the morning of December 17. It was attended by 300 youth, including RYS participants and local officials of Samut Prakan. The Deputy Governor, Hon. Wanida Bonprakong came to welcome the RYS participants and the volunteers for cleaning up the Bangphu Seashore and also to treat the polluted water. The construction work of the children’s playground and painting the old school building of Krong Bang Phu School were the centerpiece for everyone to come together. The local people, 15 students from Samut Prakan Technical School, more than 20 high school students and 5 students from Suan Kulab came as interpreters joined in to work together with the participants. Some local persons came with bread and juice to feed the participants and the local volunteers. The community to be involved in the project. We were able to get free medical treatment for two Australian participants: one had a food poisoning in Malaysia before coming to Thailand and the other had colds. Every time we leave the barracks, the police patrol always there to guide the bus. We were able to get half price for our accommodation, free entrance for our tour at the Crocodile farm and the Ancient City. At the Closing Ceremony for the Thai-land project in Samut Prakan, the Mayor came to give his Congratulatory speech to thank the participants for giving their time, effort and money in the small school of Bangphu. The head teacher and head of the village were very grateful that because of the RYS, the local government built a bus stop station in front of the school, which they never had before RYS came. Dr. Suthin Nophaket, Commissioner of Human Rights in Thailand and UPF Committee member and Peace Ambassador gave the Closing Remarks on behalf of UPF-Thailand. On that evening, it was like a festival for the entire village. We sing, dance together even an 80 year old grandmother came up the stage and dance together with their colleagues and other teachers throughout Japan.

The Roundtable Discussion on “The Meaning of Volunteering in my Own Faith”, we invited 5 speakers from different faiths: Bahai Community, Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism and Islam. The RYS project in Thailand was co-hosted by the Office of the Governor of Samut Prakan. There were 17 government and private agencies involved for the preparation for the project and to welcome our participants. Another project which is part of the RYS project in Thailand was the Clean-up Campaign co-hosted by the Regional Office of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Asia and the Pacific which was held on the morning of December 17. It was attended by 300 youth, including RYS participants and local officials of Samut Prakan. The Deputy Governor, Hon. Wanida Bonprakong came to welcome the RYS participants and the volunteers for cleaning up the Bangphu Seashore and also to treat the polluted water. The construction work of the children’s playground and painting the old school building of Krong Bang Phu School were the centerpiece for everyone to come together. The local people, 15 students from Samut Prakan Technical School, more than 20 high school students and 5 students from Suan Kulab came as interpreters joined in to work together with the participants. Some local persons came with bread and juice to feed the participants and the local volunteers.
UTS Advances Interfaith Program
With Visit by Local Muslims

On Friday February 2nd students, faculty and staff at Unification Theological Seminary (UTS) welcomed seven Muslim guests from Massachusetts and New Jersey to the Barrytown campus for a day of interfaith dialogue, common spiritual practice, and discussion on steps to develop UTS as a premier institution for inter-religious peace building.

Participants from Massachusetts included Imam Rasul Seifullah, spiritual leader of the Al-Haque Mosque in Springfield, Massachusetts, and his wife Medina; as well as Khalilah Karim Rushdan, Chaplain and Muslim Advisor at Smith College, and her husband Imam Dawud. Participants from New Jersey included Imam Dawud Assad, President Emeritus, Council of Mosques, USA; as well as Imam Ameer Salahudeen, Imam of the Masjid Alnoor in Wappingers Falls, and his wife Zakiyyah. All of the Muslim participants are also Ambassadors for Peace (AP) with the Universal Peace Federation.

The day began with a breakfast at Barrytown campus. The Doctor of Ministry Degree Program at UTS lead the group through a labyrinth walk in the UTS chapel. Then the group met with five UTS professors for the first Advisory Council Meeting for the development of UTS as an inter-religious peace seminary.

To conclude the day, the Muslim guests traveled with UTS faculty staff to the Friday prayer (Jumu’ah) at a local mosque, the Masjid Alnoor in Wappingers Falls. After prayers, the APs and UTS faculty and staff met members of the Masjid Alnoor, including the resident Imam, the General Secretary and the President of the Executive Committee, to discuss the ways in which UTS can serve the needs of the local Muslim community.

The program was held to commemorate Four Chaplains Day, which is honored on February 3rd across America in order to preserve the legacy of “interfaith in action” as demonstrated in the heroic sacrifice of four military chaplains of different faiths who gave their lives on that day in 1943.

When their ship was struck by a torpedo, the four Chaplains were among the first on deck, calming the men and handing out life jackets. When they ran out, they took off their own and placed them on waiting soldiers without regard to faith or race. Approximately 18 minutes from the explosion, the ship went down.

They were the last to be seen by witnesses; they were standing arm-in-arm on the hull of the ship, each praying in his own way for the care of the men.

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Contact: Henry Christopher
UTS Community Relations Director
607-423-5010

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For full job description, please call Dr. Winings at: (212) 563-6647, ext. 104. Please indicate which position you are seeking to fill.

Three Great Positions Available at UTS

Full Time Recruitment Officer:

Experienced recruitment officer needed for urban graduate seminary, savvy in marketing, publications and networking. Should be people-oriented, able to work with a diverse market, including clergy and religious leaders, with innovative thinking and a dedication to results. The recruitment officer will be responsible primarily for recruiting new students for UTS, savvy in marketing, publications and networking.

The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate basic office skills, be able to complete detailed tasks, and be able to get along with a diverse student body.

Part Time Administrative Assistant:

The Doctor of Ministry Degree Program at UTS is seeking to hire an energetic person who can take initiative to work part-time as an Administrative Assistant to the Program Director. The responsibilities of this person would be to support the key areas of admissions, recruitment, and program support. The successful candidate will be able to do such tasks as large mail outs utilizing a database, on-going communications with students, general office work, monitoring the phones and general record keeping. This person should be organized and be detail-oriented and be able to work alone.

It is possible that, with the right candidate, the two part-time positions may be combined into one hire.

Please send resume and 2 letters of reference to: Dr. Kathy Winings, c/o UTS, 481 8th Avenue, 9th Floor, NYC, NY 10001. BBPInuit@aol.com. For full job description, please call Dr. Winings at: (212) 563-6647, ext. 104. Please indicate which position you are seeking to fill.

Student body. The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate basic office skills, be able to complete detailed tasks, and be able to get along with a diverse student body.
BIRTHDAY
Godwin Macarius D’Silva was born on January 2, 1958, to George D’Silva and Christina Fernandez D’Silva in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. His parents, natives of India, had moved to Malaysia for his father’s job. The oldest of six children, Godwin was soon followed by Louise, Susan, Bernard, Annet and Camelia. Raised in the Roman Catholic faith, Godwin attended high school at Victoria Institution, a prestigious prep school and the oldest school in Kuala Lumpur. He won a scholarship to Oxford University where he majored in computer science and sought to understand the deeper meaning of life. In 1979, he met Ralph Latchman of the Unification Church. After studying the principles and deeply praying and meditating, he joined the church on January 2, 1980. He then moved into the Oxford CARP Student Center where he lived for two years. In 1980 Godwin came to the United States in order to serve as a missionary. Through participating on a mobile fundraising team and witnessing in Ohio and New York City, he came to deeply understand the challenges people faced both individually and collectively in their lives and made a deep commitment to working in America. In 1982, after working for Master Marine for a brief period, he brought his practical skills in finance to a job as an accountant with News World Communications in New York City.

It was while working at News World that he was blessed in Holy matrimony by the Rev. and Mrs. Sun Myung Moon on July 1, 1982 to his beautiful wife Darlene Antoinette Stewart. Their cross cultural marriage introduced Godwin to the soul food and soul music of Darlene’s Detroit hometown and introduced Darlene to the richness of Godwin’s South Asian heritage. When News World opened a Spanish newspaper division in 1984 in Los Angeles, Godwin was the natural choice to head up the accounting department. By 1987 he was serving as the general manager. Meanwhile, Godwin and Darlene began their family life in Alhambra. Godwin cherished the birth of his daughter Priya on July 4, 1987, and the birth of his son Urian on November 6, 1989. He was deeply moved by the opportunity to grow his heart not only as a husband, son and brother, but as a father as well.

In 1993 Godwin returned to his deep calling to do religious and interfaith work and became the state leader of Southern California for the Unification Church, ultimately becoming the first vice regional director in 2000. With a desire to deepen his understanding and knowledge of not only Christianity but the world’s great religious traditions, he entered the Unification Theological Seminary after finishing his B.S. at Regents College of the University of the State of New York. In 2003, he graduated from UTSC with a Masters in Religious Education and returned to Los Angeles where he fulfilled the post of state leader of Southern California.

During his years as state leader, Godwin helped to start the Ocean Challenge Project in 1992 and has continued to serve as a board member. He worked on The California Faith Council, helped organize a National Parent’s Day program for the City of Southgate; and has organized and taken responsibility for numerous of church-related inter-religious, educational, community and social outreach programs. Multilingual in Spanish, Malay and Indian languages, his skills always proved valuable in Los Angeles.

In late 2004, Godwin discovered that he had colon cancer and began a variety of treatments embracing the best of what the East and West had to offer. One of the most effective treatments proved to be the faithful prayers of his mother combined with her home cooking. No matter how challenging his health, Godwin kept his spirit strong and continued to involve himself in the highest levels of individual work. He visited the Middle East with the peace initiative, helped organize the world tour of the Rev. and Mrs. Sun Myung Moon in India and Malaysia and continued to actively develop programs and relations with ambassadors for peace. One of his proudest moments was presenting the crown of India to Rev. and Mrs. Moon at the opening of the Cheong Gyeong Center.

Godwin passed away on February 12, 2007 at 1:23 a.m. at home surrounded by his beloved family and friends. He will always be remembered for his beautiful smile which reflected his deep heart of faith, love, loyalty and eternal curiosity about the people and the world around him.

He is survived by his beloved wife Darlene, his daughter Priya, and his son Urian and large growing family. That family includes his mother, Christi- dren, Great grandchildren, Daniel and Jude; sister Annet and her husband Canute Magimay and their three children, Lisa Marte and Liam; brother Bernard and his wife Allison and their four children, Alexandra, Dylan, Daniel and Jude; sister Susan and her husband Sam Martin and their two children, and Jude; sister Annet and her husband Don O’Mara and two children, Kristen and Chelsea; and sister Camelia (Priya) and her husband Phil Johns and their daughters Georgina and Hannah. He is also survived by his brother-in-law, Keith Stewart and family and his sister-in-law Deborah Stewart and her children Char- maine, Antonio, Junior, Le and Styron.

The National Won Jeon Shrine of America at historic Fort Lincoln Cemetery near The Washington Times building in Washington, D.C., is a special shrine blessed by our True Parents to honor our precious brothers and sisters who have returned to the Eternal Homeland of the Spirit World.

Please take steps now to lessen the stress later on – financial, emotional and spiritual – that comes with the passing of a loved one. We have built already a successful precedent to guide you. Our Blessed Family Service Counselors can help you prepare a Seon Haew and Won Jeon ceremony. 

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Chaplain Daryl M. Clarke

IN MEMORIAM

Rev. Godwin M. D’Silva

Los Angeles

IN MEMORIAM

Lloyd Anderson
<p>Enlightens some degree overall-sensuousness, displays a sour-grape person-al attitude, and makes factually incorrect assertions. People who have been in the thick of such activities. If there had been a ferocious young leader and some naïve groupies, from whence did all these noble, wise, faithful women emerge? In reality, a pure tree has borne Godly fruits. Apparently, one Korean spiritualist group was asked the question about 'being naked and unashamed': a bit too far, in hopes of restoring humanity to Eden. This was not a sexual struggle, but rather a matter of human dignity. Not the UC. (These days, that particular marble is worn—or is that not worn?—by Nutrient group.)</p><p>Eight years ago, the ugly divorce of Hye Jin and Jun Sook made headlines. Painful allegations became public, and most were acknowledged as true, with serious con-sequences for all concerned. Things have quieted down on that front, and those hurt in the fray continue to rebuild their lives. Why the mess? I've heard first-person accounts of Hye Jin's childhood. How he was taunted in Tarrytown's schools, and chose a Bart Simpson-ish way to gain favor among his classmates. In cartoons, such hijinks are always cleaned up within 30 minutes, but in real life this might take 30 years, and there are no guarantees . . .</p><p>In history, spoiled VIP offspring are a dime a dozen, but Americans hold a reli-gious leader's kids to an unthinking high standard. One hopes that our Unification-ists will follow the course of the Rev. Franklin Graham, in regaining their soberi-ty and personal faith. Most of the True Children, and recent-ly the older True Grandchildren, have stepped up to the presidential plate. They've taken on serious responsibilities, and given talks all over the world, like during our recent speech campaigns.</p>
THE NEW VOICES OF OUR GENERATION

Congrats Sara & Megan! Gold and Silver

Sara took the Gold medal in Girls Doubles - Division 2, plus the Gold medal in both Mixed Doubles and Girls Singles in Division 3. Sara is the daughter of Wayne and Toni Lee Curry of Beaverton, OR. Their school - Beaverton HS - also took first place team honors, and so is the overall HS Racquetball National Champion. Congratulations!!

Below - Megan with her coach and the school's national champion trophy

Sara Curry (left) & Megan Dickson (Right)

congratulations - Way to Go To Our Next Generation - You make True Parents Proud!

Megan Dickson and Sarah Curry From Beaverton H.S. in Oregon are gold medal national champions in HS racquetball.

Megan took the Gold medal in Mixed Doubles - Division 1, Silver in Girls Doubles (Division 1) and 4th place in Girls Individuals (Division 1). Megan was also named a Girls HS Racquetball All-American. Megan is the daughter of John and Louise Dickson of Beaverton, OR.

So, Here’s What I Thought of...

Here are the responses from our readers for the article, “Empower Them and They Will Build It,” from our March 2007 issue of Unification News.

From a sister in her twenties living in the Metropolitan Area

I just think our whole system is WAY off point and that’s why our movement is dying. We are SO exclusive! We say things like “we want to build a nation” when we have no idea how to interact with the nation around us. Do any of the people who participated in this article know what’s going on in the nation right now? Drug abuse? Casual alcoholism? Unhappiness?

“YES, everyone can SAY that in “the outside world” people are seeking these sort of short term methods of twisting perception so a victim doesn’t have to deal with the anxiety of time, but have any of these church members (bcs) actually seen it, up close, face-to-face? Right now I am sitting in my room. 20 feet from me my brother is sitting by himself, alone, in his room, hallucinating. I can analyze his situation and see that the root of his abuse is a hole in his heart. I mean, he certainly has to take responsibility for his actions as does my family, but as a “church community” I can’t say I’d find any help from my local community because people don’t seem to understand the extreme nature of my brother’s situation. They don’t seem to understand the reality of EVIL, even though this is what they say they fight. No one in our “CHURCH” “MOVEMENT” knows how to deal with this!

But this is the reality of our world!

If we’re a “movement”, we need to be able to “move” people; we need to be able to understand people and connect why they do the things they do with a spiritual and psychological solution.

How much hoon Dok Hae has everyone read? What do you think of his purpose of Hoon Dok Hae is? We’re supposed to be learning from this. Not becoming mindless pawns! If we stop saying “let’s get to the point where we look forward to going to church, we look forward to going to another speech, we look forward to going witnessing, etc.” I think we’d be that much closer to the ideal of Cheon Il Guk. We have to stop lowering our standards of desire to these whims of “looking forward” to the short-term, near-sighted bits and pieces that don’t connect to a long-term vision that we can “look forward” to.

Life isn’t about speeches, or going to church. It’s about aligning your mind with the principles of the universe and being able to BE happy and pursue your passions and all those wonderful things! The only reason we have to go to church is because people are spiritually, emotionally, and mentally retarded.

We need to stop hole-ing ourselves up in this exclusive community, stop being AFRAID of the world and get out there and realize that even though other people are not “BGs”, many non-church people have amazing and intelligent minds and you can learn from them and work with them. You know, you don’t witness by going around handing out surveys. That’s so impersonal, and people feel used. You witness through your actions, your example. There’s a whole big messy world out there. What we need to learn to do is navigate through it.

I support things that are for a good cause. I just don’t think our movement understands the world, and we try to shelter ourselves from it, and that’s why it’s dying.

Anyway, yes, I’m not bashing anyone. I’m actually a very positive person. I’m just exasperated because I don’t want to be a part of something that gives people a false perception of reality. If we can’t figure out what we are creating with these terms we use. Plus, we DO and CAN create our own reality. Anyway, this is a bigger discussion and probably needs more structure.

peace.

A Message from the Assistant Editor

The New Voices of Our Generation has now been running successfully for over a year and the editors at UNEWS would like to thank all those who have contributed an article to this section.

Spread the word, communicate, and link yourself to the rest of America by subscribing to the paper and submitting your voice at newvog@gmail.com for this section. We are looking to fill this section of the paper with the following submissions: articles written by our first and second generation focusing on second generation – that includes ALL second gen’s!

Be as subjective as you please, but keep in mind, that as this is a public paper, be respectful in your opinions.

If you have an idea for submissions to this section, please let us know at newvog@gmail.com and send something in. keep in mind, everything will appear in UNEWS in b&w. All articles must include name, contact info, relevant dates, etc. If you wish to remain anonymous, please include that in your email. Please send all submissions for this section via email to newvog@gmail.com.

Want to respond to an article, please email at newvog@gmail.com.

Spread the word, subscribe to UNEWS.
by Laura Brodie

M y ten-year-old daugh-
ter, Julia, seemed a very
creative child, with strong emotions, obsessive interests, and little patience for group activities and social norms. In the classroom, she sat with a book perched on her knees, sneaking drag-
on stories under her desk and miss-
ing the teacher’s instructions. On the playground, she avoided the girls’ cliques and boys’ noisy games, and sat alone in the shade digging for fossils. Every day she came home with another large-
rock.

By third grade, Julia was complaining of being turned out of her elementary school routine. The mixture of boredom and anxiety, weekly tests, increasing homework, rote memorization for standardized tests—all had left her knee-deep in a puddle of misery, and I, as a parent, shared in that swamp. Nevertheless, I encouraged her to tough it out. Most children had their own classroom complaints, and our elementary school, with its small-town community, was a good fit in the public school system. Julia, was never a

typical" homeschooled student in America, though the 2003
trends in American education and sought more “organic,”

child-based forms of education. New York University professor Mitchell Stevens, in his book Kingdom of Children, explains how the Christians, with their tight social networks and strong organizational skills, surpassed the loosely based libertarians to become the predominant strain in American homeschooling. That’s why today, when the word “homeschooling” comes up in conversation, many Americans envision a fundamentalist Christian mom sitting at her kitchen table teaching creationism alongside Bible

versus government teaching. That’s why today, when the word “homeschooling” comes up in conversation, many Americans envision a fundamentalist Christian mom sitting at her kitchen table teaching creationism alongside Bible

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Education does recognize "part-time homeschoolers"—students who spend less than twenty-five hours per week in school, and devote the rest of the day to learning at home. In 2003, eighteen percent of all homeschoolers fit the part-time mold. (Although guidelines vary across school districts, homeschoolers have the legal right to insist on access to some public classes. Even if I write this, a local friend has just embarked upon part-time home schooling.

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Homeschoolers. Homeschooling has a particular appeal for mothers and daughters. Most of my acquaintances who have tried it describe a need for "special time" with their girls. Of course my musings on this topic are wholly unscientific. The Department of Education's short-term homeschooling statistics show that girls and boys are almost equally likely to be homeschooled full-time, and similarly, that the reasons are often the same. Despite the fact that I can't say how their numbers break down by gender, it may be more clear to men and women. The reasons mothers who shared their stories for this article, seven were homeschooling a daughter, usually in response to their girl's emotional needs. "I really got to know my daughter," explained June from Alexandria, Virginia, a mother whom I located through the Virginia Organization of Homeschoolers. "Homeschooling allowed June and to have long bedtime conversations with her eighth grader, rather than trying to finish homework and hurry to get minimal amounts of sleep. "We are so much closer now," added Sarah, a local acquaintance who loved her months with her middle-school daughter, when most parents have no choice but to try. No doubt some switched over but then switched back after the shock wore off."

In her book, published in 2000, Lyman writes about a Massachusetts widow with a home business who removed her youngest son from middle school, homeschooling would be mandatory. Short-term homeschooling also has a special appeal for families short on the move. Kelly, a Georgia mom who also frequents the About homeschool site, explained that she homeschools for a year when, in the midst of relocating, her family lived in a neighborhood with a weak school system. Once the move was complete, her son was back in the public schools. "I do not regret my decision to homeschool," she says. "I would do it again if needed. I also do not regret the fact that I am the teacher, not some intangible government's backdoor method of dealing with short-term problems.

The Department of Education, however, remain well beneath the radars of both the U.S. government and most homeschooling organizations. The National Home Education Research Institute (one of the biggest clearinghouses for homeschooling data), draws a blank when it comes to data on short-termers, as do the folks at the Home Education Association of Virginia. "Sorry, that's not part of our mission," the receptionist said when I called their offices for information. Nevertheless, if you ask homeschooling advocates, authors and parents if they know of short-term homeschoolers nationwide, the anecdotes come pouring out.

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residents cited religious motivations as their chief reason for homeschooling. (It might be one reason, but not the primary focus.) Instead, concerns over safety, drugs, and peer pressure topped the list. In addition, the study found more parents turning to homeschooling for purely academic reasons. As Neal McCluskey explains, "There is a rise in people who want their children to learn more, faster and better."

This expansion of home education doesn't mean that Christian conservatives are taking a back seat. They remain the most solid, well-organized block in the homeschool world, and the new faces in the fold—me included—have turned to home education without any religious or philosophical compulsion. Parents are a debt of gratitude to the early pioneers who suffered pain and final to blaze the homeschooling trail. Because of those groundbreaking efforts, home education is now legal nationwide, with fifteen states funding and supporting cyberschools, where homeschooled children can take courses with online instructors. California has even opened brick-and-mortar charter schools specifically devoted to supporting homeschooling families, with teachers who provide enrichment classes, textbooks and videos, counseling and administrative aid.

Many homeschool traditionists deplore these new developments as the U.S. government's backdoor method of getting its bureaucratic tentacles back into their homes. For them, real homeschooling means that the parent is the teacher, not some intangible authority. "That sort of legitimacy comes an increased public initiatives show the legitimacy of home education without any religious or philosophical compulsion, owe a debt of gratitude to the early pioneers who suffered pain and final to blaze the homeschooling trail. Because of those groundbreaking efforts, home education is now legal nationwide, with fifteen states funding and supporting cyberschools, where homeschooled children can take courses with online instructors. California has even opened brick-and-mortar charter schools specifically devoted to supporting homeschooling families, with teachers who provide enrichment classes, textbooks and videos, counseling and administrative aid.

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To face bullies, as reasons for short-term homeschooling," she explained to me in a recent online interview. "Also medical issues or an accident or a school violence incident can drive parents if they know of short-term homeschoolers nationwide, the anecdotes come pouring out."

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our homeschool style (Charlotte year: “I was still trying to figure out methods lasted well into the school experimentation with teaching precisely the case for June, whose McCluskey. A parent can spend much new endeavor, there’s a learning educational bonus, not just a stop- have years to hone their craft, plenty of time to make mistakes and plot course corrections. But short-term home educators—in particular those who view the experience as an opportunity for enrichment, an educational bonus, not just a stop-gap measure—need to catch on fast if they want to make the most of their brief time. “I imagine that, as in any new endeavor, there’s a learning curve,” says the Cato Institute’s Neal McCluskey. A parent can spend much of her first year “just trying to figure out how best to do it.” That was precisely the case for June, whose experimentation with teaching methods lasted well into the school year. “I was still trying to figure out our homeschool style (Charlotte Mason? Unschool? Classical?)” when my husband declared, “You have six months left! Pick one and be done!”

As I discovered during my own sharp learning curve, there aren’t many resources to guide the short-term crowd. A basic Internet search yields a wealth of sample curriculums, how-to guides, and book-length pep talks, all designed to help novice homeschoolers get started. But most of these are written by authors with an all-or-nothing approach—parents who have removed all of their children from the public schools, or who never tried those schools in the first place, and who often have negative attitudes toward public education, ranging from mildly dismissive to openly nasty. None of these authors consider the pros and cons of supplemental homeschooling, i.e., how to build on the public schools foundation, to give a child one good year.

Some folks might question whether separate advice is needed for short-term homeschoolers. “Supplemental homeschooling isn’t all that different from the regular deal,” says one Internet correspondent told me. “All the usual books apply.” But that’s not quite true. While the homeschooling books on today’s shelves are a crucial starting point for any curious parent, in their philosophies, their curriculums, and their pedagogical methods they often offer advice that doesn’t apply to true one-year dabblers.

Take, for instance, The Well-Trained Mind, one of the most impressive homeschooling guides available, written in 1999 by the mother-daughter team, Jessie Wise and Susan Wise Bauer. These women advocate a classical education in which global history is the guiding principle, with literary masterpieces and scientific discoveries taught in a historical chronology. In this model, the first four through fifth grades are divided into three repertoires of a four-year pattern: the ancients (5000 bc to ad 400), medieval through early Renaissance (400 to 1600), and modern times (1850 to present). Grade school children study each time period at a sample level: fifth through eighth graders delve into the same subjects with increasing complexity, and by high school, students should be reading original sources in translation. It’s an amazing agenda, and not without flaws; the authors often

children’s creativity, and they minimize the importance of music and the art and the need for play. Still, reading The Well-Trained Mind provides an education in itself, and offers an ideal vision of human intellectual potential. For me, however, the book was also a major guilt trip. It reminded me of how, in our imperfect worlds, we mothers are constantly falling short. The best I could hope for Julia was that, by year’s end, she would have read some children’s versions of The Iliad and The Odyssey.

At the other end of the spectrum stand the advocates of a child-centered education, whose curriculums follow each child’s interests (an approach which, in its purest variety, takes the form of pure unschooling). David Guterson’s Family Matters: Why Homeschooling Makes Sense (1999) offers beautiful descriptions of how he nurtured his son’s curiosity about salmon: “Feeding the salmon fry, weeding at a nearby holding pond, and measuring their growth and development, graphing changes in water temperature and flow, examining eggs, weighing out feed.” Not to mention the days they spent “visiting the Elwha River hatchery, the fish ladders at the Rocky Reach dam, the Science Center Display on the Nootka people.”

It all sounds wonderful—extended field trips and hands-on learning and long, winding conversations. These are the freedoms that homeschooling allows, whether short-term or long. But unschooling in its freest form doesn’t appeal when re-entry into the public system hovers in the near future. At a minimum, short-term home educators must ensure that their children do not fall behind the public benchmarks in math and English, as well as any foreign language track where the child has developed personal interests. Rebecca in the Guterson household, his wife insisted that their nine-year-old “must keep up and offers an ideal for the Evolution of successive life forms through multiple ice ages. We leaped from home habits to the kitchen table with her, practicing math and writing.

Short-term homeschoolers usually remain tethered to their school space in their educational priorities. That’s the biggest difference between short-term and full-time homeschooling,” explained Rebecca, who chose to stick closely to her elementary school’s curriculum when teaching her fourth grader. Rebecca content with Virginia’s Standards of Learning (SOL) model, and abandoned to be ashamed that her daughter didn’t miss anything. Other parents start out with their school’s objectives in mind, but soon abandon public standards if their child gain their own footing. So it was for Sarah, hunkered down with her seventh grader at the other end of our town. They began in January with a stack of heavy textbooks, planning to follow the middle school assignments

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and wasted time. But keeping tabs on your local school's paranoia. Is my child missing something essential? Will she fail her first month of study before I overlooked a key concept?

Trips to the local bookstore can further feed the short-term homeschooler's paranoia. In my town's cozy cat-inhabited store, with its children's section twice as large as that at any Barnes and Noble, Julia and I spent wonderful hours soaking in the new titles. And yet, whenever I passed the Education shelf, my stomach lurched. There was E. D. Hirsch, professor of Cultural Literacy, expounding on What Your Fifth Grader Needs to Know. Julia hadn't been exposed to most of Hirsch's third grade essentials, which included Constantine and the Empire, and scientists like Charles Babbage, Ada Lovelace and Elijah McCoy. Even I, my Ph.D., didn't know half the stuff.

Equally intimidating were the displays of Steiner Bridge Activities — those big paperback reams of worksheets, designed to keep your child grinding away over the summer months. The fifth grade book placed a major emphasis on human anatomy, which convinced me that Julia was missing something essential. So she and I spent two futile weeks learning the names of all the bones in the human skeleton. (The metacarpals are connected to the...phalanges).

So much to learn, so little time. Full-time home educators have the luxury of years upon years spreading out before them. "If we don't get to the Maya this spring, there's always next fall." In addition, homeschoolers with strong religious and philosophical approaches tend to be weaned from the public schools' competitive mindset, and their children are constantly graded, ranked, and compared. They don't feel the same pressures to keep up with age-based curricular models. As one author Peter Brimelow: "Why in the world would any parent with half a brain place their precious child in an American public school?" ("You have to say in a 2003 blog interview with author Peter Birmelom: "Why in the world would any parent with half a brain place their precious child in an American public school?"")

The lesson continued for ten minutes more as Julia and I took turns cutting tectonic plates into the kiwi's crust, carving a dripping Ring of Fire. "Look," said Julia, "when the plates shift, the mountain ranges form." She squeezed the kiwi, and a flood of lumpy green flesh emerged on the surface. I couldn't have been more proud if she had painted the Mona Lisa. My daughter could see the world within a slice of fruit.

One final challenge for short-term homeschoolers rests in the arena of social life—how to keep it active for both the child and mother. Socialization is a key concern for all homeschoolers. Fortunately, with the nationwide expansion of home education, more and more communities have established support networks, with families gathering for field trips and pot lucks and classes taught by visiting experts. "Those are life-savers," says Luis Huerta, a professor at Columbia's Teachers' College in New York who has studied homeschooling. According to Huerta, the potential for alienation is one of the biggest reasons why some parents give up on home education. "It's an enormously difficult job, and mothers who take it on usually need strong support groups. But Huerta didn't know whether the majority of homeschooling networks would welcome short-term visitors into their midst. His research into homeschool charter schools revealed bitter divides between parents who want nothing to do with government-funded education, and those who are willing to take advantage of classes or resources offered by public sites. One mother'sHuerta's study contrasted the early 'people of conviction' in the house brand m o v e m e n t with the 'new breed' that want to keep their children's section twice as large as that at any Barnes and Noble, Noble, Julia and I spent wonderful hours soaking in the new titles. And yet, whenever I passed the Education shelf, my stomach lurched. There was E. D. Hirsch, professor of Cultural Literacy, expounding on What Your Fifth Grader Needs to Know. Julia hadn't been exposed to most of Hirsch's third grade essentials, which included Constantine and the Empire, and scientists like Charles Babbage, Ada Lovelace and Elijah McCoy. Even I, my Ph.D., didn't know half the stuff.

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about her homeschooling with curiosity and envy. “I wish my Mom would homeschool me,” one little dancer lamented. “I hate school.”

But despite the social contact that I took pains to schedule, for many, many hours in the week Julia and I sat alone in our quiet rural house, while outside the cows and ducks and herons moved in slow motion. After a while I came to understand why homeschooling is most common in households with three or more children, and families that are not social untied, taking the scrutiny off one child, and distributing the parent’s attention and frustrations. In the one-on-one homeschooling that I and most of my acquaintances practiced, the dangers of isolation and resentment loomed large. “I used to feel that at times there was a noise around my neck,” confessed Christi, reminiscing on her year with her ten-year-old. The rope was less tight than when her children were babies—their wonderful and terrible days of diapers and bibs and bottles had been the most claustrophobic experience of her life. But homeschooling had its own quality of constriction.

So it was for Sarah, who had felt relieved, years earlier, when all her children were off at school. At last she could have time for herself, working at a job she loved. “I didn’t mean paring that job way down and feeling I could have time for myself, working at a job I loved.”

Most homeschooling books never speak of these tensions—the propensity to high achievement and irrational moments of fury that emerge in any family, however loving. Many authors even write as if only to allow a mother to time to air her frustrations. In my darkest moments I eventually locked in ugly confrontations with her elder son. “Look at what this is doing to you,” her husband finally said. Her boys were back on the school bus the next day.

Social bonds with other homeschoolers are essential, if only to allow a mother time to air her frustrations. In my darkest moments I eventually locked in ugly confrontations with her elder son. “Look at what this is doing to you,” her husband finally said. Her sons were back on the school bus the next day.

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“Remember last October when the leaves were turning? We walked around town identifying trees with our field guide, making photographs and leaf rubbings and writing a paragraph about each one?”

“Yes. I remember. That was fun,” she said. “Let’s do it again.”

Julia has even begun to ask about homeschooling for the eighth grade. (The possibility that I have not ruled out. But in the meantime, my daughter needs more time away from the public schools until three o’clock each day, after school hours should be devoted to exercise, art, music, and unstructured play—all of the highly educational activities that many schools, in their test-bound shackles, have cut to the bare bones. When excessive homework gets in the way of family time—for long conversations, as well as visits to museums and parks and concerts—that’s when the schools have crossed my line in the sand. And that’s when Julia and I will be back in our local coffee shop, spending our Wednesday mornings speaking bits of French over a game of chess.)

If you would like to respond to this article, please send your response to newvog@gmail.com. All responses will be posted in the next issue of NEWS in the NEWVOG section of the paper.

The Center for Education at UTS is announcing the Curriculum Mini-Grant Program. The mini-grants program offers grants between $500 - $1,000 for the creation of professional curricula and teaching tools for the diverse age groups within the Unification movement. The Center for Education at UTS wishes to encourage the creation and publication of effective and creative curricula or teaching tools that can be used throughout the country.

There is a tremendous need for effective curricula in each of the target age groups. Currently, some centers are using the national curriculum while others have simply done their best to teach Divine Principle or the Bible or a combination of the two. Then there are other church centers that are not doing any kind of educational program because they don’t have any type of curriculum or outline from which to work. Therefore, we wish to encourage those with the desire, experience or means to develop curricula that can be used in: K-6 Sunday Schools, Youth Ministries, Young Adult Ministries and even Adult Ministries.

In addition, there is a need to create effective teaching tools such as games, activities, specialized felt board teaching tools, dramas and similar creative tools for use in each of these ministries. Have you designed a game or teaching tool that you have found to be effective? Why not professionalize it or expand it so that others can use it?

Those who wish to apply need to review the grant requirements and submit an application. Go to www.centerforeducation.net for more Grant Information and details.
Surviving STF: What is STF Anyway?

By Chris Breland

So you’re thinking about going to STF? You’ve got your bags packed, your school plans put on hold for a bit, and yet, even as you stand at the edge of this unknown journey, you might find yourself wondering: Is this what I really want? Is this the way I’m going to truly find my faith? I think that for anyone who is considering this course for the next year of their lives, it’s very important to get some sound advice on what you should do to prepare. And because I’ve been in your shoes before, I might have advice that could help you. Whether you are not even considering the idea in the least, or have already signed up for the STF initiation, here’s some thoughts that might help you make that next step.

Some of the best advice that I can convey to you is: Have a realistic idea of what STF really is. Take the next few minutes to just think about all the things you’ve heard about STF. You’ve probably learned a lot of good things, as well as some bad, about what STF is. You probably know it has a lot to do with fundraising and finding your faith with God. Would you be willing to bet that this will be one of the most difficult experiences of your life so far? How about that it will possibly cause you to be hurt and disillusioned about your faith? Or possibly that it could be the one experience that defines your life as a whole? I would be lying to you if I said that STF could not be any of these things. For me, it was probably a combination of all these choices. However, regardless of what STF is or what you may think it is, you have to know a few things that STF is not.

STF is not the place to be if you have serious doubts about yourself and your decision. Once you are there, STF is a hard decision to turn from. And while many have decided to back out in the beginning or middle of their course, it leaves you with very few options. I hope that if you are thinking about doing this, you are thinking seriously and you have an idea of how committed you are to seeing it through.

STF is not for everybody. If you’ve heard this before, believe me, it is definitely true. While many people have found STF to be a great way to strengthen their confidence in their faith, it doesn’t necessarily mean it’s the best method for you. Some people just don’t need to go fundraising to find out their identity and faith in God. In fact, I know some people that probably would have been better off had they not gone to STF. You have to consider carefully what your attitude is now and how that could change in a year. Try to envision how your life would be if you didn’t go to STF.

STF is not your “community service” required to be a member of this church. I don’t like how people sometimes feel “pressured” to go to STF because of others. Friends, family, or even leaders in your congregation may be influencing you to make this decision and do it fast. While you should not completely disregard their advice, I would take everything you hear with a grain of salt. Know that you won’t be ostracized or set apart from the crowd if you decide not to go to STF. In fact, feeling obligated to go to STF is probably the worst attitude to have, because afterwards you’ll just feel you could have done something better.

I’ll tell you a few things that STF can be for you:

STF is probably the only place that you can go to see the world in a way you’ve never experienced. I’m sure that at some point in your life you’ve wanted to travel the world and see everything there is to see. STF is unique because it gives you an extreme, in-your-face guide to the human condition and how people live. You will get to see, first-hand, the way people are and how to feel a close connection with them. You will get to see the best and worst of humanity and the human condition.

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I hope you can consider all these aspects and get a better idea of what STF is and what it could be for you. Please consider your decision carefully, and if you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact me. I’m eager to hear your thoughts.

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STF is probably the only place that you can go to see the world in a way you’ve never experienced. I’m sure that at some point in your life you’ve wanted to travel the world and see everything there is to see. STF is unique because it gives you an extreme, in-your-face guide to the human condition and how people live. You will get to see, first-hand, the way people are and how to feel a close connection with them. You will get to see the best and worst of humanity and the human condition.

I hope you can consider all these aspects and get a better idea of what STF is and what it could be for you. Please consider your decision carefully, and if you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact me. I’m eager to hear your thoughts.

Chris Breland is a two-year STF alumnus, currently attending school at Drexel University in Philadelphia, and majoring in mechanical engineering. He was blessed in December of 2004 in East Garden at Father’s matching. His email, if you would like to contact him, is cbrzland@hotmail.com.
I thought the gathering at on February 13, at East Garden was great, not to mention a lot of fun. Since it was an invitation from Hyun Jin Nim for anyone to join, there was a wide variety of people there. I remember there was the entire STP there, CARP’s NLTP team, the ILTP team, and also a bunch of college students from all over. I saw people from Boston, Bridgeport, huge groups from New York and New Jersey, and several from Maryland and Virginia. This was on a weekday, so a bunch of college students cut class for this. But it was definitely worth it.

The main point of the gathering was to celebrate the success of Hyun Jin Nim’s Speaking Tour. To be honest, that’s all I remember everyone doing, enjoying each other’s company and celebrating. We had really intense yute games. Now, I’m not the type to enjoy yute because I could never understand all the screaming and yelling over a bunch of sticks, but there was lots of synergy when we played. Especially, the New York/New Jersey team. We turned out doing pretty good, not too shabby; we won a handsome amount in cash prize. That kind of made me more proud of being part of the tri-state. Other things we did during that day were listening to ministers’ testimonies about their experiences with the tour and True Parents; watching movies at the theater, over 200 of us and enjoying songs and performances all together over a nice Korean meal.

As for what Hyun Jin Nim actually said at the time, I honestly cannot remember (I forgot to take notes), but I do remember one thing. I remember that he was happy. And so was Dr. Yang and everyone else that was there. I can’t even forget the huge grin that was on Reverend Jenkins’s face at the end of the day. It was just a happy time.

2007 Discover True Friendship
Service Tour: Asia Edition
- Building a Culture of Heart, Peace and Service -
July 8 – 25, 2007
Jaiger, Bangladesh

Last year, we traveled to Zambia, where we built an addition to a community school, sponsored the school choir, and started a scholarship program.

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In a world divided by countless barriers, this is your opportunity to build friendships and create understanding with our brothers and sisters of other countries and cultures in a way that will change your life, as well as theirs.

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