

Ki Hoon Kim, Michael Balcomb and America Celebrates True Children's Day 2013

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The Miami Family Church's band performs the Cheon Il Guk National Anthem at the True Children's Day celebration.

True Children's Day was celebrated by Unificationists nationwide in communities large and small on Sunday, Nov. 3, 2013.



Dr. Ki Hoon Kim gave the sermon in Miami and spoke about True Mother many members were moved to tears.

This year marks the 54th anniversary of True Children's Day. On October 1, 1960 (lunar calendar), True Father established Children's Day. The True Parents' Holy Blessing was an event that opened up the gate for resurrection of all people in the spirit world and on earth, according to "Chapter 14: Holy Days and Holiday" from *The Tradition, Book One*.

On the foundation of Parents Day, God and True Parents established Children's Day. It signifies that God and True Parents had their own true children and on this basis, all humanity has the potential to become engrafted to the True Family, as stated in *The Tradition, Book One*.

After the establishment of Parents' Day in 1960, April 17 was proclaimed as the Day of the Resurrection of Shim Jeong, signifying that a fallen person can comfort the heart of God by becoming His son or daughter. True Father established Children's Day on this basis. On the foundation of Children's Day, all humankind can make an eternal relationship with True Parents.



Dr. Michael Balcomb (far left) and some members from the Tampa Family Church cut a celebratory cake for the 54th True Children's Day

In Rev. Moon's speech on October 29, 1981, he explained how God's Kingdom can be established through the family. He said, "Today is Historical Children's Day. What does that mean? God cannot erect His Kingdom alone. God needs a champion, an assistant to act as mediator... God sees you as His hand-picked champions whom He has pulled together to create the Kingdom of Heaven on earth. What an overwhelming task that is for Him! Even when you go to spirit world, it is difficult to forget your first love experiences. Therefore, God is sending His representative to earth so that everyone can remake themselves in love by loving the Messiah so deeply that all their past experiences can be melted away. By loving the man sent by God more than you love anything else, you shall be liberated from the iniquities of your past. God must be able to recognize that you have met His central figure and loved him so fervently that you forget everything else. Then your past can be cleaned as white as snow... God is almighty, but even after His efforts for thousands of years the world has remained sinful. In order to achieve His goal, God gives you the rule that you should love your brothers and sisters as much as Him... Each of you should be God to each other; treat each other as you treat God. If you live in that tradition and thousands of you come forward to God, He will embrace you as His true children. Your level of heartistic achievement in spirit world will be determined by such intensity of love. There have been many people in history who said they loved God, but they mistreated and hated their own brothers. Now God really wants us to love each other and come forward to Him together." Read the full speech here: <http://www.tparents.org/Moon-Talks/SunMyungMoon81/811028.htm>

Celebrations Across the Country



The children were engaged in arts and crafts and listened to stories as part of the True Children's Day celebration in Columbia, South Carolina.

The following are reports from several Unification churches about their True Children's Day celebrations.

The Miami Family Church raised the roof with a spirited performance by the church band to welcome Dr. Ki Hoon Kim, Continental Director of North America, and Dr. Michael Jenkins, Director of the Office of Business Investment and Asset Development, at the True Children's Day celebration. Dr. Kim gave the sermon at the worship service and the members of the Miami community were moved to hear about True Mother. After the service, a wonderful banquet of Korean food was prepared by the Japanese sisters. Marvelous entertainment followed with songs by the young second-generation children with songs in Korean and Spanish. At the finale, Dr. Kim graced the congregation with a song.

In Tampa, Florida, Church President Dr. Michael Balcomb visited the community for Sunday Service and the Holy Day celebration. Dr. Balcomb gave the Children's Day sermon on "becoming a True Child of our Heavenly Parent." He used examples from the Bible as well as an instructive story from Buddhist tradition illustrating the need to be highly aware that we are beloved children of our Heavenly parent, who wishes only for us to be able to receive the true love and blessings that our Parent really wishes to bestow on each

one. Afterwards, everyone dined together and then held a Q & A session together with Dr. Balcomb.



Elder members enjoy food and conversation during the fellowship after the celebration at the church center in Columbia, South Carolina.

The communities from Columbia, South Carolina and Charlotte, North Carolina held a joint service to celebrate True Children's Day. More than 60 members attended the worship service, with a sermon given by Kyungsun Orr, a young Unificationist. A recording of Orr's sermon by Neville LaBrooy is available here vimeo.com/78537991. Following the service, the young children did arts and crafts and listened to stories while the adults and young adults partook in fellowship on the newly-completed deck, which is part of the renovation project for the Columbia church center.



Members in Manhattan held an intimate True Children's Day celebration at 4 West 43rd St..

More than 100 people attended the church service in Northern Virginia to celebrate True Children's Day. Pastor Earnest Patton presented a sermon on the meaning of True Children's Day and Mr. Tom McDevitt, Chairman of the The Washington Times Foundation, gave a moving talk about living and acting as True Children as we build the nation envisioned by True Parents in Vision 2020.

Several families gathered for a meaningful message and warm fellowship in celebrating True Children's Day on Sunday afternoon at Associate Pastor Gregg Jones' residence Crofton, Maryland. The families sang traditional Holy Songs reminding them of the simply joy of singing and of the eternal connection with the new truth that appeared upon this earth with the advent of the True Parents. Rev. Gregg Jones shared about the mission of Caleb, the supportive role of the person chosen to help Joshua lead the Jewish people into the Promised Land. Reverend Kyoho Jones encouraged members with words of motherly love. Many said they felt a renewed sense of purpose and determination to teach Divine Principle to reach out to people around them. Brothers and sisters then offered reflections about their own spiritual lives during the "circle share time." Afterwards, everyone joined together for a potluck meal and joyful sharing of food and talk.



Families in Albany gathered at a member's home to celebrate True Children's Day.



Standing beside the offering table are young Unificationists from Northern Virginia whose birthdays were also celebrated together with True Children's Day.



Members in Crofton, Maryland gathered at the Jones' family home, affectionately called "The Farm" to celebrate True Children's Day. Gregg Jones at left on the front row, beside him is his spouse, Kyoho.



The Detroit Family Church held a True Children's Celebration followed by a banquet.



Young Unificationists prepare to blow out the candles of the cake during the True Children's Day celebration in San Francisco. Pastor Kevin Thompson at right.



A group photo of the Utah Family Church.