

NEWS FROM REV. MOON IN JAIL

"I take care of the kitchenwork in the morning hours."

This is the exclusive interview obtained by the daily newspaper Kyunghyang Shimmun by Song Tae Ho (permanent correspondent in Washington) from a born Rev. Sun Myung Moon, founder of the Unification Church. Rev. Moon has been jailed in a federal prison in Danbury, Connecticut since July 20, 1984 to a sentence of 18 months in prison for tax fraud. This article was published in the August 7th edition of the paper.

Question: How are you feeling now?

Answer: Religion is destined to survive from all those that persecute it. God is aware that without the movement for world salvation that I have created, there is no alternative for the survival of humankind. God has put me in jail for one reason, so that my campaign can reach the whole world. Today I am thankful to Him.

Question: What is your life in prison like?

Answer: I rise at 3:00 a.m. to pray with Mr. Kamiyama, my companion in captivity, until 5:00 a.m. From 5:30 a.m. till 6:30 a.m. I am busy doing my duties in the kitchen. The hour that follows is breakfast time. I work in the kitchen also between 4:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. I dedicate the rest of my time to meet visitors, to read, to meditate, to walk and exercise.

Question: Can you give some details about your readings and your exercises?

Answer: I read the Bible and I study the message of the Unification Church as well as books (on English conversation). I also read the American daily newspapers distributed by post as well as Korean newspapers. I play pool and table tennis. I hold a religious service everyday in my room, and practice Sunday rituals in the prison chapel under the supervision of the chaplain.

Question: What do you think of the way the prison treats you?

Answer: In a word, the prison treats me with courtesy, giving me some personal facilities, in the measure allowed by the regulations it assigns me light work in the kitchen. This prison applies what is called an "honor" system and allows to the prisoners according to their characters, their autonomy in all fields. The visits are free for my 12 children and their spouses, as well as for three other persons, one of them is Bo Hi Pak, president of the Washington Times. Twelve persons in charge of the Unification Church and other personalities are also allowed to visit me.

Question: Is it true that the center of decision of the Unification Church has been transferred to the prison?

Answer: A building or an office cannot constitute a centre of decision making. The centre is wherever I am.

Question: Do you have good relationships with the prisoners?

Answer: My companion in captivity, Mr. Kamiyama is a loyal and sincere member of our Church. He is very dedicated to me. He watches over me during my hours of sleep, between midnight and 3:00 a.m. Other prisoners are also open toward me. Today a prisoner introduced me to his wife. To her request, I signed

an autograph on her handkerchief.

Question: Do you do missionary activities in the prison?

Answer: I am not inclined to do it. My only activity is the one of prayer, but some prisoners like to listen to my sermons, and even Rev. Graham, chaplain of the prison, wants to do religious services with me.

Question: Why do you think the president Reagan, conservative and right wing politically, has turned a deaf ear toward you, who follows the same line politically?

Answer: The parties or the persons of the right share my vision of an anti-communist movement, but have the tendency to have a narrow point of view concerning racial discrimination. The progressive camp is more friendly concerning religious liberties and racial discrimination. Frankly, this is one of my dilemmas to try to maintain a relationship with the two sides.

However, the fact that the White House is seemingly keeping itself from the decisions of justice, reflects an attitude of cowardice, and reveals its fear to have to confront a handicap if it finds itself involved in these decisions during the next presidential election. The efforts that I have dedicated to the anti-communist movement and in the favour of the United States did not have as a goal the recognition of the Americans. This was the will of god. Soon the time will come when the United States won't be able to neglect the Unification Church and a special presidential amnesty will be given.

Question: Do you have the intention to publish writings on your life in prison?

Answer: I've made a rule not to write books myself. Nevertheless my sermons or my words here can be published by my disciples.

Question: What is the goal of the diverse financial activities of the Unification Church?

Answer: We believe that salvation of the souls can take place by the realization of the New Earth. The financial activities aren't conducted for the realization of profit but for the construction of an ideal society.

Question: for which reasons has the Unification Church been criticized by other Christian churches?

Answer: An historical perspective teaches us that all new religious groups have undergone persecution from established religious institutions and other groups. Who can deny the historical truth? But whether a religious dogma is true or false is not up to man to judge. As for myself, I have always encouraged dialogue between different denominations and the healing of rifts.

Question: What do you think of the extraordinary growth of Christianity in Korea?

Answer: From my point of view, Korea is a nation where religion will prosper. Personally I am proud that the protestant faith has blossomed in Korea, the land of my ancestors and I pray for the salvation of my Fatherland. However at the same time we must remain vigilant against the aspect of Christianity that is in search of material prosperity in Korea. At the heart of the Unification Church our rule is to "live for the sake of others." How can we make the difference between religions and shamanism if the quest of prosperity is the first goal?

Question: Why do you turn away from journalists?

Answer: I don't have the time to meet them, and I don't have any special declaration to make. Also a large majority of the American press has the tendency to assume prejudices and to exaggerate the weak points of others.