

New Hope News

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April 14, 1977

Victory: Stage Two! California Conservatorships Revoked

One more victory has been won in the battle to protect Unification Church members from legalized kidnapping. On Monday, April 11, the California state Court of Appeals stayed Judge Vavuris' March 28 conservatorship order, thereby releasing the five Church members held by "deprogrammers" since the decision. Of the five members, three elected to stay with their parents, indicating an acceptance of their "deprogramming." They were: Leslie Brown, Jaqueline Katz, and Barbara Underwood. Both Janice Kaplan and John Hovard have rejected the conservatorship. As of this writing, John Hovard has voiced his intentions to remain with the Church and Janice Kaplan's decision is unclear. Both members elected to stay with their parents for a while -- John is quoted by the media as saying that he wants to reassure his parents that he still loves them.

The decision came two weeks after the Court of Appeals agreed to accept the appeal of Vavuris' Superior (lower) court ruling. The court's action is not a final ruling on the conservatorship controversy, as the judges must first examine in detail a transcript of Vavuris' 11-day

hearing. The ruling itself sets no legal precedent. It is limited to freeing the five -- if they desire it, from forced parental custody and "deprogramming." However, it is a good indication that the final ruling, which will not be coming out for at least two weeks, may significantly curb the abuse of the California conservatorship statute.

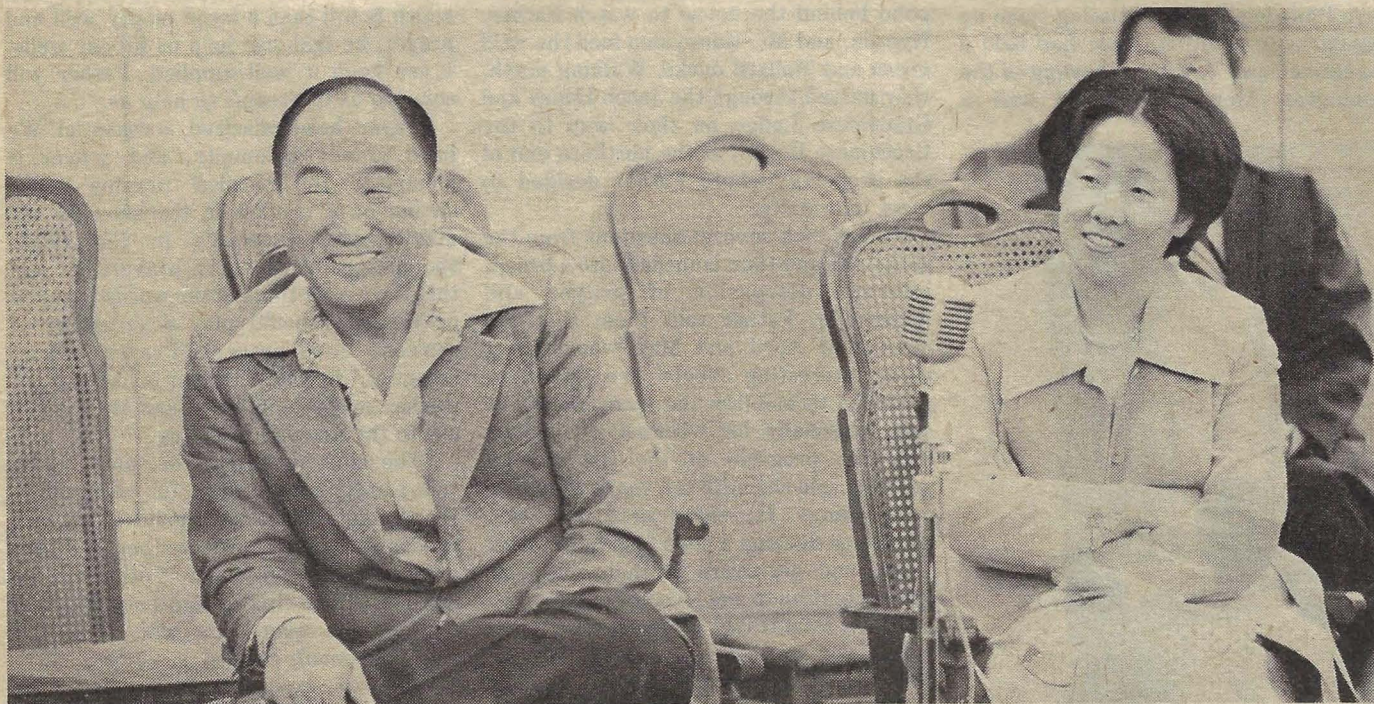
According to sources who have observed the case, the appellate court stayed the conservatorships because of its serious concern about abuse to the conservatorship law. The judges cited concern over the constitutionality of the law the application of the order, and the fact that the superior court exceeded its bounds. On this last point, the judges unanimously ruled that adults were equal in court and that conservatorships could not be granted unless the conservatee is incompetent and unable to take care of himself.

According to the terms of the conservatorships, the five conservatees were not supposed to be subjected to "deprogramming" until the Monday after the Friday ruling and were to be allowed

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John Hovard: released from conservatorship and returning to the Church.



Father and Mother listen to state leaders' reports at the April 1 conference.

April 1 Conference

State Leaders Spend the Day with Father

State leaders spent a day of varied inspiration with Father on April 1, beginning with his first-of-the-month speech, continuing with reports at Belvedere, and concluding with an informal talk at the Gracemere estate.

Reports from the state leaders reflected a rising spirit across the country. Many leaders reported growth in membership and evidence of the cooperation with the

spirit world. Among the events reported were the following:

IOWC leaders were the first to report. Reverend Vincenz said that his team in Los Angeles met with success through using a trailer, parked in different places throughout the city each week for hourly lectures. Mr. Sudo's team has adopted three mottos: to be centered on our Parents, to work for team unity, and to

challenge limitations.

Stephen Boyd from Indiana reported a strong membership gain after his center embarked on several conditions, graduated to become more challenging as the center members grew stronger. He also described a vision of Abraham Lincoln, who spent his boyhood in Indiana.

The Washington Monument film was

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Father Inaugurates Door-to-Door Program

On March 31 Father himself initiated a total-participation door-to-door witnessing program covering the whole of Manhattan. After introductory remarks, he divided the five hundred residents of the World Mission Center into pairs. Each pair drew a number, coded for a neighborhood in Manhattan. At a later meeting, New York Church witnessing members were integrated into the system Father set up so that teams of about four people were made responsible for areas of least several thousand population.

In his talk to the members before he set up the plan, Father stressed the serious situation which the U.S. is facing. He cited the growing influence of Communism worldwide, explaining that racial and religious differences will be exploited to create disunity. He especially scored the media establishment for their lack of concern for the people. Throughout his talk, he opened up a vast vision of our members digging into the grass-roots of America, getting to love her people and responding to their needs. The possibilities stretch out infinitely, Father helped the members feel -- ranging from delivering food and clothing to the people, reporting on their problems in the *News World*, acquainting them to like-minded

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April 1 Speech:

"Can You Bear the Cross of Love?"

On April 1, Father spoke to a large audience, including all state leaders at the World Mission Center. His topic was "God and Man's dignity." In his creation, said Father, God wanted to bring out the dignity of God and the dignity of man. "With dignity, man would have been perfected, and the ideal world of God consummated. If the perfection of man had prevailed, then the world would have been the ideal world of the love of God,

and the beginning of the joy of God." The perfection of Adam would have been the perfection of God, said Father, because Adam and Eve were meant to be God's home. And then the home of Adam would have been the core of the universe. In him, the physical world and the spirit world would have been united.

In this perfected world, explained Father, the relationship of God to man would be exactly the same as the

relationship between mind and body. Just as the body should respond to the dictates of the mind, the man of perfection is "he who has no capability to deny God." Adam and Eve, had they been in this relationship with God, "would have been the nucleus of the universe. Their perfected form would have been the building blocks of the heavenly world."

In turn, Father said, God needed Adam and Eve. Why? First Adam and Eve were

to realize the ideal world of the love of God. Second, they would have been the visible manifestation of the invisible God. Adam was to have been a visible God. Perfected Adam and Eve in spirit world would have had God dwelling in their minds, he said.

But the fall brought the "impossible situation of the separation of mind and body." Conflict is the result of the fall; it

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April 1 Conference

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watched on TV by 50% of Anchorage, Alaska residents on March 23, reported Dana Carros. Seeing the event on TV, he said, was a big boost to the members, helping them to gain several members.

Noah Ross from Northern California reported on the San Francisco conservatorship trial, pointing out that the unreasonable tactics of the opposition were bringing many people, including reporters, to our side as popular opinion is often drawn to the side of the oppressed.

Dr. Bergman of New York reported: "We are more than hopeful about our transition to door-to-door witnessing. We know that this is the way that we can change the city." While acknowledging that results have not been initially high, he expects them to pick up in the next few weeks. (See report on New York activities.)

Ernie Planck of New Hampshire described a lesson learned in faith. Since fundraising is illegal in his state, he had concentrated on setting up a retail store for his economic foundation. But the mall where his store was located folded. By setting conditions and refocusing into spiritual work, he was able to reach the 1-1-1 and also take care of his financial obligations.

Many ideas came up throughout the morning. Michael Beard has worked out a plan to systematically contact everyone ages 18-30 in Richmond. He also has tried to coordinate witnessing and fundraising so that fundraisers can prepare each area to learn about Church activities just prior



Father and Col. Han consult at the April 1 conference.

to the arrival of a witnessing team. In Washington, D.C., David Hose is lecturing weekly on "Deprogramming, the Modern Inquisition" a talk aimed at professional people, especially lawyers. Both Patrick Hickey in Texas and Marc Lee in Philadelphia are initiating clean-up campaigns. In addition, Marc Lee held a banquet on April 7, with a showing of the Washington Monument movie and a

speech by President Salonen (see report.)

After lunch, Father took the group on tour of the Tarrytown properties. First, everyone walked along Broadway to the "white house" at the southern end of the Kocher property. The group paused at the pond behind the house to watch Father, Hyo-jin, and Mr. Kamiyama feed the wild geese and Mallard ducks. Walking north, they passed through the Jacob House and Gracemere Lodge on their way to the Gracemere House, at the northern end of the property, where Father decided to meet informally.

Father took several questions from the gathering and then launched into a broad, informal discussion of prayer and witnessing. Father told them that the months of April and May would bring many interesting events. We should be prepared to mobilize the spirit world, he said, especially for witnessing. Looking over the progress of the last several years he said the next ten years will bring great things. He encouraged the State leaders to develop a deep feeling for their states and persevere in their missions. "Pay attention to and love your states," he said. "At least travel around it once to see what there is to love... America is your America! God is loving us. Remain confident that as long as you are one with God, how can God give up on you? When opposition comes, I myself always want to know what lesson will come immediately afterwards."

Father's discussion of prayer was very memorable to the gathering. "You must pray!" he said. "Your eyes must burst with tears. Tears mark the religious life. For Adam and Eve, the fall brought a tearful departure from God. So we must return to God in a tearful position." We must feel the necessity of prayer as we feel the necessity of food, he continued. "Prayer is eating the meal of the spirit." Prayer, he said, could help them see a direction to cope with their responsibilities and solve problems. In prayer, we

must have a sense of closing in on a situation. Then, he said, "we have already won the battle."

People, he said, are like wells in their potential. Some wells are big; others are small. It is better to have a small well which is full than a large empty well and prayer, he said, can help us fill our wells. If we keep it well-supplied, Father will come to us in dreams to help us.

Prayer, he emphasized, is essential. We have to pay indemnity, and prayer is indemnity. He recalled praying while sitting on a blanket in the snow in the middle and, especially in the 1950's spending many nights in prayer. He said that if we can't think of the words to say in prayer, we should play a recording of someone else's prayer. "Prayer is that essential," he said. "Prayer is like rain. It washes everything away and then gives use to the new life of spring."

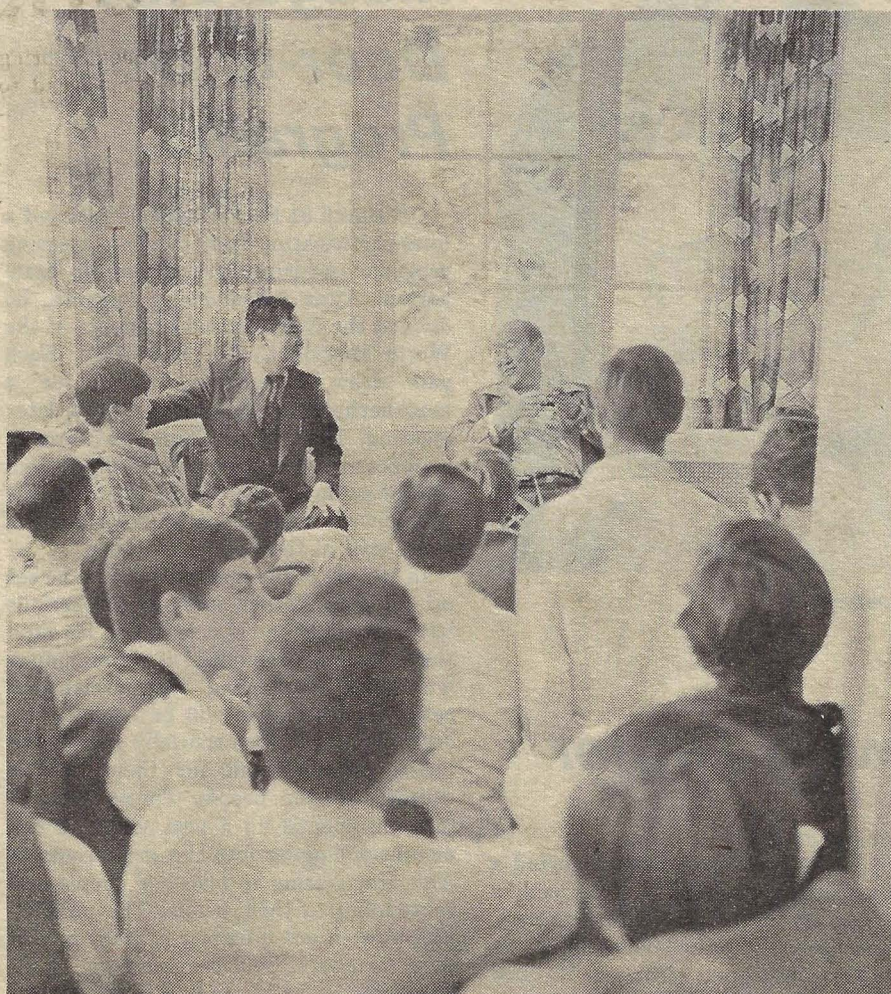
"The most essential, the most important thing," said Father, "is witnessing." He explained that we should treat each person as Father's own brother, Father's own sister, and even Father's own mother. "If you treat a righteous man like a righteous man, you will receive a righteous man's reward."

Don't be arrogant, he advised the members. He also said that they should "regard everyone as your teacher Without your crying first, people will never come."

"What is heaven?" he asked. "Heaven is to love another human being. I expect that in a month many people will come. This is so natural if heaven is in you."

"Witness by tears," he continued. "What is the gateway to the spirit world? Love opens the door to the spirit world."

To sum up, he told the members that the main thing they had to do was repent. Then, he said, "like man as much as you love God." He concluded: "There is a lot of work to be done from now on. That means that there is a lot of loving to be done from now!"



Father speaks informally to the directors at Gracemere.



Brian Saunders leads an ensemble from the New Hope Singers in an international medley.

Philadelphia Sponsors "Day of Victory" Banquet Guests Hear Mr. Salonen, See Monument Movie

On Thursday, April 7, the Philadelphia Unification Church hosted a "Day of Unity" Banquet to give parents, business associates, ministers, and other friends a closer look at the Unification Church. Featured events of the evening were entertainment by the New Hope Performing Arts members, a speech by President Salonen, and a showing of the Washington Monument film.

After an opening reception, Marc Lee, Pennsylvania state leader, officially welcomed the guests to the Garden Terrace room of the Benjamin Franklin hotel in downtown Philadelphia. The dinner was preceded by an invocation by Reverend John Price of the Faith Fellowship Baptist Church, a contact from the Washington Monument campaign. A medley of songs was performed after dinner by an ensemble from the New Hope Singers International, followed by a

dance by a member of the Korean Folk Ballet.

Mr. Salonen explained to the audience the reasons why the Unification Church sponsored the God Bless America festivals, relating the ideals forming the foundation of our nation to the basic principles of the Unification Church. America was unique among nations, he said, because her people had faith on three levels. First they had to have faith in themselves in order to risk their lives in the dangerous journey across the Atlantic. Faith in the nation gave them courage to take on the British Empire, an unheard-of action. In the early days of our country. A strong faith in God was also manifested by the leaders of the new nation. This faith in God sustained America through her first two crises, the revolutionary war and the civil war. "God blessed the fruits of this nation and this

nation prospered," said Mr. Salonen. Now, he explained, we are facing our third great crisis -- a spiritual crisis reflected everyday in the newspapers, in the divorce and suicide statistics.

Comparing the Unification Church to the Jesuits, he said that both our members and the followers of Saint Ignatius of Loyola saw something desperately wrong with the world, and in doing something about it, both groups have faced persecution.

Mr. Salonen reminded the group that, as a nation of immigrants, America "has been taught what she needs to know by those from other countries." He put Reverend Moon in this context, explaining that "the meaning of America is not to have a common race of language or set of customs but it is to have a common ideal."

In conclusion he asked the audience to continue their open-minded approach to

the Church: "We have no goal except to teach young people to center themselves upon God's purpose and accomplish what God wants to accomplish. If we seem different from our contemporaries settling down in split-level houses, it is because we feel a calling of a different nature. We only ask that others accept and respect us, just following the Biblical advice to judge the tree by its fruits."

After the Washington Monument film, many guests lingered to talk with members, some for close to an hour. Besides parents, guests included officers of a candy company supplying fundraising product, insurance agents, realtors, ministers involved in the Washington Monument crusade, and other people who have dealt with the Philadelphia Church in business matters. Both sustained and new relationships were warmed by the experience.

Door-to-Door Program Begins in New York

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people in their neighborhoods, and working to fill their needs in whatever way possible. "Really love your area," said Father. "Grow to feel that the air there is sweeter than the air anywhere else. If you want to go to the movies, go in your area. If you need something to eat, get it in your area." He reminded them that since this was going to be a permanent project, they should persevere if the initial results were not high.

Initially, members are primarily selling *News Worlds* and witnessing in their areas, as each member searches for 360 households to cultivate. Soon they will be loaning Divine Principle cassette tapes and paperback books on a large scale.

New York witnessing members had previously gained experience in door-to-door witnessing under the direction of Dr. William Bargman. He is very excited at the potential of the new plan for New York City. "Door-to-door witnessing has greater possibilities than street witnessing. In the first place, we learned through the Washington Monument campaign that this method makes re-contact so much easier. Also, negative feelings about our movement, although widespread, are not so deep and can be changed through the sustained personal contact that door-to-door work offers. I hope that we can change the current image of Father so that he can be seen as the fulfillment of the trends of idealism so strong in the history of this country."

Dr. Bergman emphasizes member education in the Divine Principle for effective door-to-door work. "I hope, he said, that the members can learn not only to understand the Divine Principle but to verbally express it. They should be able to speak God's word not just in a formal lecture but wherever they meet people - in their homes, in coffee shops, and in informal meetings. This is how they can

gain confidence in their spiritual power."

The New York witnessing members can make unique contributions to their communities because currently many of them are members of the Performing Arts groups -- the New Hope Singers, the Go-World Brass Band, the Voices of Freedom and Sunburst spend part of the day rehearsing but most of the day on the streets. When they return to the 43rd St.

building at night, they frequently bring their contacts to a buffet supper and to informal entertainment, which Performing Arts puts on. The 43rd St. building has been transformed into a bustle of music, singing, lectures, discussions and informal gatherings. And all over New York, members are talking about the new friends already found in each corner of the city.



Zella Steward from the New Hope Singers entertains guests at the daily 43rd St. program. Many guests had been contacted door-to-door.

From Overseas Representatives

FROM AFRICA

Many times I've happened to tell an old missionary that I'm doing volunteer social work to elevate the social and moral standard of African youth. So many times, I've been told by the "old timer", "Well, son, I wish you lots of luck. I've been a missionary out here for 36 years. Africans never change. I sure hope somebody can have success." And I would say enthusiastically, eyes sparkling, and face shining, "Oh, yes sir: I wish you could see what we've accomplished already. I'm very confident that we..." and so on, telling about all our plans, and how our members have been learning music, and how they come from so many different tribes, and on and on like that. "Well, son, I wish you luck. I sure hope somebody can raise the spiritual and moral standard here. The world needs more young men like you. God bless you, son. Me, I'm going

back home next week." Something like that. Beat. Why? Because he's had bad experiences for the past 36 years and nothing's changed, and now he's tired and going home. Will I be like that 20 or 30 years from now--or two or three years from now? Or now?

Then I think about what Jesus said when they were nailing him to the cross, "Father forgive them, for they know now what they are doing." And when Judas kissed him. And when Peter denied him outside the Sanhedrin. Jesus didn't just give up and go home. Jesus didn't become cynical and hard-hearted. He just loved the people. For 2000 years, he just loved the people. And I think about Father, who has been betrayed, maligned, falsely accused and misunderstood. But he never gives up, and he never gets discouraged. He has never given in to self-pity. He never complains. He just loves the people. And God Himself. The simple fact that He

hasn't nudged Planet Earth into the Sun by now is testimony enough to His love.

So, then how can I be discouraged, or bitter or in despair over the spiritual state of Africa? If I am defeated over this point, then I cannot grasp hands with Jesus or True Parents or Heavenly Father. While my heart is not as developed as theirs, nevertheless, I WILL NOT be discouraged.

It looks like I, at any rate, had a thoroughly naive view and anticipation of what we came here to accomplish, and what would be required of us to accomplish it. I don't expect that we're going to restore this country in two or three years and all live happily ever after. I think we're in this for the long haul, and I think we're in for many frustrations, disappointments, reversals, and betrayals, all the way, just as we have had up to now for the past two years. Maybe

some of us will die here. I certainly have no illusion that a knife couldn't be as easily slid between a pair of my ribs as anyone else's. I don't know any more when I go to sleep at night whether I will be alive the next morning. I don't wish it to be that way; it just is that way.

Father once told us that there would be some casualties along the path of restoration. So be it. I only pray that if I must die before I'm old, that it won't be for some stupid reason, like negligently running into an ambush of robbers. I hope that in God's eyes I can die for God's purpose, and while I live, to live for the sake of God. But if I have a choice, I would rather live than die, and that's what I'm counting on. For a long long time. I think God is going to do His best to keep most of us going for many years to come because He doesn't need spirits, He needs bodies. He can count on to work for Him.

April 1 Speech

"...Conquer Tragedy First. Then Raise God to Glory..."

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has nothing to do with God, since God is one, harmonious being.

Where can we regain that dignity, asked Father. We cannot do it by ourselves. It is a joint process with God. Fallen man has reversed God's dual purpose for him, thinking only of himself and striving to fulfill love with himself at the center. We must reverse this pattern by putting God at the center. The purpose of our lives must be to glorify God. As we restore the unity of mind and body, then God can come in, said Father.

If God could have intervened to prevent the fall and its resultant evil, "he would have done it a long time ago." Man must work to restore the distance to God. Just as God and man are separated, our mind and body are opposite each other. While the mind tends to be unselfish, the body is always seeking its own fulfillment. Like an anchor, Satan and self-centered love are a weight, dragging us down; we must use the sword of our heart and mind to cut the rope of connecting us to the anchor.

Father reminded us that in the realm of religion, Jesus spoke to this point by saying that unless people loved him most, they were not worthy of the Kingdom. "The religious life is cruel to the body," he said. "Religion is a drama in which God is trying to achieve His goal."

"In your every action, you must feel that God is doing it," said Father. Always put God ahead of you. By knowing that God is happy, you will be happy. By loving

God, we can become intimate with him, as love brings complete oneness.

"Feel that for God, there is nothing you will not do," Father continued. "Can you bear the cross of love? That is the worst test of any man...How infinite and abundant the love of God has been!"

"Today is April 1," he went on. "We have

been going our own way. We have never thought of the dignity of God. We must change this today. We must bring a revolution upon ourselves. To comfort God, we must understand His heart and feel His burden, for no one has suffered more than God. We must ask God for the worst suffering and therefore feel that we

are the liberators of the sorrowful heart of God. We must ask how we can comfort God's historical heart. The supreme loyalty is to disregard our own reward, thinking of how to better comfort God.. God is always thinking of how to bear the cross of the world. You can participate by thinking how you can bear the cross of all men and women of the world...Remember that you can choose between temporal or eternal glory. Unless you go God's route, you cannot raise up his dignity or restore your own."

If we make up our minds to do God's will and volunteer for the most difficult mission, said Father, we will meet God in spirit world... "If you become God-centered men and women, you will be honored by God in spirit world. Your life may be difficult, but never forget the reason. When you are attacked, think of God. God has been a God of suffering and tragedy. Before you search after him, you must first conquer tragedy. Then you can raise God to honor, glory, and dignity."

Father drew the speech to a conclusion: "If one man or woman comes to live under God's absolute standard, that means success. This is because in God's sight, one man is the entire universe. If everything perishes and one man or woman is victorious, he can become the leader of the tradition of the Unification Church, and upon that rock the Kingdom of Heaven will be wrought. Those who want to participate in the erection of the tradition of God, raise your hands. If you really feel that, I want to assure you that the glory and honor of God will rest with you."



Janice Kaplan: freed from conservatorship.

Victory

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access to their attorneys. Both provisions were violated; the parents and the "deprogrammers" whisked the five away right after the Vavuris' ruling and kept them incommunicado.

While there is yet more ground to cover before the abuse of conservatorship laws discontinues, justice has at last been done in this case and at least one member will be returning from the "deprogramming" movement. As media interest in the case mushrooms, there is hope that the brutal "deprogramming" movement will be exposed as the public danger that it really is.

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