

TODAY'S

WORLD

NOVEMBER 2009



Father Sets the Pace



On the Saturday following the October 14 Blessing Ceremony, Hyung-jin nim spoke to Today's World about the occasion as he experienced it.

This blessing was a huge victory. It's all faith-based in the sense that we are here to celebrate True Parents, receive the blessing and give gratitude to True Parents. That can only happen in a community of faith.

Everyone paid the registration fee. Everyone became an owner—I did it myself, I paid everything. Kook-jin hyung did as well. So we were real owners when we went in. And because of that, we were ready to receive True Parents.

We are standing up for our faith. When I gave the welcoming address, I made it clear that Father's the Messiah. We are declaring that now. We are declaring what we believe in, in that atmosphere of faith.... Father was so happy; he was on fire.

This was a great victory and success; it was as if Father were dancing up the stairs afterward]. We were so grateful. It was just such an electric, faith-filled event. It was so different, like going to a revival. We purposefully put our faith at the center of everything. Our action plan is: "We are proud of what we believe, and this what we believe. And you should believe it too!" [Hyung-jin nim laughs]

We are being honest about what we believe. They all know we declare Father is the Messiah. But at our events we would beat around the bush. Yet when we just declare it, people just say "Yes, that's what they believe." And for us to stand up and say, "This is what we believe, and it's our right to believe it" is an important change in our mentality as a culture, as a movement. Because we are a spiritual movement, we have to declare our faith. We are not here to promote a peace activist or an educator. We are here to promote the Messiah, the returning Christ. All Christians and all the world must understand Father's messianic role. It's a return to faith.

I was so happy because the Two Rivers Choir were up there, young blessed kids. And I have seen them grow in their own faith, just being in the Two Rivers Choir and being at church. When they saw True Parents, I saw some of them were crying. They were bowing to True Parents; they really had a reverence that they hadn't had before, and which I love. I love seeing that development of faith in them.

Mother was also delighted. She kept praising Kook-jin hyung. "Well done!" she said, "Very well done!" He had reported to True Parents that the organizers had asked for a certain budget to hold the event, but that he had sent them away, saying, "No! Take this out of my office. Return it to me in realistic terms." He did that a couple of times, and then that whole event was done for a 20 percent of the original amount requested. We are not going to use more money than we need. This is money representing the faith of members.

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October 12-13, 2009**

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Cover Photo: True Parents after the Blessing Ceremony on October 14. Back cover: A wide view of the Blessing Ceremony at Sun Moon University

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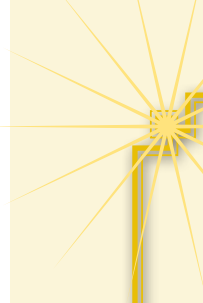
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Invocation of the Blessing

10.14 True Parents' Cosmic Blessing Ceremony





Father God who is the great Lord of all the cosmos, we give sincere thanks that You have permitted us, this day, to hold this ceremony marking the 10.14 Cosmic Blessing. As Heaven has specially permitted us today to perform acts of goodness in the midst of such a wonderful environment, we beseech that You will grant Your blessing on these brides and grooms who stand here in holiness with the justification of having become children of the parents in heaven, as representative men and representative women representing the 6.5 billion people of the world, and who now attend Heaven in this splendid environment with hearts of joy and jubilation.

How You have longed to see such good men and women!

We give sincere thanks, Father, that You have allowed the grace of being able to inherit the lineage of the holy blessing, whereby we are born again in accordance with a relationship of flesh and blood with the True Parents, in 194 Abel-type countries and 193 Cain-type countries¹ centering on the 6.5 billion people of the world, here on the campus of Sun Moon University in Asan, the Republic of Korea, on ground prepared beforehand by Heaven with great effort and representing the temples of education that nourish all people so they may be offered to Heaven, and where we can remember the campuses in our own country where we were educated.

We are truly grateful that You have permitted us to have this day to commemorate this solemn occasion in the presence of all nations, all creation and the entire cosmos, where True Parents, the substantial embodiment of the fruits representing the king of the kings of all nations and the numerous kings in history, have become one with God, in the name of True Parents.

After the time of the Creation, our Heavenly Father, You dreamed of the model parents of all peoples and waited for the day of the blessing. Yet You could not bless Adam and Eve, and instead You lost them. Since then, You have had to endure for tens of thousands of years until this day, on which are present tens of thousands of couples who have been called here after undergoing suffering and difficulty to inherit the realm of heart under Your lineage. So Father, please welcome these brides and grooms into Your heart with open arms.

In the presence of Your heart, which had yearned for Adam and Eve to reach their twenties, have come tens of thousands of children to be blessed in this plaza in Korea, after thousands of years have passed, so please embrace them with a wide heart and deep and noble affection, and please allow the children, blessed in the spiritual world and the physical world centering on true love, to inherit the bloodline of true love through the love of God and True Parents and receive the blessing as husband and wife.

The brothers and sisters who have received the blessing in the past, and the billions of couples in the spiritual world and many blessed brothers and sisters in the physical world are all here in this plaza to congratulate the couples, so please look upon them with favor and let Your heart, which was closed, and which has yearned for this for generations, open in joy.

It was the wish of Heaven to form the one family, Adam's, but this could not be fulfilled and it was lost in Eden. This commemorative day, October 14, is the joyous day on which we can go beyond that and bless these sons and daughters brought together in tens of thousands of couples, as the flowers of high, wide and deep true love, so Father we hope and pray that You will bless this day more than any day ever before.

Thanks to the joint efforts of parents, brothers and sisters, teachers in the schools of many nations, and religious leaders on the foundation of religion who have nurtured and raised these children, they have been able to be here, to be brought together as brothers and sisters, and to be dedicated before You as citizens of the one nation. We are truly grateful to You for permitting us this opportunity.

These new couples, the good men and women called here by Heaven and blessed together, are the new fruits representing billions of blessed couples. They are the newly harvested seeds in front of the brothers and sisters who have received the blessing before them, so please receive them as the proud brides and grooms of heaven and earth.

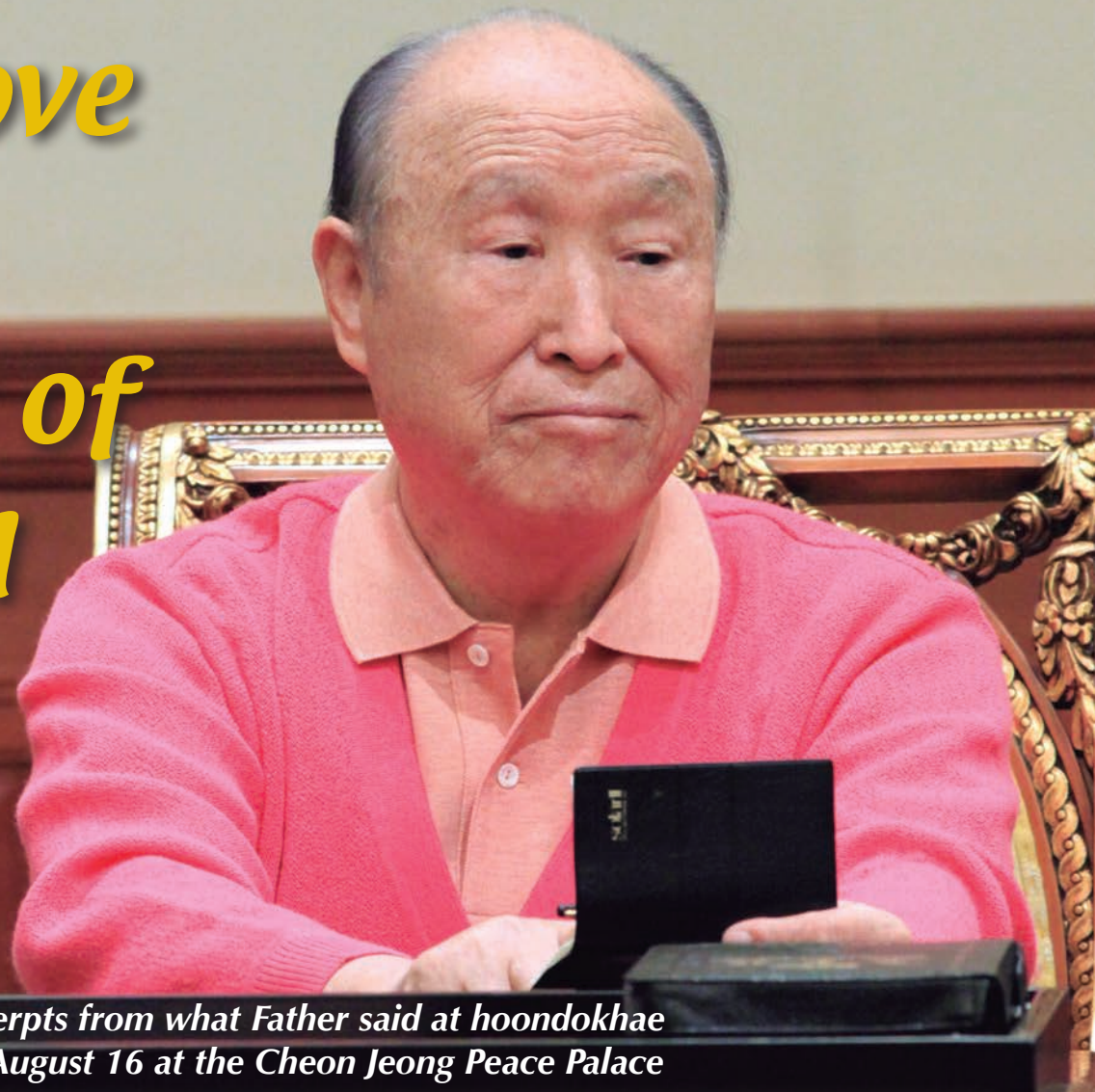
Heavenly Father, please look down upon this joyous arena with pleasure as the spiritual and physical worlds, the people that attend God, come together here to attend True Parents, the substantial representatives of the one God whom they have served from the time they were in their mothers' wombs through the times of puberty, youth, middle age and old age. We also hope and pray in the name of True Parents that our innumerable fellow members in the kingdom of heaven, looking down at this plaza, will support these model couples who have been newly blessed with deeper, broader, loftier and more joyous hearts.

Aju! [Aju!]

Please receive glory from us, and allow us to praise You more and more! Thank You, thank You, thank You! Aju! [Aju!]

¹ The United Nations has 193 members states; the "Abel United Nations" has 194.

True Love Is the Source of Eternal Power



*Excerpts from what Father said at hoondokhae
on August 16 at the Cheon Jeong Peace Palace*

The [Won-gu Peace Cup] tournament ended yesterday, August 15, a day that is a historic turning point in our history.¹ It is a very important day, and henceforth the “East, West, South, North Won-gu Peace Cup” will be a turning point for the world. That is an amazing fact.

God’s word has been expressed in such textbooks as *Pyeong Hwa Shin Gyeong*. You need this textbook. This textbook will last for all eternity and can be used even when I’m not here. No one in the future should be unaware of books of this type. Only those who are well versed in them can enter the kingdom of heaven; those who do not know about them cannot. This is such a serious matter!

This textbook contains everything that Heaven has rectified; there is nothing more you need to ask about history, and no answer that you cannot find. This is more fundamental than the constitution by which a nation is governed, so unless you stand on this foundation of understanding, you cannot form a relationship with the kingdom of heaven as a whole. What’s in this book is very serious.

That is why you need to inherit this textbook from your parents. Just as True Parents made this for you and passed it on to the world’s nations, you need to become one with this

textbook and educate your children accordingly. This is not a text that is just to be used temporarily.

Where have you come from today? [MC: “These are employees of providential organizations and businesses.”] So you are the central figures of the Unification Church from the providential organizations and businesses. Only a few people can enter the kingdom of heaven. You have thus far failed to fulfill this tremendous task. What would happen if I were to go to the spirit world just like that? If I had not made a textbook, it would be a serious problem. Therefore, having reached ninety, I need to continue on to the age of a hundred and four. This work will be finished when I am ninety-two years old. Therefore, I must reach a hundred and four.

There will be no national boundaries. National boundaries will disappear, from right here. So what’s this Won-gu? [It is the East, West, South, North Won-gu Peace Cup Cain–Abel Cosmic Harmony Tournament.] It is the East, West, South, North Won-gu Peace Cup. East, West, South, North, means people should be drawn together from all directions....

When you consider the mind and the body, the body knows what the mind does, and vice versa. There is nothing they don’t know. Your inner mind knows everything you do in your lifetime. You cannot deceive it. You need to become one with it. If you don’t achieve that unity, you will disappear as if your metabolism had stopped functioning. Goodness can only reside where the two are united; it cannot exist

¹ Father is alluding to the previous day and also to this date in 1945, when Japan surrendered to the Allies at the end of World War II in the Pacific, and thereby ceded possession of Korea.

with only one or the other.

That is why human beings have a dual structure. The mind connects vertically to the original nature, and the body connects horizontally to it. You are made of spirit and body. How can you exist and move about without knowing these fundamentals? Can motion occur just like that?

What is astonishing about Confucian theology? What does it say about going the right way? "To be righteous and go the right way is the heavenly course that should be followed; justice, decorum and wisdom are qualities human beings need." Confucianism says people should be just, proper and wise, but they aren't always. The correct and righteous way, which people should follow as the heavenly way, and the justice, appropriateness and wisdom that human beings should pursue have not become one inside and out. In other words, the principles of heavenly law and the principles guiding humankind should be one, but they have yet to unite; rather, they are in conflict.

Do your mind and body fight, or not? The fact that they are in conflict is a big problem. Why do they fight? The cause of their fighting lies in their coming from two sources. When they fight, they become distinctly two, and two that are in conflict are bound to disappear in the end. If the two unite, the world that impedes them from growing will disappear. Otherwise, it is the same as being dead. Achieving this is being alive and being connected to everything. Because God created the entire universe, even a lock of hair on your head is like one of God's cells, so it connects to the universe. There is nothing God cannot connect to.

From a very young age, I talked with all creation. The things of creation taught me everything. I can hear them. How could I not perish despite all the opposition from the vast world but instead make a textbook the reading of which can bring all people to submit to me of their own free will? They cannot help yielding to the authority of this textbook. Unification should be brought about naturally.

All it takes is to teach people based on this textbook for thirteen years, a year of kindergarten, six years of elementary school and six years of middle and high school. In thirteen years, they will know everything....

My grandfather was a prophet working on the global level. But when I asked him about it he could not explain it. When I was a child, my grandfather told me my fortune, but when I asked him, "How will this turn out like this?" he could not answer. He would say, "I know it is going to be like this, but how do I know?"

This book is the masterpiece to end all masterpieces. It is very fearsome content. It does not contain untruths. Neither college graduates, Ph.D. holders, UN ambassadors, nor even the United States president could refute it....

The cosmic Sabbath for the Parents of Heaven and Earth is related to absolute sexual ethics. Within absolute sexual ethics is a sexual principle based on the father's love, and a sexual principle based on the mother's life. You don't know this, because it is all rather vague. Then, what are concave and convex? The sperm of the father and the ovum of the mother are two separate things. The essence of the universe is nothing other than the reproductive organs. Through them, God's people can be born; and then they can be raised, and the nation and the world developing from the roots and buds of the life-and-death realm can be established.

Where does this all come from? Where is the ultimate root? God is a neutral being with dual characteristics; in terms of

character, He is clearly the male subject. Man and woman, concave and convex, are separate. Not every couple can give birth just because they are concave and convex. Unless the sperm and the ovum come together, a couple cannot have children, they cannot produce a boy, or a girl.

What allows a woman to give birth to a boy? It's a mystery. A man cannot give birth to a girl. So how is it that a woman can give birth to a boy? What makes it possible? It's not a matter of having sexual organs. It's a matter of having true love....

When your mind and body are in conflict, the basis on which heaven and earth can harmonize and come together is destroyed. How can we unite body and mind? Until now, no saint or sage has ever been able to say so much about this.

The Unification Church must teach the basis on which body and mind can unite. If one can't achieve that, he cannot know God. How can he know God if God doesn't have a family? Only when God has a family, and only when He becomes the master of that family can He become the master of a tribe, a people, a nation, the world and cosmos [all of heaven and earth].

Why do we need a family? As a king, God needs a queen, and the existence of that horizontal relationship implies that a vertical aspect is needed, the father-son relationship. The bottom line is that original true parents, that is, Adam and Eve, are necessary. Original means not having fallen. Adam and Eve were to have been the original king and queen of peace.

The question is whether it would have been enough to have only Adam and Eve. The two did not keep to the vertical standard. Then what should have been done in order for them to be aligned with the vertical standard? For the parents to reach a higher position there should be sons and daughters who can serve as their foundation. There is a relationship of subject- and object partners between parents and children. Who are the king and queen that set up the original Peace Cup? They are our ancestors, the "Adam" and "Eve" who can be the king and queen who have not fallen.

Why should they be the king and queen? Since they are at the top, they need to send their roots downward, but the king and queen cannot just put down roots. Only when they have children do the king and queen put down roots. Without children, parents could not exist. Heaven and earth would disappear, the planet Earth would disappear, and God Himself would disappear; in short, everything would disappear.

It is true love, a mother and father's true love, that made everything....

There can only be the one center in the entire universe. That is absolute. There is only one bloodline, one origin of love, one starting point of justice, and one righteous standard for everything ideologically, but no one knows what the core of that standard could be. It is the standard of true love.

What is true love? If God, Adam and Eve were united spiritually and physically, their bodies would automatically know what God is thinking. No explanations would be necessary. The body would follow automatically. If Adam and Eve had not fallen, they would have automatically completed the purpose that human beings of the original mold were made to fill. Because they fell, they abandoned that purpose.

What can reverse this? If love was turned around the wrong way, it can be turned back again, so what is the problem? The problem is that the bloodline was inverted; the bloodline that should have belonged to God instead became Satan's, the Devil's bloodline. You don't know how fearsome

the bloodline is. Western people do not understand bloodlines.

These people, what do they do when True Parents establish the logic whereby the family is shown to be the fundamental base of the structure of heaven and earth? Because they only understand superficially, they think that all it takes is for a man and a woman to unite wherever they are. They say "We're fine because we are having fun and are living in peace," but far from it! They will break up when lightning strikes if they are not united. Do you understand that?

The motivating force that gives birth to eternal energy is true love! False love is divided like the four seasons, but true love makes relationships by connecting the four seasons through its root and buds. So the unified world governed by that principle of motion is inevitably the world of the extended family of the one lineage connected to the one bud, one stem, and one root.

Because of Satan, there are now two bloodlines, divided from each other. That's how it is now. We haven't known how goodness and evil could be united. So I have made a textbook as the ideological, reasonable solution. Once you have mastered this textbook, everything will be resolved. ...

When you listen to what I say, you should realize that I am not someone you can treat casually. I am a man who has lived fully understanding the roots of history. What wrongs have I committed that I have had to go to prison six times in my life? No matter how much you think about it, you can't imagine that being possible. Neither paradoxical reasoning nor force can bring me to submission.

My autobiography has finally been published. At this time, I must reveal what the actual truth is. In order to reveal it, I need to create a textbook, which everyone in heaven and on earth should read and agree with. If I do not produce such a textbook, the Last Days cannot come. So I have finished that task.

No matter who someone is, if his body and mind are in conflict, he cannot go to the kingdom of heaven. I cannot take him there. My body and mind are not in conflict. This textbook provides the solution. If the body and mind are in conflict and that conflict cannot be ended, what will happen? Because goodness and evil are different, there can be no world of peace until the two sides make a connection. One person would automatically have to die and be gone.

But someone who has committed suicide does not have a place to go to in the next world. He or she has to go to the bottommost place. You too, at one time or another, may have felt that life in this world was too burdensome and that you would rather die. Even I have dealt with such thoughts.

Rather than living a tedious life, committing sins until the time when you die of old age, would you think it is perhaps better to die while you are in the prime of life? But that would



True Parents followed by Hyung-jin nim, Rev. T. L. Barrett and Rabbi Itzhak Bar Dea at the October 1 launching of the English version of Father's autobiography in Washington DC

be the same as a fig tree that lets its flowers fall before they have opened so that they cannot be eaten by aphids.

The person that has thus failed to bear fruit will exist in sheer misery and solitude in the next world. Those who have committed suicide do not have any identity in the spirit world. Because I knew this, no matter how many times I was imprisoned or tortured, what did I do? Unless I was unavoidably beaten to death, what purpose would my death serve? It would have been a serious matter if I had died! The serious question is how can hell be closed down.

I have stated my views on the way to solve fundamental problems in life and have actually solved them. The story of the ninety years of my turbulent life, lived for the sake of all humanity, represents God's heart to restore His lost children.

That is why throughout my life I have known that the work to liberate God will not be achieved unless I do it. Because I understood that, it is that which I could not help crying about when my flesh and bones were worn away and even my bone marrow melted. Therefore, no one can arrogantly come to me, with a self-important attitude, and boast about himself. Yet there are ambassadors for peace who ask why I don't want to meet with them....

The Unification Church must weave its history based on the proper tradition. The course of the providence and the course of humankind must be in alignment. They must be woven together. I have made this textbook, which is reasonable and logical, and given that the substantial realm I have sought has not been established based on what's in this textbook, I need to finish that work before I die.

My mother was one of the Yeonan Kims, a branch of the Gyeongju Kims. That is why she acted with a sense of authority. When you visited the home she grew up in, you could see her clan's history and traditions. People who went into the room where the ancestors were enshrined saw that it was full of clothes distinctive of government ministers. They would say, "Oh, it's a very prominent clan!" I mention these things even though I don't need to.



True Parents at the celebration for the Foundation Day for the Unified Nation of Heaven and Earth, on October 3 at East Garden, in the State of New York

I have never told anyone about her last words to me, her final words that she bid me to keep to myself. Actually, there were spiritual phenomena, which she saw with her own eyes. She saw mountains and the sea, and these looked like the mountains and the sea that surrounded us. So she thought the vision was actual, but it wasn't.

Mother said to me, "You must not talk about this matter casually. The beloved children born in this family will not be able to live, then." She bid me keep the secret. What she told me contained the truth of both worlds. She said she saw a vision during the day and that I was not to speak of it to others as something that had actually happened.

I have never talked about the final words my mother said to me until now. In those last words she said, "You follow this path!" and I have based my life on those words until now.

Whether I was in prison or anywhere else, it was up to me to reveal [the truth]. Now that I have made this textbook, what will happen when I go to the next world? No one else can become the owner of this land. Try using this textbook to teach students in middle school and high school. They will all turn their lives around.

You left your homes to follow me even though you had heard only *Explanation of the Divine Principle* and *Exposition of the Divine Principle*, so what will happen when people experience the taste of substantial reality? Once you experience the taste of honey your tongue tries to follow it down in the effort to savor it, and your innards dance about. What would the people who have experienced the substantial reality be like? When a honeybee is tasting honey, it does not let go even if the lower half of its body is pulled away.

Do you know how addictive God's love is? Men and women who cohabit believe that Satan's love, love's sediment, is the best, but that's nothing by comparison. ...

Cheon Seong Gyeong also contains facts about the spirit world, doesn't it? Even in this other small booklet here,² you can read about the actual situation in the spirit world. This

2 We assume Father is referring either to *Pyeong Hwa Shin Gyeong* or *True Family: Gateway to Heaven*

is the final textbook to be published on the reality of the spirit world. It is a textbook. As long as there are such textbooks, your ancestors who lived on earth a hundred, or a thousand, years ago will come and teach you. Those of your ancestors who believe in the Unification Church will appear to you, hang on to you, forcing you to stay put, and they will teach you about it.

Your parents should do that. If you love your children, you should teach them this way of life, even if it means you have to fast for forty days. Only those who can earnestly teach this to their children, on behalf of God and True Parents, can enter the kingdom of heaven. ...

Published expressions of the Principle include *Explanation of the Divine Principle* and *Exposition of the Divine Principle*,

and the "substantial Divine Principle."³ We are talking about it nowadays, and everyone needs to be educated in it once again. On October 14, even those who have received the blessing must come with seven generations of their ancestors as well as their relatives up to sixteen degrees away,⁴ and receive the blessing once again in front of True Parents. Only then can their clan enter the kingdom of God. At that time I will test you. Someone may claim, "I am an ambassador for peace; why doesn't Rev. Moon ever meet people like us? I want to meet him alone!" But I will not meet such people. Even if I were to meet them, I would have absolutely nothing to say to them. That would be embarrassing, so why should I meet them? It would be better not to....

If you give these books to the CEOs of companies in Las Vegas, they will come looking for me all through the night. The content is that good. Anyone who has reached a position where he is at least using 50 percent of his abilities will fall in love with this book. He will fall in love with it.

Kwak Chung-hwan! How many Kwaks are there? [There are 180,000.] You need to give this book to all 180,000 families. Even if you have to sell everything you have to do that; you need to buy all of them all these books—*Pyeong Hwa Shin Gyeong*, *True Family: Gateway to Heaven* and *Divine Principle*.

What good would it do you to hold on to your wealth? This book is worth millions of won and would qualify as the main exhibit in a museum of items that should be left to generations of your descendants. After you go to the spirit world, see whether it is true or not. Please, after you die, go to see what kind of a spirit world people who have mastered the content of this book go to, and whether I have taught you lies. I do not lie. I have nothing to be ashamed of. **TW**

3 Father is likely referring to the content of the *Original Divine Principle* that is being taught at the new Principle workshops in Korea and the U.S.

4 For example including yourself, a first cousin is four degrees away: you, your parent, your parent's sibling and child (your cousin), four in all. Koreans generally don't consider beyond eight. By using sixteen, Father likely means "bring everybody."

The Months Before the Founding of Our Church

Autumn 1953–Spring 1954

This installment, the seventeenth to appear in Today's World, covers the period during which Father left Busan and moved in steps toward Seoul. It focuses on the memorable time he spent in Daegu.

From 1953, I began a seven-year course in order to make a fresh start in 1960. During those seven years, I set up all sorts of conditions. In the early days, we had churches in three places, Busan, Daegu and Seoul. Those three churches had to become one with me and on the foundation of that unity I had to proceed to fulfill indemnity conditions. I had to resolve Jesus' grief and resentment. Without doing this, restoration could not occur.

When I first began working to establish the church, I used to beg for food. I was in terrible circumstances but I wasn't ashamed. From the position of knowing Jesus' will, I knew that I would fulfill my mission to teach the central principles [Divine Principle] for the sake of the future, which in turn would ignite a fire in the hearts of countless young people.

Long ago, at a time when we were very poor, I wanted to see the members so much it was unbearable. I have feelings too, you know. At these times, I couldn't think about sleeping or eating, I couldn't be comfortable. I went to many train stations in order to meet people. I sought them out with a heart of longing that even exceeded that of a person who had gone to wait for their son or the one they love.

When I would arrive at those locations the person would be there waiting with a train ticket for me in their hands. Can you believe that? They would say they had received a revelation in a dream the day before, telling them certain things. Then they would ask where I was going that day. I have had many similar surprising experiences. The Unification Church was established on that kind of foundation. When times were hard, sometimes I had no money at all.



Eu Hyo-won joins in Busan (December 24, 1953)

The admirable thing about President Eu was that he made notes of the whole of the Principle and shed countless tears with every page. Because he was an intellectual, as intelligent as a university student, he had tired himself out searching for the truth, so when he came, by chance, to know this deep reality, he didn't just shed one or two tears, it was like a waterfall.

The rapture you feel when you come near to the truth cannot be recorded without shedding tears. I heard that it took him a week to copy down one page of the Principle. So you can imagine how much he must have cried. The words of truth which could relate

to the original mind have the power to make love explode in your heart and then explode again and that explosiveness continues.

President Eu's strong point is this: Even without having heard me speak, just from reading the Principle, by himself he stood with gratitude and pledged to become an eternal offering in front of Heaven. When I was lonely, I met that kind of person. This was God's work.

When did President Eu join the church? In 1953. That was the same as subjugating and restoring Cain from the satanic, Cain world That's why I set him up as the representative. Although God knew that he was physically disabled, I made him the leader, and we started from there. President Eu was six years older than I was. John the Baptist was six months older than Jesus. From the Principled point of view, I had to think of him as being in John the Baptist's position. I started the Unification Church with President Eu.

God pours out His spirit in Yeongdo (December 24, 1953–January 18, 1954)

I first met President Eu during a very serious time. I had been chased and persecuted; I

then had come to Seoul in three stages—from Busan¹ to Daegu, and then to Seoul. This was restoration. I went to the very end of Busan, to Yeongdo, which is the southernmost point² and started from there.

When I started from Yeongdo in Busan, I was standing on the highest summit; it was in the most serious time of my life, so it was a time when I loved my co-workers, my brothers and sisters and the Korean people more than anyone else did. At that time I concentrated my whole self on realizing God's will. Also, in order to find one child, realize a family and restore the nation, God poured out His whole heart, soul and love. At that time I spoke while moved by God's love and heart. The words I spoke were not my own. It was as though God were using me as He would a microphone. Those people who came to our meetings then were all able to experience the spiritual world within a week—not even a week. Many experienced the spiritual world within a few hours of listening to my speeches. It was as if the spiritual world were sending spiritual waves to the physical world. It was as if God were sending waves of love.

It took President Eu less than five minutes to go to the toilet and come back. He asked me to wait just five minutes and he ran to the toilet and he ran back. If I was serious, the others were serious, too. That stands to reason. If you have the absolute subject partner, the absolute object partner appears...and cannot leave.

President Eu was a simple-hearted person. His warrior spirit was strong, and he only knew how to go in one direction. He sat down with me and melted. All the people there were shown the kingdom of heaven. People like Hyo-min³ had been led there by the spiritual world. After about a week, I came out and was crossing over the Yeongdo bridge and I thought, Is this what cars look like? It felt as though we had been away for thousands of years and even though we had come home, we thought, Is this really the house I live in?

Severe persecution in Daegu (first visit, December 2, 1953)

What always comes to mind when we speak of the history of the Unification Church in Daegu? It was the place of the most intense and severe persecution. If a place can be said to have

1 A Korean would count Busan as a stage, yet, as will be seen, he made a short stopover in Gimcheon.

2 Yeongdo is a peninsula that juts into Busanman Bay.

3 Eu Hyo-min was President Eu's younger cousin, who did not remain with the church



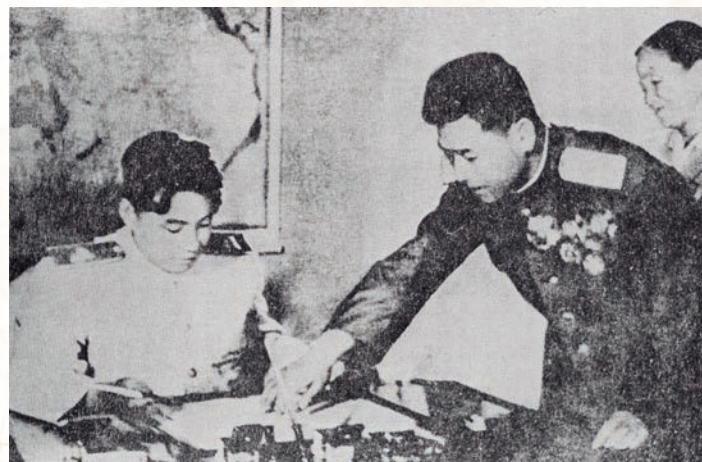
Father sitting front and center with early members in Daegu in February 1954; Rev. Eu Hyo-won is standing on the left.

rendered "distinguished service" in opposing the Unification Church, the number one place in this respect is Daegu, located in the middle of Gyeongbuk Province.

When I walked the streets, I did my best to take the back streets, the deserted streets, as a sinner who was not a sinner. It wasn't good for me to meet anyone. Everybody knew me in the back streets there. The established churches used to show my photograph to everybody, so wherever I showed my face, people used to shout, "There he is! That Mr. Moon is here!" There was such a commotion.

When the established churches learned where I was, they used to guess that I would be staying near one of the local churches, and from that church, they used to blow a trumpet every day shouting, "Kick out the heretic monster!" They caused such a commotion that the whole city was murmuring against me, wanting to expel me. It got so bad that I couldn't go anywhere in the daytime.

Daegu people are considered stiff-necked, aren't they? And once they make up their minds about something, they will never change, no matter what you do to them. Stiff-necked people are like that. Daegu was the gung-ho headquarters of the established churches. The Che-il [First] Church ministers were at the core of those opposing the Unification Church.



The Armistice Agreement ending the Korean War was signed, on July 27, 1953, by Kim Il-sung (left) and UN commander Mark Clark (right). Meanwhile, regardless of the worldly environment, Father focused his "whole self on realizing God's will."



Members in Daegu celebrate Father's February 9, 1954 birthday

There was Deaconess Im's son-in-law. The world is very strange; his mother-in-law was attending our church, but he was extremely active in opposing it.

I have a lot to say about the city of Daegu. The reason I was able to survive and endured such extreme persecution was because I had such an unchangeable earnest desire and hope. What was the aim of that hope? It was to realize God's nation, guaranteed by God, which He had been trying to restore throughout the ages. This hope has also been that of countless religious people throughout history.

The land deserves to be cursed, but didn't God order Jonah to warn Nineveh? However, then Jonah went away, hoping for the destruction of Nineveh and was cast into the sea by God. Because I experienced love from God, who put Jonah in the whale's stomach, I was a young man who had the strength to say to God, if He were to tell me that He was going to destroy the city, "Heavenly Father, please forgive them just one more time. I will restore this city for You."

Moving thirteen times in a month

Why was Daegu such an enemy of the Unification Church? Thanks to one minister who complained about me, I saw a lot of Daegu. I had not had the opportunity to familiarize myself with their alleyways until I was chased from this alley to that alley. I thought that the Daegu church people were saying to me, "Research about our alleyways!"

There was one month in Daegu when I had to move thirteen times. Even so, I did not inform the Daegu church members where I was going. The established churches were against me, and our members used to follow me around in large groups. It would have been all right if I had been silent, but the family members wouldn't let me. If I moved somewhere they would cry, "Where has the Master⁴ gone?" They prayed, shedding so many tears that even

⁴ Members referred to Father as Master in the early days

God thought it was a big problem. He would say, "Do you really want to meet Rev. Moon that much?"

"Yes! We really want to meet him!"

Then He would say, "Okay, let's go!" and He would lead them to me.

They would come to my room and exclaim, "Rev. Moon is in here!" and they would open the door and just come into my room. That kind of thing happened time and again. Many times when they didn't know, God led them to where I was staying.

They thought with their hearts and just followed their feet. Their feet just led them to where I was. Their heads were not guiding them. What led them? Their feet! In Daegu many grandmothers had such experiences.

The crucial Abel-Cain foundation

I gathered a few members in Busan and started witnessing there, and then came up to Seoul via Daegu and Gimcheon because I felt the need to establish a foundation in Seoul. Around that time, I visited Elder Na's retreat and was chased away. From there, I came back up to Seoul and established the Unification Church.

From the position of the parent, it was not my role to take the lead in giving the blessing. I had to set up Cain and Abel,

and then establish a foundation centering on having restored them. At that time Na Un-mong and Pak Tae-sun were in the positions of Cain and Abel. They thought it was because they were special. Do you know that? A new movement had begun. They should have cooperated with each other and attended me. That is from the Principle. Cain and Abel, North and South, have to be connected. The North is the Eve-type and the South is the Archangel-type. So Pak Dong-gi represented the South and Kim Seong-do⁵ and Hoh Hobin represented the North.

God had prepared these groups, but all the spiritual groups had their own selfish ambitions.... They didn't understand that their purpose originated in God. So all these groups that pursued their own selfish interests inside the realm of metaphysical conception disappeared. God didn't set up the groups for Elder Na and Elder Pak for their own sakes.

In relation to this point, speaking of his environment, Jesus said, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head." It was my destiny to experience almost the same thing in my life. **TW**



When Father started his mission in the South, life there was grim; 3 million North Korean refugees only made matters worse. Here, mothers sell fruit at a train station in 1954.

This text is translated from the first chapter of the third book of the series True Parents' Life Course (참부모님 생애 노정). The books comprise excerpts from Father's speeches over many years. From these, Father's reminiscences are arranged more or less chronologically in the form of an autobiographical account.

⁵ She is the grandmother of Chung Su-won, one of the thirty-six couples. He is the boonbongwang to Ukraine.

Let's Not Lose This Opportunity



Ji-yea nim spoke at a meeting to launch a new witnessing team made up of the wives of members working in the Tongil Group. She encouraged the sisters by relating some interesting stories that had inspired her.

Greetings, everyone. In this day and age, I think it is absolutely necessary to launch a women's witnessing program for the businesses. The time has finally come. I'm sure you too will come to realize that as you listen and see and feel today.

In 2006, within only a year,¹ the foundation first recorded a profit, which even now is being maintained. For the first time, this year, the church [in Korea] can finally financially manage on its own. The number of mem-

bers has increased, as has the amount given in offerings. There has been a revival in the church, leading members to devote themselves sincerely to the task, and our large new church, the growth stage Cheon Bok Gung, will stand tall before the world. As I mention all these successes, I find new hope, for which I am truly delighted and grateful.

These results were not just stumbled upon, but were brought about through transparent and genuine interaction among people, and through the hearts of those working for God and the world. So they are more radiant, and I feel very proud of them. I believe the world also sees how they shine. I will share two of my own experiences with you to illustrate what I mean.

There was a meeting of Miss Koreas, one in which all the Miss Koreas, from the first ever to those chosen last year, could attend. That being the case, sometimes there is a generation gap between the participants. I went to the meeting and met a woman in her sixties. Presumably she was one of the early Miss Koreas. She was sitting alone, and I sat opposite her. We talked about this and that, and I told her I have five children. She said in surprise, "You really have five children already."

Actually, among the Miss Koreas I'm quite well known for being a mother of five. She was surprised. She asked me how old my youngest was. It was summer at the time and our youngest child was about seven months old. When I told her, she said, "Your baby must be really cute!" She was curious, so I showed her the picture I had in my cell phone. The only picture I had of the baby was one taken with Kook-jin nim, so I showed it to her,

¹ The time since her husband Kook-jin nim began running, at Father's behest, the Foundation for the Support of HSAUWC

wondering to myself whether she would know him or not and thinking that she probably wouldn't. When I showed her the picture, she just gazed at it. So I asked her whether my husband's face looked familiar. She asked, "Isn't he one of the Moon family....?" but she didn't finish her sentence.

So I said, "Yes, that's right. He is the son of the Reverend Sun Myung Moon."

The lady complimented me, "Oh, you have married well!"

Later that day, I thought to myself that though she did not recognize some fellow participants in the meeting, whom she had met a few times, she recognized my husband's face after one look, although there was nothing in the picture, no logo or brand name, to suggest who he was. So I felt that the world feels differently now, and people are looking at us with an open mind.

Another experience I had was in a beauty salon I have been going to since 2003 when I was preparing to enter the Miss Korea contest. Though I have been a client of the salon for a few years, it was only very recently that the owner told me her husband is in the precious stones business. She told me he had gone to another country to buy gemstones. When he arrived there, though, he found that all the stores were closed and everyone was on holiday. It wasn't marked as an official holiday on the calendar, so the man asked people, "What holiday is this, that the whole country has the day off?"

They answered, "It's a day off because Rev. Sun Myung Moon is visiting the country today." That really shocked her husband.

He was astonished to find that even in such a small, faraway country, Rev. Moon was recognized as a great man. This made him feel proud of being a Korean in that foreign land. The salon owner told me that she would like to attend our church, so I'm working on witnessing to her.

We should not lose the opportunity that this moment in time offers us, when the world is so changed and open to us. We know about true love, which Father has explained to us—love that can bring even Satan to voluntary submission, don't we? And the power of the Divine Principle is also truly great.

Though I am a second-generation member, it is my belief that many of you in the first generation here have never forgotten how you felt when you first heard the Principle while you were still wandering in the world. I believe that those who are not our members will also be able to feel that.

We have our chairperson, Mrs. Erikawa, and our organization. If our leadership and organizational system can combine with our own lifestyle—of practicing the Principle, true love and living for the sake of others—I believe this business women's witnessing program will surely be fired up.

Finally I would like to express my gratitude toward our absolute, unique, eternal and unchanging True Parents, who for us are practicing lives of living for the sake of others, who do not forget even those on Cain's side and Satan's side but love them, who foresee the future and sacrifice themselves for us, and who have proclaimed the era of liberation and freedom and are lighting the way for us to follow. **JW**

All the musicians and singers were members. This is the culture we wanted to bring. If you felt the electricity of faith there, it was more wonderful than previous events. We also received international media coverage the likes of which we have never seen in the movement.

May we ask about your personal experience of the Blessing Ceremony and rededication of your marriage?

We loved that. We weren't actually standing next to our spouses because the True Children were seated right at the front to support True Parents. I don't know if you could see us? We were shouting, "Abonim!" "Omonim!" All the VIPs were looking at us, wondering, What are they doing? They're like kids!

And I thought, "We are kids! We're their children! Who cares if we are the international president and the foundation chairman! We're their children first and we're proud of our parents." So we were up there hollering at them, "Yeah! Abonim, Omonim, you look so handsome!"

I think that culture of playfulness with True Parents that the True Children maintain is based on our relationship of love. We can say, "Abba, you look beautiful!"—these kinds of things. We're not trying to stand in our positions.... I think that rubs off on the community, and rubs off on the atmosphere of the event.

So we were up there and Shin Myung was getting blessed, and we were shouting at him, "Hey Shin Myung, you look good!" and so on. It was great!

Can you give us all a little background information on Shin Myung nim's engagement?

It was wonderful because this time Father said he absolutely had to bless three generations. One of the purposes was for the three great kingships to be blessed in front of True Parents, in one event. Even in the True Family, Father wanted three generations. He asked other True Children to receive the blessing but I think for some of them it wasn't yet the right time. But Shin Myung was courageous. He stepped forward. And he said, Grandfather, if you want me to go I'll go. If Omma is happy about it, I'll go. And he stepped up and he was the representative for our third generation at this event.

Krista is a wonderful sister. Her dad is Finnish¹ and her mom is Japanese. So we have the first Japanese-Caucasian member of the True Family. It's great! We're excited about it. They look beautiful.

Krista is eighteen, Shin Myung is twenty-three. She's in college. She was actually working at Lovin' Life Ministries as a volunteer. They are not a wealthy family, but they are real people of faith. That's the most important thing. For people who come into our family, the most important thing is their faith. Not what their political area is in the church. It is best when they come from families of faith. They just love True Parents. That's the key. Krista came from that kind of family. They never thought in their wildest dreams that she would be blessed to a True Family member [Hyung-jin nim laughs joy-



True Parents blessed In-jin nim and Jin-sung nim's eldest son Shin Myung nim and his bride Krista Un Jeung nim in the 10.14 True Parents' Cosmic Blessing Ceremony. Krista's parents are a Finnish-Japanese couple, Jarmo and Yuko Karjalainen.

fully]. But that's God's blessing and grace.

So In-jin nuna had worked with Krista; she is a wonderful blessed child. She is a good example. She has an excellent standard, she shows integrity in her work. She's punctual, she always gets things done on time, she has enthusiasm for the church. And so she [In-jin nim] said, "Hey, this girl is wonderful." Shin Myung, I think, had already met her. While he was helping support the ministry there, they met. And so In-jin Nuna could feel they have a good connection.

Mother first met Krista when Krista came to True Parents' hoondokhae at East Garden. Krista was asked to come upstairs to meet True Parents. Mother asked her, "Will you go to the blessing this time?" And I loved Krista's response: she said "If it is God's will, I will go." What a beautiful attitude of faith.

And Father came up and saw her, and this time Father also greeted her parents. It was really wonderful.... Her father is blessed with a Japanese missionary. One of their other daughters was here today at the service. They are such a nice family, and they look very good and happy together. As the AP news video said, "happy and pleased with each other"!

Editor's note: Father spoke at a congratulatory banquet on the day following the Blessing Ceremony to an audience that included ILC participants and Won-gu Peace Cup winners. Hyung-jin nim was introducing Father when suddenly Father interrupted him, instructing him to speak in Korean. We asked Hyung-jin nim about this event too:

It was funny how Father told me to speak in Korean when I was introducing him, and then started speaking in English himself! [Hyung-jin nim laughs] Father started speaking in English and then he changed to Korean. It's a delight to be with Father. I was not embarrassed at all. I might have thought, "Come on Father, what are you doing? I'm trying to introduce you as the Messiah!" Kook-jin hyung and Sun-jin nuna said that Father started speaking before I had finished because he got excited by what I was saying.²

The point is that we have to understand the role of the Mes-

1 Krista nim's parents are Jarmo and Yuko Karjalainen; they live in the United States

2 After some minutes, Hyung-jin nim unobtrusively bowed and left the stage.

"People only viewed Jesus from a secular point of view. This should serve as a history lesson, warning us of the danger of viewing True Parents through human eyes instead of through our spiritual eyes. Remember what was said in 1 Thessalonians: "For you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night." ...

True Parents have shouldered the sins of individuals, families, tribes, peoples, nations, the world and cosmos and suffered the way of death seven times. They went to the bottom of hell and suffered on our behalf, so that we, our children and our families can be liberated both in spirit and flesh, and gain eternal life. Through the power of true love, True Parents resurrected from seven deaths, showing that the true love of God has the power to overcome any sin or evil, and even death."

From Rev. Moon Hyung-jin's Blessing Ceremony Address on October 14

siah. That's what I am trying to make clear to our community of faith. The role of the Messiah is not to be an encourager, not to be an inspirer of faith, so to speak. He is not someone who is just encouraging us be positive. This is not his role. He comes to bring the sword, judgment. Jesus came and judged the false interpretation of the laws. He came to bring the Gospel. Father as well. He comes to test faith, to test who has real faith.

It is so hard to serve the Messiah day to day. If Father speaks six or ten hours at an event, it's physically draining for him. We only experience it once every couple of months. But every day, it requires superhuman stamina. Father has superhuman stamina. Kook-jin hyung and I were talking about this. Father is superman.... It's incredible.

Most people would worry about someone Father's age.

I have done a lot of exercise in my life. I've trained myself. I cannot keep up with Father. It's incredible.... I have a hard time speaking for thirty minutes. My sermons are relatively short, right? Father can speak for hours. Before the Washington event, he spoke for twelve hours and thirty minutes at hoondokhae. Then, he came and did a five-hour event. That's when he was pulling people up to the podium and smacking their cheeks! When we see this from any normal person's perspective, it looks crazy. What is this person doing? They don't understand what the Messiah comes to do. He doesn't come to be just like Mother Theresa, to be that holy person that inspires everybody. He comes to test. He comes as himself, a living test of faith.

Does he test people so he can find those with faith?

To find those who can become one with him. Look at the prophets of the Bible: Noah got drunk; Abraham was a polytheist; Moses murdered a man; Jacob was a criminal;³ Joseph was imprisoned.⁴ Look at Jesus. He was a social rebel. When you look at the people whom God uses, when we look at the Bible, the people that God chooses to work through, we can really understand Father. This is real! Father is not here to please the public. He isn't living in order to please men. He is here with a mission. He is the living test of faith, so that we can all have greater faith in God, and in the one whom he has sent.

Father spoke for six hours. Wasn't he exhausted?

He wasn't exhausted at all! We were saying "Father, please go and lie down."

3 Likely referring to his having cheated his brother out of his birthright

4 His master's wife falsely accused him of sexual improprieties.



Hyung-jin nim, as most of the large crowd saw him that day, testifying to True Parents during his blessing address

And Father says, "I'm fine, I'm sitting down." Then he sits down and has a little lunch. Then he says okay, is there some football on TV? It's as if it has been a normal day.

Mentally it's stressful. Father puts you through an incredible spiritual battle. When you see it through the eyes of faith, though, when you see it with your spiritual eyes, you see his passion for God. You see his incredible energy for God. You see God working in him; you can't deny it. Ninety years old. I don't know another ninety-year-old man who can do that. Everybody is floored when they hear that he is doing this at ninety.

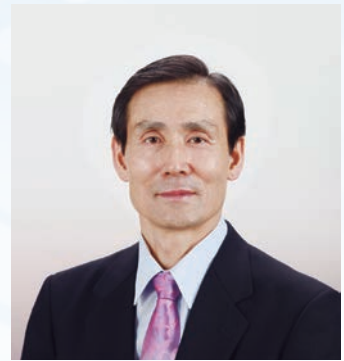
Two or three hours into the banquet, we heard people behind us saying, "Oh my goodness, what is this? He is speaking for so long!" At four or five hours, we heard the same people saying, "Come to think of it, it is kind of hard for someone to speak that long. And he is ninety!" They had a change of heart.

The Messiah comes to totally challenge you. When we can understand this as a community of faith, we can see Father with spiritual eyes. Then it's a joy to be there. Of course, when you're in it, it's taxing. But when you think about it, reflect on it and pray about it, it's so inspiring.

The next day, when we had morning service here at the church, everybody was crying. When we reflected on it, and prayed about it in the morning, I was crying; everyone was crying. It was so moving because we could see that, even at this stage, True Parents are still dying for us, going on the path of the seven deaths. They're still going on the path of death for their children. When you understand that and you see it, you realize, my goodness, that parental heart is what is going to change the world. **SW**

The Meaning of the 10.14 True Parents' Cosmic Blessing Ceremony

The following has been taken from a speech international vice-president and Korean church president Dr. Seuk Joon-ho gave at Holy Wine Ceremonies held on October 11, 12 and 13 in preparation for the 10.14 True Parents' Cosmic Blessing Ceremony.



By Dr. Seuk Joon-ho

T rue Parents, who have celebrated True Father's ninetieth birthday and the fiftieth anniversary of their Holy Wedding this year, have bestowed on us three great blessings: first, they have opened the way for Cain and Abel to unite; second, they have allowed us the realm of grace, wherein fallen people can be restored into perfected human beings of the original state, not related in any way to the Fall, without leaving behind a trace of the Fall; and third, they have permitted us the era in which goodness can embrace and absorb evil.

They have also endowed us with three gifts as a means to accelerate the fulfillment of these blessings.

The first is the Won-gu Peace Cup Cain-Abel Cosmic Harmony Tournament. The Peace Cup symbolizes True Parents, and Cain and Abel symbolize the children. The reason True Parents have presented us with the gift of the Won-gu Peace Cup is that they hope for Cain and Abel to become one, just as the players and the spectators are united in mind and heart through sports and games. Therefore, we should make firm our resolve and determination to really unite Cain and Abel through the Won-gu Peace Cup and enroot it in our actual lives and in the culture of our society. On that foundation, the mind and body should be united in the individual, husband and wife should be united in the family, and parents and children should be united. Expanding this in the providential dimension, all members of the Unification Church should unite with one another; and further, they should become one with the True Family; ultimately they should be absolutely united with True Parents.

The second gift bestowed upon us is Father's autobiography. True Parents have conferred upon humanity the memoirs imbued with Father's ninety years of life. According to the reports flowing in from all parts of Korea, even ministers and elders of other churches have been deeply moved by True Father's book. More miraculously still, some have even given the blessing donation to participate in the 10.14 True Parents' Cosmic Blessing Ceremony. Could we have even have imagined such a miracle in the past? True Father's memoirs can rightly be called the greatest weapon through which to save humankind, as well as a fuse being lit to ignite witnessing.

The international president and his wife went witnessing to the general public in Seoul three times in September. He used the small pamphlet carrying the cover page of the Father's memoirs to witness about True Parents to the innumerable people going to and fro on that street, and to inform them about our Unification Church.

Truly, through this book of memoirs, the flames of witnessing will burn brighter than ever. In order for this to

happen, we should harbor a passion for witnessing, just like the international president. We should do our best to promote the autobiography as a must-read book, a textbook for all Koreans, and the guidebook in ethics and morality for all the people of the world, so that they can inherit True Parents' true love.

The third gift is more precious and valuable than any other. It is the enlightenment and the inheritance of the spirit of true love given in a revelation to international president Moon Hyung-jin by Heaven, that is, the seven deaths and resurrections, the completion of the eight stages.

Since the passing of Young-jin nim in the U.S.,¹ for no less than a decade, the international president, Moon Hyung-jin



Abdoulaye and Sybil Wone receive the holy wine at the Holy Wine Ceremony held at the Headquarters Church, October 10

has set conditions and on this foundation he has pondered the ultimate question of what true love is. He has offered more and deeper devotions than anyone else to fathom the innermost heart of True Parents, and finally Heaven has revealed to him the fact that to save the children, agonizing in the bottommost pit of hell, True Father has had to endure six imprisonments and torture, and on July 19 last year True Parents were resurrected substantially from the verge of death in the helicopter crash; in short, they have passed through seven life-or-death crises. He observed that True Parents did not perish in the seven deaths, but instead opened wide the way to the completion of the eight stages for all humanity to go before God, from the individual to the family, tribe, race, nation, world and the cosmos. This was the greatest and most

¹ Young-jin nim ascended on October 27, 1999

beautiful love of True Parents; that is, true love.

Beloved members, the conclusion of these three blessings and three gifts is the 10.14 True Parents' Cosmic Blessing Ceremony. In regard to this ceremony, it is the first that True Parents are officiating at since their coronation as the king of kings and the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of their Holy Wedding. True Parents have said this is a special Blessing Ceremony in which the family of True Parents, the blessed families, and the families of the saints will set the condition of receiving the blessing, representing all 80 million Koreans and all 6 billion people of the world. They also emphasized that if such a condition were not established, every achievement of True Parents until now could not be completed substantially in heaven and on earth.

The 10.14 True Parents' Cosmic Blessing Ceremony

The meaning of this Blessing Ceremony can be summed up as follows: first, it is a special blessing bestowed on humanity by True Parents as the enthroned king of kings; second, it is a special Blessing Ceremony carried out in the cosmic dimension, going beyond the church dimension and the national dimension; third, it is a blessing of grace by which we are restored as families in the original state without even a trace of the Fall—and with regard to this, True Parents have said that each of us should all participate in the Blessing Ceremony with the pure and chaste hearts of virgins; fourth, it is the Blessing Ceremony of the great harmony and unity by which Cain and Abel are made one, and for that reason it is a special Blessing Ceremony wherein the couples



"Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God for ever and ever!" Aju!

receiving the blessing for the first time and the couples who have already been blessed are brought together in blessing; fifth, it is a Blessing Ceremony in which the condition that three generations (parents, children and grandchildren) and the relatives to the sixteenth degree are blessed together is established, on the foundation of all blessed families having been newly educated centering on the Original Divine Principle; and sixth, it is a special Blessing Ceremony that sets the condition of not only the 80 million Koreans but all 6 billion people of the world, and even those in the spirit world, having received the blessing together.

The special Holy Wine Ceremony

Before this amazing Blessing Ceremony is to take place, we have come together now to hold the Holy Wine Ceremony

and to repent before God, True Parents and the providence, and resolve to make a new beginning. Ever since the blessing of the three couples in 1960, the Holy Wine Ceremony has signified a ceremony for the conversion of the lineage, in which the original sin is done away with through True Parents. Thus, by converting the love, life and lineage of Satan into the love, life and lineage of God, we could become the children on the side of Heaven. However, this special wine ceremony has an additional meaning, which is that all our past sins are done away with and we are made into families without a trace of the Fall, with the hearts and bodies of virgins, so that we can begin anew. Because it signifies completely erasing the shadows of the Fall and receiving the blessing in a position of purity, all blessed families need to receive the blessing. A new beginning is now at hand. Because it is a blessing that does not leave even a trace of the Fall, it includes the meaning of great forgiveness as well.

Therefore, through this ceremony, all blessed families from the first to the third generations should repent of all past sins and inherit the lineage of Heaven centered on absolute sexual ethics once again, become families without even a trace of the Fall, and resolve to become representatives of God and True Parents and practice true love. This ceremony should therefore mark a new beginning.

How should we respond?

Beloved members! What would God and True Parents, who are bestowing such an incredible and precious grace of blessing upon us, expect of us? As the text says, they hope for us to form new, true families of the original nature. Furthermore, they hope for a truly peaceful world in which all humanity can come together and become one on the bases of the new family, new nation and new cosmos. However, the people who should pass on the words of the blessing and experience the true love of True Parents and convey their hearts to others, have instead been caught up in the evil thoughts, habits, attitudes and lifestyles of the past and have contaminated the lineage of Heaven and become estranged from what is desired of us.

Therefore, we should participate in this Holy Wine Ceremony and Blessing Ceremony with the resolve and determination to fulfill our portion of responsibility centering on absolute sexual ethics. This year's motto is "The Era of Proclaiming the Victory of Absolute Sexual Ethics, the Right of True Love, True Life, and True Lineage in the Realm of the Cosmic Sabbath of the Parents of Heaven and Earth," isn't it? Since True Parents have emphasized that absolute sexual ethics and the right of the true lineage should be correctly established, we should take this opportunity to make a resolution to do so. Secondly, we should resolve to inherit the true love exhibited in the seven deaths and resurrections and completion of the eight stages. We should be grateful to be given such an opportunity to cleanse ourselves, with tears of repentance, of our past bad way of living, begin anew, and be filled with joy and happiness. Thirdly, we should make devoted effort, true love and our passion for the providence a part of our lives. Fourthly, we should form true families and resolve to witness to our clans and establish Cheon Il Guk.

I therefore hope you will all participate in this event of grace with the resolve to cleanse yourselves of past sins and begin anew, and to practice the true love expressed through the seven deaths and resurrections and completion of the eight stages. If you agree with this and you resolve to do so, then please give a big round of applause in gratitude and glory to God and True Parents. Thank you. **TW**



10.14 True Parents' Cos



**In the weeks leading up to the Blessing Ceremony
Father spoke about its providential importance:**

"It will be difficult for me to establish the conditions of indemnity needed to bless everyone again. Thus, before I depart this world, I am going on the path of establishing the conditions of giving the blessing to everyone, both the lowly and the noble people, in heaven and on earth, at the same time."

"Unless True Parents establish this indemnity condition, those who follow after them will be unable to complete the substantial mission in heaven or on earth. Aju."

Main photo: In the front row, while couples affirm the Blessing Vows as Father announces them (right to left) well known Korean actress Tae Hyun-shil and her husband; youngest daughter of Korean President Park Chung-hee (1962–1979) Park Geun-ryeong and her husband Shin Dong-ook; Moon Krista Un Jeung nim and (obscured) her husband, Moon Shin Myung nim.



smic Blessing Ceremony







Marriage, Family, Peace

Prominent Figures and the Blessing

Dr. Michael Balcomb accompanied 104 International Leadership Conference participant couples who took part in the 10.14 True Parents' Cosmic Blessing Ceremony. He offered the following observations of their experiences.

We had some very fine people come to the blessing from the International Leadership Conference. One couple who come immediately to mind is Ahmad Kabbah, the former president of Sierra Leone, and his wife Isatu Jabbie Kabbah. The former president has been to a few Universal Peace Federation conferences, but this was the first time his wife could witness what he has been doing.

He is very well regarded and is still very active in public life. He was appointed by the Commonwealth and the African Union to oversee elections in Kenya and Zimbabwe and will do so again in Botswana this coming week. In fact, to carry out this role on behalf of the Commonwealth, he is flying there immediately after the blessing.

A vision for interreligious harmony

President Kabbah is a lifelong Muslim and is deeply committed to the vision of interfaith peace through marriage, because the conflict between Islam and Christianity is very problematic all over Africa. Sierra Leone itself has suffered terribly from interreligious and intertribal conflict. The blessing may offer an opportunity to heal these old wounds.

There were also several interracial and interfaith couples. One outstanding example is Parvez and Ellu Mansoor from Sweden, who have been married thirty-five years. They have been active with the Unification movement for over ten years. He is an Asian Muslim, and she is a blonde Swedish Lutheran. They told me they have been living the interreligious ideal for all these years without ever thinking that this is something particularly special.

For couples like these, the blessing validates their type of marriage and the example they are already demonstrating. But it is also adding something new—they now have met hundreds of others in the same situation. Moreover, they have heard Father give his unique insight into the importance of marriage as the ultimate instrument of peace.

Many participants are active community leaders; some are religious leaders, congressmen, or members of Parliament. Madame Gayatri Nepal, the wife of Madhav Nepal, the prime minister of Nepal, said that she had come not just for their family but because she believed that the blessing could offer a new road to peace for Nepal, which has been haunted by political and religious strife



Left: Ellu Mansoor (in white) and her husband Parvez, married thirty-five years, blessed by True Parents; Right: The author with Mr. Ahmad Kabbah (twice president of Sierra Leone) and his wife on October 14

for the past ten years. I believe that it can make a difference in the fortune of a nation if the First Lady is able to go back and say, Our family participated in this blessing, and I recommend it for the nation.

In fact, a large delegation came from Nepal, led by Ek Nath Dhakal, the UPF Secretary General there. Ek Nath is now a Nepalese congressman and has become well known in public life in his nation. He and his Filipino-born wife Blessie gave a moving testimony about their own marriage and blessing. Taj and Josephine Hamad and Thomas and Lynn Walsh also shared about the blessing.

It was interesting to see that all the delegates at the conference were so interested to know how the blessing had worked out for these couples. They didn't think of them as simply "Unification couples" or merely as members of Rev. Moon's religion, but rather as people who had received this blessing ahead of them—fifteen, twenty, or even twenty-five years ago. As couples just about to receive the blessing, they wanted to know how it has impacted these couples who come from widely differing national backgrounds.

Expressions of genuine love

A very moving part of the International Leadership Conference was the opportunity to meet by regions and invite the couples to introduce each other to the group and say what they loved about their partner and hoped to bring to the blessing. The wives introduced their husband and the husbands introduced their wife. When one spouse started to talk about the other, I noticed some initial embarrassment that soon evolved into ear-to-ear grins. You could also see, as we went around the circle, couples quickly conferring to make sure they got the story straight! Quite often, one of them would end up weeping because it was such a profound moment to have a testament of their love declared in front of other people.

It was a very beautiful experience and showed how we all are the same as brothers and sisters and sons and daughters of



Alfred Moisiu, president of Albania from 2002 to 2007, congratulates all the couples. He brought his deceased wife's picture to Korea so they could participate in the Blessing Ceremony.

God. We may have different religious, ethnic, national and professional backgrounds and speak different languages, but at the deepest level, we all respond in the same way in front of the power of true love.

As the seminar went on, you could see that all the ambassadors for peace really wanted to be part of the blessing. A few came by themselves and didn't bring a picture of their spouse, probably because they thought Oh, that's not for me. However, they soon found themselves frantically e-mailing home to get a photograph of their spouse, and then bringing it up to our office late at night so everything could be ready in time for the blessing.

A number of the couples had special circumstances, such as a spouse in the spirit world. One of these was the former president of Albania, Alfred Moisiu. He brought a photograph of his wife, and, when the moment came, solemnly offered her the holy wine, and then he drank it himself.

Moisiu, who was president of Albania when True Parents visited the country in 2005 as part of the UPF Peace Tour,¹ is now

almost eighty years old, and during the conference he was suffering from an eye infection. Most of the time, he was wearing dark glasses, but he didn't want to wear them in front of True Parents on a public stage. He took off his glasses, even though the bright sunlight was quite painful, so that he could be seen clearly. "I think I speak for all blessed couples when I say we have been newly commissioned to be ambassadors for peace," he said, "And Father and Mother, we won't let you down."

The blessing of all humankind as a living reality

As we all know, the day of the blessing was a spectacular success, and it was a joy to see Sun Moon University filled with couples. Wonderful though the ceremony was, I think it's only

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29

¹ Following the founding of UPF in New York City on September 12, 2005, True Parents embarked on a speaking tour to nations throughout the world, inaugurating UPF's national chapters.



The invitation to the International Leadership Conference on the Significance of Marriage and Family for Peace in the Twenty-First Century included participation in the Blessing Ceremony as couples, or alone with a spouse's photograph.



Reflections from the Younger Generation

My wife and I were matched by our parents through the international matching web site. The interesting thing was that my wife told me that years ago she'd had a dream in which she was looking at a web site and at the top, it said, "Congratulations." She wondered what this message was there for, and in the dream, she asked her father what it meant. He responded, "This is how you will be matched and blessed in the future." This was years before the creation of the actual web site.

On my side, I told my parents I would leave the decision completely up to them and Heavenly Father. I am totally happy that I went with that decision.

The first time Yuri and I actually met was in front of the Tree of Love at Cheongpyeong. It was a different feeling from talking through e-mails and Skype. Neither of us knew what to say to each other. We probably spoke about three



minutes that entire day. Even though language was the most limiting factor in our developing relationship, we made do with sign language and a lot of smiling. We went on to visit each other's family from there, and that cemented our decision to go to the blessing.

At the Blessing Ceremony, we were just a few rows away from the stage; I remember feeling humbled in front of True Parents that day. To be able to

receive the blessing from True Parents and hearing Father during the prayer was incredibly deep. The sense of pride and joy he had in his voice was enough to melt any feelings of anxiety or uncertainty we may have been feeling.

My parents always hold hands, and I wondered why they do it. I learned from my wife that that little act of holding her hand let her know that I was her husband and that I will always love her.

—Paul Ichinohe

My parents matched me in September 2008 to Mikula Beutl from Austria. We talked a lot by e-mail, Skype and met quite often during the year. I did a prayer condition and felt during all my prayers that this was the right time.

The day of the Blessing Ceremony, I felt so very happy. I felt so loved by God and those in the spiritual world (especially by my grandmother, whom I love so much).

When True Father started his prayer, I felt a lot of love coming from him; I felt so joyful that he could give us this blessing.

It was hard to realize all this then, but when I look back it was such a blessing to have been blessed by True Parents directly.

Now I'm studying in France and Mikula is doing his first year of STF. We may be separated for a year, but inside I feel closer to him.

I felt very happy to see all the happy couples. Every couple was lovely and smiling all the time. I could learn a lot from all of them. That gave me more strength and more



power for my future life.

My sister Evrika and her husband Jonathan were there with us, and I could feel so much love from them to us and between them.

I wish all the best for every couple.

—Sara Dedours

Personally, it was great to be close to True Parents and other members of the True Family, but it was also so valuable to feel close to some of their most precious and treasured disciples. We were seated in the second row of the front seating area right behind the reserved seats. Directly in front of Yebuny were Pak Bo-hi and his wife; in front of me were Rev. Kwak Chung-hwan and his wife. It was such a pleasant surprise when they took their seats. Rev. Kwak was my mother's district leader in her early church life, and Pak Bo-hi has long held a special place in my heart. Growing up, I read many of Father's early speeches when Pak Bo-hi was the interpreter, and I still remember footage of them standing side by side. He was a man who has offered and sacrificed so much. To be literally standing in his shadow as the sun beamed down across all the couples felt extra special.

After the blessing, we requested a photograph with him and his wife,

The blessing. Wow... The most meaningful and desired thing God has wanted to establish forever and ever; the thing I've always known about, heard about and thought about is finally my thing. I am blessed. To someone called Patrick Hanna. And from now on, my life is forever changed, in the most beautiful, exciting and wonderful way.

The more I think about our whole matching and blessing experience, the more I cannot help feeling that God was totally behind every single step. I could feel my parents were investing in the right way, focusing on the right things with good motivation and seeing things from God's viewpoint. That gave me so much reassurance, confidence and trust that the person my parents would eventually choose would absolutely be the person God wanted me to spend the rest of my life with. All I had to do was accept, and then invest.

When his name was finally revealed, I knew I would not really ever be able to say no. Yet, after meeting Patrick and his parents and after a few days of reflection and prayer, I could wholeheartedly say yes to him. Little did we know, that the next time we'd meet, we would decide to go to the Blessing Ceremony, and that our third time seeing each other face-to-face would be on the plane to Korea.

The few days before setting off for Korea were also very special. I go to Cambridge University, very wonderful, but also very traditional and set in its ways. To take a week off from studying was just unheard of. My tutor even said I had made Cambridge history, taking a whole week off to get married! After having explained what I was doing to all of my close friends there, and having to seriously question myself over and over again as I had to deal with questions like, Are you really sure you want to go? Aren't you too young? Do you actually love him? I felt very sure this was exactly the right thing for me to be doing right now.

Upon arriving in Korea and while walking through the rice fields by our hotel the night before the blessing, I felt an overriding calmness. I gained so much strength from feeling

which was satisfying because Yebuny had shown me a photo of her parents with them after their own blessing, so it felt like a family reunion. We were joined by my mother's spiritual parents, Yoon Tae-gun and Cho Sun-hee, who are a wonderfully loving couple. I can't speak Korean, but I felt so much love from them. Through these encounters I could experience our strong spiritual ties and a quiet pride in our remarkable Unificationist family and in the blessing tradition.

The blessing focused on the things that mattered. No worrying about elaborate gifts or fancy invitations, no obsession with any couple in particular, no unnecessary

fuss, but a focus on the vows and being in front of the messiah. Far from feeling impersonal, it felt unique, and liberating for us as a couple to receive the blessing and focus on that moment. I wouldn't have wanted it any other way. —Patrick Hanna



that God and my parents were fully involved and behind our blessing. More than anything else, it just felt totally right.

The day of the blessing, to my surprise, turned out to be incredibly beautiful and enjoyable. The ceremony itself was very special. Being there with True Parents and other members of the True Family and thinking of my parents, who participated in a similar way twenty-seven years ago, it really hit me—I was finally becoming part of all of this. It wasn't a matter of trusting my parents and sharing their

faith anymore, or going to workshops to prepare for the blessing. This was it! I had now committed to joining this lineage and family, and I would now create my own family and carry with me this very precious legacy. What an exciting responsibility!

For one meditation activity during our one-day blessing workshop the day after the ceremony, the couples had to stare into each other's eyes for what seemed like forever. For me, it was then that I could really feel it—so much more than just physical attraction or emotion—I could feel from Patrick such deep respect and sincerity, and real care for me.

This sincerity and purity are precious and unique aspects of our way, of the blessing, that my friends back in Cambridge could feel and value. When I returned to university, my friends on my corridor had prepared a little "Welcome back you're married!" party and I've had to have several coffees and dinners and meet-ups during this last week with others that wanted to hear all about it.

Everybody, *everybody*, I have spoken with has been nothing but fully supportive and inspired by the whole experience and see it as such a refreshing and beautiful way of viewing marriage. Yesterday at lunch, while I was sharing the whole experience with four of my Muslim friends, each one of them started to break into tears and couldn't stop crying; they were so touched. It just confirmed within me the incredible value of what I had just committed to.

—Yebuny Hanna

Becoming Rainmakers

By Saito Hajime

The movement in Cambodia has grown from being an outpost of dedicated pioneers to having sixty members. People continue to join. Mr. Saito, the national leader, has observed this growth himself, having been assigned there as a missionary in 2006 after three years as a Service for Peace representative in that country. He credits others with the successes, but his descriptions here of the developments that followed the lonely beginnings of his mission evidence his deep commitment of heart.

Six years ago, I moved to Cambodia, to Phnom Penh, a city you can see in half a day. When I first came, living alone in an unknown land where I could hardly make myself understood caused my soul to wander like a ghost. Though nothing was familiar to me here, I couldn't leave this land. I stayed because I yearned for True Father. When I was nineteen years old, I encountered Father for the first time at the Central Training Center in Korea. At that time, I thought, "I want to be like him." It might have been a vague feeling, but I felt excitement spreading through my entire body as if it were electrified.

Though I once had job titles, an image to uphold and personal connections, as days went by, these disappeared and my "mere self"—unchangeable from childhood—became exposed. That surprised me. My essence is by no means interesting or beautiful; I have an old-fashioned, unattractive character.

Nowadays I sigh over familiar scenes wherever I walk. Sometimes when I walk down Phnom Penh's French-style streets and see deserted buildings, I find my heart wavering. I feel that I have been here a long time, and that as a Japanese I might be just an unwelcome guest surrounded by gray walls. Nevertheless, I can't help loving this city. Even if I may have been occasionally discriminated against by her people, even though fruitlessly walking around brings no result other than a blood blister, even if I have to order the same food repeatedly from a restaurant I frequent, I want to stay. True Parents' teachings, Rev. Sudo's life-of-faith lectures and the Mekong River support my heart.

Experiential learning is a part of every workshop in Cambodia;
Left: A service project in Phnom Penh during a twenty-one day workshop **Right:** Visiting the Udom mountains, where the ancestors of the Cambodian royal family sleep.

Cry for the nation

I first came to Cambodia as a volunteer staff member with Service for Peace (Korea), and I continued to devote myself solely to voluntary activities for three years. I was lucky to have an opportunity to find God's heart within the Cambodian heart, through service activity. Through Service for Peace, I had many unforgettable experiences, most of which originated in the rock of bottom of hell.

For example, Cambodia is a nation with a serious AIDS problem. Before I came to Cambodia, I had never seen anyone dying of AIDS, but I have in Cambodia. Whenever I went



to see them, I always felt I wanted to leave as soon as possible; seeing them was too painful for me. In Service for Peace, we did housecleaning for AIDS patients and sometimes gave them food in order to make a more comfortable environment for them. Actually, the patients are hopeless, just waiting to die, which made it painful to be near them.

A Cambodian woman volunteered to help Service for Peace with this kind of work, but she never did the actual tasks we expected. She would just sit by a patient's bed and cry. She cried from 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM beside the patients. She didn't do anything else. Through her, I recognized what we needed to do. This was genuine service.

I understand that poverty is a social evil. Many patients contracted AIDS as an indirect result. What can I do about this? Do I need to study rural development, or economic development? Of course, this might help superficially, but it will not change the essence of society. What can change society is tears.

From this sister's tears, I learned many things. Her tears taught me about the four great realms of heart. Her tears taught me about the three blessings. From her tears, I could understand what Father cries for. Only tears can save Cambodia.

I once lived under the illusion that I was a rich tree that would bear abundant fruit in the bright sunshine. I have come to realize that I can feel warm not only in sunshine but amidst dull colors or scenes of decay. Cambodia was invaded many times; many people's identities have been invaded by evil. What echoes throughout Cambodia can creep into your skin and permeate your bones. It is very clear to me that God is living here



Workshop participants with Mr. Saito (in the Snoopy T-shirt): Cambodia is a country of fifteen million people, more than half of whom are under twenty-one years old.

and that He has wept abundantly.

My work with service projects led me to make "experiential learning" part of our new members' education. Those who join our service activities can then attend a basic workshop.

Cambodia has developed a lot but still people's living situation is not easy. For this reason, many of those who come to our workshops come with the motivation to gain something from NGOs. If their motivation is not clear, when they come to know that not only is nothing to be gained materially but that sacrifice is asked of them, they leave.

During the service activities, therefore, we observe the participants. Service activity allows participants the opportunity to take a parental position.

Discovering God through the mission

As a missionary, I concentrated on giving Divine Principle lectures. I was advised often that Cambodia is a Buddhist country, without God's point of view; nonetheless, I earnestly tried to deliver Divine Principle lectures from beginning to end.

I taught in English. I once had a mission in Canada. I found it difficult to lecture in English, so I memorized and repeated aloud the red parts of the colored *Divine Principle* book. At the very beginning, I just gave the lectures, but I couldn't answer the questions people asked because I didn't understand them. Through those experiences in Canada, God trained me. Nowadays, elder Cambodian members give the two- and five-day workshops and I teach twenty-one-



At a Youth International Leadership Conference at the Cambodian headquarters (left) Mr. Saito with the ambassadors for peace and (right) Cambodians give presentations in Khmer, the national language



Right: Mr. Saito during a service project to help Cambodian Muslims, on the Mekong River, a source of spiritual strength in his difficult early days; Above: With Jarurin, his Thai wife.

day workshops using Rev. Sudo's Divine Principle lectures, which he gave in the United States many years ago.

I have tried to follow in True Father's footsteps, as I imagined the scene when he was witnessing in Pyongyang. I wanted to be like True Father. The harder I tried, the more deeply I was shocked by the fact that I was so different from him. I am sorry that Cambodian brothers and sisters have been educated by a missionary who didn't understand true love.

I went through many turning points, but it was truly the Cambodian brothers and sisters who saved my spiritual life. At times during the mission, I wanted to give up because of family problems or financial problems. Sometimes, I even felt a lack of love from God. Through the love from Cambodian brothers and sisters, I could recognize God's love. When Cambodian brothers and sisters need me, I recognized God needs me.

Last July, I visited Malaysia with two Cambodian brothers to learn the *Shimjung* [heart] Revolution System (SRS). This system focuses not only on teaching Divine Principle but also on cultivating one's conscience, which dwells in the deepest part of the heart. The three of us who attended from Cambodia were so excited to find God through our conscience. We found God—Wow! Even though some aspects of the system are incompatible with the Cambodian style—I think we are the first organization here to ask for such a high workshop fee—a revolution of shimjung has gradually started breaking out.

One specific point of the SRS is coaching (counseling) participants one on one to help them take the next step in life. This instills ownership, allowing members to see into their hearts and discover, or rediscover, God and True Parents. This is effective not only for new members but also for elder members. Elder members refreshed in this way are able to more deeply inspire new members.

Understanding God's pain deepens members' hearts

Our twenty-one-day workshop is held as part of the SRS workshop. On the final day of the SRS workshop in Cambodia, Dr. Yong instructed us to visit the killing fields¹ to pray for the two million people who died with pain in their hearts. When those people died screaming, that was God screaming. So, at the



end of each workshop, we find God waiting in hell. To offer prayers there has become a Cambodian workshop tradition. Since we have been doing this, the members have come to possess a parental heart toward the whole of Cambodia.

Cambodia was one of True Parents' stops during their 2005 world speaking tour.² In Hong Kong, the destination after Cambodia, Father said he felt very sorry because the communists had killed so many people in the country he had just visited. When I relate this story to Cambodian members, especially to our sisters, they cry. Suffering has caused Cambodians to shed many tears, but few tears have been shed because of love. Through a revolution of shimjung, True Parents have given us all the opportunity to shed tears of love.

The peacemakers

True Parents' teachings also inspire many Cambodian ambassadors for peace. At an International Leadership Conference, we introduced the slogan, Let's spread a message of peace and unity in Cambodia! We are also starting a Youth ILC, so that we can focus on the young as well as on older people. We held our third ILC in 2009 at a university with the support of Malaysian members. University staff members worked with us to prepare for the conference. Later, the director of the university administration said, "We were so impressed to see how UPF members work. Even for us, it is difficult to work together, but I see that in UPF you have unity, even with people of different nationalities working together. By watching you, I understood what one family under God means." Afterward, some elderly Cambodian ladies came to me and said, "Because of this event, tomorrow it will rain."

In Cambodia, an agricultural country, a rainmaker is a peacemaker. When King Norodom Sihanouk³ was in power, many said that wherever he went it rained. Now we, too, have been acknowledged as rainmakers. **TW**

1 A number of sites in urban and rural areas where the uber-communist Khmer Rouge imprisoned, tortured and executed their fellow Cambodians in staggering numbers, causing the death of perhaps 20 percent of Cambodia's people during the years of Khmer Rouge rule (1975–1979).

2 True Parents did a 120-nation speaking tour after they founded the Universal Peace Federation on September 12 that year.

3 King of Cambodia 1941–55 and 1993–2004

the beginning. The real outcome will come when the people participating in this blessing go out and multiply it, blessing others and encouraging others to receive the blessing. The newly-blessed ambassadors for peace, because of their status in the community and the fact that they do come from many different faith backgrounds, are well placed to be effective advocates for the blessing.

We certainly do need to grow our church and our faith community; we have to be strong and proud in our faith and be outspoken in our commitment. But at the same time it has always been our theology that the blessing is for all humanity. It's not limited by faith or theology. However, only when we see that as a living reality, as we did this time, can we really feel confident in the universal value of the blessing.

Muslims readily understand the blessing. They are happy to receive it, and they all recite the blessing vows with enthusiasm, as do Christians and Buddhists. Even people who don't believe in a personal God seem to find the idea of a world of brothers and sisters living as one family under God very appealing. This does not require them to change their religion or change their faith, but it adds something new. After all, in most nations and in most traditions, family and marriage are still rather private affairs. But Father is unique in that he sees this as the way to deal with the problems of the whole human family—to bring peace and to strengthen individual families one by one.

A warm welcome at the Peace Palace

The day after the blessing, all the ambassadors for peace went up to the Peace Palace for a celebration luncheon with Father and Mother. Just as we expected, the luncheon became a dinner, because Father began to speak and couldn't stop pouring out his heart for six long hours. Some of the other members and I were privately worried about how these new blessed couples would be able to process all the things that Father was saying, but we needn't have worried.

When we stand side-by-side with people from other faiths and from other countries, when we all affirm the blessing vows together, when we all receive the same education, when we all sit with True Parents together, it creates a bond that cannot be cemented simply by education or theology. It is a whole-life experience of a power that simply cannot be denied.

An opportunity to testify

Finally, everyone was also very encouraged this time by the level of media attention. Earlier this year when Father and Mother conducted a blessing in New York, there was relatively little media coverage, and some of our ambassadors for peace openly wondered, "Does any of this make any difference? Did anyone notice, or care?" But this time, because of the great coverage by the *International Herald Tribune*,² upbeat reports from the BBC and Associated Press, they all felt they could go back

2 Including a huge photo on the front page



True Parents at Cheon Jeong Peace Palace on October 15, the day after conducting the Blessing Ceremony; Father spoke for six hours at what had begun as a lunch banquet.

and freely talk about their experience, knowing that the people they meet will likely have already heard about the blessing and be curious.

I think the new policy of engagement with the press is very wise. Of course we won't always get what we want; occasionally we will run across those who insist on putting a negative slant on things. But journalists are Abel and Cain as well. Generally they are pursuing the truth. If we are open and trusting, God will guide the Abel-type journalists, and their influence is enormous. After all, without the press coverage, the blessing would have just been an event in Asan that only those who were there knew about.

I think it's clear that what made this blessing such a story was the idea that it might be the last major Blessing Ceremony that Father conducts personally, and that could be true. I will say, though, that the ambassadors for peace in their reflections said they tend to think the media jumped the gun a bit. "We think Rev. Moon will have a long life and be healthy and we'll be doing this again quite soon," some said. "Maybe it isn't the last time."

The success of this world peace blessing is a tremendous opportunity for development. I think it's important that in the follow up we encourage the couples who have been blessed and provide them with material to testify widely to their experience. At UPF, we've given all the couples CDs of photos. They also have the stories and the press coverage. On top of this, they have their own couple's photos and of course irreplaceable memories. I'm confident that when they go out to tell their story, they will find the world eager to listen. **EW**

Michael Balcomb is the communications director of UPF.



During the benediction prayer, a couple from Costa Rica who attended both a UPF conference and the Blessing Ceremony

21 天福센터

A Japanese Import Breaking through in Korea

Having heard of the success of video centers in Japan, we were intrigued as to how the concept has fared since being imported into Korea. We spoke to Mrs. Erikawa Yasue, who oversees the centers in Korea. A past-president of the church in Japan as well as VOC lecturer, Mrs. Erikawa was brought to Korea, her husband's nation, and appointed an international IW by Father in 2008. She was also recently made responsible for all non-Korean members living in Korea and has set out to kindle a witnessing spirit among them. When we interviewed her this summer, Mrs. Erikawa gave us some insight into the principles she employs for success.

Below: Mrs. Erikawa witnessing on September 28 in Seoul; **Above:** The sign for the 21 Heavenly Fortune Center; though colloquially referred to as “video centers,” their primary mission is to educate through lecture presentations and other personal interaction.



Around October last year, he began saying we need to have a video center in Korea. Using the video center system, members in Japan witness to others while fund raising, and vice versa. He knew that in Japan the system is well established, and they are bringing results.

Because True Father said we need to build a temple with the capacity to serve a congregation of 210,000, Kook-jin nim said we need a method like the one the video centers use. While he was touring our businesses and church centers in Japan, he did some research on the video centers. He also sent staff members to Japan to investigate them further. Then they began a similar system here in Korea, but it was not a great success, because although the Korean members had done a great deal of research, the Japanese system did not quite suit Korean ways.

Because I'm taking responsibility for the seven thousand Japanese members here in Korea, Kook-jin nim said he wasn't thinking of giving me another mission on top of that. He asked me to introduce him to someone who has worked as the top leader of a video center in Japan and could run one here.

I met him several times after that and I thought to myself, Kook-jin nim is very spiritual, and at the same time, very intelligent. Whom could I introduce to him? It was so difficult to think of a person who could interact with and work with Kook-jin nim, while running a video center. After several meetings, Kook-jin nim suddenly said, “You should do it. Mrs. Erikawa, you need to do it.” This was on December 4 last year. I have been responsible for it since then.

Opening day

Preparation of the facilities with the materials and equipment took a month. I don't like to spend much money in doing redecoration and preparation, so we kept the office as it had been. In my opinion, if you need to spend money on something, you first need to make that money, because you need to be independent. So without having spent much, we began.

Hyung-jin nim and Kook-jin nim came to our opening celebration with their wives, Yeon-ah nim and Ji-yea nim, along with Hoon-sook nim and Choi Yeon-ah nim. We blessed the facility with holy salt. They looked around and complimented us; they said they also wanted to pay the ₩210,000 to attend the lectures.

Kook-jin nim said we needed to heighten the spirituality of people through our video center and sent us holy candles. We light the candles as we begin the lectures at 8:30 AM, and they remain burning until our daily schedule concludes. Hyung-jin nim made the holy candles for us.

Kook-jin nim prompted the creation of this center; he had planned it all in his head. He told me, “Mrs. Erikawa, I saw it in a dream. In the dream, God showed me that it will be a success.” He went on to say, “At first, our leaders

and ministers will oppose this idea. Being the father nation, Korea has a very "subject character" culture.... Witnessing in Korea has been at a standstill for a long time. However, everyone is of the mind that we need something like this to make witnessing easier, and once someone begins, they will make use of it."

The foundation and the first thousand

We officially opened on January 5. The final month of preparation included translating everything from Japanese into Korean, studying the material and adjusting it to suit Korean ways. We had thought of several names, but Kook-jin nim chose the name *21 Heavenly Fortune Center* for us.

Now that I am working with him, I think Kook-jin nim is remarkable. He had already planned everything in his head, which is like a computer. That's what I learned about him. When he first came to Korea to take responsibility for the businesses that fund the church, he thought that as a member of the True Family, he should give the people he is in charge of an opportunity to study the Principle. From two years ago, he began holding seminars for foundation employees on the founder's philosophy.¹ He connected that to the video center. They've held twenty seminars so far—for not only the employees but also for their wives.

1 For an interview that covers the experience of encountering True Father's teachings in this manner see "Where Business Meets Faith" in our January–February 2009 issue.

In total, more than a thousand non-members have been introduced to True Father and his ideas in this way.

Kook-jin nim strongly wanted to witness to them. The employees had become interested in the teachings and even said they would like to attend the seminar again, so we sent our staff members to teach them. Kook-jin nim asked me to be responsible for educating the employees as well. Whenever there is a seminar, I send my staff members, and on important occasions, I go there personally to check things and report what I find to Kook-jin nim.

From June, we decided it would be a good idea to teach the employees Divine Principle in the morning, so we hold sessions 8:30–9:30 AM on Thursdays and Fridays. Kook-jin nim sent two teams to study with us. Forty people have gone through the Divine Principle lectures in our video center—one team of members and another of non-members, including a female accountant. The sessions are brief because they have their own work to do, but in the end, the non-members all became members and said they wanted to learn more.

By contrast, having the employees simply watch video tapes and study on their own last December produced no results whatsoever. Two more teams are scheduled to begin studying with us soon.

The foundation workers who attended a four-day workshop in Yongpyong²

2 A winter ski resort that has activities year round, and one of the foundation's businesses.

are also coming here; this process may help them take the step of becoming members. Before, after the employees had attended a workshop, they were left as they were; now they are sent to us. Moreover, Kook-jin nim thinks the senior executives should also learn, so he is sending them to us one by one.

Kook-jin nim drops by sometimes, unannounced, and listens to our reports. He also checks some points, listens to what we think and tells us what he thinks. In his head, he has many plans already mapped out, and he does everything accordingly.

Give and receive

When people first come to our video center, they hear a lecture for an hour and are asked to pay ₩10,000. We have a reason for asking this; Kook-jin nim believes that in order to witness effectively to people, we need to have them pay something for it. This is the first rule of witnessing. Kook-jin nim says we used to spend a lot of money on outreach but still failed to bring people to join our church.

We have a course of sixteen lectures altogether, and people can come whenever they want to listen to one. When a person wants to take the whole course, he is asked to pay ₩210,000. At present, we have about fifty people taking the whole course. In our first month, about two hundred people came to the first lecture and paid ₩10,000 each. Now many members, of their own accord, have come to listen to the lectures about



Mrs. Erikawa (far left), some foreign members living in Korea and some local leaders pose with Hyung-jin nim, Yeon-ah nim and Choi Yeon-ah nim after witnessing together in Seoul. A hundred and eighty people, in Unificationism caps and vests, took part.

the family tree. Some come once a week; others come two or three times a week.

In part, this video center came into existence because of Cheon Bok Gung, so we also talk about the temple. Many of the people who come to our lectures are the same people who have contributed toward building Cheon Bok Gung. Some people learned about it in our center and then contributed.³

One thing I want to clarify is why Kook-jin nim and I agree that we need to receive money from participants. In Japan and the U.S., [Unificationist organizations] used their own money to educate non-members and ambassadors for peace. We didn't ask even well-off people to pay anything. But when problems arose, these non-members did not support us. So we don't think this is a good method.

One good example is the case of a well-to-do seventy-two-year-old man, an ambassador for peace who had been a banker, who came to listen to the first lecture, and paid ₩10,000. After the session, he said it was very interesting. So we suggested, "Why don't you attend the whole course? It will cost ₩210,000."

He responded, "When I was invited to Japan or the U.S., I was not asked to pay anything. Why, then, are you asking me to pay here?" He became very angry and left. Nevertheless, he came back. He paid the ₩210,000, because he was curious about the spiritual world. Even

³ Elsewhere, she explained that Father once told her to make an organization where his directions, coming from Heaven, will be disseminated immediately to all members. She expressed concern this is not happening, especially with Father's directions for special donations.

now, he is still listening to the lectures. In all the time he's been connected to our movement, he had never attended our Sunday services, but after listening to the lectures, he was so changed that he even asked, "Why are True Parents so persecuted when their teachings are so good?" He joined our church. That is the way it should be.

We feel that we will succeed with this. It's only the beginning.

The incorporeal world and those who live there

We also teach about the spiritual world. Some people don't believe the spirit world exists, but they have to admit it does when they see all the problems they have because of its influence. When they bring their family tree, we can find out which of their ancestors had problems⁴ and point out where their own problems lie. Then they say, "Oh, you're right." The spirit world is too big for them to conceptualize, but they can easily understand it when we relate someone in it to their own problems. Then they say, "Oh, so I guess there is a spirit world."

We focus on the family tree; first of all, because it helps people learn about the spirit world. Even those who do not understand it can definitely come to believe it exists when their problems are solved. Next, they gain an understanding of what sin is. They also come to understand that we need True Parents and we need to receive the blessing. But how we convey that in Korea is different

⁴ Often they are dealing with relatives the person has knowledge of, rather than paper records of long deceased ancestors.

from the way members do it in Japan, so a lot of research first needs to be carried out, taking cultural differences into account. I believe it is important to have such a center, with a counselor present and lectures being held. We are working hard and the spirit world is helping us a great deal.

People like the lectures, because they are very interested in what relates to them personally and their understanding improves. At those lectures, we first ask them to write out their spouse's family tree. Then people begin to learn about their ancestors using those family trees. If they want to learn more about it, they can watch supplementary videos on the subject. Some commercial movies about the spirit world can also augment their education.

After we interview someone who has come to us, we decide whether that person needs this kind of video or that one and show it to him. Everyone has problems, although a person is only aware of what goes on around him. So we explain, "Your grandfather did this, so that problem arose," or, "Your ancestor, four generations back, committed this act, which is why that phenomenon happened here." It is a very rational explanation. We suggest that the person needs to change his mind-set. There are several courses of action the person can follow, and we choose the best way for him to be educated based on what kind of person he is. Sometimes a person first attends the lectures and then watches videos; sometimes he only attends lectures, and sometimes he quickly goes on to attend workshops.

Any member can invite a friend or



Mrs. Erikawa (center left, beside Yeon-ah nim) was asked to mobilize foreign wives living in Korea; this was later expanded to include all foreign members in Korea; (center right) Korean church president, Seuk Joon-ho and his wife Yoon Moon-hye

even a prominent person to come to our lectures. Some members, however, said they would first like to listen to the lectures themselves to see if it would be good for their guests. Actually, sometimes a person, be it a member or not, has listened to the lectures, been deeply moved and brought others whose situation was similar to his, such as people who were not on good terms with their spouses. Many people with such problems came and asked for counseling, and even problems they had not thought of solving were solved and everything turned out well.

Even among the members, there are those who live as husband and wife because they are a blessed couple, but they find themselves unable to love each other. When we look at their family tree, we can find the reason for that. We can help them understand rationally and tell them what they should do. Because they are members, we can tell them what conditions they can set. For example, they can participate in the early morning devotions⁵ at the Headquarters Church, and they can witness to others. Many people have been led to us in this manner.

Non-Korean members as missionaries

Among the people who are connected to the church in Korea, there are 1,979 Filipino women, 391 Thais and also some Mongolians. All I can tell you for certain now is that there are 9,360 non-Korean members from thirty-seven nations. I believe we can make a good organization with their support. Multi-cultural

⁵ Bows, hoondokhae and service work to start each day at about 3:00 AM



Yeon-ah nim witnessing with a pamphlet about Father's memoirs; on the back of the vest is a large Unification emblem.

families are now common here; all the blessed wives will work as missionaries. Hyung-jin nim (overall leader of the Korean church) and I are organizing this; we decided to create a witnessing team of international members.

The women attending the Headquarters Church recently formed a witnessing association. They will witness as a task force. I thought that until we move to the growth-stage Cheon Bok Gung,⁶ it

⁶ It is scheduled to open in early 2010; Cheon Bok Gung will also house some church administrative offices.

would be nice to have a video center in the Korean church headquarters building.⁷

Spiritual conditions are key to success

When we first began our work on January 5 this year, I said we are doing this is because when we fulfill our 5 percent of the responsibility, God fulfills the other 95 percent. Without cooperation from God and good spirits, this video center cannot be managed well. This is why we need heightened spirituality. Intelligence alone is not enough. We also need to offer conditions in order to be guided by God.

We are working in various ways, including using the family tree, and the spirit world is helping us a great deal. The participants tell us things without meaning to, and in that way we understand the source of, and thereby the solution, to their problems. It works something like that. For that reason, we must actualize the settlement of noon. The leaders must set conditions and lead religious lives. Nothing can be achieved otherwise. That is the most fundamental point.

In addition, if the five staff members here do not become completely one in unity, problems will arise and we won't be able to begin properly. This is a place of spiritual training and we need to set spiritual conditions.

Western countries have not used the video center system so much. If people who are interested in this get together, do the initial research and then carry it out, they will surely succeed. **TW**

⁷ This new video center recently opened.



Activities in the 21 Heavenly Fortune Center **Left:** A presentation slide showing the state of a family in relation to the couple. Because the love of a couple is the barometer of a rise or fall in fortune, which determines the extent to which ancestral sin is filtered out, the couple is of primary importance. That is to say, a good couple filters out the sins of evil ancestors. **Right:** A personal counseling session can help clarify concepts that many of the guests are encountering for the first time.

A Life Begun *in* Cosmic Spring

By June Darby-Perrin

The following testimony comes from our sister who first heard the Principle in Rome in August 1966. She testifies about how she was spiritually guided to our church and relates several personal encounters with Father and Mother during the early years of the movement in the West.



Mrs. Darby-Perrin today; she lives in England and recently spent time in Korea to witness and support IIPC activities.

When I was seven or eight, Jesus used to appear to me. I would see him as a physical man, but he looked about twelve feet tall. My family was Anglican, and sometimes the children from the Catholic convent school would tell me we were going to hell. At times I used to fight them, rolling in the dust! But mostly I would get upset and run away to cry. On one of those days, I had run right away to the woods and was sitting on a bench crying.

And I saw Jesus. He asked me why I was crying. He told me that the next time other children tell me I am going to hell, I should tell them that he, Jesus, said that everybody who loves Jesus goes to heaven—no matter what church they belong to. I felt so safe and so much love and protection.

Jesus came to me a few times. On one occasion he said, if you want to be happy When you're grown up, you must pray every day to do God's will. And I did that.

The spiritual experience of finding our church

Many years later, after becoming a committed Christian and traveling widely, I felt it was time to offer my life to God. I wanted to be a missionary but didn't know which church or organization to join. I had come to Italy. As I felt Italy was like the mother of the church, I thought I would surely find my answer there. I was just praying to find the church or missionary group that would make God real to the world. That's all I asked. I was sincere in wanting to just do God's will. I would have been a missionary in Africa, but I knew mission stations in Africa, and they didn't have a wide radius of influence. I really wanted to be able to influence governments and people that could change society and a nation. That's partly why I became a social worker, so I could influence city leaders and the government.

After I had visited many places of art and culture, I spent three days praying for God to show me which church or organization to join. I went to the Episcopal church in Rome to ask for help, and the minister put me up in his daughter's bedroom in the bell tower. Remarkably, he had just come back to the church for a few hours to sort out some affairs, and he asked his secretary to take care of me.

When I spoke with the secretary, he told me he was staying with some friends in Rome. I had the strongest feeling to go down on my knees to beg him to let me meet the people he was staying with. But I thought, if I do that, he will think I am very weird! So I kept quiet. Then, when I handed the keys in three days later, he started talking to me, asking questions about me, what I thought of Christianity and what I was looking for. Then he invited me to go to meet his friends, and hear a new Christian Oriental philosophy.

In those days they taught the Divine Principle from Miss Kim's book. In that book, the introduction says we have entered a new era because the cosmic winter is over and the cosmic spring has begun.¹ My ears pricked up, because my father was a Rosicrucian,²

1 "The long, gloomy comic winter is passing, and the cosmic spring is coming. The New Age, the Cosmic Era, has begun." (From the first page of the introduction of *Divine Principle and Its Application*, by Kim Young-oon)

2 Several international secret societies or orders describe themselves as Rosicrucian. They share a devotion to the study of religious mysticism and the practice of moral virtue. The name is a translation into New Latin of Rosenkreutz, the surname of the founder of Rosicrucianism.

and I knew that the Rosicrucians also teach that spiritually we were entering into a new era of cosmic spring. And I knew from what my father had told me that it would be the returning Lord who would introduce that cosmic spring.

My father had had a revelation, around 1954 when I was about twelve or thirteen years old, that Christ was already on the earth and that he was an oriental man, dressed in white. I had argued with my father, "No, no, Jesus will come back on the clouds." But my Father said he had to be born as a baby and had to spread his teaching by word of mouth, one by one; that he couldn't possibly be Jesus. He insisted that he was an oriental man, and that they wore white clothing in the country where he was.

As time passed, I forgot about all he told me, though I did believe that the Second Advent would take place in my lifetime. When I heard the introductory talk, I immediately remembered my father's revelation. When they said this revelation [the Principle] came from an oriental country, Korea, and that the national dress was white, I thought, "Oh! This is what my father saw!" Immediately I knew it was true.

God's presence was so powerful as I listened to the Principle. I felt a warm wind blowing around me. After the first few paragraphs, I knew what the conclusion would be.

Over the ensuing years, June became a missionary to eight different countries. Following is some of her testimony to True Parents' personal love and care for members:

During Father's world tour

Father came to England in 1969. I was happy because I was able to serve True Parents. I helped take care of True Parents' clothes and bring food to their room, and so forth. We all had a chance to sing for True Parents. Patricia Hartley and I sang an African song³ for Father. I was very moved when, as we sang, Father really listened, so humbly, really paying attention. Then he asked us what the words meant. People don't usually listen so attentively, so I was moved.

After that, I went back to Holland, where I had been working as a missionary, to prepare for True Parents' visit there. We painted the center in

³ Nkosi Sikelele, the national anthem of several African countries including South Africa where June was born.



True Parents at the Holy Wine Ceremony for the 777-couple Blessing Ceremony, which took place on October 21, 1970; the brides and grooms came from ten nations.

Amsterdam, and I made some kimchee for True Parents. I really prayed with all my heart, feeling so grateful to be able to do this for the returned Lord, praying to honor True Parents with all my heart. Later I heard that Father really enjoyed the kimchee. I was so thrilled that I thought I should make some more. I was floating on a happy cloud that Father had liked my kimchee, so the next time I made some, I didn't pray as hard. And he didn't like the next lot I made! That taught me that when we are serving True Parents we have to have a heart of absolute reverence, humility and love. Father senses everything and cannot accept something unless it is offered with the right heart.

On one occasion during Father's time in England we were in a restaurant, and Father went to use the restroom. I was a young member and I wanted to be close to Father, so I followed Father and waited for him to come out. I was hoping Father might say something to me—I was waiting for some attention from him. As he came out he saw me but he just ignored me completely.

Right near where I was standing there was a cage in which a canary was singing. Father just went and stood listening to the canary and ignored me, without looking at me at all. I sensed I was doing something wrong. I was a bit confused and

upset. When I went back to the table, Mother looked at me, and she could understand my inner conflict. She smiled at me and calmed my heart. I really prayed, "What did I do wrong, such that Father couldn't talk to me?" After some time it came to me that it was because I was looking for attention for myself, and Father couldn't relate to me on that level. On the other hand, the little canary was just singing freely, giving its heart, without any expectation or desire for recognition or attention.

In Korea for the blessing

When we went to Korea for the blessing in 1970, I had been working as a missionary in Jordan. Mrs. Choi told me that Father had talked about me every day in Korea, worrying if I was all right. So I just started to cry. You know, Father has all those responsibilities, and so many concerns, and I didn't know how he could have time to think of one small missionary in Jordan....

When I offered the gift from Great Britain that I had brought for True Parents, Father smiled at me. I can't tell you what an incredible, beautiful smile it was. It was like the sun suddenly came out. It was such a brilliant, beaming, totally happy smile. That smile was so overwhelming.

One day Father took all the Western members out, up to the hill near

the training center.⁴ When we sat down to listen to Father, the ground was a bit damp. I wanted to sit near Father, but I thought that I shouldn't be so selfish and I went and sat down furthest away from Father, behind the other sisters. Father asked some Korean brothers to go and get a tarpaulin to cover the ground. We all stood up while the tarpaulin was being put down. Then Father called me to come and sit right next to him. I was so moved, as it seemed that Father knew that I wanted to sit next to him.

While I was in Korea I developed hepatitis, which I had caught from the water in Jordan. Miss Kim Young-oon arranged for a nurse to come and treat me at the training center. I found out later that it was Father himself who had instructed Miss Kim to make this arrangement because he did not want me to go to hospital. He told me he knew that I would feel too lonely, miserable and left out. I was so amazed. How incredibly kind, thoughtful and understanding! This is his incredible heart for the members.

Sometimes all the Western members would go out for a trip somewhere, but I couldn't go because I had to stay and have the intravenous drip treatment. Mrs. Moon Lan-young⁵ was looking after us then. She was so considerate and kind. When I had finished the drip one day, she told me that True Parents and Mrs. Choi had gone for a walk, and that if I ran I would be able to join them.

I ran along the path and found them sitting on a blanket at the top of a hillock. Two Dutch brothers were giving testimony. When I came along, Father gave me a cushion to sit on next to him. Mother and Mrs. Choi smiled at me. I sat there listening to the testimonies. Father then shared his plans to send out missionaries in future in threes,⁶ not just one by one

like us.

Then he turned and looked at me, and asked me, "What do you think of that idea?"

I thought it was a wonderful idea, and I was so excited that I grabbed Father's arm hard with both my hands!

I was in heaven just sitting there with the True Family. When we got up to go, I was walking behind Father along the path when I suddenly realized I was putting my feet in his footsteps. The whole way back I carefully put my feet in his footsteps, praying as I went. Later I said to Father, "Father, I never dreamt I would actually walk in your footsteps!" Even to walk in his footsteps like that was so precious.



June with some of the 777 couples in the background

We were sharing Father's flat at that time. We shared Father and Mother's bathroom, even. If Father wanted to come to use the bathroom, we would scurry off and leave the room for him. There was a huge rock near the door that led up to their room. Father and Mother would sit on that rock in the evening, and sometimes we were able to go and join them. One evening, we were sitting there. Father was talking and sharing, and we were singing. And I was thinking, "Oh Heavenly Father, this is absolute heaven! I wish it would never end."

Then suddenly Father said, "I wish this would never end." I felt that Father is aware of what we are thinking or feeling.

On our way back after Kook-jin nim's one-hundredth-day celebration, Mother had made some sandwiches for us and given us each a package and a drink. There were about eighteen of us, and Mother made sandwiches for each one of us herself.

I had never tasted anything so delicious in my life. It was like ambrosia. The sandwiches were made with carrots and coleslaw, but so, so delicious! Then I realized, "On, that's Mother's love in those sandwiches!" I will never forget that. I was really touched by her love and consideration for us.

When Father visited Britain (1975)

Mrs. Choi asked me how things were going. I told her, I have to be honest, my husband and I have not been together much in the years since the

blessing. Mrs. Choi must have reported this to Father. When she came back later, she said to make sure I was serving Father in the evening. "When you come in with some food, as soon as Father sees you he will talk to Dennis and Doris Orme⁷ about your situation," she said.

When I came in with the food, Father looked at me and asked, "How old are you?" I was about thirty-five. Then Father asked if I had any children. I said no. Have you been together with your husband? I said, not so much. Then Father turned to Dennis and Doris, and said, "June and her husband

need to be together, rather than work separately." Father was incredibly kind, thoughtful and wise, and spoke so tactfully, so as to uphold the dignity of the national leaders' position and not hurt their feelings, but at the same time to protect and help us as a couple. I was so amazed.

It had been about seven years since the blessing, and I had not become pregnant. And Father said to me, "Now you must have a child!"

Actually, my husband Dennis had once said, "We'll have a child when Father tells us."

I had replied, "How can we have a child when Father tells us? We almost never see Father!" [June laughs] But the very next month I became pregnant.

⁷ The national leaders of Great Britain at the time

⁴ Almost certainly the central training center in Su-taek-ri (now part of Guri) next to which the Ilhwa company was later established

⁵ Today Mrs. Moon is the international president of WFWP

⁶ In 1975, Father sent three missionaries (a Japanese, an American and a German) to each of a hundred and twenty countries.

Family life

When I worked on the babies' ward in a hospital in Jordan, sometimes a baby would be born terribly deformed. I knew when I saw those babies that when I became pregnant in the future I would worry about my children being born like that.

When I had my interview with Father before the blessing, suddenly, in the middle of it, Father suddenly looked at me and said, "June, when you have babies, they will be fine." I thought, my goodness, I wasn't even thinking about it at the moment. It must have been in my subconscious, though. Father is too amazing for words!

During the seventh or eighth month of my pregnancy with my first son, John, he stopped growing, and they couldn't find his heartbeat for two weeks. I knew they were worried. But I told the nurse not to worry, he would be fine. I had absolute confidence because Father had told me my babies would be fine. I felt it was a crucial time for me to be calm, to keep faith and not to worry. I was so grateful. It confirmed to me that Father's care and concern reached beyond that of earthly parents.

Insight into True Parents

Doris Orme asked me to take a picture of Father to a well-known medium in Edinburgh, to see what he could see about Father. (I wouldn't have done this otherwise!) When I sat down with the medium, and he looked at the photograph, he said, "This person's

your father!" Then he looked at me and said, "But how is that possible? He can't be.... But he is! And he loves you very much. And yet, how can he be your father?"

From the time I received the blessing, I had been praying to understand its significance. It was a great testimony to me to hear that True Parents really are our parents.

The heart to find spiritual children

When I started my mission in Edinburgh, I was praying about what attitude I must have in order to find spiritual children. I was standing and looking over the park in Edinburgh, praying about how I could bring spiritual children. I saw this woman running desperately from bench to bench where people were sitting. She ran up to me, she said, "I've looked all over the park.... Have you seen my little boy? Have you seen my little boy!?" Tears were streaming down her face.

"I haven't seen him," I said, "I'm sorry." She ran off desperately.

Suddenly, I saw her find her little boy. She picked him up and hugged him as if she would never let him go.

This was my answer. I had to be like a mother who had lost her child, with that heart of desperation.

But the most amazing thing was that when Mother came to speak in Edinburgh, Scotland, when the Women's Federation was being inaugurated, she was speaking to brothers and sisters after the event; and she said, "To bring spiritual children, you have to have the heart of a mother searching desperately for her lost child."

A European leaders meeting

European leaders were having a conference in England, and they had all come to the London headquarters. I was serving food, when Father called me over. He looked at me straight in the eyes, really deeply, and he said, "I know you are having a very difficult time, really suffering a lot. But there will come a time when everything will be all right." When he said it, he looked at me with the kindest, most compassionate, gentle, smile. I was just so comforted.

Later when I was in South Africa, and things were very difficult, it kept me sane. I could always remember that experience, and think of it, and it helped me stay collected and vertically focused.

Conclusion

When I had experiences with Father and Mother I always felt I was representing sisters, and that one day I should share those experiences, so that others could understand True Parents' hearts. True Parents deeply love us all, each and every one, and will guide us in the details of our lives if we ask them. They are our Messiah and Savior, and will liberate and heal us completely from the effects of sin and fallen nature, when we ask.

I've been thinking and praying for a long time to understand what a true daughter is. I have come to feel that becoming a true son or daughter of God—taking our position with authority as Adam or Eve before the Fall—depends on the grace of True Parents, on the clarity of our conscience and spirit and on how deeply and closely we love True Parents and people, and live our lives with God. It's very hard to reach that standard but I understand that God is happy if we try our best to change little by little.

I know there are members who have had far deeper experiences with True Parents than I have, and I was surprised when the editor asked me to speak about mine. Even so, I am grateful to share these brief reflections. **TW**

Mrs. Darby-Perrin was blessed among the 777 couples. The testimony of her mission work in various countries, from the March 1989 issue of Today's World, is on our web site, www.todayworld.org.



June (far right) attending an educators symposium with members of the Interreligious and International Peace Council (IIPC), whose representatives from seven providential nations are involved in outreach to the expatriate community in Korea.

An Interview of A Candid Witness

By Julian Gray

Our church media advisor Richard Biddlecombe contacted our office in Korea late in August to say that a BBC World Service representative (who was already in contact with the movement in London) was coming to Korea from the United Kingdom for a conference, and that while he was here he would like to interview members of our church, including, if possible, its international president. This was duly arranged. Observing Hyung-jin nim during the interview some weeks later, I was struck by the natural forthrightness of our international president's responses. I realized that he was doing the kind of witnessing he had spoken of so many times in recent months.



Christopher Landau, a graduate of Cambridge University in religious studies and theology is the BBC World Service religious affairs correspondent. He interviewed Hyung-jin nim on September 24. Here he records at the Saturday service in Seoul.

What is the distinctive contribution to the religious landscape made by the Unification Church? What sets you apart? This was the first question Christopher Landau, religious affairs correspondent of the BBC World Service, asked Hyung-jin nim during a September 24 interview in Hyung-jin nim's office, which is annexed to the Headquarters Church in Seoul. Hyung-jin nim answered by saying:

We define God's essence as true love, the love that God intended his children to inherit.... In other traditions it is often said that God is unexplainable or beyond comprehension. For us, God is powerful and mighty but He is also a parent who is within reach.

Rev. Moon defines the essence of God as true love and further defines true love as a selfless type of love that can win over the worst evil. We are called to try to perfect, to move closer to inheriting, that type of love. And that really is our central teaching.¹

And what's the significance, in terms of the beliefs of the church, of your father himself? This was his follow up question. Hyung-jin nim's answer was no less straightforward:

We refer to Rev. and Mrs. Moon as the True Parents. In order to understand their mission, one would have to understand the mission of Jesus. And to understand the mission of Jesus, we believe one has to understand why God created human beings in the first place. And that is that God wanted to have beings with whom He could share His joy, His love, His essence.

The questions were direct and Hyung-jin nim answered them without hesitation or shyness at witnessing to God's original and providential purposes, or to True Parents' mission.

Christopher Landau was in Seoul to attend the fifth ASEM² Interfaith Dialogue, but he made time within that schedule to meet with Hyung-jin nim and some of our members.

Together Hyung-jin nim and Yeon-ah nim welcomed their guest warmly, then Hyung-jin nim boiled the water for oolong tea, which he served in tiny, elegant cups. Yeon-ah nim was present, supporting, but had firmly decided this would be her husband's interview rather than a joint one.

As can be gleaned from the recent media coverage of the 10.14 True Parents' Cosmic Blessing Ceremony, many observers are curious about Hyung-jin nim's role and speculation on how extensive are the responsibilities that Father has delegated to his son has fuelled recent media interest. So when Hyung-jin nim explained during the interview that Jesus had asked Rev. Moon to continue his [Jesus'] mission, Mr. Landau immediately asked, **And are you carrying on that work?** Hyung-jin nim's response was clear:

I am not in that messianic role; I'm absolutely not! That has to be 100 percent clear. Paul may have been an apostle, but he could never be the Christ. In the same way, I am just a conveyer, one who witnesses to the True Parents....

¹ Hyung-jin nim's answers are edited for conciseness in *Today's World*.

² Asia-Europe Meeting; forty-five member nations participate in bi-annual summits and frequent meetings of ministers and other high government officials.

Even so, the BBC World web site suggested that Hyung-jin nim had “taken the reins” from his father, and the title of the web article came out as *‘Moonies’ mull future without founder*. Some in our Unificationist community felt the BBC’s use of the so-called “M word” was unfortunate. However, within hours, and for some hours, the story was the seventh most read on the (international) BBC News web site³ and Hyung-jin nim’s photo made the home page. In a later contact to me by e-mail, Mr. Landau mentioned that he was sorry about the headline’s inclusion of the M word but explained that it is the name we are most recognizable by in the UK. In other words, the BBC’s editors had selected it in order to draw readers. Whether efforts should be made to prevent the term perpetuating itself in this way is an issue for discussion.

As a radio journalist, Mr. Landau was keen to include in the broadcast some sounds of day-to-day life at the Headquarters Church, to give a “sense of location” to listeners. And so Hyung-jin nim gave him a guided tour of the building. As they walked up the stairs into the main chapel, Mr. Landau asked Hyung-jin nim to describe the scene and recorded what he

of Jesus Christ. He and his wife are regarded by Unificationists as the world’s True Parents. Love between a married couple is seen as a divinely-ordained building block for society.

The piece also included brief inspirational excerpts from Hyung-jin nim’s sermon and several extracts from his interview on subjects varying from our members’ right to practice their faith to how couples become engaged. An excerpt from a brief interview Mr. Landau conducted with Franz and Elizabeth de Jong about how True Parents had matched them personally provided an interesting backdrop to Hyung-jin nim’s explanation of the variety of approaches employed today.

Overall, Mr. Landau’s radio piece and his article on the web gave a distinct and (of the church in Korea, at least) accurate impression of a forward-looking movement that is gearing up for growth under the management of a new generation. The radio broadcast concluded with Mr. Landau’s observation:

As it looks to the future, this controversial movement, founded on reverence for the family, is facing another set of challenges as key responsibilities pass from father to son.

In the taxi from his hotel to the Headquarters Church on the day of the interview, I lightheartedly asked Mr. Landau if he often got into vehicles taking him to unknown locations. He replied that doing so was indeed part of his work and yes, it required a certain amount of trust! His willingness to confront the unknown was matched by his open-heartedness and inquisitiveness. Hyung-jin nim wrote to him afterward that it had been a “true delight” to meet him.

Media reports in the past have often seeded, or added to, people’s misunderstanding of True Parents and our movement, using dehumanizing descriptions that perpetuate mistrust or fear. In this instance, however, the encounter between one youthful journalist of religion and our (also youthful) international president resulted in a report that gave our church a very human face and voice.

Media representatives who ask us to explain our beliefs, ethics and activities in our own words, and then present them without bias, help a truthful picture of our church to emerge. Christopher Landau did not bias his report in our favor, and he never expressed a word to us on what he thought of our Saturday service and all that Hyung-jin nim said (except to say that Hyung-jin nim had given him some very radio-presentable content). But he did convey Hyung-jin nim’s words honestly; perhaps even more telling, his own narrative was based on what he had learned through the interviews he conducted, not on archived content he had not personally researched.

Notably, this approach continued in the worldwide media coverage of the October 14 Blessing Ceremony, in which participating members were either quoted in the press or appeared on video. Are the conditions ripening for change? Certainly, Hyung-jin nim and Kook-jin nim believe that speaking candidly and openly to the media about our movement’s vision and practices is the best way to earn honest and respectful coverage. And they are taking the lead in doing this. **JW**



Before the interview, Mr. Landau, Yeon-ah nim and Hyung-jin nim chat generally for a few minutes as the writer looks on.

said. In his commentary Hyung-jin nim included an explanation of the meaning of the Unification Church symbol on the wall and the two chairs for True Parents.

Mr. Landau was even interested to record the sounds of the children playing in the children’s playroom. The Two Rivers Choir were practicing for the weekend services, and they obliged him with a song.

But it was the sounds of their voices at our Saturday international service two days later (recorded on Hyung-jin nim’s thirtieth birthday) that made it into the final cut. The four-minute radio piece that went out on “World Today,” for example, featured a poignant narrative by Mr. Landau that indicated he had listened closely to Hyung-jin nim during the interview. For example:

Followers of the movement believe that Hyung-jin Moon’s father was sent by God to complete the mission

3 At time of writing it was accessible at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/8293607.stm>

