

True Peace

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True Mother Has Done a Mighty Work for Heaven and Earth

By Thomas Walsh



At times, I feel discouraged; I sometimes feel we face so many difficulties and challenges. But, then, it is as if the hand of God reaches down through the clouds and moves heaven and earth through the embodiment of Heavenly Parent's love and truth on earth. Such were the recent events in Korea, both the International Rally for Peaceful Reunification of Korea and the UPF's Interreligious Leadership Conference.

Not only did the truths of our own faith uplift us; the beauty, goodness and virtues we experienced in others from many faiths enriched us. True Mother convened the family of religions. It was as though I were present at a global council, like the Council Nicaea in 325, when Constantine, at a time of much division and discord in the churches, asked the bishops to meet in order to produce a common creed, which came into being as the Nicæan Creed.

More than four hundred religious leaders, representing seventy nations, including nearly two hundred from the American Clergy Leadership Council, responded to a call to assemble in Korea to support the International Rally for Peaceful Reunification of Korea.

At the rally, we heard True Mother deliver a message of profound depth, outlining the grand narrative of God's providence, beginning with Genesis, the time of the Creation. She reminded us of the tragic devastation of the Fall and the painful history of restoration that followed, including Jesus' suffering life course. She explained that God's providence has reached a culmination at this time, that of the True Parents and the emergence of the long awaited only begotten daughter. For the first time, the Holy Spirit and God's feminine characteristics are embodied in history, opening an entirely new dimension of providential history—a time of hope.

Our Interreligious Leadership Conference (IRLC) was a truly magnificent victory. God guided the program, in every detail. God seemed to have chosen each speaker to share some important aspect of God's love and wisdom. It was like a form of "automatic writing" or receiving direct heavenly guidance.

I felt as if we had created Noah's ark for religions, and religious leaders were coming onto True Parents' ark. There were Christians of every denomination, orthodox rabbis, who cannot even take an elevator on the Sabbath and who had to have their food delivered from a kosher restaurant in Seoul. There were both Sunni and Shia Muslims, as well as Sufis, Hindu gurus and swamis and Buddhists of every kind, from Thailand, Bhutan, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, China, and of course Korea and Japan; there were Sikhs and Jains.

We experienced an enormous outpouring that indicates a hunger and a need for the Interreligious Association for Peace and Development. We launched the IAPD on November 13. It was deeply significant and inspiring. Nearly twenty participants from all different religious groups testified at the launching ceremony. Due to limits of time and because so many insisted on saying something, I limited each of them to three minutes. This made them condense their remarks and, in a very short time, speak with heartfelt passion and insight, endorsing the IAPD initiative.

Everyone signed the resolution, but we also began discussing our program of work. In particular, the religious leaders received inspiring and uplifting reports on: IAPP, Sunhak Peace Prize, Peace Road, Youth and Students for Peace, the plan for a new character education and curriculum for youth, the interfaith blessing movement, WFWP, etc. The religious leaders are all inspired to work for these projects, including the effort to achieve peaceful reunification of Korea.

The word "development" in IAPD indicates that we are not merely engaged in dialogue, but we are advocating and working for development at all levels: individual moral and spiritual development; development of strong, healthy, loving families; good, stable communities without drugs, crime, and poverty; restored nations that are peaceful and prosperous; and sustainable development that includes preservation of our environment while also bringing an end to hunger, poverty and conflict. We have been awakened. We are ready to march forward and get to work. *TP*

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The Fundamental Principle of True Peace

True Parents gave this speech on March 27, 1994, at the Lotte Hotel in Seoul on the occasion of the Second World Peace Conference of the Federation for World Peace, which Mikhail Gorbachev (president of the Soviet Union 1990–1991 and general secretary of the Communist Party 1985–1991) attended with his wife Raisa.



As we enter the age of internationalization and globalization in the twenty-first century, the urgent task of overcoming a large number of difficult obstacles to world peace is confronting us. I have an absolute conviction that our global problems can only be resolved through a process that addresses their fundamental root. I have dedicated my entire life to the pursuit of Heaven's will based on this conviction.

Our world today has become evil, filled with conflict, confusion and hatred. This is true of individuals, families, societies and nations. The root cause of so much wickedness is an individual human being's conflict between mind and body, a conflict that started at the beginning of history and has perpetuated throughout the ages.

As embodiments of discord, individuals naturally produce families fraught with conflict, countries torn by strife and a world divided by struggle. The result is an evil, hellish world—for Heaven, the most abominable of all possible worlds. The origin of this ongoing conflict lies in the relationship between man and woman, who themselves are torn by internal conflict. Thus, the solution to our complex global difficulties lies in creating unity between mind body and in harmonizing the man-woman relationship. By accomplishing these two goals, we will have found the solution to the problems of the entire world.

Why have mind and body come into conflict with each other? Why have man and woman been unable to establish harmony? My firm conviction is that through the Fall, at the dawn of history, the mind and body of human beings divided and strife emerged between man and woman. The human world became evil, with Satan at its center.

The first step in solving the world's problems then is to find God. The second is to cast out evil Satan. The third is for men and women to unify mind and body. God expelled fallen Adam and Eve from the garden of Eden when they left God and became husband and wife centered on Satan. When they bore children while in that state, humankind inherited the lineage of Satan. Their

lineage was corrupted.

Heaven's principle is that establishing a love relationship—whether of false love or true—establishes ownership. Because of this principle, our human ancestors came under Satan's ownership.

The Fall brought false love

Originally, the mind and body were to have become one, centering on God's true love. However, before God's true love had a chance to be perfected within the human mind, Satan's false love bound the mind, which enabled Satan to take root in the body. The mind was originally to exert a positive polarity over the body, however, due to the Fall, the body formed as another positive pole, repelling the original mind and finally dominating it.

For that reason, God has been working to project the power of true love into the human mind to bring about the absolute subjugation of the body now engulfed in false love. Only when they unify through true love, can the mind and body return to the state in which God dwells within them.

Through the Fall, our ancestors became false ancestors, creating the need for religion and for a Messiah. The task of religion and the purpose of the Messiah's coming is to break down the hell of false love, false life and false lineage, which has given rise to false individuals, false families, false societies, false states and a false world. Religion and the Messiah must guide us back to the original world of true love, true life and true lineage, the world of true parents with God at the center.

God, too, seeks interaction

God is a relational being and he, too, feels loneliness. He created the heavens and the earth centering on a relational ideal and his reason was to find true love. Look at the created world. You will see that it is structured in pairs: the mineral world, the plant world and the animal world are all arranged in subject-object partner relationships as a way of providing ideal models for true love between human beings.

True love is the reason women are born for the sake of men and men for the sake of women. Solutions to

global problems become possible only when our minds and bodies, and when men and women, come to live for the very purpose of becoming one through true love. True love can be found only in a situation where a person exists for the sake of his or her relational complement. Satan's love is self-centered whereas God's love is other-centered. These two kinds of love are in total contradiction to each other.

True love in a parent-child relationship is vertical, in a husband-wife relationship, it is horizontal and in a brother-sister relationship, it is on a front-to-back axis. God wanted such a spherical ideal of true love. Unity comes at one central point, at which there is a convergence of the upper and lower hemispheres on the vertical axis, the right and left hemispheres on the horizontal axis, and the front and back hemispheres on the third axis. This point becomes the focus of centripetal force.

Realms of heart

Four realms of heart—the love for the child, sibling love, spousal love, and love for parents—are perfected when a man and wife, each centered on God, marry and enter their first love relationship. In that central place, perfected love bears fruit.

Accordingly, Adam and Eve as husband and wife, as God's most beloved substantial object partners, were to be the second ancestors, after God. From that position, they would have been the "second creators" and would have inherited everything that God feels.

God intended that Adam and Eve, as second creators in the visible and substantial world, would participate in his act of creation by having children, who would be the third creators. Through this process, the family becomes the place in which the four realms of heart can be experienced generation after generation. The family is the base through which each form of true love comes to perfection. In this way, the family achieves the unity of God and human beings through love and serves as the starting point toward the perfection that enables us to establish true ownership in heaven and on earth. The family is the origin from which we come to have children,



True Parents with Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (1985–1991) and his wife Raisa on the day True Father gave this speech. The Association for the Unity of Latin America (AULA) has just awarded Mr. Gorbachev the Latin American Order of Liberty and Unity.

brothers and sisters, husband or wife and parents. Only in such families can we find men and women who have accomplished mind–body unity, and only in such families can we find husbands and wives who have achieved the ideal unity between man and woman. Such families are the starting point for ideal parents. Here, too, we can see the creation of a model, centering upon true love, for the perfection of children, brothers and sisters, husband and wife and parents.

It was God's ideal at the time of the Creation that this model would expand, not only to the level of the nation and the world, but to the entire cosmos. Thus it is possible to create a nation that is patterned on the family, and a world and cosmos that are also patterned on the family.

Accordingly, the model for children, brothers and sisters, husbands and wives and parents, who represent the four realms of heart, can be found in the family, in the nation, in

the world and in the cosmos. Since a nation contains many families and is larger than a family, families ought to exist for the sake of the nation. Since the world contains many countries, countries need to exist for the sake of other countries in the world. In similar fashion, the world exists for the sake of the larger cosmos. Finally, the cosmos exists for the sake of God, who is the greatest and most central existence.

Thus, when the standard of the perfected four realms of heart within the family is projected onto higher and higher levels, the ideal of unity becomes a reality. On that basis, we can enter a cosmos of peace, happiness and freedom. This is why we have a vital need for family harmony centering on the unity of mind and body and man and woman.

God too has been growing, you see. He created Adam and Eve as the substantiation of the ideal within his invisible heart, of son and daughter, brother and sister, husband and wife

and father and mother. With Adam and Eve, God becomes a growing child, a brother and a sister, a husband and a wife, and finally a parent. As God establishes children, brothers and sisters, husbands and wives and parents, God experiences his second self, many times over. God unites them in true love, which brings boundless joy to Him.

Mind–body unity as a base

Human beings are designed to give joy to God and to give joy to one another. We are all in the position of someone else's child, sibling, spouse or parent. All human beings are members of families centering on the four realms of heart, which makes the family the foundation to experience the ideal realms of heart. We all have a longing to form families and the reason is that only those people who deeply experience and embody the four great realms of heart can become ideal human beings, capable of making oneness in heart with any-

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FAREWELL BANQUET FOR THE SECOND WORLD PEACE CONFERENCE

With GALA PERFORMANCE OF THE LITTLE ANGELS

MARCH 29, 1994. The Little Angels Performing Arts Center

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Forty-two political figures, prime ministers and ex-heads of state or government from seventy countries attended the Second World Peace Conference, which was formed to help manage the transition from the cold war to the heavenly order of the future.

one in the kingdom of heaven on earth or in the spiritual realm.

This explains the consummate human desire to achieve mind–body unity and husband–wife unity. Unless we achieve this all-important mind–body unity, we are unqualified in all other aspects and cannot develop unity in a true family. We will fall away from our families, from our nation, from the world, from the universe and from God. Only through our utmost effort to accomplish mind–body unity and family unity can we achieve perfection.

We have to know that we ourselves are God’s representatives. We are in the position of a second God. All people need to work together to establish the family into a realm of goodness and joy.

Please realize that the position of husband and wife is the union between a son of God and a daughter of God, the union of a brother and sister within God’s family and

the union of a father and mother. From the perspective of the four realms of heart, the position of husband and wife is the absolute goal of human life, through which we can actually achieve the perfection of our individual selves.

The husband, therefore, is in the position that enables the wife to receive an ideal son of God, to receive an older brother of heaven, to receive a husband of heaven and to receive a father of heaven. This is also true of the wife in relation to her husband. Such husbands and wives bear children in a manner analogous to God’s act of creation, and they feel joy through experiencing their own growth in a substantial manner through their children.

God’s love is absolute. Accordingly, it is a principle of heaven that the relationship of husband and wife cannot be broken. Fallen human society has lost sight of this principle, and we have to be restored so that we may return to the

original homeland.

The perspective of Godism and Head-wing Thought is that world peace will not be achieved by means of political ideologies oriented toward power, nor by any initiative that relies on physical force. Peace will only be accomplished when all men and women share in God’s love and truth and put these into practice. This starts with the individual and expands to the family, society, nation and world to form one global family.

From this perspective, the founding purpose of the Federation for World Peace is to promote education and practices related to true peace as a means to realize peace in various societies, nations and the world. May all of us here perfect the family-level heaven and go on to play major roles in the accomplishment of world peace. I pray that God’s blessing be upon all of you. ㄸ

The full text of this speech is in Pyeonghwa Gyeong Book 1, Speech 6.

We Are Living in a New Era

The Mother delivered this address at the 2017 Autumn Hyo Jeong Cheongpyeong Great Works, True Parents' Special Gathering on November 4, 2017, in the Cheongpyeong Training Center, Great Hall



Where are we? This is Cheon Il Guk's holy land, the capital. You are honorable citizens of Cheon Il Guk. You must show the world who you are boldly, with pride and self-esteem. The omniscient and omnipotent God is the same from the beginning to the end. However, the problem is that a victorious man and woman must appear who can become the good ancestor of humankind, whom God tried to bless in the beginning. Heavenly Parent's dream was to become the "True Parent" of humankind and reside with us. After the long period of four thousand years, when God could find a nation, Heaven sent Jesus Christ. An environment was emerging in which even the

Great Roman Empire would have been resurrected and reborn. To summarize, if Jesus had become the True Parent, Rome would have united with Israel. If that had happened, the circumstances today would not be as they are. God's dream, the kingdom of heaven on earth would already have begun. ...

In Genesis, it says, "There was evening and there was morning, one day"—the first day! It could have just said, "The first day began," but it says, "There was evening and there was morning..." People who call themselves Christians today are in the middle of the night. It is evening. You must teach them. You make awaken them. The beginning of the Unification Church was the same. In 1960,

True Parents' status should have been such that those on the national level welcomed the Holy Wedding. Yet, that did not happen. We had to climb up from the lowest position. That is why the fifty-year history of the Unification Church is night.

On Foundation Day in 2013, Cheon Il Guk began. A new day, a new era began. I said this earlier, but True Parents' status should have begun on a national foundation. I am giving you all a chance. I am giving you the chance to take full responsibility and line up for the blessing; I am giving you this responsibility. Will you do this or not? Heaven's dream, humankind's wish, True Parents' wish is one human family, brothers and sisters united in attending their parents.

There are around two hundred nations but they are all sibling nations. Yet they do not know the center. They do not know God. They do not know True Parents. There are many religions in the world, and they began with teaching to be good and live kindly, but they do not know the conclusion. They do not know the final destination.

We must set an example

As the True Parents, I am developing this Cheonwon complex to show the world that the place where the citizens of Cheon Il Guk live and attend Heavenly Parent looks like this! We are the Family Federation! We can no longer be in the night! We must show ourselves. We must reveal the truth! Where else in the world can you get this blessing and grace? What is preventing you from going out boldly? I am saying that you must think it can be no one other than me. All blessed families must fulfill their responsibilities as tribal messiahs. You must save your tribe. Even further, you must save your people. You must save your nation. Those are your responsibilities as children who live in the same era as True Parents. As the True Parents, I wish for you to tell me about many beautiful things, such as the results of your hard work: "I saved my people, my nation. They are now registered citizens of heaven." "As citizens of Cheon Il Guk, we have been registered in heaven."

The bigger you think, of course, the more of heaven's fortune you will receive, but you can also enter the realm of True Parents' direct love! Dae-mo nim, who gave birth to God's only daughter, had single-hearted devotion. She offered her entire life for God's only daughter. She gave up everything, the life of a normal woman. That was why Father gave her the title "Dae Mo" [Great Mother].

Heaven permitted the providence of the Holy Spirit centered on Cheongpyeong because of the earnest hope that more than anyone else, blessed families who live in True Parents' embrace should live healthy lives and become filial sons or daughters, faithful subjects to True Parents. On that foundation, through Foundation Day, a new era, a new history, the providence of the substantial True Mother, the substantial Holy Spirit, God's only daughter, is now directing Cheongpyeong. People come here and receive the grace of the Holy Spirit. Not only you, but centered on you, those in the three great phases past, present, and future can receive the blessing to become healthy citizens of Cheon Il Guk with no dirt or scratches. This can come to realization through you.

According to the seasons, nature, through the circle of nature set up at the Creation, even without anyone telling it to change their clothes, trees that are a deep green in summer change into beautiful colors in au-



True Family members and senior church figures at Cheongpyeong listening to True Mother speak.

tumn. Isn't the area around Cheongpyeong beautiful now? What do you think? In this world and in your environments the fallen realm remains. You must come here often to make your mind and body healthy. You should be grateful we have this place, Cheongpyeong, and I hope that you will come here often. That is a mother's heart. A mother loves seeing her children happy, united and living well. As blessed families, will you play the central role in creating that kind of nation and world? It seems as though your long applause says, "Please finish speaking." Embed in your hearts what I have said today; I pray that you become blessed families with no dirt or scratches who live to fulfill all your responsibilities. *TP*

This has been edited for inclusion in TPmagazine.



The Truth of History Seen through Heaven's Providence and This Nation's Mission

This was True Parents' Message, which True Mother delivered on November 11, at the Seoul World Cup Stadium for the 2017 Global Rally for the Peaceful Reunification of the Korean Peninsula, to which members brought bus-loads of guests and members of the clergy spoke in support of Korean reunification.



Beloved global citizens, leaders of various fields, ambassadors for peace, members of the Family Federation, ladies and gentlemen:

Today we have provided this event, which can deeply move Heaven at a time when this nation's fate is at stake. Many religious leaders and members of the clergy, around four hundred, have come here from all continents and a one-hundred-member ACLC choir came from America. I am truly very thankful for that.

When we look at the world today, we see many problems. Though we try to overcome these problems, we cannot find answers through human efforts and strength alone. The future is bleak. Through the First World War and the Second World War, we saw cruel and horrible realities. That was why the UN was founded, with the determination that all nations must unite. Seventy-two years have passed since the UN's establishment. However, many difficult problems still need solving throughout the world. We stand in a maze, unable to unite. For the religions that lead the world today, it is the same. Especially in the sphere of Christian civilization, people say that if you believe in God and believe in Jesus you will go to a good place. Yet we must not stop with faith alone. We must think of how we can attend God, our Creator, in our families, societies, nations and the world.

The original God created all things in heaven and on earth and then created the man and woman who would become humankind's first ancestors. He gave them the responsibility of going through a growth period. They should have received the blessing in the stance of having absolute faith, absolute love and absolute obedience. Yet during this time, they developed greed. They thought they could be equal to God. Their self-centered greed caused the world we see today—a world of fallen human beings with no relationship with God.

The omniscient and omnipotent God is a being who is the same from the beginning to the end. He cannot ignore the principles of creation, which he established. Thus, God had to begin the bitter providence of restoration through indemnity. Four

thousand years ago, God chose the people of Israel. How difficult must it have been that it took four thousand years for the providence to restore from the individual all the way to the national level and for God finally to send Jesus Christ whom he could call "My son"! Yet what happened? Was there truly no choice but to send to the cross God's son, who had been born after the long period of four thousand years, after such a short life?

This was not God's will. The purpose of Jesus' coming was for him to become the victorious human ancestor, the "True Parent." Humankind cannot enter God's presence directly, because they still must indemnify mistakes they have made. The True Parents help us overcome that indemnity.

The only daughter of God

As Jesus died on the cross, he said he would return. He said he would return to hold the marriage supper of the Lamb. The marriage supper of the Lamb... Heaven's providence did not go through the Israelites again after they had failed to fulfill their responsibilities. Heaven chose a new people who could give birth to the only daughter of God. I want you to know that the chosen people is the Han race, the people of the Korean peninsula, of the Republic of Korea.

God prepared this people so he could send the only daughter of God through them. As the chosen people, they worshiped Heaven, were advanced in astronomy, loved nature and hated war. Through this people and on the Christian foundation, just as two thousand years ago, when God called Jesus "My son," after six thousand years the only daughter of God whom God could call "My daughter" was born. Isn't this something to be joyful about and thankful for?

According to the principle of creation, Heaven had to protect the only daughter of God during her growth period. I was born in 1943 and Korea was liberated in 1945. Near the place I was born, centered on Pyongyang, were many spiritual groups that believed the Lord would return in Pyongyang. However, with Korea's liberation, the nation divided into north and south based on the confrontation between democratic and communist thought. The North,

under a united regime, was planning to invade the South. God would not have been able to fulfill his will if I had stayed in that place, so Heaven had me go south. In 1950, the Korean War broke out. South Korea was not prepared to confront North Korea. Then like a miracle, Heaven mobilized the UN and laid the framework on this land for the True Parents to manifest.

Greeting a new day

In 1960, True Parents, for whom Heaven and fallen humankind so dearly wished, came into being, but the Christian foundation did not support them. Yet providence still progressed. True Parents began the global providence through America (a representative democratic nation) to save the world's 74 billion people. God prepared America as a democratic nation so its people could receive the returning Lord. I am saying they received heaven's blessings. Yet they do not know why Heaven blessed them. America had become a powerful nation, but during times of confusion and difficulties, communism threatened that nation. [True Father] put everything aside and went to America to lead the global providence, which he did from there for forty years. At that time, missionaries from America, Europe and Japan were dispatched all over the world. They laid roots in places all over the world. They are educating people in those nations, in all ways necessary in this age.

I wish to say this to all of you today: the figures or nations Heaven blesses must fulfill their responsibilities. Happiness grows the more we share it. You need to take responsibility for the blessings, which are not yours only, but which you can share with your neighbors, with other people, and the world. Fallen humankind cannot directly go into God's presence. The state in which we can receive the blessing through True Parents is that of being resurrected and reborn. That is why righteous leaders and members of the clergy have accepted the order and are putting into practice the true family movement in their churches around the world. This people's wish for Korea's peaceful unification, humankind's wish for a united world, cannot



- ❶ At a time of heightened tensions between the Koreans, religious leaders traveled thousands of miles to express their faith in God and that peace would come to heal this divided nation. Here, Bishop Hezekiah Walker leads a three-thousand-voice choir in singing "Every Praise," which he composed, at the Global Rally for the Peaceful Reunification of the Korean Peninsula.
- ❷ A large choir comprising mainly Korean Unificationists sang two holy songs, "The Father's Dwelling Place and "Song of the Victors," and "The Land of Hope"
- ❸ Following True Mother's landmark speech, the Little Angels performed
- ❹ The rally was a continuation of True Parents' lifelong efforts to see the reunification of their beloved nation.

go on eternally with human effort and human thinking alone. Only when God's providence unfolds centered on True Parents and under the circumstances of one attending God in one's family and nation can Heaven's blessing be eternal. Thus, I would like to speak today about "The truth of history seen through heaven's providence and this nation's mission."

I have said this: The numerous religious figures in the world, especially religious figures and believers who call themselves Christians must prepare to greet a new day. Are you prepared to meet the returning Lord, who two thousand years ago said he would return as he died on the cross? Just as it says in Genesis, there was evening, and there was morning—the first day. Why did Genesis not express it as the first and second day but used the word evening? Today, Christianity—all religions—must have a destination. That destination! There is only one conclusion. Beloved global citizens, beloved righteous people of this nation, we can no longer remain in the night but must prepare to greet a new morning. Do you know what

that is? It is the marriage blessing through True Parents. It is the true-family movement. The world that all humankind wishes for today is a united world centered on God, which begins from a true family. Now, you, especially Christians who believe in God and believe in Jesus, must not stop with only faith but must truly attend God in your families and establish an ideal world through which we can return glory and honor to God, which is the kingdom of heaven on earth, for which Heaven wishes and we hope.

Become a child of God

Therefore, I will say this to you today—I will say this to the Korean people: We have received Heaven's blessing. We must live lives in which we can share that blessing. What must we do for the global providence?

Two thousand years ago after Jesus went the way of the cross, Christianity began through resurrection by the Holy Spirit. Thus, 313 years later, Rome recognized Christianity and it became more active. Centered on the Italian Peninsula, Christianity spread

throughout the European continent and arrived at the island of Britain, where its culture bloomed. The era of the Atlantic civilization had begun. Yet, they did not know Jesus' essence. [Britain] began to think of its own benefit only and retreated into selfish individualism. Therefore, the providence made effort for all nations to unite through the democratic nation of the United States, but they could not.

What humankind wishes for dearly, Heavenly Parent's dream, begins from the True Parents. The True Parents! You must be reborn through the True Parents to become a child of God. Those of us here today know this. I have said the era of the Pacific realm civilization constituted by the revolution of the culture of heart of filial love. I pray that we who now know Heaven's providence through True Parents' ideology can stand in God's presence as Cheon Il Guk citizens that fulfill their duties as filial sons, filial daughters, and loyal subjects so that not only we but all humankind can receive blessings and open the way to the past, present and future. ㄸ



Opening the Era of the Pacific Realm Civilization

This is an edited excerpt from True Mother's November 16 speech at the Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture, 2017 Hyo Jeong Culture Festival in Nagoya, Japan.

Beloved Global Citizens of Nagoya, I love you!... Today we have gathered here to become the key players of this new age. When we look around the world today, we do not have hope for the future. Many religions exist but they were unable to give us a conclusion about the next life. Christianity alone said that the relationship between God, our Creator, and human beings was a parent-child relationship, but they did not comprehend the true meaning of this. The original owner of the universe, God, created all things in the heavens and on earth and created the man and woman who would become humankind's first ancestors. Through the growth period, they should have developed absolute faith, absolute love and absolute obedience to God. God would have then said "Now you are all grown. I will bless you!"

That was the moment God longed for, when he would have become

humankind's parent. Unfortunately, however, before the proper time [Adam and Eve] began to focus on themselves greedily. This was how we came to have a fallen world, through which humankind could not stand in God's presence. God is omniscient and omnipotent. He is the same in the beginning and the end. He cannot change the principles he put in place at the time of the Creation. Therefore, Heaven had no choice but to go through the painful and sorrowful providence of restoration through indemnity. God chose a nation from among fallen humankind and through the providence of restoration through indemnity restored from an individual all the way to the national level. God wished for the time when a man and woman who could become humankind's victorious parents would appear.

When I hear "Nagoya" I feel happy. Many of the early Family Federation leaders came from here. I pray that you members of Nagoya can bear the

beautiful fruit of the beginning and the end, the Alpha and the Omega. Through True Parents, a new providence is progressing. Korea, True Parents' homeland, and Japan, which True Parents selected as the Eve nation, have united and crossed Asia to open the era of Pacific realm civilization. Heaven chose America as the eldest son nation, which represents the world. Therefore, from the of the Pacific realm civilization, the revolution of filial heart is spreading to the world, opening a new age....

Japan must fulfill its responsibility as the Eve nation, the mother nation. Through that, you can indemnify the wrongdoings of your ancestors. I want to make for you a Japan with no indemnity in the future, a nation that can boast of true peace. Only through this path, through these activities, can Japan have a future and furthermore can Asia and the world have a future. The dream is one human family under God! We can realize the peaceful kingdom of heaven on earth! 7

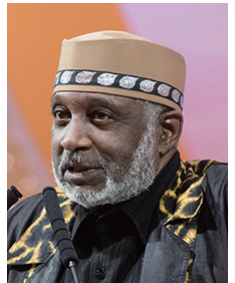
The 2017 Global Rally for the Peaceful Reunification of the Korean Peninsula



- ① True Mother giving the main address to an audience of 80,000 who had flocked from throughout Seoul and the surrounding area to hear her message at a time fraught with tension arising from North Korea's threats and provocations
- ② Ryu Gyeong-seuk, president of FFWPU-Korea, served as the master of ceremonies
- ③ Ambassador James Woolsey, director of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (1993–1995) warned of the grave danger of North Korea launching an Electromagnetic Pulse (EMP) attack from space.
- ④ Archbishop Johannes Ndanga, founder of the Apostolic Christian Churches of Zimbabwe said, "Testimonies of the positive impact of the Blessing Ceremony on marriages are plentiful."
- ⑤ Various True Family members and religious and political leaders onstage with True Mother, who had struck a gong, symbolizing the desire for peace to resound throughout the Korean Peninsula.
- ⑥ Swami Hari Chaitanya Puri Hindu leader to 180 million was one of nine speakers
- ⑦ Religious leaders made a pledge and then impressed their hand print on a clay tablet.



Global Rally Victory Celebration



- ① True Mother, radiant in victory
- ② Cutting the celebration cake
- ③ Julia H. J. Moon, Song Yong-cheon and Kim Ki-hoon toast True Mother's success!
- ④ From left: Wonju McDevitt read hoondokhae; Yun Young-ho was the MC; Ryu Gyeong-seuk gave a report on the event; Kim Ki-hoon proposed a toast; Thomas Walsh praised True Mother; T. L. Barret sang a song about True Mother.
- ⑤ Little Angels descend to offer flowers
- ⑥ A large crowd lent an air of a religious revival to the festivities



Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture, 2017 Hyo Jeong Culture Festival



Nagoya Victory Celebration



- ① Sumiya Kouichi and Sumiya Rieko, a second-generation blessed couple, present flowers to True Mother.
- ② President Moon introduced True Mother; Tokuno Eiji, president of FFWPU-Japan welcomed the audience; Katou Chiyoko, who is the leader of wives doing activities in the North Aichi Zone of District 7, prayed.
- ③ True Mother speaking in celebration of their ten-thousand-member foundation
- ④ Young people entertained the audience
- ⑤ District 7 leader, Kotouda Yokshifumi, leads the crowd in cheering Mansei!
- ⑥ Throngs of people wholeheartedly welcomed True Parents into their city.

- ① True Mother cuts a cake as Sun Jin Moon gazes lovingly at her mother.
- ② Rev. Kotouda Yokshifumi and his wife Naoko present a gift to True Mother.
- ③ Rev. Song Yong-cheon, chairman of the Japanese movement, reported on the successful rally.
- ④ These dedicated young members of Pure Water have pledged to live in church centers and not return home until Vision 2020 is realized.



Osaka, 2017 Hyo Jeong Family Festival



Osaka Victory Celebration



- ① True Mother told the audience the event was "our first step in carrying out the responsibility to make a heavenly Japan and a heavenly Osaka that attends Heavenly Parent."
- ② Sun Jin Moon, True Parents' tenth child and the international president of FFWPU, introduced True Mother.
- ③ Tokuno Eiji, president of FFWPU-Japan welcomed the audience.
- ④ The Family Federation choir, Candlelight, sang "God Bless Our Motherland."
- ⑤ Rev. Tokuno and his wife Hisae present awards to model families
- ⑥ The auditorium was full as they celebrated achieving their 10,000-member goal



- ① True Mother cuts the cake marking the victory in Osaka, Japan.
- ② Ju Jin-tae, district leader of Region 8 and his wife Ikuta Tamiko with a present for True Mother
- ③ True Mother sharing a toast with Song Yong-cheon, chairman of the Japanese movement and Ju Jin-tae, district leader of Region 8
- ④ A commemorative photograph of the Victory Celebration



真の父母様歓迎および大阪1万名大会祝勝会

天-國5年天曆10月4日 (2017年11月21日)

主催：世界平和統一家庭連合

Special Thanksgiving Banquet to Celebrate True Parents' Victorious Rallies in Nagoya and Osaka





- ❶ True Mother speaking at the celebration of her successful events in two Japanese prefectures where church membership now exceeds ten thousand.
- ❷ A view of the room as True Mother speaks to the assembled Korean elders and leaders from a variety of church departments.
- ❸ True Mother cutting the celebratory cake
- ❹ (Bowling) Ju Jin-tae, Japan's District 8 leader, (including Osaka) and Kotouda Yoshifumi, District 7 leader (including Nagoya) offering flowers to True Mother
- ❺ From left: Yeon-ah Moon, True Mother, Song Yong-cheon, Kim Seog-byeong and Eiji Tokuno toast the success of the rallies in Japan and True Mother's safe return
- ❻ From left: Mrs. Wonju McDevitt read for hoondokhae; Yun Young-ho was the master of ceremonies; Rev. Ryu Gyeong-seuk prayed; Song Yong-cheon explained what transpired during the two rallies in Japan and Kim Ki-hoon proposed a toast.
- ❼ The room erupted in loud cheers of Eog Mansei!



May Peace Come to True Parents' Land

This was among the speeches by religious leaders delivered from the stage at the World Cup Stadium rally on November 11.

By Dr. Johannes N. Ndanga



Dear True Mother, Distinguished and Respected Colleagues, Religious Leaders, Ambassadors for Peace, Ladies, and Gentlemen:

It is a great honor to address this august assembly from many diverse faiths and traditions. I am grateful to the True Parents for this opportunity and the platform they have given us to show that all of us can truly realize God's dream of creating one family under God.

Father Moon once said, "God is color blind. He is not a denominationalist." God is striving to put an end to divisions and boundaries between his children. I would like to commend Father and Mother Moon for their emphasis on renewing the family as a foundation for world peace.


True Mother, my wife and I have heeded your call to renew marriages and family. Not only did we rededicate our marriage by receiving your Blessing, we are mobilizing religious leaders from the Apostolic Christian Council of Zimbabwe, an umbrella organization for more than a thousand independent churches with a membership of eight million members to take part in the Blessing Movement. We are happy to report that so far two thousands bishops and pastors have taken part in the Blessing Ceremony.

Our vision is to see marriages in Zimbabwe officiated more and more by blessed religious leaders! Next, we have started to take this Blessing Movement into the churches and communities. The result so far, is very encouraging. Testimonies of the positive impact of the Blessing on marriages are plentiful. Zimbabwe is reviving spiritually, thanks to your blessings, True Mother!

The forty bishops who recently went with me to Zambia for a three-day conference admit that it was a spiritual awakening, a complete new approach seeking to strengthen the family, the church and the nation. They appreciate the grace extended to us at churches in Zimbabwe by the True Mother. They were all blessed in the last Blessing Ceremony we organized in Zimbabwe on October 29. They are inspired and crave more such retreats in the future.

Jesus said in Matthew 18:19-20, "Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." This was meant not just for Christians. Our Heavenly Parent will listen to us if we gather from all faiths to pray and work for peace. Korea is a blessed land. This country has the privilege of being the birthplace of Father and Mother Moon. It is unfortunate that it is still divided along ideological lines. Let us pray that the unity so much cherished by the Korean people, both North and South, can finally come based on the efforts and sincere commitment of all the stakeholders centered on True Parents. As stressed by Mother Moon, the unity should be based on true love, not force. We do not want another war on this peninsula. I believe that centered on the True Parents of humankind, everlasting peace is possible among the Korean people.

As religious leaders, we are at the forefront in the fight to bring about God's kingdom of peace. Let us join Mother Moon, the only begotten daughter, in healing marriages, building bridges between religions and ultimately bringing peace to this world! This has been God's long cherished dream.

Thank you dear Lord, Mother Moon and all who have gathered here today for this magnificent rally for the peaceful reunification of the Korean Peninsula. May the peace of Christ be upon you, your family and faith tradition! Amen and Aju! 

This was edited for inclusion in TPmagazine.



In preparation for True Mother's visit to Africa, hundreds of members in Cote d'Ivoire underwent a Cheongpyeong workshop October 13-15

The Cheongpyeong Experience in Cote d'Ivoire

All of the articles in this section covering a four-country African tour are based on a report by Chung Jin-hwa, director of the International Department in the Cheongpyeong Training Center.

On October 10 at Cheon Jeon Gung True Mother suddenly called on Lee Gi-seong, director of the Cheongpyeong Heaven and Earth Training Center to go on a tour of Africa saying, "Go and light a fire in Africa." Mother asked him to make a Shin [Heavenly] Africa and directed Director Lee to do ancestor liberation there. Following Mother's direction, the Cheongpyeong Training Center began preparing, offering devotions for a four-nation tour. The Training Center contacted the regional head-

quarters in Africa and prepared guidelines for the members to prepare internally and externally. For the nineteen-day tour, we had five main goals: to the help members establish a life of faith aligned with True Parents; to create a foundation for True Mother in Africa as members create a foundation of devotion and ancestor liberation for the Global Leaders' Summit this December in Senegal; to create a foundation for a new beginning and unity between East Africa and West Africa centered on the newly appointed chairman of the Africa Regional

Group, Rev. Bakary Camara; for the African church leaders to have spiritual experiences so they can solve spiritual problems; and to hasten the victory of vision 2020 through Heavenly Tribal Messiah activities. In Cote d'Ivoire, a nation a nation of 24 million that is a bit larger than Poland and a bit smaller than Norway, Augustine Ghomsi, from the African regional headquarters, spoke to the assembled members about the significance of the Cheongpyeong experience having come to Africa. Africa's regional group chairman, Rev. Ba-



① Members beseeching Heaven, deep in prayer
 ② The Fulfillment of Prayer-Wish Papers occurs through the wish-papers being dissolved in holy water within crystal containers.
 ③ Rev. Chung Jin-hwa presents a gift to a senior member, who is wearing a traditional head scarf.
 ④ Attendants line up in preparation for the Ancestor Blessing Ceremony

kary Camara, then expressed appreciation to all who came to the workshop. He then gave goals for Africa: To bring joy to True Parents, to proclaim the coming of Heavenly Parent's only daughter and for each member to achieve heavenly tribal messiah status by fulfilling the goal of blessing 430 couples. The team of

leaders from Cheongpyeong guided the members in spirit and in truth, presenting lectures and assisting the members in freeing spirits through the holy song sessions (*changyang yeoksa*). Rev. Chung Jin-hwa, director of International Department of the Cheongpyeong Heaven and Earth Training Center spoke about the

“Cheongpyeong Holy Land and Heavenly Garden Project.” Rev. Moon In-pyo spoke about the importance of changyang yeoksa and explained how to strike the various areas of one's body to liberate spirits. Rev. Lee Gi-seong spoke on the topic, “Understanding True Parents' Cheongpyeong providence.” *TP*

Testimonies

A second-generation male: On the third day, ancestors came to me to say that we have to fulfill quickly the purpose of the Creation.

A woman: I was translating and I was complaining, as I could not do the ansu [chanyang] for my ancestors. But my ancestors said to me, internally, to not worry. “What you are doing is enough for us.”

A man: I was responsible for the stage, so it was difficult for me to go through the ancestor blessing. As I was worried about my ancestors because I couldn't follow all the steps for their blessing, they encouraged me to hold up the cup of holy wine for a few minutes and pray, and this was OK for my ancestors. I was very happy.

A man: The third day was a great day; the spiritual atmosphere was very high and I was crying because of this great blessing from True Mother. I have never participated in a workshop with such an atmosphere. Thanks again to True Mother and Rev. Lee for their coming to Cote d'Ivoire. *TP*

Some testimonies have been edited for length and clarity. Those that testified are anonymous in the magazine.

The Cheongpyeong Experience in Benin

The Republic of Benin is a French-speaking country. Major religions include Catholicism (27.1 percent), Islam (24.4 percent), Vodun (17.3 percent) and Protestantism (10.4 percent). Among the total population of 11 million, 6.5 percent is nonreligious. Young people abound in Benin. Forty-three percent are younger than fifteen years old. Only 2.8 percent are over sixty-five. Benin is a bit smaller than Eritrea and a bit larger than Honduras. The team True Parents sent to Africa from Cheongpyeong held a Great Works Workshop in this nation from October 16 to 18. Five hundred and forty-two people came, though it was on weekdays; eighty-seven attended the Ancestor Blessing Ceremony and two hundred and nine offered prayer-wish papers.

Testimonies

A Beninese woman: Today, I felt vividly the presence of my father who is in the spirit world and my ancestors. I have communicated with them about their liberation. They thanked me and asked me to be strong and that from now on they will be with me in all my endeavors. They also promised to study the Divine Principle and attend the different workshops.

A Nigerian woman: I really thank God and True Parents for the opportunity they have given to me to attend this Hyojeong Cheongpyeong Workshop. I really feel the presence of God in my life more than before. And at the same time I am touched by the suffering of True Father with the heart he has for establishing Family Federation for World Peace. I continue to pray that may his spirit rest in peace forever.

A Nigerian woman: I was touched by the ceremony of evil spirit removal and I feel I am freed from evil spirits than before. I pray God and True Parents give me more opportunities to accomplish my responsibility as a daughter of God and True Parents, Aju. I really want to appreciate all the leaders and members of Family Federation for world Peace in Cotonou, Benin, for their heart for organizing this great Hyojeong Cheongpyeong event. I pray God and True Parents should continue to inspire them that Cotonou can become a



Beninese members singing on the second day of their Great Works Workshop.

nation of Cheon Il Guk in Africa through this all other African countries can benefit.

A woman from Ghana: "Freedom" was written in front of me during a prayer. During my sleep, I felt I was in a good environment with angels. I am grateful to God and True Parents for the forgiveness of my sins and the grace they have given me to find this "Freedom."

A Beninese woman: I am here to share with you what the Heavenly Parent has done for me during this workshop. On the first day, in a short prayer, I saw a lightning for a few seconds and my face was flashing. I opened my eyes and cut short my prayer. The next day, I saw a lightning of fire coming down from heaven and covering me during chanyang.... On the third day, during chanyang, I felt I was being cleansed. I felt a certain warmth enveloping me from toe to head.



Lecturer Moon In-pyo and Rev. Camara, the African regional group chairman and members cheering

A Beninese woman: I felt positive vibrations after each chanyang session. I could also feel evil spirits getting off me.

A Beninese man: When we were about to start the Ancestors' Blessing Ceremony, I was carried into a sudden sleep and from my chest, something came out. When I opened my eyes, I saw the map of Africa with sparks of light coming from it. These sparks of light were getting bigger and bigger as the map was going up. Strangely enough, I did not see where the map was going before waking up. What I learned from this dream is that it was about time for Africa to shine and move above its current status, thanks to the love and blessing of True Parents. *TP*

Some testimonies have been edited for length and clarity.



The Cheongpyeong team and Zambian members following the Ancestor Blessing Ceremony, which is part of the preparation for True Mother's December visit to the African continent.


The Cheongpyeong Experience in Zambia

As with the other countries to which the Cheongpyeong team came to prepare the spiritual atmosphere in Africa, the population in Zambia is young. Those below fifteen years of age comprise 46.1 percent of the population and those above sixty-five 24 percent. Comparatively, 13.5 percent of the population of South Korea is under fifteen and equal percentage is above sixty-five. The percentage of those under fifteen in Japan is 13 percent, while roughly a third, 27.5 percent are above sixty-five. In the

United States 18.8 percent of the population is under fifteen and 15.3 is above sixty-five. African youth and energy are assets that can be great contributions to True Parents' efforts to restore their continent and the world.


Zambia ranks fortieth in the world in total area. It is a bit smaller than Chile and a bit large than Burma.

Zambia is in southern Africa and is a landlocked country of rugged terrain and great variety of wildlife; thus it has developed many parks

and safari areas Zambia's president can serve up to two five-year terms. The National Assembly has a hundred and fifty members, elected every five years from single-member constituencies. The President has the power to nominate eight special members of parliament, five of whom can serve in the cabinet. Fabrice Djimadoum, a media figure in FFWPU Zambia, provided the testimonies below in a detailed report on the Cheongpyeong workshop in his nation that ran from October 20 to 22. 

Testimonies

A woman: My first experience was on October 20 during the first chanyang session. I saw a dark cloud surrounding my father. While I was singing during the chanyang everybody else looked like angels but only my father was surrounded by a dark evil cloud. My second experience was on the October 22. While I was praying I felt True Mother's desperation for us, she really wants us to restore the 7.5 billion people in the world and to offer a nation to Heavenly Parent. My third experience was during the last session of chanyang. After prayer, I felt a strong pain in my uterus and my legs became weak. It took four hours for the pain to go away.

A woman from Madagascar: Thank you so much for your love and grace and for allowing us to receive such heavenly love in Africa through the Cheongpyeong providence in order for us to receive direct light and love from your life. I personally experienced the love and guidance from Heaven during six weeks of intense attacks from the evil spirits. However, Heavenly Parent always comforted me. True Parents guided my feet every day. They also sent me legions of angels who protected me, so that I could receive the grace of the Cheongpyeong tour safely. Dae-mo nim helped me a lot. I was brought in Zambia on Heavenly Parent's palm. The picture that I drew is True Mother protecting me from the typhoon from those evil spirits and people. When I arrived in Zambia, I was obviously distressed and looked dull. However, after the grace I received three times from the three first chanyang sessions, I definitely felt lighter, brighter, relieved, liberated, and resurrected. It was a miracle. I will bring to Madagascar. The love of True Mother, the light of True Parents, to develop the providence toward Vision 2020, to share the grace and blessing with the whole nation. 

Some testimonies have been edited for length and clarity.



- ① Rev. Camara assisting a member during a chanyang session
- ② Members happily investing themselves in a chanyang session in their own nation
- ③ A senior couple leads the Blessing Vows during the Ancestor Blessing Ceremony
- ④ Saying farewell as the ancestors leave the hall

The Cheongpyeong Experience in D. R. Congo

The Democratic Republic of Congo has a population nearing 80 million. It is the fourth most populous country in Africa, below only Egypt, Ethiopia and Nigeria. In total area, DR Congo is the twelfth largest country on Earth. It is a bit smaller than Algeria and somewhat larger than Greenland. Half the country is Roman Catholic. Twenty percent of the people adhere to Protestantism. Ten percent of the nation's citizens follow a new religion, Kimbanguism, founded in 1921. Here, too, we find a young population with 42.2 percent being under fifteen years old and 2.6 percent being over sixty-five. The men that True Parents entrusted to carry out ancestor liberation, ancestor blessing, and the offering of wish-fulfillment paper for the inheritance of heavenly fortune did so in D. R. Congo from October 24 to 26.

Testimonies

A blessed wife: Before we came to the Cheongpyeong workshop in DR Congo, I received a dream. We were on the prepared ground, a field of white rice. The ground was all white.

There, in the middle, was a patch of ground. Suddenly, True Mother came down from heaven and stood on that portion of ground. All those present were clapping. Every time I want to pray for True Parents' glory during the prayer session, thinking of their sacrifices, I feel a great power and strength coming to me.

A second-generation member, female: In my prayer I started by offering the nation, church members and my family. I offered my mother who is sick, asking the Heavenly

Parent to heal her. Soon, I saw a light appear with a voice telling me, "It is going to be okay." And I shouted, "Heavenly Parent, Mommy!"

A woman: When I was praying, I saw Heavenly Parent, Dae-mo nim, Heung-jin nim and Hyo-jin nim. I prayed for my family too.

A blessed wife: My experience is that in the venue, I saw True Father, Rev. Kayembe and other members in the spirit world during the liberation ceremony. They were in front of the .

A blessed wife: Yesterday, I saw True Father come down, he was holding True Mother's hand. They were sitting on their chairs, behind them, all the children and grandchildren around them. True Father

and True Mother raised both their hands smiling....

In the prayer room, I saw True Father when I was praying. He came to hold my head and to bless me. When he was praying I saw gold and diamonds falling in my hands. I also saw a white bird with a paper on my head, I saw the earth; and then he held my hand and I stood up.

As I am writing these experiences, I saw True Mother make me wear a golden diamond ring. She used her white handkerchief so to dry my tears.... *TP*

Some testimonies have been edited for length and clarity.



Rev. Chung Jin-hwa, director of the International Department, introduces himself.



Director Lee Gi-seong, director of the Cheongpyeong Training Center leads the members in prayer.



Elder Zambian members during the offering of prayer-wish papers

Reformation and Revolution

Struggle for Religious Freedom and Social Justice 1517–1917

By Barbara Grabner



Barbara Grabner giving her presentation in Bratislava, Slovakia. Across from her holding a microphone is her husband, UPF-Slovakia Secretary General Milos Klas.

In 2017, Europe celebrated two momentous anniversaries—five hundred years since the Reformation inspired by Martin Luther and a hundred years since the Russian Revolution. In the light of the providence, both dates are of great significance. On the one hand, God wanted to save Christianity from moral decay and confusion; on the other hand, the rise of atheistic communism endangered the Lord at his

Second Coming.

In June, I searched in the Divine Principle book for ideas to create a suitable presentation for the public. Usually the fifth chapter is reserved for advanced seminars, and rarely taught in detail to guests. This is regrettable since “The Period of Preparation for the Second Advent of the Messiah” marks the highlight of Christian civilization. During the four-hundred-year period the greatest

achievements in society took place; for example, Mozart, Beethoven, Bach, Strauss and Brahms composed the most splendid music ever.

Much reading and other preparation resulted in an attractive PowerPoint presentation. Starting in September, I held seven public lectures titled “Reformation and Revolution: The struggle for religious freedom and social justice from Luther to Lenin” in seven towns in three na-



Martin Luther, painted by Lucas Cranach the Elder in 1529, shows Luther as a humble Augustinian monk.



One of the few surviving copies of Martin Luther's 95 Theses printed in 1517 to announce that the points listed would be debated "out of love and zeal for clarifying the truth."

tions (Austria, Slovakia and Hungary), which FFWPU or UPF hosted. All audiences listened attentively though most people were not familiar with the material. When I ended my lecture in the town of Linz, one guest asked, "Where will your next lecture be held?" Generally, people look forward to meeting me again. If time allows, I add the Third Revelation of Fatima, which speaks about the Return of Christ. What follows are some key points of the portion of my presentation that mainly covered the Reformation.

Cain and Abel in modern times

The Reformation started in 1517 in Germany with Martin Luther's criticism of errant traditions in the Catholic Church. Meanwhile, the seed of the Cain-type revolution took root—the German Peasants' War (1524–1525) was the largest popular uprising prior to the French Revolution (1789–1799). The rural population was terribly oppressed; peasants were not allowed to hunt, fish, use water or chop wood as they previously had, because landowners had taken possession of all that. Even small children had to serve the property owners like slaves. Famines were common.

When the peasants learned to read the Bible that Martin Luther had translated into German, their understanding of justice changed. What rights had feudal overlords to enslave them? Martin Luther criticized the

injustices done to the peasants, but rather than support their uprisings, he encouraged the nobility to suppress the revolt swiftly. By 1525, around a hundred thousand peasants had been mutilated and killed; that episode remains one of the sore spots of the Reformation period. Martin Luther has often been criticized for his failure to guide and protect the peasants. His former friend, the radical preacher Thomas Muentzer, sided with the peasantry. His call for a "new world order" fused with their demands for freedom. A division took place as tragic as that between Cain and Abel—Luther and Muentzer condemned each other thereby causing confusion and despair among peasants.

A more radical aspect

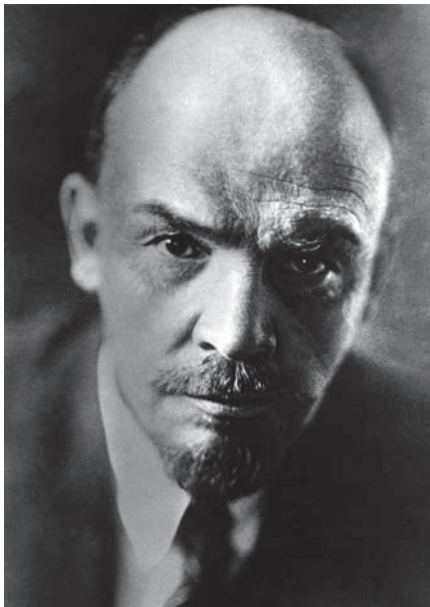
Within a short time, the reform movement became more radical, in both teachings and action. Many wished to return to the practices of early Christianity. One of them was baptizing only adults, as was the custom until the sixth century. Yet it was just one of many revolutionary ideas typical of a diverse group called Anabaptists. Their movement is also known as the Radical Reformation. They wanted to do away with child-baptism, tithing, usury and military service. Further, some of these groups wanted a self-governing church, free of government interference.

They said that Jesus taught the way

of nonviolence and the Christian community in Jerusalem had no personal property. To the Anabaptists, pacifism became an important feature of their lives, as did collective property. To both Catholics and mainline Protestants at the time, Anabaptists' pure faith was a thorn in the side. Anabaptists were executed by fire, by sword or by drowning; within a few decades many thousands were martyred throughout Europe. One Anabaptist leader wrote, "True Christian believers are sheep among wolves, sheep for the slaughter. Neither do they use worldly sword or war, since all killing has ceased with them." What a tragedy that Christians killed Christians who did not want to compromise the standard set by Jesus and his disciples!

Moscow honored a Catholic saint

The restoration of faith was not the only pressing issue. Many conscientious people asked what an ideal society should look like. Is Paradise on earth possible? A major inspiration came from Sir Thomas More, a noted statesman and Renaissance humanist. More wrote the famous novel *Utopia*, published in 1516, just a year before Luther made history in the German town of Wittenberg. Life on the island *Utopia* is based on communal ownership. Men and women are educated alike, and there is almost complete religious toleration except for atheists, who are allowed but despised. More was praised as a "communist hero" by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, and under Soviet communism, his name was inscribed near the top of Moscow's Stele of Freedom as one of the most influential thinkers "who promoted the liberation of humankind from oppression, arbitrariness and exploitation." The monument was erected in 1918 near the Kremlin at Lenin's suggestion. This fact is truly amazing; King Henry VIII had executed Thomas More because of More's loyalty to the Catholic Church, which declared him a saint in 1935! His novel inspired a section of idealistic French socialists in the nineteenth century who became known as the Utopian Socialists.



The portion of Barbara's presentation on communism can be found at <http://familyfedihq.org/2017/11/slovakia-seminar-on-ideological-aspects-of-the-russian-revolution>

Reformácia & Revolúcia

1517  

1917

- od Luthera (1517) po Lenina (1917) -

Boj o raj na zemi

The advertisement for the event reads in Bratislava, Slovakia reads, "Reform and Revolution from Luther to Lenin: the Fight for Paradise on Earth"

Political development

Another cornerstone of the four-hundred-year period was the maturation of politics and ideology, which is marked by the outbreak of the French Revolution in 1789. Although the revolutionaries propagated Liberty, Equality, and Brotherhood, in practice they resorted to wholesale anti-religious measures. They set the pattern that later became a typical feature of communism in Russia and elsewhere. Within ten years, the revolutionary authorities confiscated church property, exiled thirty thousand priests and killed hundreds; the deistic Cult of the Supreme Being and the atheistic Cult of Reason were to replace the Christian faith; signs of worship like bells and statues were destroyed; nonjuring priests and all persons who harbored them risked death. About twenty thousand priests were forced to abdicate and six thousand priests were coerced into marrying. Many who were dissuaded from their traditional religious practices never resumed them.


Killing "Abel" and rebellion against God characterized the Cain-type democracy in the French Revolution. In contrast, the Abel-type democracy had a bloodless start with the Glorious Revolution in 1688 in England. That was the decisive step toward modern parliamentary democracy. Never again would the monarch hold absolute power, and

the Bill of Rights granted essential freedom. Strangely, the French Revolution inspired far more books and movies than did its Abel-type counterpart. The blessing of God moved to the Protestant hemisphere as is shown by the rapid development that took place in the non-Catholic parts of Europe from the seventeenth to nineteenth centuries.

Oasis of freedom and justice

Some examples of torchbearers in the religious sphere were George Fox, John and Charles Wesley, or John Whitfield. Another central figure was William Penn, who founded Pennsylvania, which later became a U.S. state. In the colony given to him by the English King, he ventured to make a "holy experiment." Penn, an early and prominent Quaker, drafted a charter of liberties guaranteeing free and fair trial by jury, freedom of religion, freedom from unjust imprisonment and free elections, etc. Penn hoped that an amendable constitution would accommodate dissent and new ideas and allow meaningful societal change without resorting to violent uprisings or revolution. French philosopher Voltaire praised Pennsylvania as "the only government in the world responsible to the people and respectful of minority rights." Many of Penn's thoughts later found their way into the American Constitution. To attract settlers in large numbers to this utopia, he wrote a glowing prospec-

tus promising religious freedom as well as material advantages, which he marketed throughout Europe. Huguenots, Amish, Mennonites, Jews and other persecuted minorities came in large numbers. William Penn treated the Native Americans with great respect; he learned their languages and protected them in many ways.

To understand the whole course of European Christianity, one should read books like *The Story of Christianity* by Justo L. Gonzales. The New Testaments does not include the two thousand years of restoration as the Old Testament does. It is a riddle why the compilation of the New Testament scriptures ends with the Revelation of John. *The Story of Christianity* helps to bridge the gap in knowledge. Via search engines, please discover the additional brain food that the internet provides—details about people and movements mentioned in the chapter "The Period of Preparation for the Second Advent of the Messiah." Surely, we should be confident to share freely individual aspects of the Principle on fitting occasions the year round! Deeper knowledge of the providential course of events will reward us richly. 

Barbara Grabner, a frequent contributor to TPmagazine, is author the book, Mission Butterfly.

Sermons from Blessed Members of the Christian Clergy

The day following the 2017 Global Rally for the Peaceful Reunification of the Korean Peninsula was a Sunday. Members of the American Clergy Leadership Conference traveled to some of our churches in the Seoul area to serve as guest pastors that day. Both Archbishop George Augustus Stallings Jr. and Rev. Jesse Edwards preached in Cheon Bok Gung, our central church in Korea. Greg Agulan, the executive director of the American Clergy Leadership Conference in New Jersey, introduced them. Song Hwa-jin, a second-generation member and a mother of two, served as the translator for Mr. Agulan and the two pastors. The Peace Starts With Me Choir ably supported them with remarkable singing.

Archbishop George Augustus Stallings, Jr.

Good morning, my beloved sisters and brothers. It is a distinct honor and privilege for the entire American Clergy Leadership Conference and the Peace Starts with Me Choir to be here with you today at Cheon Bok Gung, a church of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification. The first thing that I would like for all of us to do today is to stand up and give God, our Heavenly Parent, and True Parents praise for a tremendous victory yesterday at the World Cup Stadium. [Applause] To God be the glory. Gamsahamnida.

There are many things that I would like to share with you, today but time does not afford me that opportunity. So, I would just like to leave you with a few thoughts that will allow us to better serve God and attend the True Parents. There is a passage in the Bible, in the gospel according to Luke. In chapter one, we hear about the Archangel Gabriel announcing to Mary that she was to be the mother of Jesus. Mary asked the Archangel, "How can this be, since I do not know man?" The Archangel said to Mary, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you and you shall conceive a son." And how could this possibly be, since Mary had no sexual relations with a man in order to conceive a son? And the Archangel told her there is nothing that is impossible with God; for with God, nothing is impossible. Mary's humble response was this: "Behold, the maidservant of the Lord. Let it be done to me according to your word."

What is the meaning of that Bible passage two thousand years ago that has significance for us today? I believe that it is this: Mary was a young woman, a girl, when God announced his purpose





Following the revival service, visiting pastors, Cheon Bok Gung pastors, the Peace Starts with Me Choir, Cheon Bok Gung's choir, members from America and Korea sat for a commemorative photograph.

for her life. Mary did not have a choice as to what was to be her purpose in life. God had prepared her life before she was even formed in the womb of her mother. God decided what her life, what her life course would be, not Mary herself.

Our young people have read Harry Potter. In the book, *Harry Potter, the Chamber of Secrets*, the professor, Albus Dumbledore, said, "It is not our abilities that determine who we are; it is our choices." For Omo nim, True Mother, it was not her privilege to choose what would be the purpose of her life. God decided before Mother, before Omo nim was formed in the womb of her mother Dae-mo nim that she was to be the chosen woman of God. It was not her decision. It was God's decision for her life. God, our Heavenly Parent not only prepared True Mother for a special position in life to be the wife of Abo nim, True Father, but also to stand as the woman who would restore Eve, the first woman, back to her original position.

Eve, the first Eve, was supposed to have been the True Mother, she was supposed to have been God's only begotten daughter. But because Eve failed, God had to wait until another woman could be prepared to stand in the position of Eve to restore humanity back to its original greatness. [Applause] So, I know it is difficult for many to understand what True Mother means when she says she is God's only begotten daughter. It does not mean that she is God. It does not mean that she is better than the rest of us, but what the "only begotten daughter" means is that she has said "yes." She has said yes, yes, yes, yes, yes, and never "no" to God. [Applause]

It means that she does not live for herself but she lives for the sake of humanity. She lives for the sake of 7.4 billion people on the face of the earth; her life is only for God! [Applause] I am sure that when God revealed to True Mother that she was to be in the position of God's only begotten daughter, she said, How can this be? But God told True Mother, Do not worry for with God, nothing is impossible. So all that True Mother could say is, I am the maidservant of the Lord, let it be as you say it is. When you and I say "yes" to God, our Heavenly Parent, when we say to God, Let your will be done, we will stand as the true sons or daughter to True Parents; we will be the true sons or daughters of God. [Applause, Aju!]

Finally, let us be committed to God, our Heavenly Parent; let us faithfully attend True Parents with hyo jeong, with filial heart, so that all of us together can see the kingdom of God here on earth. Gam-sahamnida! Aju! Aju!



Both Rev. Jesse Edwards and Archbishop Stallings generated a great deal of excitement among the Cheon Bok Gung congregation for expressing their love for True Parents and for their expressive worship style, reflecting his deep Christian roots.

Pastor Jesse Edwards

Praise God everyone! Come on! Let's praise God in the house today! Hallelujah! It's good to be in the presence of God and the presence of God's family. When I met Father Moon about twenty years ago, at East Garden, we were having dinner and Father Moon said, "Rev. Edwards, you are John the Baptist!" [Applause] I said, Father Moon, I don't want to be John the Baptist. He had his head cut off! But Father Moon said, "No, no, no! You are a good John the Baptist... to prepare the world for the Messiah... to tell Christianity of the anointing of Jesus Christ upon True Parents." There is a scripture passage in the Book of John Chapter 11 and it reads like this: Jesus' dearly beloved friend, Lazarus, had died. He had been buried in a tomb for three days. Lazarus had been dead for three days. Jesus began to speak these words. He said, Father, I thank you that you have heard me and I know that you hear me, but because of the people who are standing by me now, that they may believe. Lazarus had died and had been buried in the grave for three days. After three days, his body began to decay. When Jesus heard of Lazarus' death, Jesus went to Lazarus' tomb and Jesus told them to remove the stone that covered the grave. But the people said to wait because his body stinks. But Jesus said to roll the stone away. They did and he called Lazarus by name. You see the stone represents the Principle that Father has brought here. Christians, if we do not agree with a philosophy, we say it stinks. But the people did not know what was behind the stone that was rolled away.

In just these last couple days of our conference here in Seoul, God has begun to roll the stone away from God's principle, which has been hidden for so long. [Aju!] There's a problem, though. The problem is that when God raised Lazarus from the dead and he stood up, the Bible says, he was wrapped in grave clothes. Lazarus, like the church, was wrapped too tight. And Jesus said these words, "Notice Lazarus was resurrected and alive, but he was bound by the grave clothes." He could not walk. He could only hop. He could not talk because the grave clothes had been wrapped around his mouth. And Jesus said these words, "Loose him! Loose him!" and they took the grave clothes from his mouth. Today, in year 2017, God is loosing the grave clothes from the church that has bound us for two thousand years. God said, Loose him, and let the Principles of God come forth!

So, now the church can walk! So, now, the church can talk! But God needed some anointed, appointed, blessed central family Christian ministers like Archbishop Stallings and me to accept the call. Come up here, archbishop! Come up here with me. [Archbishop Stallings joins Rev. Edwards.




The "twin brothers" as Father called them, gave deep, rich sermons that stirred up the congregation and perhaps allowed them to see True Parents from a different perspective.

True Father called us "twin brothers." [Laughter] I'm the better-looking one! He's the smart one. I'm the good-looking one. But Father anointed the archbishop and anointed me to reach out to all Christianity.... Correct, Brother George? [Correct.]

In the first page of the Principle we read, I bring to you a new truth. But you see the truth never changes. It's the same always, but God opens our understanding. For twenty years I have been witnessing to Christianity across America. For twenty years I have been rejected. Do you know what that means? For twenty years, no one would talk to me. My family wouldn't talk to me. My church wouldn't talk to me. My organization asked me to resign and leave. But today, Lazarus is set free! The Principle is set free! [Applause] [Aju!] My organization is calling me now and saying, "What can we do to help Mother Moon? [Loud applause] With me at our conference was a friend of mine from my organization who was born in Seoul and has a church in Seoul. He has a seminary in Seoul. He also has churches and seminaries in China.

He was at our conference for the last two days, in tears. He said, "Jesse, we have to bring all the Christian pastors in Seoul together to hear this message. We have to bring all Christianity together to hear Father's message." Our True Father is directing this from heaven. Because today is the time that Christianity comes forth and supports the anointed True Parents, Father and Mother Moon. Do you feel the anointing of God here today? God is here in this place.

I am coming back another time to Seoul with this pastor. I am bringing five American Christian pastors with me and with the Korean pastor, we are going to visit all the Christian churches in Seoul. Hallelujah! In all Korea! All Korea is about to have a revival! It's all because of people like Archbishop Stallings and these Christian pastors that are with us. All Christian leaders and pastors, stand up! Singers that are here and other Christians from the United States, stand up. There people are supporting True Parents. We ought to give them a great big applause. Thank you so much!

Now, I don't mind being John the Baptist. Father and Mother have blessed my marriage. And now, today, my wife and I pastor a Unification Church.... I'm going to close right now. I'm going to try. Let's unite with Christianity. The way we will move Christianity is not with our mind and intelligence but with our heart. Father said that we are one family under God. So, in New York City, we call our church congregation our New York family and everyone in New York is welcome to become our family. Let's make all Christianity in Seoul our family of God. Aju! Aju! Aju! Gamsahamnida! 

The Role of the Cheongshim Family Church in Achieving True Parents' Vision

An ambitious building project is taking place in HJ Cheonwon. From a sociological point of view, the area is home to a Unificationist community, where members' professional lives, family lives, social and cultural lives intertwine. In some respects, it is a showcase of our movement. This interview of Reverend Kim Dong-woo should prove helpful in understanding the establishment of HJ Cheonwon from a pastoral point of view.





The Cheongshim Church congregation: balcony seats in the back are also full. The congregation provides a point of contact between Unificationists and the local populace whose previous understanding of us was based solely on crowds of people arriving in their village to attend events.

Reverend Kim Dong-woo, what does it mean to be the pastor of Cheongshim Family church in the Village of Seorak?

Our church in Seorak is the biggest religious facility in all of Gapyeong county (population 62,000). This county has many religious facilities; this is by far the biggest. Our Sunday service average attendance figure is also the highest. Most religious leaders in Gapyeong know this.

How did the locals react to a Unification Church in downtown Seorak?

The main obstacle between the citizens and us is that some have prejudices. The spontaneous perception they had of our church was that of heresy and the Antichrist. Most still believed what the Korean media spread decades ago. For those who haven't received clear information about True Parents

and our teachings, achievements, goals and vision, erasing their prejudice is indeed difficult.

This is a rural, somewhat isolated area.

It is a rural area with an aging population. After a certain age, you don't change your concepts easily. That poses a challenge for us. The church opened six years ago as a new development in the Cheongpyeong providence. We'd had the Cheongpyeong Training Center for years, which was growing. Increasingly, employees were working and living here. We needed a place where members could meet as a congregation for Sunday service. That was the main original purpose. True Mother emphasizes educating those in our second generation. The buildings' structure and space were made specifically for Sunday services and small classes, based on the original vision. On Foundation Day,

in 2013, things started to change. True Mother began to guide the Cheongpyeong providence directly. She gradually decided to make this area the capital of Cheon Il Guk. She wants to build the tangible center of Cheon Il Guk.

Members used to see Cheongpyeong as a spiritual retreat, quite separated from the world, so even for us, this is a revolution in our perception.

T rue Mother coined the expression "HJ Cheonwon." It contains a spiritual and a physical dimension; both are important. The Training Center still plays a central role in HJ Cheonwon. True Mother wants to build a complex that is an extract of various international aspects.

On the other hand, True Father often climbed Jeonseong Peak, behind Cheon Jeong Gung. Sharing the treasure of this area with all



humankind was Father's dream. We should know what prompts True Mother now: she wants to substantiate True Father's dream, not just for Seorak residents or for Korea. A global vision is behind it. This is to be a model.

It presents an additional challenge for the local people.

Indeed. They were used to huge gatherings around here once or twice a year, with hundreds of buses releasing thousands of people for big events. They did not know what we were doing. But we can take time to explain our vision of making this place international and attractive, so they can feel a part of it.

I doubt employees in HJ Cheonwon will do this grassroots' communication among the local population, but the pastor and the Cheongshim Church staff are on the front line.

Exactly. Mother wants to establish a model and make HJ Cheonwon the capital of Cheon Il Guk. The church here is on the

border between "inside" and "outside." Inside it is part of HJ Cheonwon; outside, it is the gateway for the local people and for South Korea.

True Mother sent me here in January 2016 with two main objectives. Her first request is to let Seorak and Gapyeong people learn about and follow True Parents. True Mother always emphasizes that we are so happy because we are with True Parents. The main organizations in HJ Cheonwon are focusing on erecting the building complex, but the church mission is outreach to the local people so that they know and follow True Parents.

For most people working here, this is not their hometown.

Right, but everybody here first focuses on fulfilling Mother's directions. The HJ Cheonwon staff clearly has the mission to attend True Mother and serve the world providence.

This is their number-one duty, but True Mother asked me to take care of restoring the local area. Who is going to do that? It is a challenge.

Anyway, I have to unite with whatever True Mother asks me to do. I had to develop some specific education so that members become owners of Cheon Il Guk and are ready to go out to fulfill their mission of tribal messiahs.

We have to strengthen members' spirituality, life of faith and the level of their hearts. That was my first concern. Second, we need to build a system, because this church consists of 470 families. It is a mega-church, and a mega-church does not work without a system guiding members increasingly to have their own mission and responsibility. I have been focusing on these two points for more than a year. We are building a tribal messiahship system.

Is there a theological work on building the capital of Cheon Il Guk and the role of the church in it?

True Mother told me, "I am sending you to church number one." I was embarrassed. What does True Mother mean? I prayed and then developed my thinking on



- ❶ A workshop held for members of the Cheongshim Church to help strengthen congregation members' leadership abilities
- ❷ A meeting to develop a system for hoondok family churches, which ties in to the Cheongshim Church's work to reach out to the local community in the Village of Seorak, near HJ Cheonwon.
- ❸ Some of the more than forty nurses in the congregation that serve the aged and poor by holdings sessions using Happy Health machines.
- ❹ A session of the Hoondok School, where those who have graduated from the Divine Principle School focus on applying the Principle in daily life.
- ❺ A Hoondok School graduation party



HJ Cheonwon.

This is Mother's special input for the Cheon Il Guk providence. If this church becomes number one, those in this congregation must qualify to live in the ideal world—become a Cheon Il Guk owner. We need to clarify the measurement, the scale of such a person. With that, I can check myself and enable others to evaluate themselves.

Trying to clarify the life of a Cheon Il Guk owner led me to clarify the educational track, step by step. Those who pass through the educational track, albeit imperfectly, finally will know what he or she has to do as a Cheon Il Guk owner.

This educational track is beyond Sunday service, presumably?

Sunday service is not the right venue for this kind of education. There are three steps. The first is a vision seminar for all members, a seven-day evening program to clarify how True Parents' providence has developed and where we now stand. What is the meaning of Cheon Il Guk? What should our life

of faith be in Cheon Il Guk? Members reflect, see that their life of faith must change and that they must adjust course to become a tribal messiah.

What is the main challenge on this track?

Our members are used to hearing good words, but few are ready for action. That is the challenge. A Divine Principle school follows the first seminar. We meet once a week over nine weeks to study the first part of the Divine Principle, but not in lecture form. Our traditional way has a subject partner lecturing object partners, who just listen. All participants have to be subject partners. They all read together and then have a discussion. Members say they thought they knew the Principle, but using this way, they become completely confused, because how people understand it is not similar. I want members to have "lifetime questions." Now, they like to do that. Those who graduate from the Divine Principle

school can join the twelve-week Hoondok School to understand the application of the Divine Principle in daily life.

Please describe the outreach to the population.

We are not reaching to the local population primarily in terms of religious needs. We try to identify the people's own needs. This is an important point, and I am sure that our entire movement, in terms of tribal messiahship, should change its mindset in this area. We have to do something that fits people's real needs, not our needs. For a year, we have been trying to do that, and we have seen that people do change. Those in the local government can also change. Many people, when they see and interact with us start to change their views.

What are peoples' needs?

There are many. We want to stress our strong points, where we can make a difference. More than forty church



Graduates of the nine-week Cheongshim Church Divine Principle School display their certificates. Their course learning style places importance on discussion.

members in our community are nurses in nearby Cheongshim Hospital—strong womanpower! To mobilize this resource, we focus on old, single residents that are concerned about their health and often isolated. Of Seorak Village’s ten thousand people, 27 percent are over sixty-five. Many feel lonely and are grateful when we visit to show our love. We have been using Happy Health machines successfully. We show them how to use them, and they appreciate our concern.

How have the local authorities reacted?

The Seorak Village mayor realized that the Gapyeong County cannot ignore Cheongshim anymore. Without Cheongshim’s support, it’s difficult. He knows he has to remain competitive in relation to other mayors. Without working with Cheongshim, he cannot grow. He knows that. It is the same with other villages.

Almost everywhere in Gapyeong, the population is aging. Here, we have young people; there is energy. If he works with us, with our man-

power, assets and qualifications, he will be more successful. Other mayors are becoming aware of that. Seorak Village is growing mostly because of Unification Church members.

Many foreign members with missions in HJ Cheonwon live here.

Indeed. We have Japanese and Filipino wives with Korean husbands who are not here for a temporary mission. Most Japanese wives master the Korean language after a few years. We may have around twenty-five Filipino women, some of whom speak fluently. The number of Westerners fluctuates. Some are here working at the international school or at HJ Cheonwon. They are often so busy with their mission that they don’t have much time for church activities.

Some Westerners not involved with HJ Cheonwon live here, but if they don’t speak Korean, integrating them into our activities is difficult. They desire to be involved, but not knowing Korean limits their outreach.

I imagine that in a rural area with many blessed families around, the blessed children are in a protective environment.

Sure. Especially here, our teenagers in our second generation are the majority in their classes. No other community is like this. Therefore, I want to change the rules of the game. We are the majority here.

It would be interesting to do a field study of their experience.

That’s why, besides the home groups for older members who have to break through in tribal messiahship, we have to make programs for the younger ones. Our young people are not accustomed or trained to work as tribal messiahs. I want to guide them in social work, so they can reach out to the society and work in the society. Based on their strong points, I want them to interact with the local population. At first, it may not be easy, but gradually, we are going to become the major social group here. *TP*

Laurent Ladouce conducted this interview.

I Shall Walk with God, True Parents and My Husband in the Spirit World

By Tomoe Hane

During Sunday service on March 19, the minister told us about True Mother's sufferings and pain. Thinking about how she is taking the lead in loving others in spite of such difficulties, I could not stop my tears of gratitude and strongly hoped I could do something to make True Mother happy. This reminded me of Mrs. Abe (76), who had failed to attend the "Divine Principle Revival Festival" last January due to illness. My husband (who passed away four years ago) had introduced her to the Unification Church ten years ago, but I have not been able to take enough care of her since the last Revival Festival because of my child's entrance exam and other issues.

I immediately wrote her a letter of apology for my long silence and informed her of the "Spring Worship Revival Festival." It was right before the festival when I finally succeeded in contacting her. When I visited her, she said, "I'd love to go! I had another plan but I'll cancel it." Since we met again after a long time, we enjoyed our reunion with tears and laughter.

The Revival Festival moved Mrs. Abe very moved by. After the festival,

she said, "Today's chorus was the most beautiful chorus I've ever heard. I feel as though it has purified my heart. The speeches and dances were also wonderful. I had a great time. Please invite me again."

Furthermore, because she used to refer to True Mother as "Rev. Moon's wife," I was surprised to hear her use the term "True Mother." She said, "True Mother must feel lonely without True Father by her side," and praised True Mother for her teachings and her devotion to realizing a world of peace and happiness. I think Mrs. Abe's original nature has been brightly polished.

In the train we took home after the festival, I was surprised to hear her say, "When I was reading the passage this morning, something told me that I'll be meeting a very important person for a reason. It was you." Because Mrs. Abe and I are both widows, we came to understand each other more as we tearfully shared our stories of regrets on how we wanted to love our husband and children more and what we are grateful of.

Mrs. Abe told me that not only did she cancel her plan for the day, but also refrained from going outside on



The author and her late husband at the Cosmic Holy Blessing by the True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind on February 17, 2013

the day before in order to adjust her physical condition. I was moved by her devotion, and at the same time, I felt sorry for my lack of preparation.

Mrs. Abe has a pure beautiful heart that Heavenly Parent loves, and she acts based on consideration and kindness. I am grateful for being able to deepen my bond with Mrs. Abe centering on Heavenly Parents and True Parents and for being able to attend this wonderful Revival Festival where I could finally meet and embrace this sister that Heavenly Parent has waited for. I feel that my husband and the good spirits are helping me. ☩

Mrs. Hane, who attends the Minami Family Church in Sapporo, received the blessing among the 30,000-couple blessing group.

When I Changed through the Practice of a “Self-Pastoring Program,” My Husband Changed

By Elena Kagami

I am a Japanese Brazilian. I met and married my Japanese husband in Brazil in 1982 and came to Japan in August 1983. I joined the Family Federation in 2009 when I had finished raising our children.

As I studied True Parents teachings, my desire to receive the blessing with my husband grew strong. My husband was a Buddhist and I was a Christian. Since we both had religious faiths and shared a good relationship, I believed it would be easy for us to go through the blessing. However, my husband held intense dislike toward the Family Federation and would not even try to listen to True Parents’ teachings.

At the suggestion of my central figure, I offered prayers and practiced hoondokhae in order to persuade my husband. However, my husband was not supportive of my visiting the church. Moreover, he felt deceived. He started to leave home often as if he were searching for a place to vent his anger. At times, he would not even come home and I fell into great distress asking myself, “What has happened to us? We were such a loving couple.” Back then, all I could think of was that I was right and my husband was wrong and self-centered because he was opposing God. I was desperate to make my husband follow my way, and we were quarreling all the

time. The effects of this drove me into a corner and I even started thinking of divorce.

However, God has listened to my desperate prayer. I started to learn the self-pastoral program “The Life of an Owner of Cheon Il Guk” and practiced a prayer named “a prayer to purify my heart” with the help of Rev. Yoshitada Sugita who was appointed church leader two years ago. It is a wonderful prayer that helps you seek for your conscience when you feel unpleasant. I will ask my conscience, “What was the cause within me that brought me to such a result?” Then I would recite every day, “I’m sorry. Please forgive me. Thank you. I love you.”


Slowly, changes occurred within me. Until then, I used to think, “I will not forgive my husband. I must not forgive him. If I forgive him, I will lose.” Through the prayer of purification, my conscience gave me an amazing “enlightenment” I can forgive him. I have nothing to lose from forgiving him. It doesn’t matter if I lose.” An indescribable feeling of gratitude welled up from my heart and I wanted to love my husband with God’s love.

This made me feel at ease and I was filled with warm feelings. At the same time, I started seeing positive qualities within my husband. Perhaps



The author (seated, on the left) with friends on the day of her Blessing Ceremony

my husband felt the change in me. He also became kind and we started to communicate more. We finally reached the level where we could work together as a team to figure out various issues.

When I told my husband that I want to receive the blessing with him on such basis, he accepted my proposal. My husband and I attended the Cosmic Blessing hosted by the South Tokyo Parish at the Keio Plaza Hotel (Shinjuku) last year September. Seven years had passed since I first joined the Family Federation and I am truly grateful. 

Mrs. Kagami and her husband received the blessing as a married couple in the 2016 Cosmic Blessing at the Kosei Family Church in South Tokyo.

A Woman Requiring Complete Nursing Care Changes through Family Shosha Activity

By Keiko Sakudawara

Mrs. Nishi (sixty-one years old) who used to run a grocery shop with her husband in a shopping area in my neighborhood collapsed from a stroke around ten years ago. Although she escaped death, it left her severely paralyzed on her right side. Since it was difficult for her family to nurse her at home, she happened to enter the nursing home I worked in, and by chance, I had charge of her.

At the nursing home, Mrs. Nishi could not accept reality and was very confused. Although I tried to love and care for her with patience as if I were a family member, she strongly wished to go home. I told her husband and son about her situation and suggested they utilize home-visit nursing care and a day care service at the same time. Under those circumstances, she went home.

Although Mrs. Nishi was no longer my patient, since we were members of the same neighborhood association, I would stop by the grocery shop and ask her family how she was doing and if I could be of any help. Last year August, I received a phone call from Mr. Nishi asking me if I could visit Mrs. Nishi. This was the first time for me to enter their house, and I met Mrs. Nishi after an interval of three years.

Mrs. Nishi seemed to blame herself for putting a burden on her family by her not being able to help out in the store, let alone look after herself. As soon as she saw me, she wailed, "I wish I could die!" and recounted what was in her heart. I could do nothing but listen. However, feeling certain that I could not leave her the way she was, I visited her within a few days and invited her to the Shosha Festival. Although she could not actually come to the festival because of her physical situation, when with the ardent wish that Mrs. Nishi becomes happy I suggested she practice *shosha* [writing of True Parents' words in calligraphy] at home, she kindly accepted.

Because it took Mrs. Nishi a few days to finish one piece of shosha and her writings were messy, she said, "Are you sure this is acceptable?" When I encouraged her and said, "It doesn't matter if it's messy. What is important is for you to put your heart into it with gratitude for your family and your wish that your body will recover. To use your fingers to write is also a good means of rehabilitation." She nodded with a bright smile.

Nowadays, I visit Mrs. Nishi's house and hold family shosha activity with her and her family on a regular basis. Mrs. Nishi has definitely improved her writing skills and it is taking less time to complete a piece. I



Despite cultural differences, readers may find ways to apply Japanese witnessing methods.

can feel that she has become confident and optimistic.

Fortunately, the Ikebukuro Family Church is open to witnessing through family groups and community groups for those who are not able to visit the church or Shosha Festival for various reasons. I would like to witness to True Parents to those around me by standing close to the people in my community. *TP*

Mrs. Sakudawara received the blessing among the 4th 400-million-couple group. She attends the Ikebukuro Family Church in Northwest Tokyo.

