

October 2025 Golden Age Newsletter

Richard Buessing and Carol Pobanz
October 4, 2025



Golden Age Newsletter

October 4, 2025

Hello Goldies, Welcome! We hope you enjoy!

This month features a Message about SEX, a Unification Thought article, 2 Stinnard Poems, an insight to the Beginnings of the Korean New Village Movement, personal testimony from Robert Beebe about the Blessing, Mr. Downey's continuing Korean History journey, a Must-Do reminders for Golden Agers, and 3 Book Reviews!

This Month's Message

Intimacy at Any Age

Insights Beyond the Practical Advice

Notes from a podcast re: David and Mitsue Wolfenberger



[To go to this podcast, please click here!](#)

The Game-Changing Shift They Discovered

Early in their marriage, like many couples, David and Mitsue Wolfenberger approached intimacy with a focus on frequency and personal satisfaction. But David shared a pivotal realization: **“Sex is for giving enjoyment to your partner”** rather than seeking your own pleasure.

This wasn’t just a technique change—it was a **spiritual awakening**. As Mitsue put it, “God became real in the sex when we understood” this principle. When both partners focus on serving each other, intimacy transforms from a physical act into what she beautifully calls **“love making”**—literally creating love through the physical connection.

The Rituals That Build Lasting Desire

Beyond adapting to physical changes, they’ve maintained passion through **consistent small acts**: *Daily Romance*: David still opens every door for Mitsue, sneaks up behind her in the kitchen for surprise embraces, and carefully chooses cards that will truly touch her heart.

Weekly Date Nights: Even with children, they prioritized time together—sometimes driving 1.5 hours just for dinner and a movie, creating space to focus solely on each other.

Sacred Aftercare: Their emphasis on **cuddling and connection after intimacy** rather than immediately falling asleep creates what Mitsue calls “the best sleep”—deeply connected and rested.

Breaking Through Shame to Honest Communication

Perhaps most importantly, they learned to **talk openly about changes without shame**. Mitsue mentioned how reading about the “core of the universe” helped remove shame around sexuality, allowing her support group of women their age to finally have honest conversations they’d never had—even with their husbands.

David’s advice: **“You need to have the conversation”** about how bodies and desires change, approaching it with encouragement and acceptance rather than awkwardness.

Hope for Every Stage

Their message resonates whether you’re newlyweds or decades into marriage: **“It’s never too late”** to improve intimacy. As David emphasized, “You just start from where you’re at.”

For parents feeling pulled between children and spouse, Mitsue offered this wisdom: **Don’t wait until children are grown to restore intimacy**—prioritize your relationship now, because “it becomes very difficult to go back there” if you let it fade.

The Deeper Purpose

What makes their story so compelling isn’t just that they’ve maintained physical intimacy into their later years, but that they’ve discovered its **spiritual dimension**. Sexual intimacy, they learned, creates non-sexual intimacy—helping couples show affection and connection in all areas of life.

This isn’t about performance or frequency. It’s about **two people choosing to serve each other** in the most vulnerable and sacred way possible, creating a foundation of love that strengthens with time rather than weakens.

Haven't listened to the full conversation yet? Their complete discussion offers even more practical guidance on navigating physical changes, maintaining romance, and building intimacy that truly lasts.

Ready to start where you are? Remember: every small act of service and connection matters, whether you're 20 or 65+.

Unification Thoughts

Discovering True Parents in the Future

May 9, 2025

Why this topic?

Due to some conversations, some expressions that the Unification Principle¹ (and Godism in general) is hard to read or even relate to anymore—especially for young adults²—plus one nation's dissolution of its Holy Community and its effect on the blessed children there, thoughts come concerning how True Parents teachings will affect the future. Acknowledging the wide variances of perspectives within a family—let alone on an global community—there's at least one important factor to consider. This article focuses narrowly on just that one.

[To read more, please click here!](#)

Dawning of a New Age

Two Poems

Old is Gold

Does being old mean I can't be bold,
that I have to go down in weakness,

That I'm decrepit and frail
and can only weep and wail?
Does being old mean that I'm useless,
nearly toothless, pushed aside
and relegated to just go and hide.?
Does it mean that I'm looked down on,
frowned on, considered less than,
Or does it depend on the viewer
whether I'm valued
or just a piece of manure?

[To read more, please click here!](#)

History Bytes

US Church Report 1960 Beginning of the Korean New Village Movement

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Oct. 5, 1960

Spiritual Association for The Unification of Christianity

Post Office Box 3152 Eugene, Oregon

by Dr. Young Oon Kim



A Monthly Joint Meeting was held in Lebanon [Oregon] on Oct. 2, 1960. Fourteen members met at the home of Mrs. Geneval Lapp. Four men from St Helens, five members from Lebanon and five from Eugene shared a. potluck dinner. The meeting started at 6 PM and closed at 9 PM. Mr. [David S. C.] Kim opened the meeting with prayer and Miss [Young Oon] Kim addressed the group on the 40 days movement in Korea, which was so successful that we were stimulated with

the urgency of time. Therefore, we resolved to apply ourselves more fully to accomplish the work here in a more effective way.

[To read more, please click here!](#)

Testimonies, Tributes and Tributes



Photo credit: Robert Beebe

The Matching

by Robert Beebe

Near the end of May 1982, True Father announced that there would be a matching and Blessing in the next month. For the first time since joining the church, I began to face the reality that there would soon be another half of me. I began to feel strongly that there really was a part of me that was missing: someone to have give-and-take with and generate God’s love, and to challenge me to go beyond myself. simply amazing.

[To read more, please click here!](#)



A History of Korea, Part 6

By Michael Downey



Japan and Korea are close neighbors. From Incheon International Airport to Narita near Tokyo, it is just a two-hour flight. Korean golfers, seeking to avoid exorbitant domestic prices, often book a tee time and hop over to Japan—returning to Seoul in time for dinner and drinks. The two countries share many cultural similarities, and even their languages have some common ground. . . .

[To read more, please click here!](#)

Health and Recipes

Seniors Must!

Submitted by Christine Libon

Must stretch and exercise! Stretching alone is amazingly beneficial for our muscles. 20 years ago, I had a persistent pain in my arm, and as I was already in my 50s, I thought, “Well, this must be something that I will just have to live with.” One day, I remembered a stretch that we used to do as children, just as a novelty, simply to see how far we could stretch. In the stretch, you clasp your hands behind your back with arms extended, lift the arms upward, and bend forward slowly, letting the arms continue to rise as far as possible above the head from behind. Wouldn’t you know, the pain in my arm completely disappeared and never returned, just from that one-time stretch! These days just stretching one time does not do the trick. Daily slow stretching, as you will find in some of the

videos I share, accompanied by slow, deep breathing in and out as you stretch is required.

What you will feel, as I feel, is that the pain minimizes, the blood courses through your body, improving your circulation, which brings oxygen to your muscles. As you develop a habit of stretching daily, he will crave it. One caution is to not overextend a stretch in any direction. Doing so can cause damage and, for some, pull bones out of joint.

And stretching alone is not enough for seniors. The muscle toning and muscle building exercises you will find in some of the videos are essential to maintain strength. Other exercises will greatly improve your balance, which will prevent falls. I am sure I am barely skimming the surface as I mention the benefits of both stretching and properly exercising. So please join me and many other others as we endeavor to care for our senior bodies.

youtu.be/8KW4sG3OoME?si=-R3z1ht-rTVFweTx

New Books

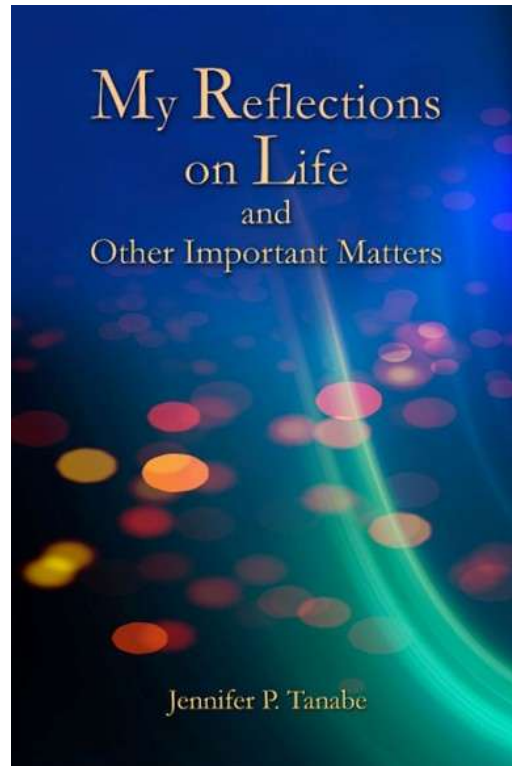
My Reflections on Life and Other Important Matters Now in eBook Format

By Jennifer Tanabe



My new publication, a collection of essays on various topics, is now available for purchase in ebook format.

The essays cover a range of topics from issues of ultimate concern, about God, the meaning of life, and so on, to what could be considered rather mundane, like drinking tea, with a variety of topics in between.



Ebooks can be purchased in both [ePub version](#) from Lulu, and on [Amazon for Kindle](#)

[Print copies](#) of this book are also available to purchase from Lulu.

Jennifer P. Tanabe, Ph.D.

jenniferptanabe.com/



Sermons of A Reluctant Preacher

By Bob Huneycutt



I enjoyed this book from beginning to end. Pastor Huneycutt's sermons are brief and to the point. They are realistic, honest, humble and insightful. It takes strength to confess weakness, faith to confess doubt, success to confess mistakes. Bob's range of resources includes *True Parents'* words and the Bible, plus a delightful helping of books, movies, songs and social research. Through it he shares his path from that of a wandering hippie to a successful restaurateur, husband, father and grandfather. I recommend this book to Unificationists of all ages and perspectives, to sociologists of religion, and to the open-hearted of all faiths and no faith. *Sermons of a Reluctant Pastor* reveals how beautiful life in this boat that we are all in together can be.

Dr. Tyler Hendricks

- When I was growing up, I wanted to be a writer, but God had other plans. I started working in Japanese restaurants, as a dishwasher, and eventually I learned to make sushi. Later my wife Ryoko and I opened our own sushi bar. When my daughter took over management of the restaurant, I had more time to pursue my childhood dream. I self-published two memoirs. My third book, *Sermons of A Reluctant Preacher* is a compilation of sermons I have given at

Triangle Family Church in Durham, North Carolina. “Hearing Luka” is an honest and vulnerable message about growing up disconnected from love and God.

Here is the link to buy my book:

www.amazon.com/dp/B0FDGQJ8DQ

“Myung-Hee: Her American Life”

By Pat Hickey



About the Book

Part memoir, part love letter, [Myung-Hee: Her American Life](http://www.amazon.com/dp/B0FDGQJ8DQ) tells the tale of a Korean woman who immigrated to the United States to build a life with her American politician husband. Everything was set against the relationship: family skepticism, an ocean of distance, even an overzealous housekeeping staff at a Boston hotel. It’s nearly impossible to imagine forming a lifelong bond under such circumstances.



[Order Now](http://www.amazon.com/dp/B0FDGQJ8DQ)

Psst... Want a signed copy from the author? [Just say the word!](#)

Praise for Myung-Hee: Her American Life

As a first-generation Korean American woman with American-born children, my appreciation of this story is deeply personal. The book also reminds me that I owe my ease and comfort of being a Korean American to Myung-Hee and others like her.

SUNG-YEON PARK, Ph. D

Professor, School of Public Health, University of Nevada, Reno

Beautifully written, it is a story of a young Korean woman forging ahead, told from a deep personal perspective, while reminding us all of the ties that resonate: love, family, and what it truly means to call someplace home.

SIG ROGICH

Former White House Senior Assistant to President George H.W. Bush, Former U.S. Ambassador to Iceland

Pat Hickey’s *Myung-Hee: Her American Life* is a love story between a wise Korean woman and her idealistic American husband. Through many collisions, their different backgrounds end up being more a complement than a barrier. Their relationship offers a glimpse at the kind of future marriages we are likely to see a lot more of.

MICHAEL BREEN

Author of *The New Koreans*

Told through the eyes of a devoted husband, this portrait of a young Korean woman and her 50-year marriage in a foreign land is a story of sacrifice and reward.

Transplanted into the ‘new soil’ of America, she grows stronger every year as she learns to ‘live, love, and create’ her own garden of life.

SALLY DENTON

Member, Nevada Writers Hall of Fame

Bulletin Board

PHOTO REQUEST

from Lloyd Howell

I'm putting together a photobook of fishing experiences – mostly with Father. But I am lacking some photos from the Seminary lagoon fishing time. If you have them in black and white or color, please send them directly to: [1950poet@ gmail,com](mailto:1950poet@gmail.com)

Grateful for your help,
Lloyd

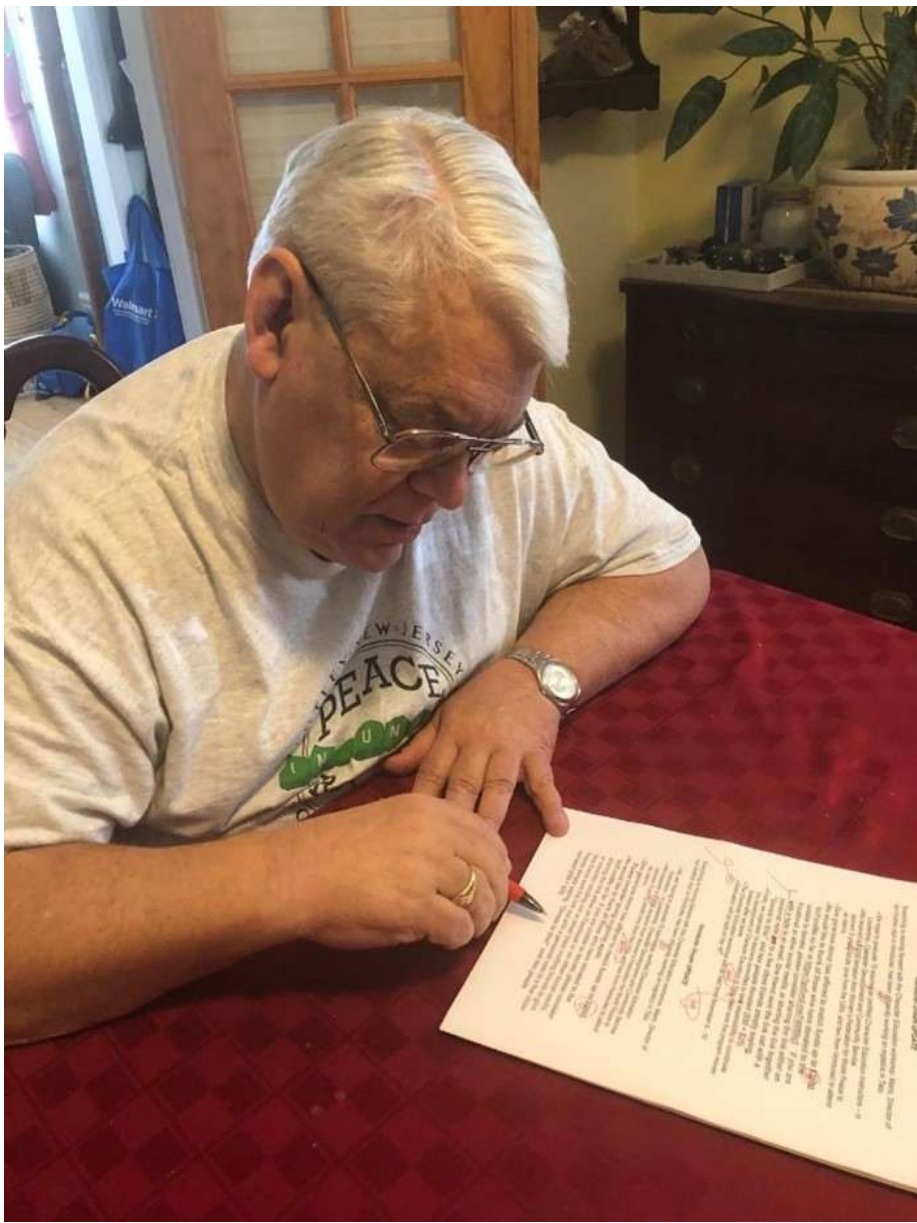


Photo credit: Carol Pobanz

The Golden Age Newsletter began as a small Clifton Senior newsletter about 3 years ago.

ARTICLE GUIDELINES

Purpose: The Golden Age newsletter has been created as a means to keep our elder community connected to one another. Articles are not in any way meant to proselytize or push a point of view.

It is a place to share God’s Love – what is positive in our life as a result of finding our Heavenly Parent and True Parents.

Motto: “This is the Dawning of our New Age” – We are always in the process of redefining ourselves as we grow older and as we add experiences to our lives. Therefore, we must consider how God can use us even when we may be decreasing in our physical capabilities.

The e-newsletter is broken down into eight sections:

1. A Featured Message of Inspiration – Helping others to feel hope and inspiration for the establishment of CIG.
2. “Unification Thoughts” – any educational article on the "Fifth Realm of Heart" – Grandparents’ heart
3. History Byte – A short article on a positive memory, a funny or affectionate story about experiences in the church with True Parents or with brothers and sisters or an article about the development/experience of helping to develop one of True Parents’ providential projects or events.
4. Arts and Culture – A sharing about one's talents, hobbies or interests and how this relates to sharing God's love (to family, community, nation or world).
5. Tributes and Testimonies- a personal testimony of one or more life learning experiences or a Tribute to a spouse, friend, or leader
6. Health – An article that relates to health (physical or mental), possibly providing a link to an article you think might be interesting or important to other seniors.
7. I Love being a Grandparent – stories about grandparenting or about things to do with grandchildren
8. Recipe – Preferably a healthy recipe along with 2-3 paragraphs about what makes it a good or memorable recipe.
9. Book Review – report on a book that inspires thoughts toward a world of peace
10. Bulletin board – reports on personal activities, or request help on a project

*Did someone forward this to you? Subscribe to the Golden Age
Newsletter [here!](#)*



Discovering True Parents in the future

May 9, 2025

Why this topic?

Due to some conversations, some expressions that the Unification Principle¹ (and Godism in general) is hard to read or even relate to anymore—especially for young adults²—plus one nation's dissolution of its Holy Community and its effect on the blessed children there, thoughts come concerning how True Parents teachings will affect the future. Acknowledging the wide variances of perspectives within a family—let alone on an global community—there's at least one important factor to consider. This article focuses narrowly on just that one.

The transformative power of God's Word

One thing that human history documents is that there's a spiritual thirst within many peoples that seeks a better way of life. God has responded to that thirst by providing special individuals who receive revelations of God's Word and who devote their lives to sharing them. And regardless of whether those people had flawless lives or not, if their inspired *teaching* lives on, it can transform the behavior of at least some segment of humanity for hundreds or thousands of years, even across the globe. And as the Unification Principle points out (in [Part 2, Chapter 5](#); scroll to *Section 3: The Period of Maturation of Politics, Economy and Ideology*), those expressions of God's Word can even become the basis for the worldviews and actual governments of societies.

For the purpose of this article, we will refer to the sum of True Parents' teachings using a term that Father Moon coined, which can express the scope of all His teachings. That term is "Godism". And regarding it, this is the scholarly assessment of Dr. Sebastian Matczak³, who was the first professor whom Father Moon selected to teach philosophy at the founding of the Unification Theological Seminary:

"... Unification philosophy is ... a mixture of Taoism and Confucianism. ...Both these influences are mingled with Christian ideas, brought to Korea by missionaries. As the result, the Unification philosophy somewhat resembles Platonism and to some extent Aristotelianism. ...All these influences, however, are united in one organic philosophical body, bringing new valuable elements to Western philosophy, and possibly offering solutions to the problems which have tortured Christian theology for centuries. ... The novelty of the Unification philosophy and its application to Christian

teaching lies first of all in its new ontology resulting from the concept of man. For Unificationists, man becomes the starting point for our knowledge of the whole of reality. He becomes also a creature of supreme dignity, second only to God, and the relative center of the whole of reality, God being its absolute center. The Unification understanding of man, therefore, leads to understanding of the whole or reality, even of God, and therefore of all Christian teaching."

- *Unificationism, a New Philosophy and Worldview*, p. 39-40

UNIFICATIONISM A NEW PHILOSOPHY AND WORLDVIEW

The import of Dr. Matczak's assessment of the significance of Father Moon's teaching in the history of thought is rather arresting. In short, to this scholar who has devoted himself to the study of world theology and thought, Godism is not just another inspired perspective that God has given to the world; it is rather singular in importance. He saw that it was capable of changing humanity's understanding of itself and of God.

Whenever that has happened in history and souls were illuminated, societies could be influenced to strive for something higher. There are many records of a "golden age" in the world's societies. One remarkable example is the Axial Age which Karl Jaspers identified as a worldwide occurrence, roughly around 400 years before the appearance of Christ.

Spiritual nurture

Another important idea that relates to Godism and the future is that of *life elements*. Elder members have heard it hundreds of times and younger members might recall hearing in weekend or summer workshops. It's not just conceptual but it bears directly on having a vibrant spiritual life.

Briefly put, the idea explains that our inner health and well-being is nurtured by elements of a *yang* type and elements of a *yin* type. The one passage that mentions this states:

"The spirit grows through give and take action between two types of nourishment: *life elements* of a yang type that come from God, and vitality elements of a yin type that come from the physical self." - *Exposition of the Divine Principle*, p. 48 (or online, use the browser's search function to locate "life elements" [here](#))

There's no further explanation of the *life element* in the book, but there is a little more in the *Outline of the Principle, Level 4* book. There, it adds that the Life Element "...develops Heart within a person and develops him as a being of truth."

Thankfully, a more definitive explanation of the *life element* came from Rev. Ken Sudo during the 120-day trainings that Father Moon created for America back in the mid 1970s. The exact passage states that "... in order for the spirit man to grow, it ... needs positive and negative nutriment. The positive nutriment is God's truth and love." (Online, use the browser's search function to locate "life element" [here](#).)

So the nature and content of the *life element* is "God's truth and love." And the most direct expression we

have of this divine *truth*—and the love within it—is in the *Words* that God has given to us in our scriptures⁴. And so it has been the faithful practice of religious people throughout history to study the scriptures they were given with filial devotion.

This is the reasoning behind Father Moon's insistence on our study of the Unification Principle. And since the book concludes with events up to its publication in the 1960s, Mother Moon fulfilled Father Moon's desire to publish the three *Holy Books*, which contain much new material that True Parents taught in the 50 or so years after the *Exposition of the Divine Principle* was published. As the *Introduction* to the Divine Principle states:

"The words proclaimed on these pages are only a portion of this truth. This volume is merely a compilation of what his disciples have hitherto heard and seen. We believe and hope that when the time is ripe, more profound portions of the truth will be published."

– *Exposition of the Divine Principle*, p. 12

Consistent with those words written in the late 1960s, Mother Moon said in 2013:

"It is good to educate ambassadors for peace. We need to give them Divine Principle education. Actually, teaching Divine Principle is not enough now. We need to teach them Father's words. They need to do *Hoon Dok*. Don't you think so? Divine Principle was revealed in the 1960's. After that, we need to study Father's words, don't we? We need to publish *Cham Boomo Gyeong* (Teaching of True Parents), and together with Peace Messages and *Cheon Seong Gyeong*, we need to educate them."

– *Message on Parents' Day*, May 8, 2013

The essence of a movement's long-term power

And here we reach the heart of the matter: One key observation about a spiritual movement is that its driving power—its *fire*—directly reflects the strength of its members' connection with its founder's **heart**. Thorough grasp of a movement's source documents is very important, but for many members, that by itself may not bring passion and fervent devotion to a faith. And realistically, regular in-depth scripture study isn't something so many people do, especially when the movement's writings are voluminous.

Many good people are busy grappling with life's challenges and so it's common practice for them to rely on learning largely from the sermons of their pastors, who do the deep studying and interpretation for them. Experience or research confirms that's a dependency that's common in the congregations of many faiths.

So, in the histories of such faiths, there've often been a core of specially focused people. In Judaism, there was the tribe of Levi⁵, who was specially anointed and entrusted to study and preserve the faith. In Christianity, the 12 apostles weren't scholars of the scriptures; it likely wasn't they who wrote the gospels. Other, later followers wrote them, and still later were monks who created the illuminated manuscripts, as well as a few Church Fathers⁶ who were scholars. The

main point here is that, as long as at least some part of a religious community studies, values and is committed to the preservation and transmission of its scriptures, that community can survive the trials of the ages.⁷

Finally, if one meets fervent believers—such as sincerely religious Christians—one trait is evident: *they love The Lord*. Their hearts have somehow been touched, moved and broken open to *feel* that Jesus took on the weight of their sins—indeed of *all* humanity's sins—so that they would not be condemned but instead could be reconciled to God and have a miraculously graceful second chance to do their best in this life. Such people are fully aware of their profound indebtedness to this supreme love of Someone who was fully, unreservedly willing to endure the most public humiliation, horrific torture and “lay down his life for his friends” ([John 15:13](#)). It's *that* kind of “fire” that's kept the purest forms of Christianity strong for over two millennia, even despite the repeated missteps and serious mistakes that mar its history.

How does that happen? It can occur when a sincere and open-minded seeker finds God's truth and love as he or she prayerfully studies Jesus' life and words. Those words aren't read speedily in order to quickly cover a large number of pages. And if the language is a bit archaic—as in the King James version for example—or the examples are from a distant time and culture, the content isn't dismissed as too difficult to read or understand. Instead, the earnest searcher persists, in faith and in trust; he or she patiently and earnestly reaches deeper to extract the meanings and the *heart* behind the words.

In the Christian record, that condition of sincere effort and devotion has brought about epiphanies and transformations in people the world over, for the past two millennia.

How True Parents' heart will be known by future generations

Then, if that works for folks who've studied God's inspired Word in the Bible, and if that's one apparent way for them to connect to the heart of one singularly remarkable young man who lived on earth two thousand years before them, it stands to reason that sincere and earnest study of God's Word as given to True Parents could connect people of this and future centuries to *Their* hearts.

If that happens on as widespread a level—just as it clearly has for Jesus—then it's entirely reasonable to expect that the spiritual movement that True Parents initiated will continue into even the distant future. The fact that Jesus was killed so young, clearly hasn't dimmed the transformative effect of God's Word and God's Love through Him. That's its **power**: it's undiminished by time, especially as long as there are those who love, study, and preserve it faithfully for future generations to discover and also cherish.

Conclusion

When True Parents created the ideas of Home Church, Tribal Messiahship, *Hook Dok Hae*, or when They published the Holy Books, They clearly didn't want only seminarians and pastors to have access to the Word. Rather, They hoped that *all* their children—including

their descendants and even distant generations—would have direct access to God’s life-giving love and truth therein.

It’s the nature of the human soul to earnestly seek divine understanding. And when a soul can grasp God’s Word, it can ultimately lead to finding the life-expanding heart of God as well as that of its human Vessel.

Notes

1 Dr. Lee explained that *Tongil Woll*i is most accurately translated as the *Unification Principle*.

2 See the thought-provoking and heart-felt article [Patient Love is More Important Than Doctrine](#)

3 Dr. Matzcak was a Polish Jesuit who taught philosophy at St. Johns University in NY. He authored [many philosophical treatises](#).

4 Some scientists believe that creation and nature are also eloquent expressions of God’s Truth and evidence of God’s Love. Of course, with His background in engineering, Father Moon naturally spoke about finding God’s truth and love in nature. See [Book 6 True Creation](#) in *Cheon Seong Gyeong*. And in science, there are numerous examples; here is one inspired perspective from the [past](#) and one [current](#) resource.

5 Learn about the identity and special function of the Levites [online here](#).

6 These historical individuals are the intellectual leaders of the church; [learn about them here](#).

7 That work of preserving great traditions for posterity can be seen in [World Scripture: A Comparative Anthology of Sacred Texts](#) or the three volumes of *World Religions*. This is a remarkable trilogy written by Dr. Young Oon Kim, who was the very first missionary whom Father Moon sent to the U.S. She could speak, think and write in fluent English and she made the very first English translations of the *Divine Principle*.

When UTS was founded in Barrytown, she was its professor of Theology and also Comparative Religions. Her love of the voice of God in great scriptures of the world empowered her to train seminarians to dialog with sincere understanding and respect with people of many different faiths. Her *World Religions* trilogy is available [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).

Frequently Asked Questions

Registration Questions

Q: I don’t see any welcome email, did my registration go through?

Airtable Questions

Q: I registered but it says I need to create an airtable account, how do I do that?

System Questions

Q: I forgot to bookmark my dashboard page! How do I find it again?

Find the
answer

Find the answer

Find the
answer

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*Blessed Family
photos by
[@Fukuya.Sano](#)*



Two Poems

by Jim Stinard

Old is Gold

Does being old mean I can't be bold,
that I have to go down in weakness,
That I'm decrepit and frail
and can only weep and wail?

Does being old mean that I'm useless,
nearly toothless, pushed aside
and relegated to just go and hide.?

Does it mean that I'm looked down on,
frowned on, considered less than,
Or does it depend on the viewer
whether I'm valued
or just a piece of manure?

My strength and beauty have faded,
I'm wrinkled and gray, bent over.
Am I not considered in any way?

Or like the phoenix do I rise
with new life and energy
and soar in a limitless sky?
High, high above self-doubt
and fear that my life was wasted
and now that I'm old
that I didn't accomplish my goals?

Do I accept that I'm unable
to do anything productive anymore,
that I cannot fully love and communicate
or am I just hurriedly ushered out the door?

We can do all things, we have built in wings,

that take us higher and higher
in our connection with God and others –
this eternal flame cannot be smothered.
We are more, way more than we ever thought before.

Holy Mother Han calls us to hold on
to our dreams of a better world
that is free from pain and regret,
a life of accomplishment and beauty
where we can develop
and express our full potential,
strong and productive and influential.
For both young and old a new world unfolds.

Our minds and bodies are united,
we are strong, of one heart to make a new start,
To shape and fashion a world of pure water, of pure
gold,
a family that's strong and bold.
We are a family of heart and soul,
that's ready to rock and roll,
even if I'm old,
I'm going to hang on,
I'm still not ready to go!

Jim Stinard-- 8/2025

Open your Heart

Open your heart, to the love above.
Open your heart to the love that is growing,
that is showing itself everywhere,
if you are conscious and aware.
Even if you're not, it has a divine plot.
It is shadowing you, chasing you down
despite your resistance,
despite your insistence,
despite your defenses.

Despite your bruised and hardened heart,

It is glowing,
it is showing itself in places of least expectation
as well as in the joy of celebration.
In a smile, in a word,
in a shaft of light through a tree above,
in a cardinal that's taken flight.
Through the mist of the glow of the moon at night.

Open your heart to love all around,
in the sky above, and the beauty of the ground,
the lily, the daffodil, the frivolous squirrel,
the frothy white clouds
that spin and twirl in the wind of the storm,
or the chubby clouds
that lounge in a sky of blue,
it's all there for you.

The earth is abundant, resplendent,
in its variety, its texture, its taste and its touch,
that's why we appreciate it so much.
Do not squander it, as you wander upon it,
as you trod your way in your life every day.
For it is a treasure beyond measure.
It is a gift from our God above,
an energy field that's willing to yield it's secrets,
if you open your heart, we all play a part,
we all play a role, so open your heart,
open your mind,
we are all here as
children of our Maker Divine.

Jim Stinard -- 9/2025

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A MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

Oct. 5, 1960

Spiritual Association for The Unification of Christianity

Post Office Box 3152 Eugene, Oregon

A Monthly Joint Meeting was held in Lebanon [Oregon] on Oct. 2, 1960. Fourteen members met at the home of Mrs. Geneval Lapp. Four men from St Helens, five members from Lebanon and five from Eugene shared a potluck dinner. The meeting started at 6 PM and closed at 9 PM. Mr. [David S. C.] Kim opened the meeting with prayer and Miss [Young Oon] Kim addressed the group on the 40 days movement in Korea, which was so successful that we were stimulated with the urgency of time. Therefore, we resolved to apply ourselves more fully to accomplish the work here in a more effective way.





Vernon [Pearson] suggested that we send out a monthly newsletter to each area branch connected with our work. Each group, please submit any news or items of any interest to the Head Office by 15th of each month. The letter will be sent out following the monthly meeting.

It was agreed by all who attended that we need to be associated with one another and to be organized as one group, so that each group will be a definite part of the work. We must be unified as one in purpose. We asked everyone to pray about the name and will decide on the name at the next joint meeting.

Galen [Pumphrey] suggested that we design a handbill to advertise this work and the forthcoming book of the Divine Principles that will be available for sale within this month. We must have a more definite way of making this book available to the public. Galen had several helpful ideas on methods that we can use to spread this message more quickly to our people in America. One suggestion was the use of a questionnaire in a form style to survey door to door or by mail to contact persons who are seeking deeper understanding of God and His purpose for mankind in the Second Advent.

Goldie [a Pentecostal woman associated with Miss Kim's group] suggested spot announcements on radio or television; also, a person can be interviewed on the Church News broadcast to give information pertinent to their group or organization, which will be free.

As a result, from the work done by junior and senior high school students in Korea, we realize how God can work through the younger generation. How vital and enthusiastic for God these young people are! Therefore, we must not overlook God's ministry through our younger generation.

Eileen [Welch] suggested that we consider the urgency of time and the great size of our country. We must have financial means to promote and fulfill the work which we have to undertake. We asked that everyone will pray most earnestly about this vital matter.

Regarding the above items, please feel free to submit any ideas or any information which you feel will be helpful in the fulfillment of these ideas.

At the end of our meeting, we spent half an hour in prayer and received wonderful power and grace that filled everyone with joy and thanksgiving.

The following is the brief report on the 40 days movement in Korea, which was successful beyond our imagination. This movement was undertaken by 800 people who proclaimed the Divine Principles in 413 cities, towns, and villages throughout South Korea from July 20th to August 30th of this year. In the past, spreading the message had been difficult due to the opposition from various powerful groups. At this time a great progress was made because of the cooperation of the authorities and these influential elements. This is a very definite sign of the time.

1) Beginning in Seoul, at six parks, three women at each

park preached on the Principles, and sent their audience to three lecture halls where men lectured the Principles day and night.

2) In going out to the mission field, each person had to arrange for his own expense for food and room and arrange for a lecturing place. The motto was to eat inferior food, no rice or meat, only barley and vegetables. The people being undernourished were very pale, but each person resolved to work for this cause even unto death. Each person had to work with the villagers and share their hard life to win them to this message. In this way, most of them earned their food and lodging.

3) One man could find no means of work, so he bought a hand wagon and delivered groceries during the day and lectured at night.

4) Two junior high girls won the favor of the chief of police and the head of the village and arranged a lecture room. These children lectured from memory and villagers were surprised at their work for their age. They even received an offering of thanks. In this way they opened a study group.

5) One high school boy, who left his home for the first time without money, fasted because he had no way to buy food. Sometimes he had to sleep outside. These things were truly a hardship for him. The villagers said, "This young boy still smells his mother's milk but he speaks a great thing." So all the villagers came and listened to him.

6) One young man who had the Principles only three months turned the whole congregation of a Holiness Church in a village. The minister disturbed his lectures and took half of the congregation back.

7) One boy was beaten by a big stick but he kept on lecturing. Another woman pushed him out of her home but he held her arm and kept on lecturing. She chased him out of the yard; he still lectured -- Villagers passing by said, "This man is mad but he is teaching something different." The rumor was spread and villagers came to hear him. In this way, he started a new group.

8) In Korea, colleges send their students during the summer to teach various subjects to the people in the villages. This is called the enlightenment movement. One junior college girl worked in the field and taught the Principles in the evening. In this way she had the opportunity to attract the people and proclaimed the message. One minister came and by asking him questions, she embarrassed him because he could not answer them. So he left and brought two more ministers. She asked them questions, which caused them to argue among themselves. She attacked their confusion with the Divine Principles and the villagers turned to her.

9) One young girl, who had only finished her grade school (which is 6 years in Korea), lectured the Principles in a village church so well that the pastor resigned.

10) Some people who heard the lectures at parks in Seoul went home to their villages. When they saw the posters of this movement in their villages, they became members of new groups.

11) Two women who were graduates of a music college went to an island and gave a concert. Then they told their audience of the Principles and began to lecture there. As a result, a new group was formed.

12) Shin, who is 22 years old, went out to a village with Kim, a teenage boy. In order for Shin to buy his train ticket, he and another friend, who could not go to the mission field, had sold their blood. Shin and Kim organized 4-H club classes and taught the villagers until 1 or 2 AM. Then they arose at 5 or 6 AM to work with the farmers in the field. On the seventh day Shin started a small class to teach the Principles at the same time as Kim taught the cultural class. Kim dismissed his class at 10 PM, while Shin's class went on. The members of the cultural class became curious about the other class and asked if they could listen to it. In this way, 70 or 80 people were drawn to the class every night. When he gave special lectures on the Principles, 400 or 500 people attended. At the end of his 40 days, 190 people formally became members of this group. According to the recent information, the total number is now 300 members. These members sent letters and a person to request that Headquarters send them the same teacher to lead them in the Principles. Shin had deliberately set the classes at the same time to stimulate curiosity and draw more people to hear the Principles. One man who fought our movement became extremely ill. Kim, the little boy, prayed for him and he was healed. We should not forget that Shin and his friend had paid their blood for this success.

13) Lt. Col. Han [San-Kil Han] and Maj. Han could not leave their offices during the day. Instead of going home from their offices, they went straight to the villages assigned to them, and lectured the Principles, and in the morning, they returned to work at their offices. This they continued through the 40 days movement.

14) Two teenage girls went out to a place and stayed with a Methodist woman for a few nights. When she found out they were with this movement, she rejected them and sent them out. The young girls went to a second house and were sent away. In this way they had to change their sleeping place three times. There were also two young men who ridiculed and persecuted them. When our leader passed through, he heard of the ill-treatment that they had received and felt very bitter that they could treat young girls so badly. After he left the village, the daughter of the Methodist woman at the first house fell into a well and was drowned. At the second house where they were mistreated, the only ox, which was their livelihood, suddenly died. The two men who persecuted the girls were put in jail for other crimes they had committed. Later, a family befriended them and the girls lectured the precious message to the villagers. Whoever joined their group was healed and 80% of the church members transferred to their group.

15) Our leader travelled over 1800 miles for three weeks and visited most of the places where the workers had been sent. He ate only barley and vegetables without meat for 40 days. He slept on the grass out of doors four nights in order to share the hardship of the workers.

16) The workers ate the poorest food, gave the hardest

labor in order to bring the highest message. I have been informed that a man and a woman had fasted for 40 days and that four persons fasted 21 days drinking only water for the preparation of the 40 days' work. There were many who fasted 3 or 4 days during the work, some due to lack of food, some to overcome hindrances of the work. In this way they had paid with their blood for.

17) Some men outside our group have received the testimony through the spiritual world that our leader is the One who will unify all religions.

18) Many outside of our group have received that the government will be given over to the religious leaders with spiritual gifts in three years and Korea will become an ideal nation in the eyes of God.

19) It is a record in the history of Christianity that 800 persons went out to 413 places at one time to proclaim the Word of God. The work was all voluntary and each person went out with no money. As a result of their efforts, 210 new churches have been organized. This is a record in the history of the Christian missionary movement. It is obvious that only the power of God could accomplish such a great work in such a short time.

20) We have been told there will be three stages of judgment. First is the Judgment by the Word. To pass this judgment, we have to thoroughly understand and completely master the Divine Principles. After we pass this judgment, we must be judged by heart. In order to pass this judgment, we have to be one with God in heart and feel as God feels. After we become one with Father in heart, we must attain a Father-like personality. The judgment by personality is the last one. In order to pass these three Judgments we must experience the blood, sweat, and tears which the Father has been shedding since the Fall of man. Our leader said, "We are historical debtors. All servants of God in the past have shed their blood, sweat, and tears that we may finish the work which they started, and obtain in our generation the promised blessing of restoration. We are indebted to them for their labors. Therefore to pay back the historical debts and be the sons of the Father in heaven we must inherit those three things. " We are also greatly indebted to our leader for his blood, sweat, and tears for this final accomplishment. We cannot be complacent and expect a soft and an easy road. In joining God's army for the world restoration let us accept our share of blood for heaven, sweat for the earth, and tears for mankind.

21) In the invisible world the good spirits are now demonstrating and driving out the evil spirits who have occupied every corner of the earth. Since the True Parents have appeared on earth, it is possible for the good spirits to take this as a condition and they are driving the evil spirits out of the earth. This is the reason why conscientious people on earth are unconsciously driven to the heavenly force. When the wandering and evil spirits discover which side is most powerful, they will turn to the greatest power and cooperate with God and help our work. They will destroy evil people by themselves in order to be received by God.

22) The existing churches are divided and arguing among themselves. They have declined in power and

are losing the respect of the people. This is another reason why many people have turned to this new revelation in this age.

Next Monthly Joint Meeting will be held on November 6th in Lebanon again.

Let us fight well with blood, sweat, and tears!

Young Oon [Kim]



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The Matching

By Robert Beebe

Near the end of May 1982, True Father announced that there would be a matching and Blessing in the next month. For the first time since joining the church, I began to face the reality that there would soon be another half of me. I began to feel strongly that there really was a part of me that was missing: someone to have give-and-take with and generate God's love, and to challenge me to go beyond myself.

By that time, I had been at UTS for nine months and, despite the many stories of Father visiting Barrytown on a regular basis, he had not come at all in that time. That was about to change. In the course of the next month, Father would come to seminary five times. The first time I was out fundraising, but I heard he took a walk around before sitting on a bench down by the pond where he spoke to students and staff. In the afternoon he went fishing. The next three times he came just to go fishing down by the third railroad bridge north of UTS. Several brothers would assist him while others watched or did their own fishing.



Sitting in the library the day after one of those times, while reading about Jesus' relationship to fishing in the Gospel of John, my mind wandered to recall Father's visits. Jesus said that "a prophet has no honor in his own country" because of the horizontal familiarity people have with him. After the previous day's experience, I could understand the truth of this statement—how we habitually judge people by their outward appearance and fail to see the person inside due to the underdevelopment of our own hearts.

I felt that, in reality, Father was a simple man who enjoyed and experienced things like anyone else. He didn't put on any airs, didn't try to impress anyone, or do anything to make people like him. Because of the simplicity in the way he related to nature and people, it

was easy to misjudge him if our hearts were not in the right place. He did not act to protect himself, which in this fallen world we are too apt to take advantage of—as people have been doing to Father all throughout his life. Yet, he harbored no resentment but just carried on. He would retain an innocent and humble quality about him, pure in heart and free in his feelings as a small boy, yet with incredible wisdom and patience as a father. That was my experience being around him.

These thoughts were particularly striking to me given the way Father was being treated in the court case that was proceeding at that time in New York. Day after day for weeks on end he had to sit and listen to insults and ridicule by a young and ambitious lawyer who painted Father as some kind of wheeler-dealer motivated by arrogance, power, and greed.

When Father fished, it was as if he were praying. His concentration was total. Usually, he would speak very little. Especially then, he was coming at a very serious time, with the matching, Blessing, and court case occurring all at once. Through fishing, I felt that he was communing with God.

The day before we were to leave for the matching in New York, Father came up once again to fish. It turned out to be one of the most precious experiences of my life. All day our class had been working hard to prepare for the upcoming graduation, part of which, unbeknownst to me, involved working with my future wife, weeding flowers and raking newly cut grass behind the building by the soccer field.

Late in the afternoon, Patsy Johnson, one of God's heavenly daughters, invited me to go with some others down to the river to watch Father fish. There, all was quiet with perhaps ten other people there. As it developed, Dr. Joon Ho Seuk, who was special assistant to the seminary president at the time, invited me out to the dock where Father was. The fish weren't biting much, so he was just sitting there on an overturned pickle bucket in his fishing cap and sneakers. Craig Dahl, his "fishing buddy," was talking to him about fishing, sailing, and some idea he had about catching our own bait.



Dr. Seuk introduced me to Father, telling him that I was unmatched. Immediately Father asked if I would like an Asian fiancée. I said yes (more on this later) and asked Father jokingly if they were the best kind. Father just smiled and shrugged his shoulders. Then I helped Father fish a little, baiting his hooks and handing him his pole. He pointed out the swirling water to me

flowing from under the bridge. He spoke in English although he didn't say more than a few words at a time.

His presence was very fatherly and he radiated pure love. He was very much at peace with himself. By looking at him, it was hard to realize that this man had suffered so much throughout his life. With all the world's burdens on his shoulders, he could still be there totally for me. When I spoke, he would listen intently, even asking me to repeat things he didn't understand, and when he spoke he looked right into my eyes. I was amazed and grateful to have had this experience with True Father right before the matching.

The next day, June 23, thirty-two of us drove down from Barrytown to New York City. I drove one of the vans and recalled later, just before pulling out, looking in the rear view mirror and seeing the student who would become my wife sitting all the way in the back. That evening we had an orientation in the Grand Ballroom of the New Yorker Hotel, pure white and beautifully lit by chandeliers. We listened to various talks about the significance of the Blessing and attended a session concerning more practical guidance with Rev. Ken Sudo, Nora Spurgin, and David Hose forming a panel. The most prevalent questions concerned sexual issues and what to do if Father asked for those who had certain preferences. Mrs. Spurgin noted that it does mean a preference. "If you raised your hand, be ready to take responsibility for your choice."

Whether to volunteer for an Asian fiancée weighed heavily on my mind. On the one hand, I felt it did not make any difference one way or another. Whoever Father chose would be fine with me. However, my thinking was that I *ought* to volunteer because of the stress Father put on East-West matches. Still, I knew that, if I did, it would be a half-hearted volunteering.

The next day we gathered in the ballroom at 8am. Father arrived at 9:15 and spoke until 1:30, at first making jokes to relieve the tension that everyone was surely feeling. Finally, he asked whether he should talk some more or "get down to work." (Everyone: "GET DOWN TO WORK!") Yet he went on talking, eventually becoming very serious and gave us a lecture on the meaning of the Blessing and its relationship to Home Church. He wanted us to understand what a great blessing it was to be there despite our lack of qualification. He emphasized that we had not come there simply to find a partner but for our own rebirth.

Then, that afternoon at 3:00 Father began the matching. He suddenly walked out into the crowd of sisters on one side and brothers on the other, dividing them like the Red Sea. People scrambled to get out of his way. He "warmed up" by selecting 10 international matches, followed by a few Korean matches. We seminarians were asked to stand up a couple of times, then told to sit down again.

After about three hours and with some nudging from UTS President David Kim, Father called all the seminarians out to line up. As we got up, I thought, "Well, this is it." All that I had been preparing for was about to happen. I tried to settle my mind to be there totally for God and to harbor no selfish thoughts. The brothers were lined up on one side, sisters on the other. I found myself standing across from one of my

classmates. We looked at each other. I thought to myself, "Are you the one?"

Father walked up and down between the two sides. As he did, I felt how much I loved him as a father and grateful for what he had done for me. My heart was pounding with excitement and my stomach was tied in knots. Yet I felt a deep confidence in his ability to choose the right person for me, i.e., the person with whom I could raise a family and give rise to a lineage that would be a champion for God, someone who could be embracing in love and stand fearless before evil.

Father matched a couple of seminarians with seminary graduates, one with a sister from MFT, and two pairs of seminarians were matched to each other. Then, Father pointed at me and took a sister I had fundraised with in Indiana and came to the seminary with, Karen Fallwell, and brought her over to me and slammed us together. From that point on my head was swimming. We bowed together to Father and headed for the balcony to discuss and decide whether to accept Father's choice. With Karen walking in front of me, thunderous cheers went up from the crowd of brothers and sisters. I could only shake my head in disbelief.

When we reached the balcony, we sat next to a seminary couple who had been matched just before us. Of course, they were surprised to see us. We just sat there together for a few moments—stunned. All I could say was "I don't believe it!" over and over. Finally, I got up and poured a round of water for everyone.

In reality, there was not much to talk about. There was never any question in either of our minds. Karen and I simply prayed together, albeit somewhat incoherently in our current state of shock, pledging ourselves together in deep gratitude to God.

For me, when Father put us together, I felt immediately this could only be God's love. As long as I had known Karen, my heart had always gone out to her. I felt she was really a wonderful sister, although she struggled a lot and her spirit was often up and down. She had a certain vitality and freshness of spirit that could really win people. She could easily get excited about things. Out in Indiana and as we came to the seminary together, I thought more than once how I'd like to be matched with her. Yet I didn't want to have any give-and-take with that kind of thinking. I knew that the choice had to be Heavenly Father's and, with the hundreds (thousands?) of available sisters in the church, both in America and around the world, in my mind the chances of that particular match happening were nil. Besides, I felt that would be just my preference from my own limited perspective. Heavenly Father would know better who would be right for me.



Karen Fallwell and Bob Beebe on MFT in Indiana

But through our matching, I learned that God really works on the basis of love. He must have sensed my heart—and Karen's, too. (As we headed up the steps to the balcony, Karen turned to me and said in her Texas accent, "I sensed it a-comin'.")

After we prayed, Karen and I stayed up in the balcony a while to watch the fate of our fellow seminarians be decided. There would be a few other seminarians matched to each other. We found out later that, back in Barrytown, our fellow students who had been matched on a previous occasion, were placing bets on which seminarians would be matched to each other. I learned that John Raucci got our match correct.

After 20 minutes or so we came down, bowed to True Father again, and went downstairs. We were met by Ken Owens who took our picture. We then signed a list together and walked through a set of doors leading out into the lobby of the New Yorker.



What we encountered on the other side was a complete shock! Hundreds of people were gathered around cheering as we came out. People came up to me, shaking my hand, embracing Karen, and taking pictures. An immense wave of joy swelled around us. As we walked around the lobby meeting people and waiting for other couples to emerge from behind those doors, the atmosphere was one of total joy. It was the most incredible high of my life. People were just so happy for each other.

I believe God was happiest of all. I felt, after thousands of years of sorrow, he was weeping great tears of joy for all of us. His only desire throughout the tortuous course of history was that we could be happy. Finally, he could give us a taste of that joy by giving us our eternal mates. Each pair was different, yet each seemed so right.

We cannot imagine the magnitude of the joy Heavenly Father wants to give us. Our faith is usually so shallow that we'd rather hold on to some small thing that provides some security. But if we can willingly place ourselves in God's hands, so much is there waiting for us. That was my experience that day

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A History of Korea – Part 6

by Michael Downey



Silla conquered the other two Korean kingdoms, Goguryeo and Baekje, to create the Unified Silla Dynasty, but it never included the entire peninsula, nor did it create a unified people. One might think this was the beginning of one Korean nation, but it wasn't. It was the expressed policy of Silla that Silla people were a separate class above all others.

From the beginning, Korean society was extremely stratified, with the ruling elite on top, the common people below, and the slaves at the bottom. All things that made life livable were distributed on this basis.

Silla took this further when it established the Bone Rank System. This system divided the aristocracy into castes based on blood lineage. It allowed the ruling elite to maintain power and position. One's place in society was entirely inherited through bloodline. The job or position you could hold—from king or prince to village official or judge – was dictated by your bone rank. The highest rank was “sacred bone,” belonging only to those of the royal family. Only they could become king or queen. Next was the “true bone” rank, made up of lesser royals and the upper nobility. Others were members of head ranks from 3 to 6.

Your rank determined who you could marry, what decorations you could wear, how large a house you

could live in, and whether it had a tile roof or was thatched. Naturally, this allowed the ruling elite to exercise strict control over the population. There was almost no way to move up under this system: whatever bone rank you were born into, you stayed there for life. Over time, the discontent of the people grew, as did the entitlement of the ruling class. The descendants of Goguryeo and Baekje were excluded from the bone system and treated as commoners or slaves. They could only dream of their kingdoms' former glory and plot revenge. This system is said to have led to corruption and the eventual decline of Silla in the Later Three Kingdoms period.

Silla ruled over the peninsula for hundreds of years but eventually began to decline. Various aristocrats vied for independent power. Corruption weakened civil society, and the captive people of Goguryeo and Baekje began to rise up and rebel. This so-called Later Three Kingdoms period revived the earlier three kingdoms, now fueled by rebellion against weakened Silla. Due largely to a century-long struggle for the throne among the royal family, Silla fell into chaos. In that period, there were fourteen kings. Three were assassinated, and one committed suicide. The royal family and aristocrats led lives of excess in Kyongju, while the common people paid the price. (It was even said that when the starving people begged for rice, the elite replied: "If they have no rice, let them eat sujebi 수제비 – hand torn flour noodles.")

As corruption deepened and the royal family lost competence, nobles began to seize independent territories and even collect taxes for themselves. In 892 CE, a young Silla general, Kyong-won, seized territory in Cholla Province (southwest Korea) and declared independence from Silla. Claiming descent from the former kingdom of Baekje, he founded Later Baekje and set up a capital in Chongu. By 900 CE, he had proclaimed himself king.

Another prominent figure was Kyung-ye, born a prince of the Silla royal family in Kyongju. His father, the king, deemed his birth inauspicious and expelled him from the palace. Saved and raised by his nurse, he entered a Buddhist monastery at age 10. Though trained as a monk, he later joined a bandit army, as was common at the time. Bandits often raised fighting forces, seized land, and funded themselves by any means.

Kyung-ye eventually rose to leadership under a bandit chief named Yang Gil. A skilled leader and fighter, he won many battles and gathered a substantial army, attracting followers like Wang Kon, a local gentryman from Songdo (modern Kaesong).

By 901, Kyung-ye envisioned himself as heir to the Goguryeo kings. He founded a new state, "Later Goguryeo," with its capital at Songgak, and proclaimed himself king. Turning toward Buddhism, he declared himself the Maitreya Buddha—the future Buddha of "loving-kindness"—and even proclaimed his sons bodhisattvas.

He wrote 20 books of scripture, which a revered monk, Sockchong, denounced as nonsense. Kyung-ye killed him. Increasingly violent and paranoid, he murdered his queen and sons. Terrified officials begged Wang Kon to depose him. With 10,000 troops, Wang Kon besieged the palace, captured Kyung-ye, and had him

executed.

Wang Kon, later honored as Taejo, renamed the kingdom “Koryeo,” establishing his capital at Songgak. Unlike Kyung-ye, he proved to be a skilled warrior, administrator, and diplomat. He established ties with Silla while remaining opposed to Later Baekje.

When Later Baekje attacked Silla, Wang Kon marched to its defense but arrived too late—Kyongju was devastated, the king committed suicide, and his queen and court ladies were abused. Wang Kon eventually drove the invaders away and installed a relative of the dead king as Silla’s final monarch.

Later Baekje, too, fell into internal strife. King Kyon Hwon, who had many wives and ten sons, chose his fourth son, Kuomgang, as heir. The eldest son, Singom, rebelled with his brothers, imprisoned his father, killed the heir, and took the throne. Kyon Hwon escaped and defected to Wang Kon, who treated him royally.

Meanwhile, the last king of Silla, reduced to ruling only around Kyongju, finally surrendered in person to Wang Kon in Songgak. The Silla royal family was given land and positions, ending Silla’s thousand-year history.

In 936, Wang Kon defeated Kyon Hwon’s rebellious sons in battle, uniting the peninsula under Koryeo. From “Koryeo” comes the modern name “Korea.”

Taejo’s success lay in his strength as a warrior, competence as an administrator, and brilliance as a diplomat. For the first time, old rivalries could dissolve, and former enemies could be integrated into one Korean people.

Koryeo lasted nearly 500 years (918–1392 CE). Unlike Silla, it did not fall to internal strife, but to external pressures.

The Matching >

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