

FFWPU International: Beyond Planting Trees: a Time to Grow a Forest

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Beloved and respected blessed families throughout the world,

I pray that the love of our Heavenly Parent and the grace of True Parents may always abide with your loved ones and in all aspects of your lives.

Today, I greet you from Albania in Europe.

Dear members,

Over many years we have announced many visionary plans in anticipation of the firm settlement of Cheon Il Guk. Today I would like to speak with you about the most fundamental vision of all - the very root and point of origin from which every other vision springs.



The vision of Cheon Il Guk, which we have long dreamed of, proclaimed, and struggled to realize, has never been something distant or abstract. Our Heavenly Parent's grand dream - to realize Heaven's Will upon this earth - began at the very moment of Creation, when the universe came into being and Adam and Eve were established in Heavenly Parent's image.

1. Six Thousand Years of Waiting, and the Mission of the Blessed Families

Our Heavenly Parent had a passionate vision, at the heart of which was the ideal of true sons and daughters who perfectly embody Heaven's love. This would have been the family of Adam and Eve.

Although the Fall of Adam and Eve meant that human history has been a sorrowful course of indemnity over thousands of years, the vision of our Heavenly Parent has never faltered.



Even the True Family that God sought to establish through Jesus and the Holy Spirit could not be fully realized at that time, and thus this providence had to wait another two thousand years. Finally, for the first time in six thousand years, Sun Myung Moon and Hak Ja Han established a true family. Fulfilling the mission of restored Adam and Eve, they appeared on this earth as the True Parents, as Heaven's victorious champions.

When we understand that Heavenly Parent's vision has unfolded through True Parents' providence - from Adam and Eve, to Jesus and the Holy Spirit, and ultimately to the True Parents, Sun Myung Moon and Hak Ja Han - it becomes clear that our ultimate goal is the realization of "true (or exemplary) blessed families."



Therefore, the greatest fruit established on this earth through the countless hardships and tribulations True Parents have endured is none other than the blessed family itself. Even the vast providence of national and world restoration is ultimately fulfilled through blessed families. The original ideal of our Heavenly Parent, "One Family of Humankind under God," begins with the expansion and settlement of blessed families centered upon exemplary men and women.

2. Why "Creating the Environment" Must Come before "Planting Trees"

Then how, in this era of the firm settlement of Cheon Il Guk, are we to expand and establish blessed families? True Parents have spoken to us about a remarkable paradigm shift.

"We must not be flowers grown in a greenhouse. We must become pioneers who, like wild grass growing in the meadows amid wind and rain, can rise again on our own no matter what trials may come." (Cheon Seong Gyeong)



True Parents emphasized the resilient vitality of wild grass that takes root even in barren fields. Just like the broadleaf plantain that is trampled by passersby and crushed beneath wheels, yet rises again the next day with its leaves spread wide, we need a faith that, the more it is trampled down, sinks its roots even deeper and extends further.

Yet we must go one step further.

Even wild grasses ultimately cultivate barren ground. Through becoming living entities themselves, they transform a desolate wilderness into an area teeming with life. Herein lies the providential secret of "creating the environment" that blessed families must inherit.



In the past, we placed great emphasis on witnessing and numerical growth, concentrating on the "planting" of seeds (a new generation) and new saplings (new members). Yet no matter how excellent the seed or sapling may be, it cannot properly take root in a barren, desert-like environment. This is the harsh reality we face today on the front lines of witnessing.

The path we must now walk in this era of the firm settlement of Cheon Il Guk does not end with simply planting seeds and saplings. Once the living entity takes root and a forest begins to grow, we must then nurture and sustain the environment for that forest. When a forest thrives, the trees share their lives with one another and then flourish naturally themselves. Upon this lush foundation of life, that forest expands broadly and deeply.

3. The Settlement of Generations through the "Knots" on Bamboo Stems

The expansion of the Cheon Il Guk community of faith is not achieved through disorderly numerical growth, but through a process of "growth and nodes [the knots that divide a bamboo stem into segments]."



True Parents illustrated this point through the metaphor of bamboo:

They must prevail over each obstacle one by one, as a growing bamboo tree forms each knot, one by one. If they cannot do this they will fall down." (Cheon Seong Gyeong, p. 363)

The reason bamboo can withstand fierce winds and grow straight to a height of dozens of meters is because, at every stage of growth, it forms a strong "knot" or node. Without these joints, bamboo stems would snap instantly in a violent storm.

Looking back, the many proclamations True Father made throughout his life were not merely events, but providential acts that established sacred historical "knots" so that the providence would not break while weathering the storms of history. At the completion of each providential stage, True Father sealed it through a proclamation ceremony, thereby creating a firm providential "knot" upon which the next stage could unfold.

Yet the present time of the firm settlement of Cheon Il Guk has moved beyond the age of proclamation into the age of substantial realization.

The place where True Father painstakingly drew the roadmap for Cheon Il Guk was nothing more than a barren wilderness. The responsibility of cultivating that desolate wilderness and transforming it into fertile soil overflowing with life therefore belongs entirely to us who are alive today. This is the mission and responsibility entrusted to our generation.

Upon the fertile ground we cultivate with our devoted efforts, the seeds and saplings of a new generation will grow into the lush forest of Cheon Il Guk. And in this age of substantial realization, the most decisive "knot" that our blessed families should establish is the continuity of generations within the blessed family itself.

The faith and growth of the first generation become firmly established only through the "knot" of the second generation. In turn, the growth of the second generation continues through the knot of the third generation, extending on to the fourth, fifth, and sixth generations in the future. If the first generation is unable to create the knots of faith and heart with the second generation, then the life of faith and spiritual growth that the first generation devoted its entire life to building will end there.

4. We Must Become the Wise Farmers of Cheon Il Guk

Jesus long ago conveyed to us much heavenly wisdom by likening us to farmers and seeds. We who live today must become the wise farmers of Cheon Il Guk.



A wise farmer never blames the seeds or the trees. When trees in an orchard fail to grow properly or suffer from disease and pests, it is not the fault of the trees. Likewise, when a seed falls to the ground but fails to sprout, it is not the fault of the seed.

To care for the trees and enrich the soil so that they may blossom, bear fruit, and reproduce on their own and to prepare the environment where seeds can safely take root in the earth - these responsibilities belong entirely to the farmer.

We must never forget that the earnest vision Heaven sought to realize on this earth began with the family, and that this providential will has been handed down through Adam and Eve, through Jesus, and through True Parents, finally reaching our blessed families in the present time.

Therefore, let us make our families and our church communities into fertile soil where children and new members can breathe, grow, and flourish. Cultivating the environment well is the responsibility of the wise farmer.



The World Mission Headquarters wishes to continue walking together with you as we cultivate the abundant and flourishing forest of Cheon Il Guk, where the original vision of our Heavenly Parent is fully realized. Thank you for listening.