

FFWPU Europe and the Middle East: Song Yong cheon: Trials as Springboard for Growth and Victory

Knut Holdhus
August 31, 2025



Dr. Song Yong-cheon delivering his message in Gapyeong, South Korea August 29, 2025

In message 29th August, new leader of Family Federation's South Korean branch emphasizes overcoming trials with faith, transparency, and unity



Dr. Song Yong-cheon delivering his message in [Gapyeong](#), South Korea August 29, 2025

A speech delivered August 29, 2025 by Dr. Song Yong-cheon (송용천), appointed as President of the [Family Federation](#) in South Korea on 26th August. The occasion was a meeting for leaders and members gathered in [Gapyeong](#), South Korea. Slightly edited unofficial translation of the original Korean.

See also [New Head of Federation in Korea: Song Yong-cheon](#)

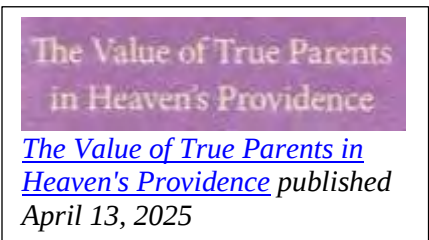
Beloved and respected blessed families, greetings to you all. With a heart of filial devotion toward Heaven, I sincerely pray that great grace and blessings from our Heavenly Parent will be with you, your families, and your churches [...].

Recently, according to [providential](#) changes, the mission of Cheonmu-won [the central administration of [FFWPU](#)] has concluded, and the organizational structure has been reformed with

three branches: The World Mission Headquarters, the Central Administration, and the Future Talent Institute.

On 26th August, I was inaugurated as President of the [Family Federation](#) in the "Heavenly Korea". [See editor's note 1 below]

I intend to fulfill my responsibilities as President [...] based on three standards.

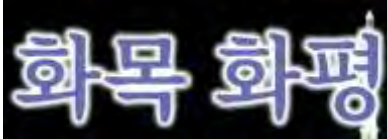


First, centering on [True Parents](#), all members in the "Heavenly Korea" [See editor's note 1 below] must be renewed and united. In this regrettable situation where the [church](#) has suffered both spiritually and physically, we must reform the church and, centered on the [True Parents](#), overcome any challenge and circumstance with one heart and one mind.

Second, through education about the Champumo-ron (Literally: Discourse on True Parents, published in English as [The Value of True Parents in Heaven's Providence](#)) and the Great Epic History of the Chosen Han People of Korea, I hope to expand the status and value of

[True Parents](#) throughout the "Heavenly Korea" [See editor's note 1 below].

These teachings are Heaven's gift and blessing to us. If the [The Value of True Parents in Heaven's Providence](#) is at the center, and the Great Epic History of the Chosen Han People of Korea is spread, then like warp and weft threads, the thought of [True Parents](#) will be tightly woven into the history, culture, and faith of Korea. A heavenly culture will take root in our daily lives.



Two words emphasized by President Song in his speech August 29, 2025: Hwamok (화목 - harmony in relationships) and hwapyeong (화평 - a deeper, spiritual peace)

Third, leaders and members of the "Heavenly Korea" [See editor's note 1 below] must, centered on the [True Parents](#), live in harmony within our relationships (화목) and a deeper, spiritual peace (화평) to welcome a new era.

When our community is harmonious and peaceful in that way, the providence accelerates.

When we practice leadership that prioritizes responsibility over authority, service over command, and community over individualism, the culture of heart and spirit in which Heaven dwells will firmly take root.

With these three points - unity centered on [True Parents](#), education in the [The Value of True Parents in Heaven's Providence](#), and harmony within relationships (화목) and a deeper, spiritual peace (화평) - the [Family Federation](#) of the "Heavenly Korea" [See editor's note 1 below] will unite with pastors, public officials, and [blessed](#) families nationwide to pioneer the future of [Cheonil-guk](#) (the [Kingdom of Heaven](#)).

If the path becomes blocked, we will open the gates of Heaven through fervent prayer and devotional offering. With [God](#)'s word we will create the path, with harmony in our relationships (화목) we will build the bridge, and together we will advance toward a "Heavenly Korea" [See editor's note 1 below] where there is a deeper, spiritual peace (화평).

"Brothers and sisters", if you agree, please cry out loudly before Heaven:

Aju! Aju! [See editor's note 2 below]

Beloved [blessed](#) families, today we stand in a wilderness swept by storms. Confusion and anxiety shake our hearts, misunderstandings and distrust cloud our minds. Yet Heaven's [providence](#) is mysterious. The [providence](#) has always advanced through hardship and trial toward even greater blessing.



[Hak Ja Han](#), Holy Mother Han, at a meeting in [Gapyeong](#), South Korea

Our [True Mother](#) has said that this course is like labor pains before the birth of a precious child. After heavy rains, the ground becomes firmer; the purest steel is forged in the hottest fire. I believe this present crisis is a providential opportunity for us to stand anew before Heaven, transparent and pure, without a single blemish.

For the [Family Federation](#) of a "Heavenly Korea" [See editor's note 1 below], this will surely be a chance to be rebuilt on a firm and proper foundation.

Through this crisis and trial, our hearts will unite more deeply with our most holy [True Mother](#), and we will leap forward into becoming a brighter, more mature, and healthier [Family Federation](#) than before.

As I assume the presidency of the [Family Federation](#) of a "Heavenly Korea" [See editor's note 1 below], I wish to share three directions for overcoming the crisis and achieving a new leap forward.

First, the [Federation](#) will firmly respond to unjust attacks.

Deviations and lies from a few individuals are being reported through the media as if they were truth. Despite our best efforts to clarify, criticism and attacks continue. At such a time, the most important thing is to strengthen our faith all the more. We will protect members and public officials to the very end, minimizing their difficulties, and respond firmly to unjust attacks. As President of the [Family Federation](#) of a "Heavenly Korea" [See editor's note 1 below], I will surely overcome this difficult situation.

Second, I will devote all my efforts to healing the emotional turmoil and wounds of our members. The

key to overcoming crisis is gathering scattered hearts and stopping internal agitation. For this, I will begin sincere communication. By visiting churches quickly, I will share the [Federation](#)'s vision and principles of transparency. I will also establish communication channels to listen to members' questions and opinions.

Third, I promise church reform and transparent financial management. Here, I solemnly vow that the [Federation](#) will take the lead in exemplary and transparent financial practices. Until now, lobbying politicians or improper requests have been strictly prohibited, but because of the deviations of a few, the entirety of the [Family Federation](#) of a "Heavenly Korea" [See editor's note 1 below] faces great difficulty. From now on, if any pastor or public official is found lobbying politically or making improper requests, they will be dealt with strictly. We will also promptly establish regulations to eradicate such behavior.

Furthermore, to manage the [Federation](#)'s finances fairly and transparently, we will create a transparent system by consulting experts and collecting the opinions of members.

Beloved and respected families, the road before us is clear:

First, firmly respond to unjust attacks.

Second, stabilize the [church](#) through trust.

Third, reform and improve [church](#) culture.

When we establish these three pillars with our faith and sincere devotion, we will build an unshakable [church](#) that withstands any storm. Following the hopeful direction that [True Mother](#) has taught us, let us move forward with tears and prayer. United with the World Mission Headquarters, the Central Administration, and the Future Talent Institute, let us restore the honor of [blessed](#) families and rebuild the pride of our members.

Beloved families, will you join together?

Let us unite with [True Mother](#) in absolute oneness, using today's trials and suffering as a springboard for growth and victory. The [True Parents](#) have said:

"There is nothing that cannot be accomplished with absolute devotion."

They also said:

"When we become one, our dreams will surely be fulfilled."

[...] Let us once again overcome our crisis and take a new leap forward. I ask you all to join me in prayer.

Thank you.

See also [New Head of Federation in Korea: Song Yong-cheon](#)

[Editor's note 1: The expression 신한국 (神韓國 - a heavenly Korea) contains the character 神 (shin), which means divine, spiritual, heavenly, godly. It is here used in the sense that Korea one day will become a heavenly or godly world resembling [God's ideal of creation](#), a [Kingdom of Heaven](#) on earth. Sometimes the alternative 신통일한국 (神統一韓國 - shintongil hanguk - a heavenly unified Korea) is used. Both expressions are spoken in the belief that the process leading to a divine Korea has already begun. 神 (shin) is also used in front of the name of other countries or even continents to denote that those nations or continents will become a [Kingdom of Heaven](#) in the future.]

[Editor's note 2: "Aju" (아주!) is mainly a new prayer conclusion. It is used instead of "Amen". The expression was coined by Rev. [Sun Myung Moon](#) and Dr. [Hak Ja Han](#) in 2006. "Aju" replaced the traditional "Amen" to signify not just affirmation of [God's](#) power, but a pledge to fulfill [God's](#) will through one's own responsibility - a move away from simply asking [God](#) to act, toward actively committing oneself to act.]

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New Head Of Federation In Korea: Song Yong-Cheon

- August 30, 2025
- Knut Holdhus



Dr. Song Yong-cheon takes office as head of Family Federation's South Korean branch

See also [Trials as Springboard for Growth and Victory](#)

On 27th August, the South Korean daily newspaper [Segye Ilbo](#) published a report under the headline: “*Song Yong-cheon (송용천) Inaugurated as the 21st President of the Korean Branch of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification*”. Other media outlets as well covered the event.



From 2023 to 2025, Song served as International President of the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#) (widely known as the “[Family Federation](#)”). He has now formally taken office as president of the [organization](#)'s Korean branch.

In his inaugural address, Dr. Song reflected on the difficult

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circumstances facing the [movement](#) and emphasized the profound weight of his new responsibilities. He remarked:

“In the midst of an unprecedented ordeal where the foundation of faith and life is shaken to its roots, I feel an infinite sense of responsibility in taking on this grave mission.”

The news agency News 1 reports that he went on to say,



“At this very moment – the golden age of the [providence](#) – it is our mission to widely proclaim the stature and value of [True Mother Han](#) and to realize the vision of one family under [God](#) and a peaceful world. Let us open the way to the future together as one – with pastors nationwide, [providential](#) institutions, public officials, and blessed families.”

According to the [Segye Ilbo](#), President Song also outlined three primary directions that he intends to pursue in order to address current challenges and guide the [Family Federation](#) toward renewal and growth:

1. Establishing crisis response,
2. Healing the wounds within the community of heart,
3. Improving organizational culture.

Song Yong-cheon brings with him decades of experience in both domestic and international leadership. A graduate of Kookmin University, he later received an honorary doctorate in theology from the *Unification Theological Seminary* (UTS) in the United States. His career began as a missionary abroad, after which he went on to hold major posts as continental director of the [Family Federation](#) in Oceania, Europe (2003-2013), and Japan (2013-2018). He also previously served as chairman of the *Sunhak Educational Foundation* (2018-2023), where he played a significant role in advancing educational initiatives aligned with the movement's mission.

Now, stepping into his role as president of the Korean branch, Song faces the task of guiding the [Family Federation](#) through a period of testing and transition. With his experience and vision, he expressed his commitment to lead the [organization](#) into a new chapter of resilience, unity, and forward progress.



From the inauguration of Song Yong-cheon (송용천) as President of the Korean branch of the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#), 27th August 2025. Photo: [FFWPU](#)

The [Segye Ilbo](#) writes that the inauguration ceremony was held at the [Family Federation](#)'s headquarters auditorium in Yongsan-gu, Seoul, and gathered an audience of more than 300 people. Among the distinguished attendees were Moon Yeon-ah (문연아), Chairwoman of the *Sunhak Educational Foundation*; Moon Hoon-sook (문훈숙), Chairwoman of the *Hyojeong Cultural Foundation*; [Doo Seung-yeon](#) (두승연), Director of the *World Mission Headquarters*; Do Hyun-seob (도현섭), Director of the *Future Leaders Training Institute*; Lee Gi-seong (이기성), Director of *Cheonshimwon*; and Jo Man-woong (조만웅), Chairman of the *Senior Pastors' Association*. In addition, pastors representing [Family Federation](#) congregations from across the country participated in the event.

See also [Trials as Springboard for Growth and Victory](#)

Text: Knut Holdhus, editor

Featured image above: Song Yong-cheon (송용천), President of the Korean branch of the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#), speaking 27th August 2025. Photo: [FFWPU](#)

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