

VISION 2020

Islamic teaching consistent with 'One Family Under God'

Lord Ahmed, first Muslim member of Britain's House of Lords, speaks in 3 cities



Earlier this year in Paris, France, the office of a weekly newspaper, Charlie Hebdo which had published a satirical cartoon of Islam's Prophet Muhammad, was attacked by radical terrorists. And in Syria, two Japanese men were taken hostage and executed by another radical group, with their brutal images aired via internet.

As the problems of such radical organizations as ISIL ('Islamic State') grew more serious worldwide, demands for measures against terrorism as well as for better understandings among different cultures and religions are rising.

Lord Nazir Ahmed, who is the first Muslim to become a member of Britain's House of Lords, spoke in three Japanese cities, asserting that the religion of Islam teaches not to kill an innocent person, even in a war situation.

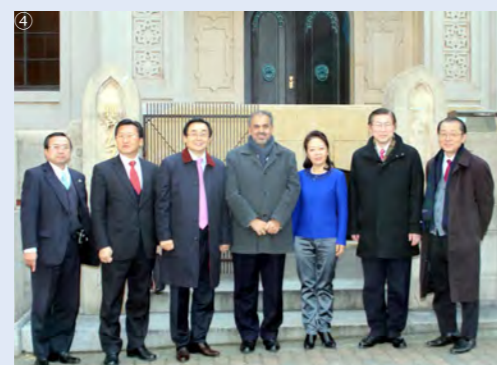
He stressed that the atrocities committed by ISIL had nothing to do with the Islamic faith or its teaching. He said that Japanese people who cherish the value of harmony have a national capacity to initiate mediation between countries or peoples in conflict.

Lord Ahmed came across with the Universal Peace Federation while Rev. Yong Cheon Song, now Chairman of its Japan Region, had been engaged in its European Region with a base in Britain in promoting reconciliation and cooperation among different races and religions.

Lord Ahmed was born in Pakistan and moved with his family to England when he was 11 years old. He became a local councilor of the Labor Party in 1990, then appointed to the House of Lords in 1998 on the recommendation of then Prime Minister Tony Blair. As founder of the British Muslim Councilors' Forum, he leads activities to enhance mutual understanding between the British society and the Islamic world.

① A question from a participant of Japan-Europe Leadership Forum (February. 16, Tokyo)
 ② Chairman Song of UPF Japan Region
 ③ Lord Nazir Ahmed
 ④ President Eiji Tokuno of UPF-Japan
 ⑤ Japan-Europe Leadership Forum (Feb. 16, Tokyo)

In Kobe



① Participants of Japan-Europe Special Seminar in Kobe ② Lord Ahmed speaks at Japan-Europe Special Seminar in Kobe (Feb. 14) ③ Lord Ahmed shakes hand with people at Kobe Mosque ④ Lord Ahmed visits Kobe Mosque ⑤ Local members welcome Lord Ahmed at Kobe Station

Arriving in Tokyo in the evening of February 13th, Lord Ahmed moved to Kobe City the following morning. In Kobe, he first visited the Kobe Mosque and offered prayer together with the local Muslims. The Kobe Mosque is the oldest mosque in Japan built in 1935. It survived the Great Hanshin Awaji Earthquake in January 1995, serving as an evacuation center for local residents.

Japan-Europe Special Forum was organized jointly by the Kansai Council of Ambassadors for Peace, UPF Japan etc. in the afternoon of February 14th. Its 300 participants included several members of the Diet (Japan's national parliament), municipality assembly members, leaders of religion, academics, business as well as Korean residents.

President Eiji Tokuno, President of UPF-Japan, addressed an opening remark: "The ISIL is startling the world, but Islam originally aims for peace. Today's event is very significant in terms of understanding the essence of Islam."

Chairman Song introduced Lord Ahmed by saying: "Appreciating UPF's philosophy for peace, Lord Ahmed has contributed to our peace project in the Middle East, together with other politicians and religious leaders in the United Kingdom. Following the incident of ISIL taking Japanese hostages, his visit to Japan is timely. We will gain insights through his lecture on how Japan can contribute to world peace."

Then, Lord Ahmed spoke on 'Japan's roles for peace in the Middle East Peace – a European perspective.' At the outset, he explained how he met with UPF's founders, Rev. Sun Myung Moon and Mrs. Hak Ja Han Moon. He testified that he was inspired by the founder's idea of reforming the United Nations through the establishment of an inter-religious council within the UN system. He is conducting activities to promote dialogue among religions.

He emphasized that Islam teaches us not to kill an innocent person, even in a war situation. He explained that God must be common and the same among different religions including Islam which was delivered by Prophet Muhammad. The atrocities committed by the ISIL have nothing to do with the religion of Islam.

Nonetheless, young people are so fed up with the real politics that some of them may be inclined towards radical groups who claim their justice and practice violent acts.

Following the seminar, participants commented: "I realized the ISIL's seriousness problem. It was very meaningful to hear suggestions for a solution from an angle which we would not normally hear in Japan." "I could understand well about UPF which is developing global activities. I was strongly convinced to help promote the movement more boldly, together with the Ambassadors for Peace of the world."

In Fukuoka



Chairman Song of UPF Japan Region making welcome remark



Lord Ahmed speaking in Fukuoka (Feb. 15)

① Japan-Europe Special Forum held in Fukuoka
② Children of Fukuoka Sunhak Chorus give a charming performance
③ Lord Ahmed visits Dazaifu Tenman-gu Shrine in Fukuoka



In Fukuoka, the Japan-Europe Special Forum was jointly organized by the Fukuoka Prefectural Council of Ambassadors for Peace, UPF-Japan etc. in the morning of February 15th. About 500 participants including its prefectural assembly members, academics and a Buddhist temple master attended.

Mr. Koichi Fukada, former professor of the University of Occupational & Environmental Health and Chairman of the Fukuoka Prefectural Council for Ambassadors for Peace, gave an opening remark on behalf of the organizers.

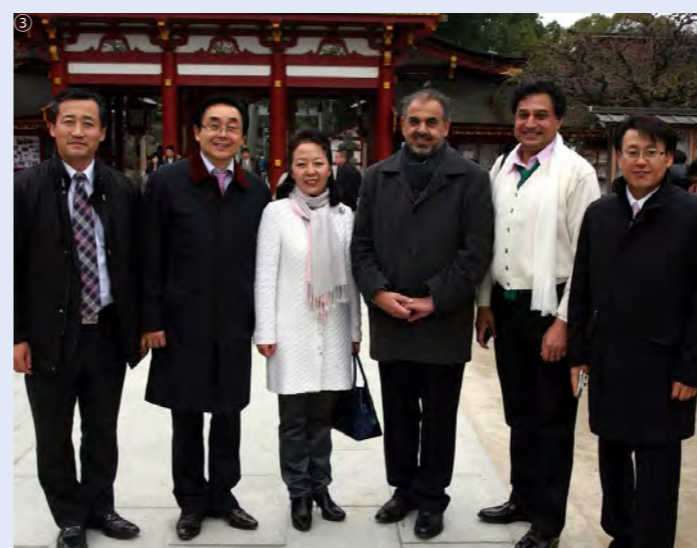
Chairman Song of UPF Japan Region said: "Lord Ahmed has been leading the endeavors to promote dialogue among different religions and races in collaboration with UPF in the United Kingdom. I believe this will be an opportunity for learning, as we pursue peace in a world where the problem of ISIL is serious."

In his lecture, Lord Ahmed referred to ISIL by saying that its extreme atrocities do not come out of the teachings of Islam, which is rather abused politically. He said that the original Islamic teaching is consistent with the UPF's ideal of One Family Under God. Islam is a religion which respects other religions and aims for peace.

Regarding Japan's global roles, Lord Ahmed expressed expectations for her contribution to world peace, saying that as Japan values harmony, the Japanese national character should be able to help mediation between countries and peoples in conflict.

Following his lecture, participants threw one question after another on the Middle East situations and Islam, indicating their great interest in the subject.

A Buddhist priest said, "Kobo Daishi Kukai (founder of the Buddhist Shingon School in 8th-century Japan) wished for eternal world peace. Through his lecture, I could learn the true meaning of Islam, understanding that it is a system of thought that can be shared."



In Tokyo



- ① Participants at Japan-Europe Special Forum in a Tokyo hotel
- ② Prof. Hayashi greets at Japan-Europe Leadership Forum
- ③ Lord Ahmed receives a flower bouquet
- ④ Lord Ahmed speaks at Japan-Europe Special Forum in Tokyo
- ⑤ UPF Japan Region Chairman Song's couple and UPF-Japan President Tokuno welcome Lord Ahmed
- ⑥ Participants at Lord Ahmed's lecture at a Tokyo hotel

In the afternoon of February 16th, the Japan-Europe Special Seminar was held in Tokyo by the Council of Ambassadors for Peace, UPF-Japan etc., with about 80 leading people in the fields of politics, academia, religion and diplomacy attending.

Representing the organizers, Mr. Masahisa Hayashi, professor emeritus of the Waseda University and director of the Institute for Peace Policies, gave an opening remark, expressing his expectations for the talk: "Countries around the world are seeking for effective countermeasures against the recent savage terrorist acts of ISIL. Against this backdrop, it is significant to welcome Lord Ahmed from the UK, who is well-versed in the Middle East affairs, in terms of understanding the substance of this problem and considering directions that Japan should take."

Next, Chairman Yong Cheon Song of the UPF Japan Region gave welcome remarks: "In his political activities, Lord Ahmed focuses on eliminating gaps caused, in particular, by races and religions. As UPF promotes inter-religious and inter-racial activities, we naturally developed mutual ties to work together."

Lord Ahmed's scope of activities is not confined to the UK or Europe. He is one of the Ambassadors for Peace who proactively promotes the Middle East Peace Initiative (MEPI). Lord Ahmed is one of the few individuals who are Muslims and appreciate the European perspectives. We will be able to gain many insights from his talk today."

At the outset, Lord Ahmed expressed his appreciation for the Japanese government, evaluating highly its contribution to peace in the Middle East on the three-pronged policies, namely; political dialogue, fostering trust and providing economic assistance for the Palestinian people.

With regards to the recent large-scale anti-government uprisings in the Arab countries, known as the Arab Spring, beginning in Tunisia late in 2010, he analyzed one of its causes was the frictions between the Sunni and Shiite sects of Islam.

He explained that discrimination between the two sects gave rise to economic gaps. Young people who suffer from poverty without jobs may be tempted to join the uprising, then radical movement, eventually leading to the ISIL.

Lord Ahmed said that the United Nations originally ought to have played the role of a mediator among conflicting countries, leading to reconciliation. However, he said, due to the strong influence of the permanent members of the Security Council, the UN is in a state of dysfunction. It is vital to reform the UN in order to produce, and implement, a balanced solution.

Following the lecture, participants raised questions on the terrorist attack on the French newspaper, Charlie Hebdo; or whether there is a possibility that the ISIL will develop cyber terrorism. Active discussions ensued.

One of the participants commented: "I attended a UPF meeting for the first time. I was moved to know that UPF is making a concrete approach to peace in the Middle East including the problem of the ISIL, which cannot be resolved by politics alone. I could take part in a meaningful discussion." (a member of the House of Representatives)

A university professor said, "It's regrettable that Japanese diplomats are, on the whole, not so well-versed in religious matters that their ability to deliver a message in this field is rather weak. It is important to send out information like this one, I believe."

In the evening of February 16th, the last lecture by Lord Ahmed during this Japan visit was held in a hotel of Tokyo with approximately 300 attendants including former Diet members, Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly members and university professors.

On behalf of the organizers, Prof. Toshio Miyazuka of the Yamanashi Gakuin University, opened the seminar.

Then, President Eiji Tokuno of UPF-Japan said the following: "Even during the last several days, serious terrorist incidents occurred; a radio station in Libya was occupied by the ISIL; a Jewish place of worship in Denmark was attacked. Considering the fact that Japan imports 88.3% of the oil it consumes from the Middle East, we can note that instability in that region will have a serious repercussion on Japan in terms of energy security. Today, we have an ideal opportunity to learn from Lord Ahmed about the essence of Islam and Middle East affairs, reflecting upon how to approach these issues as Ambassadors for Peace."

Next, Mrs. Hae Ok Lee, wife of the UPF Japan Region's Chairman Song, gave welcome remark: "We first met Lord Ahmed in the UK, developing



our friendship over the years. We have different faiths, but our desire for world peace is the same. I believe we have much to learn from Lord Ahmed, who is a devout Muslim and politician dedicated to building peace beyond language, culture or religion."

Lord Ahmed first appreciated the UPF, saying that he was inspired to know it had a proper view of marriage, advocating the building of solid families, and developing concrete projects to promote dialogue and understanding among religions, such as the Middle East Peace Initiative.

With regard to his faith in Islam, Lord Ahmed explained that the Koran advises us to "Create peace among brothers." He stressed that the essence of Islam is to mediate between brothers who dislike and fight one another, bringing peace to all, which is the duty of Islam. He said that Islam had no relation with the terrorist organizations like the ISIL, which continues atrocities and abuses religion for its political ends.

With regards to Japan, Lord Ahmed stated that Japan is well qualified to act for peace-making because it has no military or geopolitical interests or no ambition to rule other countries. Moreover, Japan has continuously given tremendous assistance to developing countries. He encouraged the participating Ambassadors for Peace, saying, such a country like Japan is worthy to be trusted by the world.

One of the participants said, "As Lord Ahmed spoke out of his heart, I could feel vividly and closely about the Middle East. This has given me an interest in the Middle East situation and Islam. I hope to study more about them." (a Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly member)

A press conference with Lord Ahmed in Tokyo

Major media organs reported

In the morning of February 16th, Lord Nazir Ahmed of Britain's House of Lords gave a press conference at the Japan National Press Club in Tokyo.

The conference was attended by about twenty reporters from major news media. It was emceed by Mr. Shigenari Kato, secretary general of UPF's Peace Diplomats Forum. Lord Ahmed first expressed his condolences for the two Japanese citizens who had been taken hostage and executed by ISIL ('Islamic State'), saying that Muslims around the world share the same sentiments.

Lord Ahmed then stressed that "Islam is not related to terrorism", criticizing such extremists as ISIL for abusing religion to impose their own rules.

With regard to satirizing the Prophet Muhammad in cartoons, he pointed out that freedom of expression should be recognized but certain balance was needed. He explained that Prophet Muhammad is so important that ridiculing the Prophet is worse than doing so to his own mother. He made an issue of whether recognizing freedom of press should be extended to recognizing freedom to insult.

Lord Ahmed's remarks were published by several major news services, dailies and TV stations.

- ① Lord Ahmed at the press conference (Feb. 16, Tokyo)
- ② Journalists at the press conference



Many parishes achieved Blessing Ceremonies for 430 Couples

In the month of February, 2015 Cosmic Blessing Ceremonies for Previously-Married Couples by True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind continued to be held throughout Japan. One parish after another reported their achievements of blessing up to 430 couples. Here are reports from parishes of Mie, Toyama, Ehime, Ishikawa, Fukui as well as some reflections of participants.

【Mie Parish】



① President Tokuno gives a message ② President and Mrs. Tokuno give Holy Blessing Declaration ③ TP Sisters Choir liven up the celebration ④ Participants of Mie Parish Blessing Ceremony (Feb. 15)

Rejoicing in the meaning of Blessing

On February 15th, a Blessing Ceremony was held at a hotel in Suzuka City, Mie Prefecture, officiated by President and Mrs. Tokuno of the Unification Church of Japan. 12 previously-married couples and 31 single Blessing couples, totaling 43 couples, participated.

Earlier, the Mie Parish had held two Blessing Ceremonies since the first anniversary of Foundation Day held in February 2014. As of last December, 158 couples had been blessed. Thus, this time, they planned to hold a Blessing ceremony to exceed 430. By the day before the ceremony, they could reach their goal. Including those who were blessed on February 15th, the number went beyond their goal.

In the earlier part of the ceremony, a 12-minute lecture was given on the merits of Blessing. Many heard this lecture for the first time, responding very well with big nods as they listened attentively.

In the latter part of the ceremony, its officiator President Tokuno explained about the meaning of Blessing, giving easy-to-understand examples. As he said, for example, Blessing is 'a passport to Heaven', while 'visa is Heaven's Law Article 3', participants listened with deep interest.

The ceremony proceeded solemnly with the Holy Wine Ceremony and the Holy Water Ceremony. In the benediction, President Tokuno reported to Heaven about the achievements of Mie Parish with 430 Couples. Parish Leader Yunkon Kim led the Eok Mansei to conclude the ceremony with joyous feelings.

In the third part of a celebrating party, Suzuka Church Choir called TP Sisters sang Song of Joy and If You Love Me. This was followed by a testimony of a participant in

Blessing, touching hearts of some to tears.

Mrs. Hisae Tokuno gave words of blessing, saying, "We hope that Mie Prefecture will become the happiest prefecture in Japan!" President Tokuno followed with 'secrets to become a close couple'. The audience appreciated his humorous advices such as: "Couples should first greet each other. Next, they should accept everything about each other."

In closing, President and Mrs. Tokuno went around each table and presented all the blessed couples with commemorative gifts.

Among the participants was a couple whose daughter is a church member in Kyushu, one of four main islands situated in the south west of Tokyo. When a member of Suzuka Church met with them eight years before and gave them a copy of the autobiography two years ago, he discovered that their daughter was a church member.

As this member invited them to the Blessing Ceremony, the mother tearfully began to share her pains and sorrow when her daughter started to dedicate herself to the church. Then she declined the invitation, saying, "We are too old to think of attending this."

However, when their daughter heard about this, she made a determination and returned to Suzuka on the eve of the Blessing Ceremony. In that evening at her parents' home, she tearfully apologized to them for the pains and sorrow she had caused. Thus, all of them could finally open their hearts to each other after several decades.

On the following day, the parents were able to take part in Blessing. Their daughter watched them with tears until the end. The parents were so moved by the ceremony that they left the hall with smiles. This was a testimony that makes us realize that the Blessing Ceremony can resolve grudges between parents and child.

【Toyama Parish】



① Participants of Blessing Ceremony in Toyama (February 21)
② President and Mrs. Tokuno give Holy Blessing Declaration
③ President and Mrs. Tokuno give the benediction

The start of an eternal conjugal relationship

On February 21st, under beautiful skies clearly showing up the Tateyama Mountain Range, the Toyama Parish held a Blessing Ceremony at the Toyama Church Grand Sanctuary in Toyama City, welcoming President and Mrs. Eiji Tokuno of the Unification Church of Japan as its officiators.

Last December 15th, Chairman Yong Cheon Song of Japan's Blessed Families Federation visited Takaoka Church and Tonami Church. In the evening, a starting ceremony for the entire parish for Victory of Heavenly Tribal Messiahship was held. Moving towards the second anniversary of Foundation Day, a 70-day course to bring 430 blessed families was begun.

Each church carried out such activities as explaining about the single Blessing. They held Blessing Panel Exhibitions or Couples' Seminars as part of the Heavenly Tribal Messiah activities. As they organized Blessing ceremonies from time to time, by February 2nd the parish as a whole was able to bring 13 previously-married couples and 430 single-blessed couples. Thus, for this

Blessing, 230 single-blessed couples gathered, while 8 previously-married couples took part.

In the ceremony, President Tokuno explained about the significance and values of the ceremony as follows:

"This Blessing Ceremony is your passport to Heaven. In order to settle in Heaven, you will need a visa. This is Heaven's Law, Article 3. First, you must love your spouse from the bottom of your heart, not committing a mistake of love. Next you should build a relationship of trust based on sincerity, kindness, truth and love. The third is not to create problems of money, especially not to divert public funds. Please keep these laws and complete your character and build a happy family by living for the sake of others."

The ceremony continued with the Holy Water Ceremony, Blessing Vows, benediction, exchange of rings, the declaration of the Holy Blessing by the officiators, and closed with Eok Mansei.

A joyful luncheon followed together with President and Mrs. Tokuno, celebrating the success in the Blessing Ceremony.

【Reflections of Participants】

- My guest took part with his wife. He had run a barber shop for a long time and worked for the community. He felt that True Parents could embrace people of all religions to become one. During the ceremony, he looked at his wife in a wedding dress many times. (Female, 40's)
- When I first joined the Unification Church, my parents opposed me and things were in an uproar at one time. My father passed away and we live with my mother. She says to me, "You are the happiest, being married to a good husband". She started studying at the Education Center and took part in

- the Blessing Ceremony. Mother was all smiles, as she told me, "Rev. Moon's teaching was filial piety all along." (Female, 40's)
- My son's couple invited us to the Blessing Ceremony. We may not comprehend its deeper meaning, but it was a very solemn ceremony and we are happy to be present. (a couple in their 80s)
- I attended a Blessing Panel Exhibition. I was so moved by one part of the Blessing video that spoke about an eternal relationship between husband and wife that we decided to attend. We would like to continue studying this. (a couple in their 60s)

[Ehime Parish]



① Participants of Blessing Ceremony in Ehime parish ② Chairman Song delivered a message ③ Chairman Song and his wife and a representative couple blew out candles ④ Chairman Song conducted the Affirmation of Vows

Renewed determination to become True Couples and True Families

On February 22nd, the Ehime parish conducted a grand Blessing Ceremony in Matsuyama Church with Chairman Yong Cheon Song of Japan's Blessed Families Federation and his wife Mrs. Hae Ok Lee acting as its officiators.

305 couples from four churches within the Ehime parish filled seats of the first and second floors. Including the participants of this Blessing Ceremony, the number of families blessed in the 2nd year of Cheon Il Guk has now reached 458.

As the Blessing Ceremony was held at a church, the members prepared the ceremony by decorating its interior in order to please the participants. Upon arriving at the Matsuyama Church, Chairman Song's wife Mrs. Lee acclaimed, "I can feel the members' devotion. I feel like I am back in my hometown!" It was a great blessing for the members to welcome Chairman Song and Mrs. Lee to

the ceremony.

In the Blessing Ceremony which started from 1:30 pm, the officiator Chairman Song emphasized, "Japan is now at a crisis with low birth rate and family breakdown. The Marriage Blessing of True Love is our only hope for the future. The Blessing Movement is the way to save Japan!"

Many participants shed tears, making new determination to become true couples and true families. After the ceremony, Chairman Song and Mrs. Lee appreciated the ceremony and said, "The Blessing Ceremony was conducted in a solemn atmosphere. It was a wonderful ceremony filled with sincerity and devotion."

One of the guests, an important local figure, who gave a congratulatory remark, spoke candidly about his familial circumstance and touched the participants' hearts. In the entertainment, the Matsuyama Church Choir performed a festive song. The venue reached a climax with entertainments by the choir and a local pops unit.

[Participants' Comments]

My husband talked about True Father's autobiography 'As a Peace-loving Global Citizen' before heading for the ceremony. But I was nervous until the day before, staying awake until 3 o'clock in the morning. I am now convinced that my husband and I will restore our original image. (Matsuyama Church member Mrs. U)

I was nervous at first, but the bright and warm atmosphere of the hall gradually relieved my tension. I could enjoy the ceremony. Chairman Song's message deeply pierced my heart, making me rethink the whole concept of a family. From now on, I would like to cherish my family, nurture love and build a happy family. (Imabari Church member I)

[Ishikawa & Fukui Parishes]



① President and Mrs. Tokuno officiated Blessing Ceremony of Ishikawa and Fukui parishes. ② President and Mrs. Tokuno sprinkled Holy Water on the newly-blessed ③ A young couple attending Holy Wine Ceremony

Blessing Ceremony is the first step to an Ideal Family

On February 22nd in a venue in Ishikawa prefecture, a Blessing Ceremony was hosted by the Ishikawa and Fukui parishes. President of Unification Church Japan, Rev. Eiji Tokuno and Mrs. Hisae Tokuno acted as the officiators for a total of 153 couples consisting of 10 previously-married couples and 143 spirit and physical world Blessed couples.

In the Region 7, each parish has made efforts in line with the regional objective to bless 430 couples by the second anniversary of the Cheon Il Guk Foundation Day. As a result, 547 couples have been blessed in Ishikawa parish while 459 couples blessed in Fukui parish within one year.

Notably, the number of couples blessed in the course of the year in the Kanazawa Church of the Ishikawa parish reached 446 this day.

In his address, President Tokuno emphasized the value of Blessing. "There are three moments when one becomes the main character of one's life, namely; birth, marriage and death. Among them, marriage is a turning point in life. Today's Blessing Ceremony is a decisive moment for you to make a vow to love your spouse eternally centering on God", he said. He then explained the meaning and value of Blessing in a plain terms.

The ceremony proceeded with the marriage proclamation, floral tribute by a representative couple, a guest's congratulatory address and the choir of the Kanazawa Church "Pola Star Kanazawa" singing 'Shin-Ai (眞愛: True Love)' as a song of celebration. The ceremony was concluded with cheers of Eok-manse led by the emcee.

At the luncheon banquet, two newly blessed couples from Ishikawa and Fukui expressed their sentiments. The participants felt cleansed by watching the heart-warming fresh couples.

Then, Mrs. Hisae Tokuno gave a congratulatory remark: "Today's Blessing Ceremony is your first step to become an ideal family. Through the ceremony, a husband and wife could thank each other and create conjugal and family bonds not only in the physical world but also in the spirit world for eternity".

Then, President Tokuno provided the participants with some tips on a harmonious married life with humor: "What is most important for a husband and wife is communication (dialogue). The second important thing is not to ask too much of your spouse and accept him/her for what they are. It is important for both the husband and the wife to take the approach that your spouse will change if you change.

[Participants' Comments]

- My wife became brighter after meeting the Unification Church. I hope we could live more harmoniously from now on. Thank you for telling us the importance of conjugal love. (Previously-married couple/ husband)
- President Tokuno's message was wonderful and easy to understand. The ceremony was filled with solemnity, while atmosphere of the luncheon banquet was cheerful and happy. What pleased me most was that my husband said it was a wonderful ceremony. (Previously-married couple/ wife)
- I didn't even know what was going on, but I ended up attending in a wonderful ceremony. I participated because I wanted to make my wife happy. (Previously-married couple/ husband)
- I felt the heart-warming atmosphere from the well-prepared stage and True Parents' picture watching over us. I feel that I must develop my love in the rest of my life with gratitude for being given the grace of being able to live with my husband even in the spirit world. (Previously-married couple/ wife)

Blessing Ceremonies held in Japan in February

No	Parish	Date	Note
1	Northwest Tokyo	February 7th	
2	Fukuoka	February 7th	
3	Iwate	February 8th	
4	Gunma	February 8th	
5	Kumamoto	February 8th	
6	East Shizuoka	February 11th	
7	Fukushima	February 15th	
8	Miyagi	February 15th	
9	South Aichi	February 15th	
10	North Aichi	February 15th	
11	Saga	February 15th	
12	Kagoshima	February 15th	
13	Mie	February 15th	
14	Toyama	February 21st	
15	Akita	February 22nd	
16	South Saitama	February 22nd	
17	Ishikawa	February 22nd	※Co-hosted by Ishikawa & Fukui parish
18	Fukui		
19	Gifu	February 22nd	
20	Ehime	February 22nd	
21	Oita	February 22nd	
22	Okinawa	February 22nd	
23	Hyogo	February 22nd	
24	Okayama	February 22nd	
25	Tottori	February 22nd	



True Word Cards were distributed to convey Heavenly Fortune (Feb. 17th)

[Region 1]



Hokkaido's joint choir North Hill Choir performed a holy song at a celebratory event (Feb. 17th)

About 300 people gathered at a festival held in Iwate (Feb. 22nd)



[Region 2]



A commemorative service was held in a hotel in Aomori city. (Feb. 22nd)



A commemorative service was held at Utsunomiya Church (Feb. 24th)

[Region 3]



Cutting of the celebration cake after the commemorative service in Tochigi Church (Feb. 22nd)

[Region 4]



More than 500 people gathered at the commemorative service at Nagoya Church (Feb. 22nd)

[Region 8]



A blessed wife played koto at a commemorative service in Toyota Church in East Aichi parish (February 22nd)



At a Japan-Korea exchange event hosted by Kanayama Church of the South Aichi parish (February 22nd)

[Region 7]



Gifu parish conducted Blessing Ceremony (Feb. 22nd)



Members gathered at a commemorative event held in Kaga Church of the Ishikawa parish (Feb. 24th)

Events celebrating True Parents' Birthday held throughout Japan

[Region 6]

Nearly 200 people gathered at the commemorative meeting in East Kanagawa parish (Feb. 17th)



Members of Banshu Church of the West Shizuoka parish enjoyed mochi (rice cake) pounding (Feb. 22nd)



Niigata parish director Dae Seop Shin and his wife served food in front of True Parents at the bowing ceremony (Feb. 22nd)



Rev. Misao Moriyama's commemorative lecture was organized in Tokyo (Feb. 22nd)

[Region 5]



Taito Church held a yunnori game after the commemorative service



About 1300 people gathered at the Global Youth Festival (GYF) in Osaka (Feb. 22nd)



Youths performed dances at the GYF (Feb. 22nd)

[Region 9]

A speech was delivered by Vice President of Unification Church Japan, Tomihiro Tanaka



The choir sang in chorus at a commemorative service in Tokushima parish (Feb. 22nd)



[Region 10]

A mochi (rice cake) pounding festival was held at Marugame Church in Kagawa (Feb. 22nd)



About 180 people gathered at the commemorative service in Hiroshima Church (Feb. 22nd)



[Region 11]

Members of the East Hiroshima parish marched through Fukuyama city and testified about True Parents (Feb. 22nd)



[Region 16]



The Okayama parish held a Blessing Ceremony with 60 new couples starting as Blessed Families (Feb. 22nd)



The Hyogo parish conducted a Blessing Ceremony in a hotel in Kobe city with about 700 participants including well-wishers (Feb. 22nd)



[Region 15]



There was a winter yellowtail disassembling performance at the celebratory event in Heijo Church in Nara (Feb. 22nd)

[Region 14]

Prize winners of the Happy Family Contest hosted by Funabashi Central Church in competitions of drawings, essays etc. (Feb. 22nd)



Various events such as Commemorative Service, Choir, Dance and Mochi Pounding conducted with Grateful Hearts to True Parents



[Region 12]

Sun Hak Choir of North Kyushu parish performed at the Yahata Church (Feb. 22nd)



Primary school children sang in chorus at a commemorative ceremony in Chiba Church (Feb. 22nd)



Cake cutting at the special gathering in Fukuoka Church (Feb. 24th)



Members gathered at a commemorative service in Kagoshima Church (Feb. 22nd)

[Region 13]



Primary school children performed a Korean play and dance at a festival held in Kumamoto parish (Feb. 22nd)



Let Us Testify about True Parents to 130 Million People of Japan!

Region 9: Gathering to Celebrate 50th Anniversary of the Holy Ground in Osaka



- ① Members to celebrate 50th anniversary of Osaka Holy Ground
- ② Rev. Masuda delivered a speech
- ③ Rev. Masuda and his wife received certificate of appreciation
- ④ Regional Director Joo made an address
- ⑤ Participants in a monitor room listened to the speech
- ⑥ Participants listening carefully to Rev. Masuda
- ⑦ Participants shed tears as they listened

On February 3rd from 10 am, Gathering to Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Holy Ground in Osaka was conducted at the Osaka Church, Osaka, assembling nearly 800 members of Region 9.

The gathering was opened by Kishiwada Church Choir with Song of the Garden and *Namida-no-Rekishi* (Tearful History), purportedly written in Osaka. Then, Association of Korean Wives in Region 9 enlivened atmosphere of the venue by singing True Father's favorite song *Gohyang Mujeong* and *Ulsan Arirang*.

Gyeongbae and Family Pledge were followed by a recorded prayer of True Father at a gathering in Tokyo on January 28th 1965 along with its subtitles on the screen. Many participants shed tears as they listened with rapt attention.

After a representative prayer, brief explanation was given on what had happened from June 1961 when Rev. Masaru Masuda (a 777-couples member) pioneered the mission in Osaka until February 3rd 1965, when True Father decided the Holy Ground in Osaka.

Then, awards were given to four senior members who had joined the Unification Movement before 1965; members who offered early-morning prayer at the Holy Ground for 23 years; and those who continued prayer for 1,000 days to receive the 50th anniversary.

Then, Regional Director Joo Jintae gave an address: "It has been 50 years since Rev. Masuda planted seeds of providence in Osaka. Today, many members of the 20 churches in five parishes serve True Parents of Heaven and

Earth, walking the path of establishing Cheon Il Guk". He humbly praised Rev. Masuda for his hard work.

Regional Director Joo has offered a morning prayer at the Holy Ground every day with his wife since he took office. He encouraged the Youth and Second Generation members by saying as follows:

"Today is a starting point of the next 50 years. Let us head for the 100th anniversary of the Holy Ground in Osaka!" He then emphasized, "True Parents have given us the title of Heavenly Tribal Messiah so that all the humanity acknowledge True Parents by the year 2020, which marks the 100th anniversary of True Father's birth. We must make efforts as Mother Nation so that the entire 130 million people in Japan will attend True Parents in the next five years."

Finally, Regional Director Joo said, "This morning, in offering my morning prayer, I asked for God's permission to distribute Holy Sand to our members so that they could declare their families as the holy land, fulfilling their responsibility as Heavenly Tribal Messiahs centering on the Family Church". He urged to move in full gear in the Heavenly Tribal Messiah movement.

Next, as the keynote speaker Rev. Masaru Masuda took the rostrum and delivered his commemorative speech. Rev. Masuda first explained how he was baptized as a Christian at the age of 15.

He said, "I was told that becoming a Christian is not about obtaining biblical knowledge but is to live as brothers and sisters centering on Christ's

Love. Yearning for such truth, I visited a church located in a field with muddy feet. Then, a lady whom I have never met before came to me with a pailful of water and said, "Let me wash your feet!", washing my feet with her bare hands. Can you imagine how impressed I was? A miracle occurred within my heart."

Then he testified on how he met Missionary Choe Bongchun in 1959, when the Unification Movement was based on *Yukeisha* (Shinjuku, Tokyo), where the first service of the Unification Church was held in Japan. He also gave testimony on True Parents' visit to Tokyo on January 28th 1965 as if it were yesterday.

"One of the female members asked True Father, 'Please tell us about Jesus!' At that moment, True Father lowered his eyes. In a hushed atmosphere, we heard sounds of water drop on the *tatami* floor. True Father was in tears. He rolled his eyes filled with tears up to the top of his head and said, "He was a miserable man!" Upon hearing this, I felt that True Father had spoken everything about Jesus. I held firm conviction that this man was the Second Advent of Christ." Rev. Masuda choked up with tears whenever he talked about True Father.

He introduced an episode of services in *Yukeisha* (July 1959 – April 1960). "Back then, when we offered service at *Yukeisha*, there were only seven participants. I had a dialogue with Missionary Choe which I still remember. I was in charge of preparing floor cushions for the participants. When I prepared seven cushions as there were seven the day before, Missionary Choe told me,

"You have prepared seven cushions because there were seven participants yesterday, Mr. Masuda. Why don't you have the heart to prepare eight? When will God's nation be established? Pity on you!"

These were the words he spoke to an immature youth like me. How long you have been in faith is not an important factor in God's providence. The moment one came to the church is his starting point headed for eternity", Masuda said, wiping his tears.

After the speech, Regional Director Joo awarded a certificate of appreciation to Rev. Masuda for building the cornerstone of mission within the Kinki region.

Then, small amount of Holy Sand from the Holy Ground of Osaka was distributed to all members of Region 9, who are Heavenly Tribal Messiahs. Everybody made a determination for the next 50 years to head for the 100th anniversary of the Holy Ground by connecting with the Holy Ground which has marked the 50th anniversary.

A luncheon banquet was held with church leaders and district leaders attending. It started with a toast by Mr. Shozaburo Sakaguchi who had joined the church in 1964. It was followed by remarks by the two members who had been awarded for their continuous participation in the Holy Ground Morning Prayer. Then, three district leaders gave testimonies. The event was concluded with powerful cheers of Eok-mansei led by East Osaka parish leader Shinji Matsukura.



Let's Expand Our Foundation Dramatically through Revolution of Conscience

200 participated in National Workshop for Education Officials of Seonghwa Youth and Students

Under the slogan of VISION 2020 Second Generation Education through Revolution of Conscience and Great Victory over Foundation of 100,000 Youth!, the National Workshop for Education Officials of Seonghwa Youth and Students was held at the Il-shin Education Center, Urayasu, Chiba, from February 17th to 20th.

This was the first workshop for education officials of youth and students since the Director of Youth and Students, Mr. Tomihiro Tanaka, took office of Vice President of Unification Church in Japan this January in response to God's ardent desire for Second Generation and youth.

The first half of the workshop from February 17th to 19th was held for directors of Seonghwa Youth Section, while the latter half from February 19th to 20th was for directors of Seonghwa Students Section. Nearly 200 education officials from all parts of Japan participated.

At the opening ceremony, Vice President Tanaka claimed that we must have 'crisis awareness' in order to rightly acknowledge the crisis inside and outside of Japan as well as within the Unification Church. We need to become an organization in which we can hold serious talks with young people, think about the future and transform our consciousness.

Vice President Tanaka explained about 'revolution of conscience', emphasizing the importance of becoming individuals who accept their 'voice of conscience' as something absolute. "Individuals who have gone through the revolution of conscience, absolutely obeying one's conscience, must embrace people. The Unification Church must become an organization that develops through individual connections and bonds", he said.

Next, based on the four key words of the Department for Youth and Students, namely, connection, mission, leadership as well as social and international contribution, the objectives of the Department for 2015 were announced.

Two newly-proposed approaches were: 'Initiative for the establishment of Seonghwa College Students Section' to accelerate education and mission for college students as well

as 'Empowerment of missions of youth with families (youth who have started out their families).'

Some explanation was given on the significance of establishing a foundation of 100,000 youth by 2020. Its roadmap was also presented at the end of the opening ceremony.

There were exchanges with CARP, presentation of Seonghwa Youth Section's objectives for 2015, activity reports on Cheon Il Guk missionaries and Unification Church Peace Service Volunteer Team (UPeace).

During the exchanges with CARP, chairman of CARP, Katsumichi Motoyama, commented on cooperation between the Department for Youth and Students and CARP. Then, the participants had exchanges according to CARP's regional blocks.

In presenting the Department's policy for 2015, Director of the Seonghwa Youth Section of the Headquarters, Kunihiko Ogawara, explained that the core goals of 2015 is 'Empowerment of individuals' based on the roadmap for 2020, presenting the three major policies: To enhance Divine Principle education, To enhance missionizing to youth and students, and To promote social and international contribution.

In the UPeace activity report, its presenter reported about the present situation of the affected areas and activities in Hiroshima where an earthquake caused major disasters last year. As a future direction, there was an explanation on the establishment of a national system where they can quickly respond to calls for service at times of disaster.

On the second day, activity case reports were made by six churches. Kochi Church reported on its educational approach to develop heart; Okinawa Church on its foundation education; Hachioji Church on its education to lead Second Generation to practice missionizing; Yokohama Church on its activity for the settlement of culture; Kosei Church on its home group activities; Kagoshima Church on its college students' group activity.

This was followed by section meetings centering on each presenters. The participants



Youth Section's 3 Great Objectives and Strategies for 2015
Central Goal: Enhancement of Individuals

- 1. Enhance Divine Principle Education**
 - 1) Train all members to be DP lecturers (Inherit Chiba 2-Day Workshop)
 - 2) Enhance education on and life of tithe
- 2. Enhance Youth & Students Missionary**
 - 1) Establish college students missionary structure (Students missionize students)
 - 2) Promote one-on-one missionary structure (Strengthen spiritual parent-child relationship)
- 3. Promote social & international contribution**
 - 1) Activities for problem resolution (Organization needed by colleges & society)
 - 2) YFWP & CARP partnership

Universal Educational Policy of the Seonghwa Students Section (2015~2020)
I. Live a Life of Conscience and Establish ID as God's Child

- 1) Institutional education on Love God, Love Humankind, Love the Nation
- 2) Joining the Seonghwa Students Club
- 3) Leadership development through STP Programs

II. Develop Fraternal Love and Practice Pure Love

- 1) Nurture community faith through Culture of Heart Activities
- 2) Pure Love Education based on fraternal relationships
- 3) Parents' Association Activities to cultivate a community of culture of heart

III. Improve Academic Ability & Capability and Set Career Options

- 1) Nurture Ability based on Faith
- 2) Set career options for one's divine vocation
- 3) Encourage youth to become a global citizen

- ① Regional Directors of youth and students education participated
- ② Vice President Tanaka gave a lecture
- ③ Katsumichi Motoyama, chairman of CARP
- ④ Kunihiko Ogawara, director of Headquarters' Seonghwa Youth Section
- ⑤ Yasuaki Ito, director of Headquarters' Seonghwa Students Section
- ⑥ Four key words
- ⑦ Youth section's 3 main objectives and strategies for 2015
- ⑧ Universal education policy of the Seonghwa Students Section
- ⑨ Heated discussion conducted by the participants
- ⑩ Participants listened carefully to lectures



not only learned about the external approach but were reminded that a secret to victory was the passion of the person in charge.

On the third day, when all directors of the Seonghwa Students Section gathered, Vice President Tanaka gave a lecture on how factions occur from the perspective of Abel - Cain principle under the title of the Three Great Brands of the Unification Church and the Errors of Factions. He mentioned about True Mother's heart, asserting that in order not to be caught by issues of factions, we must hold on to the three brands of the Unification Church, that is; True Parents, True Parents' teachings (Divine Principle), Blessing. Finally, he called on to the participants by saying: "Our fourth brand is the substance. Let us become substances who aim to reach completion of love and unite with True Parents."

Then, Yasuaki Ito, Director of the Seonghwa Students Section of the Headquarters, gave an overview of the Seonghwa Students Section in 2014 and presented the objectives for 2015. He explained about the three main policies: To live a life of conscience and establish the identify as God's children; To develop fraternal love and practice pure love, To improve academic capability and set career options. He also explained about the strategies to promote them.

On the fourth day, there were a section meeting and planning of National Contest of Junghwa Cultures by regions. At the section meeting, the participants learned about the successful experiences of parishes taking imitative approaches in four areas such as Seonghwa Notebook Education in Gifu and North West Tokyo parishes, Youth Field Educators in North Aichi and South Osaka parishes, Parents' Association in Okayama and North Nagano parishes, and learning in South Chiba and Nara parishes.

Then, a new direction was presented for the National Contest of Junghwa Cultures, transmitting the culture of heart. The participants had discussions by region on how to make the program an opportunity for transmitting heavenly culture to relatives and schoolmates.

Each region had the time to make plans of promoting the policies of the Seonghwa Students Section for 2015. At the closing ceremony, Vice President Tanaka gave seven requirements of a leader, revealing how to maintain right positions and to live a righteous life before True Parents.

[Participants' Comments]

"When I think about the circumstances True Children had to go through and the position of True Parents who had no other alternatives, I hope the day will soon come when we can be proud of the Unification Church and the Unification Movement. The Second Generation is in the position to lead us from the front. I want to nurture Second Generation youth who could truly unite with True Parents." (Director of Seonghwa Youth Section)

"Vice President Tanaka's lecture on the factions reminded me that our original point is True Parents and our final goal of education is to convey this truth to the members of the Youth Section and to rightfully nurture their views on True Parents." (Director of Seonghwa Youth Section)