

## ACLC Religious Leaders Receive True Mother's message

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In the spring of 2000, True Parents invited a hundred and twenty Christian clergy members from the United States of America to visit the fatherland, Korea, to engage with them in committing to the providential work of uniting world Christianity. That historic gathering led to the establishment of the American Clergy Leadership Conference (ACLC) in September 2000, as an inter-religious and interracial coalition of Christian pastors and ministers dedicated to the work of "rebuilding the family, restoring the community and renewing the nation and the world."

ACLC has always viewed and portrayed its role as uniting and assisting the True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind in the work of restoration by returning man and woman back to God's original ideal in the central position of all creation. Blessed marriages centered on True Family Values are the foundation for establishing Cheon Il Guk, the kingdom of God on earth. As marriage and families go, so goes the construct for establishing a just and peaceful society.

One of the major components of ACLC's activity has been the teaching and dissemination of True Family Values as espoused and conveyed by True Parents. So, it came as no surprise that the organization felt privileged and extremely honored to host the twenty-first annual Celebration of the True Family Values Awards Luncheon Program that featured True Mother, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, as its keynote speaker.

The luncheon event took place on Saturday, December 3, 2016, at the Brooklyn Marriott Hotel in New York City. Initially, only four hundred tickets were available. Yet, many more religious leaders wanted to attend to demonstrate their love and devotion for True Parents. When True Mother was told about the situation, she smiled and told Dr. Ki Hoon Kim, the FFWPU regional chairman of North America and ACLC national co-chairman to have the hotel expand the room so that another one hundred people could be accommodated. She wanted all of her spiritual children to have access to the gathering. After all, isn't that what a True Mother would do for all of her children, not just for some?

During the ACLC National Convocation that preceded the awards program, Dr. Ki Hoon Kim shared the latest news about Mother Moon's activities and the recent events that had taken place in Washington, DC at the International Leadership Conference (ILC) in these words:

All of you who are here, you are not my guests, you are my friends. Your home is my home and my house is your house. We are that kind of friends, but more than that, we are family members - one family under God. This is the unchanging idea of True Parents, from the beginning of their ministry until now... In their eyes, it is very strange that people, whether they are looking up, looking down, or looking around, are discriminating against one another. That is not God's idea. That is not God's teaching.

In *Chambumo Gyeong* (True Parents' Scripture) Book One, Chapter One, Section number 46, we read:

It is True Mother's work to reach the world level; then the work must be expanded horizontally. That is why Mother is traveling and being proclaimed throughout the world. It is because every

human being must return to True Mother's womb and become one with True Father, like the joining of ovum and sperm, and be reborn."

In introducing True Mother to the audience, as an ACLC national co-chairman, I related to the attendees that a very extraordinary woman was about to come forth and address them. A woman who, unlike us, had no choice or decision in what course her life would take, but prepared by God, our Heavenly Parent, before the foundations of the earth, to stand as the only daughter, united in eternal matrimony with her beloved husband, the Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon, to become the True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind. He boldly proclaimed that she was not only the mother of fourteen biological children but the mother of 7.3 billion people on the face of the earth.

As True Mother approached the podium to speak in the Grand Ballroom of the Brooklyn Marriott Hotel, the overflowing crowd rushed to its feet and erupted in thunderous applause. Surely, the members of the clergy on hand knew her heart and felt a special and close affinity towards her. The energy in the room was electric and the atmosphere filled with praise. ACLC stood ready for a challenge and ready to receive its marching orders from True Mother.

As True Mother opened up her heart and shared with the attentive audience a profound message, spiritually rooted in her divine calling and anointing given by God to the True Parents for this messianic age, one could readily sense that she appeared to be carrying the weight of a fractured world, disconnected with God's original plan and will. She spoke eloquently in gently measured tones while, at the same time, forcefully imparting God and True Parents' message for these troubled times.



### **True Mother's message**

"Beloved members of the American Clergy Leadership Conference, I am happy to see you today. "God is our Parent. When God created the world, He began with a purpose. God has been waiting for the human ancestors, the True Parents, who will fulfill their responsibilities according to this purpose. This messianic concept has been prevalent throughout fallen human history.

"Regarding the central figure whom Heaven appoints, there must be complete unity. We cannot allow self-centeredness, greed or jealousy to invade that standard, because that is how we lay the foundation to return to Heaven. Today, however, America is rife with issues, isn't it? Meanwhile, wars and unfathomable conflicts are happening all over the world. How can we create a unified world of peace?

"Today, especially the clergy must teach [the people] properly about God. To enlighten people properly about God, we must know that the central figures of this providence of restoration through indemnity are the Savior, the Messiah and the True Parents. Hence, when it comes to teaching and sharing the good

news with the members of your congregation, please align and unite with True Parents. You ought to teach your congregation from that aligned position.

"What is Cheon Il Guk? It is an era in which two become one. It is an era in which couples unite. To become citizens who live in the Cheon Il Guk era, we must go beyond the realm of paying indemnity. This means that we need to receive the [marriage] blessing from True Parents. Do you agree?"

"Receiving the blessing entails responsibility. The more you share happiness, the greater that happiness becomes. Happiness is not selfish. Happiness is not self-centered. Happiness engenders altruism, sharing that happiness with all 7.3 billion people. The day that all 7.3 billion people are happy is when we all receive the blessing. I hope that you all work hard to achieve this ideal. All races are beautiful in God's eyes.

"Yet for America to become a nation, a people that repays grace with grace and fulfills its responsibilities towards Heaven's providence with gratitude, I believe the American people need to enlighten all of them. That is the only way this nation can become a nation that fulfills its obligations. Please remember this. I hope that you can have this attitude in revealing the truth and be bold, be proud, be strong; march forward courageously."

### **A heartfelt response**

The room fell silent as it hung on every word that gushed forth from True Mother's mouth. For we were not hearing mere pious platitudes but being given a charge and responsibility from Heaven to unite with True Parents in this providential age. As True Mother brought her messianic message to a climactic end, the participants showed their profound love, appreciation and respect by giving her a sustained round of applause.

True Mother had already set the stage for her address to the clergy at an earlier gathering in Washington, DC. Reflecting on True Mother's address on Capitol Hill on November 30, 2016, to members of the US Congress, world leaders in other political spheres, clergy and ambassadors for peace, Dr. Michael Balcomb, the US president of FFWPU shared these words: Mother Moon felt America has not yet fully met God's expectations. Think about what God's expectation for this country is. It's not just to be a nation of great freedom and wealth. Father Moon said America has to be the champion, the nation that brings the Kingdom of God on earth. Those are dramatic words.

Father Moon said that when America builds the kingdom of God here in this land, other nations will follow suit, whether or not they are Christian, Muslim, Jewish or Buddhist. If one country can stand up to build the kingdom of God, other nations can follow. Mother Moon asked: "Do you believe that? Do you really believe that God can build his kingdom in this world or not?"

Yes, True Mother, we do believe!

We as the American Clergy Leadership Conference are eternally grateful to you and have engrafted ourselves to the True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind. We believe firmly as you do with all of our mind and hearts that all things are possible! As Christian standard-bearers of the True Parents, we are committed to becoming Tribal Messiahs by extending the blessing of marriage to 430 couples as one of our ACLC national co-presidents, Pastor Mark Abernathy, has already accomplished in his Christian faith community.

So, America, centering on True Parents, please come and join with us in establishing one family under God through the blessing of marriage as we work to usher in the era of Cheon Il Guk, the kingdom of God on earth.