FFWPU UK: No School - A Reflection on Fruit and Education

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Dear brothers and sisters,

It's autumn. It's half-term. During our Friday morning devotion here in the UK, we read about the harvest season. True Father made it clear that a good fruit is defined not by its shiny surface, but by the seed it carries, the seed that can pass on the lineage and bring forth new life.

To me, a school is a somewhat strange place. Every time I enter a school building or schoolyard, it feels a bit unnatural. Learning and growing are natural. But today's schools? Is learning really best structured by putting children of the same age together with one, two or three adults in a classroom? I spent 7 years seeking "the good school" by trying to create one. During this period, I visited many alternative schools in German-speaking countries to learn, broaden my scope, and bring these lessons back to "our school".

Together with wonderful colleagues, we helped guide our new school through its early challenges and toward stability. We gained necessary approval from educational authorities while preserving the school's free, independent character, one that puts students before bureaucracy and systems. There was wonder and a sense of the miraculous. But there was also personal sacrifice, pain, hurt and the question of whether it is all worth it. Whenever we seek to create something true and original, the pure water and the mud within us need to separate. Usually, our most difficult colleagues and challenges in our core team help us most in this process.

The Purpose of Education

The Family Federation is not a school, but it is very much a place of learning and growth. All our educational activities, whether the 7-Day Divine Principle Workshop in November, the upcoming UK HARP workshop in December or others, aim to help people develop a living relationship with the living God and become mature children of the Heavenly Parent.

What does it mean to be a mature child of God? Mature children know their parents' dream, in a deep, personal Biblical sense (Hebrew: da'ath). They also understand themselves and their unique part in realising that dream. The path of becoming mature children of the Heavenly Parent involves

(1) being reborn by the True Parents and nurtured in a personal relationship with them

(2) realising the Three Blessings in my own life and family.

Sometimes we emphasise (1), other times we emphasise (2). Both are equally important. One doesn't work without the other. Jesus laid this principle out clearly in the Sermon on the Mount:

> By their fruit you will recognise them. Do people pick grapes from thorn-bushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognise them. 'Not everyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord," will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, "Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?" Then I will tell them plainly, "I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!" (Matthew 7:16-23)

The same principle applies to us and to our relationship with True Mother and True Father today. Although True Parents will never abandon us, the quality of our relationship with True Parents shows in the quality of our fruit (Three Blessings). The quality of our fruit is not measured by a shiny, flawless surface, but by the seed hidden within. And this seed comes from an intimate relationship with True Parents.

The Principle

We progress on this path towards maturity as we learn how to apply the Principle (Divine Principle, Unification Principle, Chambumo-Ron) in our everyday lives.

In physics, principles are often expressed in simple, clear terms, though applying them to specific systems can take a lot of unpacking. For example, the principle of conservation of energy states that energy cannot be created or destroyed. It can only change from one form to another. The same principle takes different forms in classical physics or relativistic quantum field theory.

So, what is the Divine or Unification Principle, in simple, general terms? Here's how I understand it: The Principle states that God is present when two become one. God created everything in complementary pairs, each fulfilling its purpose by living for the other and realising true love.

Fruits, schools, term breaks, education, principles… let's build an educational community where we learn from one another how to put the Principle into practice, and share the fruits of our efforts with the United Kingdom and the world.

Wishing you a blessed week,

Bogdan