

FFWPU Europe and Middle East: Dieter Schmidt - Becoming True Doors to God's Heart

Knut Holdhus
May 29, 2025



Our role: Family Federation leader describes how believers who have discovered God's heart may serve as doors for the many searching on the spiritual journey to find back to the one who created us for a higher purpose

Extracts from a speech by Dieter Schmidt, assistant continental director for the [Family Federation](#) in Europe and the Middle East, at an international prayer meeting on Zoom, organized by the [Family Federation](#) 28th May 2025.

My dear "brothers" and "sisters", why are we in this movement?

My story began with a very deep realization before I joined, and this realization was that [God](#) is lonely. It was so deep in my heart, and I could not find any explanation in any other religion about it. The teachings were quite different.

But it made me feel really depressed from one moment to the other, and I didn't know what to do with this experience till I met our movement.



Through our beloved [True Parents](#), we start to understand something about our Heavenly Parent we all did not know before.

My dear "brothers" and "sisters", this is the most important thing why we are in this movement - to understand the heart of our Heavenly Parent.

Step by step when we look at history, the veil has been taken away from Heavenly Parent, and step by step we understand more.

First, in the Old Testament, there's the "only one [God](#)" concept. But this [God](#) was seen quite different at the time. It was a [God](#) emphasizing law and prophecy, justice, and of course mercy.



Then Jesus came, and he spoke about his Father, and suddenly we were lifted up into a new intimacy. It's a [God](#) we call Father. That was not clear or understandable for other religions in this depth,

But then, my dear "brothers" and "sisters", even from there we go beyond it. In the text we just read is the sentence,

"[True Parents](#) have devoted their entire lives to establishing the environment in which Heavenly Parent can be substantially present on earth."

Taking the viewpoint of [God](#) means he has never been understood for thousands of years. He could never express his heart. He was in a "prison". He was totally blocked, and the deepest desire of our [True Mother](#) and [True Father](#) is to liberate Heavenly Parent to make him come close to us. And with the [Cheonil Sanctum](#) that happened.

Now let us really dwell on this understanding: Heavenly Parent now lives with humankind on the earth. "The doors are wide open," [True Mother](#) said.

This is a new situation that means [God](#) can come to you and me in a new dimension, in a direct way that has been opened. We understand his heart in a totally new way, and so we can relate to him, and he can share with us deep, intimate things on a personal level.

When [True Mother](#) says "the doors are wide open" it also means we open the doors. We have to be "open" for others to enter the [Cheonil-guk \(Kingdom of Heaven\)](#). Each one of us is a door to our Heavenly Parent [...].

In this chapter, it says, "Heavenly Parent's dream and humanity's hope: [True Parents](#) are love."

Love according to the [Principles](#) is higher than the [Principles](#).

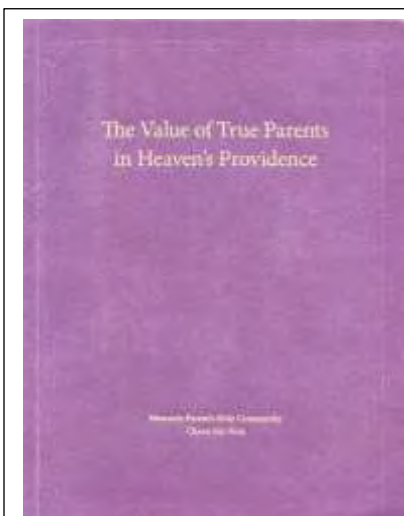
There are sometimes maybe some things we are not completely sure of yet or understand or have doubts about. But let us never forget the most important truth is love. We were created out of love, and [True Parents](#) are one.



The [True Parents](#). Photo (2011)

You saw that beautiful picture at the beginning of our reading, of the love between [Father](#) and [Mother](#).

So, in that sense, out of this love, we were "born".



The Value of [True Parents](#) in Heaven's [Providence](#), published April 13, 2025

Yesterday I was listening to a very beautiful sermon [...] at a prayer vigil. [...] The preacher asked the question,

"What is the greatest achievement of [True Parents](#)?"

And I was really thinking,

"What is the greatest achievement? Was it their visit to North Korea, or meeting Gorbachev, or what was it?"

The preacher said the greatest achievements are the [blessed](#) families.

Do you understand this? I was reflecting, "I'm one of their greatest achievements?"

Well, in one way they are my "Parents". They are your "Parents". And the most important thing for parents is the children. It's so simple that sometimes we forget it, but it is true.

The greatest achievements are all the [blessed](#) families. In "[The Value of True Parents in Heaven's Providence](#)", it says that Heavenly Parent could only create one man and one woman.

But through our beloved [True Parents](#) and their "descendants" the [lineage](#) of Heavenly Parent can be eternally spread. Both those in the spiritual world and those in the earthly world can be reborn as Heaven's sons and daughters through the [Blessing](#). [...]

In that sense, what a wonderful hopeful news this is! [...]

What kind of life are we leading? Dear "brothers" and "sisters", I feel really, really challenged to come to a new level in my lifestyle. I could see there are many things I should develop more, or I should not do anymore - especially when it comes to time management and to really put [God](#) first, to really think, "What is the most important thing?" [...]

We have to understand that as children we want our see our parents be united. Isn't that right? We want them to be one. [...] From [God](#)'s point of view, Heaven is so proud of [True Father](#) and [True Mother](#), and the unity of them is the most important thing for the salvation of humankind. Whoever tries to divide them, we have to stand strongly against it. [True Father](#) and [True Mother](#) are one. This is our most important task. [...]

In 1. Peter 5:5-7, it says,

"In the same way, you who are younger submit yourselves to your elders, all of you clothe yourselves with humility towards one another, because [God](#) opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.

Therefore, humble yourselves under [God](#)'s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you."

I'm sure many of us may not have an easy situation, may struggle with sickness, may have financial difficulties, may have lost a loved one, may worry about the wars. This is very real, and we cannot just put it aside, but we should bring all our worries to our Heavenly Parent. The power of Heavenly Parent, the power of being united with [True Mother](#) will overcome these problems. This is the prophecy that [True Parents](#) will wipe away all the tears of humankind.

I really want you to have this hope, this strong desire to bring the [Kingdom of Heaven](#) on earth in unity with our Heavenly Parent and the [True Parents](#) and right now with our beloved [True Mother](#).

In that sense, I wish you a wonderful, hopeful time to come on your personal level, family level, national level. Let's bring a victory together.

Thank you very much.

This is an edited version of the speech.

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Today's Relevance Emphasized At 71st Anniversary

- May 28, 2025
- Knut Holdhus

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Korean media outlets emphasizing huge relevance in today's troubled world of Family Federation values – marriage, family, peace, interfaith harmony – in reports on commemoration of 71st anniversary


by Knut Holdhus, editor

A ceremony was held on 27th May in Seoul to commemorate the 71st anniversary of the *Family Federation for World Peace and Unification*. Many media outlets reported about the event, held in the *Cheonseung Church* in Cheonwon Temple in Yongsan, a central district of the South Korean capital. 700 pastors from across the country took part together with especially invited guests.

The Namdo Ilbo [reports](#) on the same day,


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The **Family Federation** was founded on 1st May 1954, at the 'House with 3 Doors' in Bukhak-dong, Seongdong-gu, Seoul (now Sindang-dong, Jung-gu), and has since carried out multifaceted activities to realize the ideal of 'One Family under God' under the teachings of its founders, **Sun Myung Moon** and **Hak Ja Han**."

In an **article 27th May**, the Segye Ilbo writes,

"Since sending missionaries to Japan and the United States in the late 1950s, the **Family Federation** now operates in over 200 mission countries."



The logo of the Joongdo Ilbo

The Joongdo Ilbo comments **27th May**,

"To commemorate the 71st anniversary, a variety of awards were

presented in different categories: long service awards (including 33-year and 15-year service), recognition of churches with outstanding evangelism and blessing performance, awards for exemplary families, and a booklet competition. A 'new start resolution ceremony' was also held, symbolizing support and succession across generations between elder and youth pastors."



Regarded as possible solution to declining birthrates: Here, the exchange of **Marriage Blessing** rings 12th April 2025. Photo: Screenshot from live transmission by Peace TV.

The Namdo Ilbo pointed out,

"As Korea recorded its lowest ever total fertility rate of 0.75 last year – now considered a national crisis – the international mass **Blessing** ceremonies, which emphasize **family values**, are being reevaluated as a possible solution to declining birthrates and challenge such as anti-marriage trends and the DINK (dual income, no kids) lifestyle."

The Joongdo Ilbo commented,

"The **Family Federation** is also regarded as the origin of K-Religion [See editor's note below], having started in Korea and expanded worldwide. Believers from all over the world continue to visit Korea – considered the homeland of their faith – on pilgrimages, with visitors this year coming from Europe, the Americas, Asia, and Africa. A growing number of foreign believers are also settling in Korea."

The Namdo Ilbo also mentioned the congratulatory remarks by Pastor Gil-chun Choi of Changsine Church (Presbyterian Church of Korea). According to the paper, he said,

"I thank the **Family Federation** for its devoted efforts in the religious peace movement over the past 71 years. The Korea Christian Clergy Association also shares the same heart and will move together toward our common goal of realizing **God's Kingdom**, beyond the vision of a unified Korea."

The Segye Ilbo quoted Guk Hwangbo, the president of the Korean branch of the **Family Federation**. In his commemorative speech, he said,

"This is a meaningful occasion when we for the first time since the great victorious foundation of the **entrance ceremony** for the Cheonil Sanctum in the Cheonwon Temple was laid, can dedicate the **founding** of the **federation** to Heaven and



Rev. Guk Hwangbo.

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of the [regeneration](#) to heaven), and the opening of an era with a sphere here on earth of living in the [Kingdom of Heaven](#)." He also added, "Today will be a historical turning point that reveals the status and power of the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#) to the world, and it will be a [providential](#) moment that testifies that our Heavenly Parent is alive and working."

Photo: [FFWPU](#)

According to the media reports, the commemorative program also included congratulatory messages from Sun-jo Hwang, Policy Chair of the *Central Administration of Cheonmu-won* (the new international headquarters), and Kyung-deuk Yoo, Chair of the [Family Federation](#) Foundation.



Yeon-ah Moon, 15th Jan. 2025. Photo: Screenshot from PeaceTV.

There were also encouraging remarks by Yeon-ah Moon, Chairperson of the *Sunhak Institute*, representing [Holy Mother Han](#), and a special performance by youth pastors and congratulatory songs.

What was then called the *Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity* was [founded](#) on 1st May 1954. The name became the [Family Federation](#) in 1996. The founding date 1st May was according to our solar calendar, but recent anniversaries have been commemorated on the first day of the

fifth month according to the oriental lunar calendar. It is common in South Korea to celebrate birthdays and anniversaries following this calendar.

Text: Knut Holdhus

Featured image above: From the commemorative ceremony held on 27th May 2025 at Cheonseung Church in Cheonwon Temple, Yongsan district, Seoul, to mark the 71st anniversary of the founding of the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#). Photo: [FFWPU](#)

[Editor's note: The term **K-Religion** (short for Korean Religion) is a relatively recent concept modeled after more familiar cultural exports like K-Pop, K-Drama, and K-Beauty, which have gained massive global followings as part of the Korean Wave (*Hallyu*). In this context, K-Religion refers to religious movements, spiritual traditions, or faith-based cultural phenomena that originated in Korea and are now gaining international influence.

K-Religion is about Korea becoming not only a cultural influencer but also a spiritual hub, where religious movements born in Korea are shaping global religious discourse. While not all such groups are mainstream or without controversy, their growing global presence is undeniable, and the label "K-Religion" seeks to frame that presence within Korea's broader international cultural identity.

Groups like the [Family Federation](#) (formerly the [Unification Church](#)) have placed a strong emphasis on international missions, establishing a presence in most countries of the world. This outward-facing dynamic aligns with the global brand associated with other K-Culture phenomena.

K-Religion can function as a form of soft power, promoting Korea's global image not just through entertainment or products but also through values like peace, family unity, and interfaith cooperation.]

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