

FFWPU Europe and the Middle East: 30,000+ Attend Sun Myung Moon Memorial

Knut Holdhus
September 7, 2025



From the large rally on September 5, 2025 in Gapyeong, South Korea

13 years on, Sun Myung Moon's followers gather at large memorial event to pray for a new era of peace

Various media outlets in South Korea reported on 6th September on a large rally in Gapyeong, South Korea. The [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#), often referred to as the [Unification Church](#), marked a solemn and significant event on September 5, with the commemoration of the 13th anniversary of the "Cosmic Seonghwa" (funeral) of its co-founder, Reverend [Sun Myung Moon](#).



Participants singing praises at the large rally in Gapyeong, South Korea on Sep. 5, 2025

The memorial service, held at the Cheongshim Peace World Center in Gapyeong, Gyeonggi Province, drew more than 30,000 participants from across the globe - members from Korea, Japan, the United States, Europe, Asia, and beyond gathered to honor the legacy of the man they revere as the [True Parent](#) of Heaven, Earth, and Humankind. This level of international participation not only highlighted the continuing spiritual influence of [Reverend Moon](#) but also reflected the enduring global reach of the [Family Federation](#)'s vision.

The event was themed "Prayer Meeting for the Beginning of a New Era and New History Centered on Harmony and Peace", underscoring the [organization](#)'s dual commitment to personal faith and broader societal transformation. Through songs of praise, sermons, united prayers for reconciliation, and a special vigil devotional prayer for Korea's prosperity, participants were invited to reflect on their spiritual responsibilities while seeking renewed strength to contribute to peace in families, communities, and

nations.



Several speeches captured the spiritual and reformist tone of the gathering. [Doo Seung-yeon](#), Director of the World Mission Headquarters, emphasized the cumulative impact of small, faithful actions:

"When each of our small acts of practice come together to create a history of harmony and peace in families, churches, workplaces, and society, only then can we achieve the true goal. Let us forgive one another and dedicate ourselves to peace."

His words point to the [Family Federation's](#) belief that global change begins with the cultivation of peace within the individual and family, a principle that has long been central to the movement's teachings.

[Song Yong-Cheon](#), President of the [Family Federation](#) in South Korea, framed the moment

as one of spiritual renewal, declaring:



"Heaven is calling us to be reborn as a pure community of faith."

By urging a return to the essence, [Song](#) highlighted the importance of internal renewal while also pledging to strengthen the transparency and fairness of the [Federation's](#) organizational systems:

"We will begin concrete institutional reforms for transparent operations and strengthen a fair and rational personnel system."

Such commitments demonstrate an awareness that credibility and integrity are inseparable from spiritual authority.

Importantly, the [Federation](#) did not shy away from addressing contemporary challenges. A representative openly acknowledged recent investigations and social concerns:

"We deeply recognize our moral responsibility [...]. We are taking this as an opportunity for deep reflection and renewal, with the aim of fulfilling the essential role of religion before society, the nation, and the world."



A youth choir performing on Sep. 5, 2025 in Gapyeong, South Korea

This frank admission illustrates a willingness to transform criticism into an occasion for growth and reform, aligning with the [organization's](#) emphasis on moral responsibility and accountability.

A spokesperson for the [Family Federation](#) also situated its mission within a wider geopolitical and spiritual context,

"Amid growing nationalism and global conflicts, we are also dedicating special prayers so that Korea can overcome trials and crises, achieve greater prosperity and development, and fully play its divinely appointed role as the center of peace on the Korean peninsula and in the world."

Here, the [Federation](#) connected its faith practices to Korea's destiny, reinforcing its conviction that Korea has a [providential](#) role in advancing global peace.

This year also marks the 71st anniversary of the movement's [founding](#). With the grand [opening of the Cheonwon Temple](#) in April and a new organizational structure centered on mission, administration, and education, the [Federation](#) is signaling its readiness to advance its guiding vision: "One Human Family under [God](#)". Through its programs for healthy families, Korean reunification, and international peace, the [movement](#) continues to extend its founders' legacy into the future.

In sum, the large event on September 5, can be said to be not just a memorial but a moment of renewal. It reveals a faith community embracing both reflection and reform, committed to peace in the family, society, and world.

Text: Knut Holdhus, editor, written based on the English translation of South Korean media reports from [Segye Ilbo](#), [Taegyeong Ilbo](#), [Jeonguk Maeil Shinmun](#), and [Local Segye](#).

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Streams In The Desert: Dawn Of A New History

- August 23, 2025
- Knut Holdhus



Making a way in the desert – newly appointed Director of the World Mission Headquarters of the Family Federation quotes Isaiah in introductory speech

A speech delivered 22nd August 2025 by Doo Seung-yeon (두승연), newly appointed as Director of the World Mission Headquarters of the Family Federation on 15th August. The occasion was a meeting for leaders and members gathered in Gapyeong, South Korea. Slightly edited unofficial translation of the original Korean.

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Dear beloved **blessed** families, respected leaders of **Cheonil-guk**, greetings. I am Doo Seung-yeon (두승연), newly appointed as Director

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of the *World Mission Headquarters* on 15th August (solar calendar), entrusted with a new **providential** responsibility.

I am deeply grateful to stand here today in this precious and gracious place. I pray that the love and blessings of our Heavenly Parent and the **True Parents** of Heaven, Earth, and Humankind will overflow upon all of you who have joined us for this [...] vigil.

According to the schedule, I was given 13 minutes. But today is a special time, so please forgive me if I may take a little more time.

The reason is that **Mother** has reorganized and restructured the **organization**, and the full **providential** reasons were not completely conveyed in the official notice. So tonight, before our global family who are watching, I wish to share this content with you. I ask for your understanding if my message takes a little longer. Thank you.

Before beginning, I would like to read a verse from the Bible:

*"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."
(Isaiah 43:19)*

In worldly terms, our path has often been misunderstood, criticized, or even condemned. Yet **God** has never been bound by human perspectives; He always opens a new way according to His will. Just as the Lord proclaimed through Isaiah, even now, Heavenly Parent is making a road in the wilderness and streams in the desert.



Isaiah, detail of painting from 1509 by Michelangelo (1475-1564), from the Sistine Chapel in the Apostolic Palace in Vatican City. Photo: Web Gallery of Art, virtual art gallery for European fine art created before 1900. Public domain image

When we look at Isaiah 43, the people of Judah had lost their sovereignty, their temple, and their pride as a nation after Jerusalem was destroyed by Babylon. They lived as captives, abandoned and in despair, wondering if **God** had forsaken them. In that moment, Isaiah 43 was proclaimed as a message of comfort and hope. Especially verse 19 – “I will do a new thing” – was Heaven’s declaration of restoration to those despairing in exile.

God has always prepared new eras. He called Abraham and made him the father of faith. Through Moses, He opened the path of the Exodus. Through Jesus Christ, He opened the way of new life for all humanity.



Hak Ja Han delivering a speech in Gapyeong, South Korea. Photo: FFWPU

And today, Heavenly Parent has opened a new era centered on the **Only Begotten Daughter, True Mother**. Beloved brothers and sisters, this is the era of *Holy Mother Han*, the age of Heavenly Parent’s **providence**.

This sacred name, *Holy Mother Han*, is the new, holy title bestowed by Heavenly Parent upon **True Mother**. It encompasses all her missions and roles: the

Only Begotten Daughter, True Mother, substantial Holy Spirit, embodiment of Heavenly Parent, fulfillment of history, and the one who has brought completion to the **providence**.

True Mother, the **Only Begotten Daughter**, fulfilled all conditions as **True Parent** and, with the dedication of the **Cheonwon Temple** and **Cheonil Sanctum** this past April, has ushered in a new era – the era

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where Heavenly Parent dwells on earth and the history of Heaven and humankind reaches completion.

This is the age in which Heavenly Parent directly dwells as the owner of this earth, embracing and loving His children. It is the age where the world is brought into oneness under His sovereignty, and humanity lives as one family under Heavenly Parent.

Therefore, with the name of *Holy Mother Han*, **True Mother** proclaimed to all Heaven and earth that the gates of **Cheonil-guk**, the **Kingdom of Heaven**, are now wide open.



Doo Seung-yeon (두승연) delivering his message in Gapyeong, South Korea 22nd August 2025. Screenshot from live transmission by FFWPU

Even now, our second, third, and fourth generation **blessed** children are showing to the world the reality of living together with our Heavenly Parent on earth. How proud we can be of this!

Beloved **blessed** families, the **providence** is not something that can be judged or measured from a human-centered viewpoint. All leaders and members must listen deeply to Heaven's voice, awaken, and live as righteous people chosen by Heaven. We must pray and devote ourselves daily, seeking Heaven's guidance to solve all problems.

True Mother, as the **Only Begotten Daughter**, bore the central **providential** responsibility to welcome Heavenly Parent into the **Cheonwon Temple** and the the **Cheonil Sanctum** – the substantial temple of **Cheonil-guk**. For this, she established Cheon Jeong Won as the **providential** hub, preparing the environment to attend our Heavenly Parent.

Now, however, we are entering a new era where Heavenly Parent Himself directly guides and governs. On 15th August, **True Mother** solemnly proclaimed the start of this new era and new history.

Up until now, it was the age when **True Parents'** sacrifices built the foundation, and "children" offered victory reports. But now begins the age where "children", united as one, directly offer the fruits of victory to our Heavenly Parent and **True Parents**.

In other words, this is no longer the age of "children" passively receiving from parents, but the age of matured "children" who prepare a feast of devotion and love for their Parents, bringing them joy.

Through this proclamation, **True Mother** has concluded the Cheon Jeong Won system and established a new *three-organization system* for the fulfillment of the providence:

1. The *World Mission Headquarters* – responsible for global evangelism.
2. The *Central Administration* – responsible for **organizational** governance.
3. The *Future Talent Training Center* – preparing the next generations.

This is a great **providential** victory and development.

Harmony and peace

New keywords

화목 (和睦 – hwamok, harmony within relationships/family unity)

화평 (和平 – hwapyeong, peace, calmness; often used in a more spiritual or religious sense of peace)

The new keywords Doo Seung-yeon (두승연) emphasized in his

True Mother emphasized that in this new system, the most essential quality is the value of *true families centered on true love, harmony, and peace*. She urged that leaders and members unite with their central figures and realize harmony and oneness.

Therefore, I ask all **blessed** families and leaders worldwide to engrave in your hearts these new **providential** keywords – *harmony and peace*. Let us make our homes, churches, mission fields, and societies into centers of harmony and peace.

This is no longer an era where strong leadership alone can lead. It is an era where harmony and peace among leaders and members must come first.

Once again, let us offer unending gratitude, praise, and glory to **True Mother**, Holy Mother Han, who has proclaimed the start of this new era and new history.

Beloved families and leaders, your faith and devotion are the greatest strength in opening this new age. **True Mother** loves each and every one of us deeply. Do you feel it? She promises that our efforts and devotion will be remembered not only on earth but eternally in the spirit world.

Let us respond to this infinite love and grace by living as true **Cheonil-guk** citizens who fulfill our responsibilities.

Even now, countless **blessed** families around the world are joining in devotion through Cheongshimwon [a prayer hall in Gapyeong] and internet broadcasts. I truly respect and honor your sincerity.

As **True Mother** declared this new era, she also reminded President Lee Ki-seong to be a witness to this moment. All of you here tonight in this special vigil are likewise witnesses and participants in the beginning of this new history.

Through our devotion, let us open wide the path of expanding **Cheonil-guk's** realm with ever deeper filial piety and love for the **True Parents**.

To all who are gathered here [...], I sincerely pray for Heavenly Parent's abundant love, blessings, and great victory to be with you always.

I love you. Thank you.

Slightly edited unofficial translation of the original message in Korean.

See also [Inauguration Speech on Inner, Relational Renewal](#)

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Featured image above: Doo Seung-yeon (두승연) delivering his message in Gapyeong, South Korea 22nd August 2025. Screenshot from live transmission by FFWPU

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Lee Gi-seong (이기성), head of the *Family Federation's* main center for spiritual training in Gapyeong, South Korea. Screenshot

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