

FFWPU Europe and the Middle East: Major Day of God's Eternal Blessing and Day of Cosmic Sabbath Holy Days Celebrated

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August 16, 2023



Featured image above: From the celebration of the Declaration Day of God's Eternal Blessing (Chil Il Jeol) 16th August in Seorak, South Korea

Celebration of two major Holy Days - Day of God's Eternal Blessing and Day of Cosmic Sabbath

Today, 16th August, Unificationists all over the world celebrate one of the Holy Days of the [Family Federation](#) - Declaration Day of God's Eternal Blessing. The Holy Day was established 32 years ago, at a special ceremony on 1st July 1991 at [Father](#) and [Mother Moon](#)'s residence in the Hannam district of Seoul. In Korean, the day is simply called Chil Il Jeol, which directly translates as the "seven one holiday", referring to the seventh month and the first day.

Since 2010, the day has been celebrated on the first day of the 7th month according to the Oriental lunar calendar, a day which usually falls in August according to our calendar.

From his London home, President of the [Family Federation](#) of Europe and the Middle East, Dr. Michael Balcomb, sent a special Holy Day message,



Michael and Fumiko Balcomb

"Now in August, we celebrate two important Holy Days, Chil Il Jeol (The Day of God's Eternal Blessing) and Chil Pal Jeol (The Day of Cosmic Sabbath), both established by [Father](#) and [Mother Moon](#) back in the 1990s.

Fumiko and I hope and pray that all of our 'family' in Europe and the Middle East will be able to take a moment to reflect on these days, and to once again gather our determination to keep moving forward with True Parents. Let's especially pray for [Mother Moon](#) as we all continue this time of special devotion leading up to [Father Moon](#)'s Seonghwa Anniversary on 1st September [commemorating the day he departed this life].

It is rather easy to say the words 'God's Eternal Blessing' because, naturally, we always expect the Blessings of [God](#) to be eternal. Yet do we really believe that is the case? After all, we live in times where it often seems that the world of goodness is constantly under attack, and it is in fact rather hard to hold on to such words with complete confidence. We need to look to higher ground. Jesus, recognizing this same situation, said,

'Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven [...] For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.' (Matthew 6:19-21)



Father Moon celebrating Chil Il Jeol with his grandson Shin-jun Moon in 2006

Likewise, when we think about a Cosmic Sabbath [Sabbath both in heaven and on earth], let us pray that despite the struggles of our world today, our Heavenly Parent and True Parents and all of us can indeed celebrate a day of Sabbath rest, when all things are at peace.

We need that to recharge and revive ourselves. Of course, the next day we have to go back to work to do even more. But taking the mental and spiritual break is very important, and I recall how very free and relaxed [Father](#) and [Mother Moon](#) were on these two days in particular. At the same time, [Father Moon](#) often gave us a serious reminder of our responsibility. In 2001 on the 5th anniversary of Chil Pal Jeol he declared,

'I have no choice but to trust you. So I trust you to enact what you've heard today. I really want you to tell me someday, 'I have done everything you told me to do. I have found my true self, created my own true family. Now, introduce me to [God](#).' Then I certainly will!' (25th August 2001)

We have the opportunity to celebrate these Holy Days today, 16th August, which is Chil Il Jeol, or next Tuesday 22nd August, which is Chil Pal Jeol, or this coming Sunday 20th August as part of our regular worship services. Preparing an offering table and a holy environment is important, but let's also offer our own minds and bodies in appreciation for Heavenly Parent's Eternal Blessing and a day when all of Heaven and Earth can take a moment of Sabbath rest."



From the celebration of Chil Il Jeol with Father and Mother Moon on 1st July 2007

Search



NEWS AND INSIGHTS

HOME ABOUT ▾ TEACHINGS ▾ TOPICS ▾ GENERAL ▾

Thursday, August 17, 2023

19:25

CONTACT US ▾

HAK JA HAN ▾

JAPAN ▾

MEDIA ▾

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM ▾

COMMEMORATING ▾

VARIOUS ▾

REVIEWS ▾

Family Federation

The Family Federation for World Peace and Unification

The Family Federation for World Peace and Unification is a global federation of individuals and families who aim to create a world of peace and unity beyond national, cultural, religious and ideological barriers, a world where everyone may live together in peace and harmony.



Father and Mother Moon 1st August 1996.

In a nutshell

Name: Family Federation for World Peace and Unification

Founded: 1996

Founders: Rev. [Sun Myung Moon](#) (1920-2012) and Dr. [Hak Ja Han](#)

Teachings: [Unificationism](#), a long series of revelations received by [Sun Myung Moon](#). See: [Brief about the Teachings](#) of the Family Federation

Goal: The [Kingdom of Heaven](#) on Earth. A harmonious world family, where everyone may experience peace, security, freedom and love.

Strategy: Unite all good forces

Distribution: Largest in South Korea and Japan, but found in most nations.

Background: The Family Federation took over many of the functions of the [Unification Church](#) and its basic teachings.

Frequently asked questions: See: [Faq](#)

Three ideals

As the name indicates, the Family Federation is based on three ideals – family, world peace, and unification.

- **The family ideal.** Most religions focus on the individual and its spirituality. The Family Federation teaches a broader concept of spirituality, where your [relationships](#) to your loved ones are of decisive importance for your eternal life. As [God](#) is the source of love, [marriages](#) blessed by [God](#) and families full of [true love](#) are the very foundation for the [Kingdom of Heaven](#) that [God](#) longs for. It is a love kingdom, and the family is a [school of love](#).
- **World peace.** If there is love and peace in the home, there is hope that we may also create societies and nations with peace. The family is the fundamental social institution. If we can learn to love our fellow human beings on micro-level, in a family, we may also do so on macro-level, i.e. in the society around us and in the big world we live in. Well-functioning families are the very key to reducing crime, alcohol and drug abuse, the number of suicides and many other social problems.

- **Unification.** We talk about unification on all levels, from the individual to the global level. [God](#) is the source of unity, evil the source of division. Therefore, the goal of the Family Federation is to remove the barriers and create a world of unity, a social unity, such as that between husband and wife, between parents and children, different social groups, nations and religions, but also unity between the inner world and the outer, between mind and body, spirit and matter, religion and science.

The inauguration

The Family Federation for World Peace and Unification was first founded in the USA 31st July 1996 by [Sun Myung Moon](#) and his wife [Hak Ja Han](#), and in many European nations soon after that.

As co-founder, [Mother Moon](#) gave the inaugural address titled "View of the Principle of the Providential History of Salvation", reading a prepared text. [Father](#)

[Moon](#) spoke without a script at the closing banquet the following day, 1st August, at the Sheraton Washington Hotel. His speech was titled "In Search of the Origin of the Universe".



The Inaugural World Convention of the Family Federation 31st July 1996

Gerald Ford, U.S. President 1974-1977, spoke at the inauguration 31st July 1996. He said,



Gerald Ford 31st July 1996

"While the world's finest athletes test themselves in Atlanta, this gathering is sort of a spiritual Olympics. Like the Olympians, you have assembled from all over the world to further the cause of peace among nations.

But while those Olympians are dedicated to gold and glory, you in this room pursue other objectives. The glory you seek, comes from God, not gold.

If at times

I sound a bit like an Old Testament prophet, it's because there is nothing about which I feel more strongly, more deeply, than the survival and the strengthening of the family. No civilization that neglects the family, can be called civilized for long, and no political philosophy that takes the family for granted, will be taken seriously by anyone who values morality, compassion and peace."



National Building Museum, Washington DC. [Public domain](#) image. Cropped

The chronicle "40 Years in America" describes the event,



[Mother](#) and [Father Moon](#) 31st July 1996

"The movement's most spectacular world convention was held in Washington, D.C. from July 30-August 1, 1996, inaugurating the Family Federation for World Peace (FFWP).

This event included a cast of luminaries rivaling anything the movement had yet undertaken: two former Presidents of the United States, Gerald Ford and George Bush; former President and Nobel Peace Prize winner Oscar Arias of Costa Rica; former Prime Ministers Edward Heath of Great Britain and Brian Mulroney of Canada; thirty-six one-time heads of state or governments; university presidents including Boston University's John Silber; Christian television personality Robert Schuller; Christian Coalition Executive Director Ralph Reed; Coretta Scott King, the widow of Martin Luther King, Jr.; Maureen Reagan, the daughter of former U.S. President Ronald Reagan; well-known comedian Bill Cosby; and Christian singer-actor Pat Boone. In addition, the main proceedings were covered live by C-SPAN television network. (p.443) [...]

The establishment of the FFWP represented a new stage in the movement's development. Rev. Chung Hwan Kwak, who was appointed International President, maintained that the FFWP was more important than the Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity (HSA-UWC) or [Unification Church](#). HSA-UWC, he noted, was "not [True Parents'](#) ultimate organization".

The rationale for this assertion was connected to the historic shift that underlay the emergence of the Completed Testament Age. As noted previously, Rev. Kwak



[Completed testamentary.](#) As noted previously, Rev. Kwak explained,

'Religious organizations have always been centered upon the salvation of the individual, but we have now progressed to the salvation of the family. [...] Such an organization is not a church; it is the Family Federation for World Peace.'



[Sun Myung Moon](#) 1st August 1996



From the Inaugural Convention 31st July 1996.

Given this understanding, it wasn't surprising that the FFWP rather than the [Unification Church](#) was the main sponsor of the World Culture and Sports Festivals and International [Marriage Blessings](#) after 1996." (p.444) (From the section "Federations for World Peace and Unification", in "40 Years in America – 1959-1999 – An Intimate History of the Unification Movement", by Michael Inglis and Michael L. Mickler, published by HSA Publications Oct. 2000, 624 pages.)

The Family Federation was launched on the foundation of the [Unification Church](#), a spiritual movement [founded](#) in South Korea in 1954. The original intention was neither to establish a church nor a new religion.

The Family Federation took over many of the activities and tasks of the [Unification Church](#) and the same basic teachings, but has a pronounced goal of creating a world of peace and unity based on well-functioning families.

[More](#) about the Family Federation

Text: Knut Holdhus



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Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon – Mother Moon

In a nutshell

Name: Hak Ja Han (pronounced with long a), sometimes written Hak Ja Han Moon. In Korean 한학자 (Han Hak-ja – the family name always comes first in Korean). Written in Chinese characters, the name is 韓鶴子. Many call her Mother Moon.

Born: 10th February 1943 (6th day of the first month according to the Oriental lunar calendar) in the village of Shineui in the district of Anju of South Pyeongan Province in Korea, now North Korea).

Married: 11th April 1960 to [Sun Myung Moon](#). Together they realize the ideal of [True Parents](#). They had 14 children together.

Positions:

- President and co-founder of Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP, founded 1992)
- Co-founder of [Family federation for World Peace and Unification](#) (FFWPU, founded 1996)
- Co-founder of Universal Peace federation (UPF, founded 2005)
- Co-founder of Sunhak Peace Prize (founded 2013)
- Founder of International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP, founded 2016)
- Founder of Interreligious Association for Peace and Development (IAPD, founded 2017)

Memoirs: "Mother of Peace"

Awards:

- Honorary Doctorate of Humanities from Bloomfield College, NJ, USA (1990)
- Honorary Doctorate of Humanities from Bridgeport University, USA (1995)
- Honorary Doctorate of Literature from Taiwan University of Culture (1999)
- Honorary Doctorate of Pedagogics from Stefba Theological College of Bahia State, Brazil (1999)

Dr. Hak Ja Han was born on 10th February 1943 (6th day of the first month according to the Oriental lunar calendar) in the village of Shineui in the district of Anju in present day North Korea. Her parents were committed Christians. She became an only child because her parents were separated due to political unrest.



North Korea. *Public domain image. Cropped*

[Unification Church](#) founder [Sun Myung Moon](#) (1920-2012).

Over the next 21 years, the couple had 14 children – seven girls and seven boys. Mother Moon, as she is fondly called by members, is now a grandmother with over 40 grandchildren and has also become a great-grandmother. In addition to taking care of all the children, she has always been involved in activities with her husband.

This led to an extensive travel itinerary. In [Sun Myung Moon's](#) autobiography "As a Peace Loving Global Citizen", he writes that she was always concerned about the children: "So great was her love for the children that she did not let a single day pass without writing and sending letters and postcards to the children when she was away from home and traveling with me to various places in the world on speaking tours" (translated from Korean version, pages 226-7).

After the family moved to the United States in 1972, she and her husband completed countless public appearances at conferences and festivals, seminars and Unification Movement events.

She also spent considerable time with [her husband](#) and other family members in nature – salmon fishing in Alaska and trips to the South American Pantanal wetlands. Both she and [her husband](#) were very concerned with green issues and the environmental crisis, which is described in detail in "As a Peace Loving Global Citizen" (pages 307-311).



- Honorary Doctorate of Pedagogics from Kyrgyzstan State Pedagogical University (2000)
- Honorary Doctorate of Philosophy from Upper Volga University, Russia (2000)
- Honorary Doctorate of Humanities from Federico Enriquez Carbahal University, Dominican Republic(2000)
- Awarded with the Grand Prix Peace Award of International Association of Educators for World Peace (IAEWP) (2001)
- Honorary Doctorate of Literature from Sunmoon University, South Korea (2002)
- Honorary doctorate from University of Peace, Costa Rica (2022)

Children:

- Ye Jin Moon, daughter, born 11th Dec. 1960.
- Hyo Jin Moon, son, born 3rd Dec. 1961, ascended 17th March 2008.
- Hye Jin Moon, daughter, born 27th July 1964, ascended 4th Aug. 1964.
- In Jin Moon, daughter, born 18th July 1965.
- Heung Jin Moon, son, born 23rd Oct. 1966, ascended 2nd Jan. 1984.
- Un Jin Moon, daughter, born 23rd Nov. 1967.
- Hyun Jin "Preston" Moon, son, born 10th Apr. 1969.
- Kook Jin "Justin" Moon, son, born 14th June 1970.
- Kwon Jin Moon, son, born 20th Jan. 1975.
- Sun Jin Moon, daughter, born 15th June 1976.
- Young Jin Moon, son, born 17th May 1978, ascended 27th Oct. 1999.
- Hyung Jin "Sean" Moon, son, born 6th Aug. 1979.
- Yeon Jin Moon, daughter, born 3rd Jan. 1981.
- Jeung Jin Moon, daughter, born 14th June 1982.



Hak Ja Han became the first president of the Women's Federation for World Peace, a women's movement she and **her husband** founded in April 1992 in Seoul.



From that year, she embarked on several speaking tours. She gave public speeches in more than 100 countries all over the world. In 1993, she spoke at the UN building in New York and at the Capitol, seat of the US Congress, in Washington DC.

During a visit to Beijing, a meeting was arranged with the son of Chinese President Deng Xiaoping to promote a charity project. Hak Ja Han received much media attention when she spoke with former US President George W. Bush and his wife Barbara at peace events in September 1995 in Tokyo and other cities in Japan.

Hak Ja Han holds several positions. She is co-founder of the **Family Federation for World Peace and Unification** and the **Universal Peace Federation** – just to name a few.

She has been awarded many honorary doctorates.

After her husband's death in 2012, she has only continued her lifelong efforts to build a **kingdom of heaven** here on earth, a peaceful world based on harmonious families and individuals. She has also launched notable new initiatives such as the founding of the Sunhak Peace Prize.



She is particularly interested in the reunification of the Korean peninsula, and in recent years took the initiative to large rallies for peace in the largest South Korean cities as well as speaking at large peace meetings with over 10,000 participants in major cities around the world, including Vienna, New York, Sao Paulo, Tokyo, Bangkok, Busan, Osaka and Nagoya.

Hak Ja Han is perhaps best known for the large **mass weddings** which she and **her husband** officiated for many years. After he passed away in 2012, she has continued with such **large weddings** every single year.

Together with her husband **Sun Myung Moon**, Hak Ja Han holds the title "**True Parents**".

Her name is sometimes written Hak Ja Han Moon, especially in the Western world. In South Korea, women do not take the husband's name when marrying, but in Western countries "Moon" is often added after her name to make it clear that she is **Sun Myung Moon's** wife.



In Korean writing, the name is 한학자 – Han Hak-ja. The family name always comes first. The family name Han is pronounced with a long a. Hak Ja are the two first names, sometimes written Hak-ja, pronounced with short a's.



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