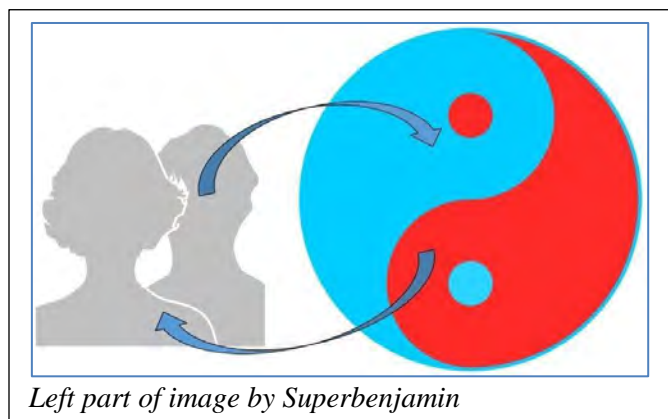


FFWPU Europe and the Middle East: Michael Balcomb on Fake Claims About New Teachings

Knut Holdhus
October 14, 2024



Left part of image by Superbenjamin

In message October 6, 2024, **Dr. Michael Balcomb** points out that misleading claims that are patently false, are circulating about content of new teachings expected to be published soon

Part 3 of extracts from a sermon titled "Yesterday, Today and Forever", that Dr. Michael Balcomb, the President of the Europe and the Middle East Region of the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#), gave at the Sunday service in Geneva, Switzerland on 6th October 2024. Slightly

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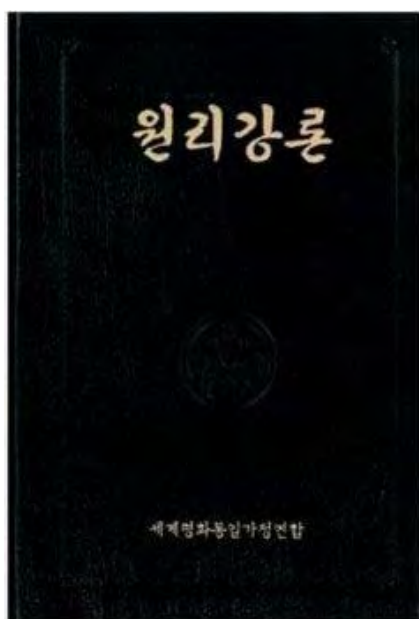
See [part 1](#), [part 2](#)



Michael Balcomb delivering a sermon in London September 15, 2024

These days, there's a lot of concern and confusion about some new teachings coming from Korea, which we call the Cham Pumo-ron, and formally and wrongly called "True Parents' Theology".

But actually, the "ron" in "Cham Pumo-ron" means discourse. When the [Divine Principle](#) was published in 1966, it was called Wollli Kangron, meaning a "Discourse on the Principle".

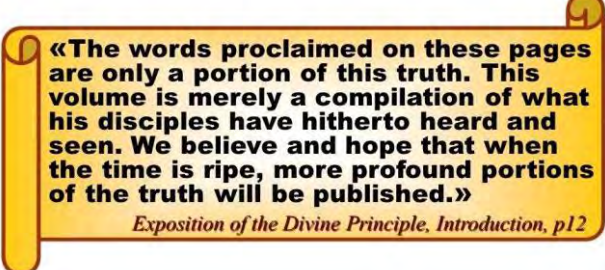


Wollli Kangron (pronounced Kangnon), literally "Discourse on the Principle(s)". Published in 1996 in English as "[Exposition of the Divine Principle](#)". It is the official version of [Father Moon's](#) earliest teachings, originally published in Korean in 1966. It is primarily written for a Christian audience

A "discourse" means there's meant to be discussion, give and take, debate. It also means that it's not finalised or settled because it's a discourse. And out of our conversation, new things may emerge and a new understanding. If you'll permit me, I'll briefly speak to this issue, since it's a hot one in Europe these days.

But very tellingly, it also says it may be displeasing to believers that the truth they now have is not the whole truth. And we always used to think,

"Yeah, those mainstream Christians, they should wake up and smell the coffee. New truth has come."



«The words proclaimed on these pages are only a portion of this truth. This volume is merely a compilation of what his disciples have hitherto heard and seen. We believe and hope that when the time is ripe, more profound portions of the truth will be published.»

Exposition of the Divine Principle, Introduction, p12

First of all, let's remind ourselves that the [Divine Principle](#) itself clearly indicates, right in the very first chapter, that this is not the whole truth. It's right there. It says that this is just a textbook teaching the truth. And we confidently expect that new things will be revealed.

But I put it to you that for any believer, including a Unification believer like myself, like yourselves, new things, new ideas can be discomfoting, especially, and particularly if they challenge things that we've already thought. That's okay. And it takes effort to find out.

You may think, "Well, you're the continental director, so probably you're going to set us straight this morning and tell us what's what."

Well, I have bad news for you. I'm not going to do that. And in fact, I cannot do that. But one thing I can say is that there's a lot of incomplete information out there. A lot of

statements are being made and people contributing opinions.

Interestingly, in most cases, they haven't actually been firsthand in touch with [True Mother](#) or with the source. So, it's secondhand. It's not gossip, but it's removed by one or two degrees.

I have, of course, had to listen to the Cham Pumo-ron several times. And also, I've had the privilege and the challenge of sitting right opposite [True Mother](#) and, hearing from her things that, for me are quite new, making me think, "Really? Is that what you think, [Mother](#)? Or is that how you want?"

But I have three simple takeaways, for me. You might say, "Well, Mike, those are your takeaways. You're you and I am me."



Female and male as yin and yang

Yes, absolutely right. These are my takeaways. The first one's very simple. The first one is that [God](#) is a Heavenly Parent.

That's not new, but when I think about it myself even now, I catch myself saying "Heavenly Father, Heavenly Father" all the time, in prayer and everything. And it's taken a real effort to start thinking [God](#) is also a Mother, as well as a Father, and yet one.

Because this is also challenging for the human brain, right? How can you be a father and a mother? One of my friends, Jin-Choon Kim, who's also one of the teachers of Cham Pumo-ron, and a high-energy physicist [Editor's note: Particle physicist]. I've actually found the quantum concept of superposition helpful. Superposition means that something can be two things at the same time that are mutually exclusive. It happens in science.

But anyway, this is the first message of Cham Pumo-ron: [God](#) is masculine and feminine. It's right there in the [Principles](#). But let's be honest, it was never really explored or discussed.

And I'm a man, and I freely admit it's taken me a long time to even begin to understand the world of women, even though I have three younger sisters and two wonderful daughters and one wonderful wife. But if you ask them how well I understand the realm of women, I don't think I'll be getting an A grade at all. In fact, my wife says, "You're a very clever man, but sometimes you're so stupid!" Anyway, she's not here today.

The second takeaway is that it's through [True Mother](#), the daughter of [God](#), that we can most fully understand the Heavenly Mother. [True Mother](#), because she's a woman, and a very special woman, is able to explain this characteristic of [God](#) better than [Father](#) ever could, because [Father](#)'s a man. [Father](#) never gave birth to any children, never experienced the pain of childbirth or miscarriage or any of those things

that women endure.



[Mother Moon](#) in Munich, Germany May 19, 2024

Likewise, men can talk to men about things that women don't understand. But generally, history has been, and our movement has been, very centred on men. Still, when we have meetings in Korea, [...], it takes enormous effort to let even one woman speak. [...]

The third takeaway is that we have to look to the future because the past is behind us, and it can't really be changed. We can try to understand it, but we should not permit ourselves to get lost in disputes about things from a long time ago because we have to look to the future now.

I want to be honest, not everyone who's been exposed to these ideas in Cham Pumo-ron has had the same experience. [...]

Of course, it doesn't help that at this moment there is no authoritative text to study. It would be different if I could pull out this book and say, "Here it is: Cham Pumo-ron Read it yourself and make up your own mind."

But actually, there is no such book. There's a book in preparation. I understand the Korean version is already on version 10, but it hasn't been published once because there's such intense dispute about what should be in it.

And there's a set of lectures that's circulating which I only saw myself for the first time yesterday, which are also not authorized. And yet people are using them to teach their version of the Cham Pumo-ron. So that's a problem.

Again, I'd like to say sorry that I haven't been able to produce something more tangible for you to get your teeth into, but that's the reality.



Part of North Korea with capital Pyongyang in the West and industrial city of Heungnam (Hungnam) on the East coast, the location of the [death camp Sun Myung Moon](#) was sent to by the communist authorities to have him suffer a slow death

But anyway, [...] I think the key controversy among all these things is that the allegation that the Cham Pumo-ron teaches that [Father](#) made some serious errors in his lifetime, key among which was he didn't wait until he was 40 years old to marry [True Mother](#). Another allegation is that those "mistakes" are the reason why [Father](#) had to go, for example, to [Heungnam death camp](#), to Seodaemun prison, why he was tortured and suffered, not, as we have traditionally believed, to take on responsibility for the sins of humanity, but because of his own mistakes - rather than providential matters - that led him to do what he undeniably did, which was to endure torture, betrayal, beatings, imprisonment.

Many people feel very indignant about such a suggestion, and I would say rightly so. If you don't feel that about [True Father](#), there's

something wrong. I felt very angry when I thought that that was what being said. [...] This is wrong, and we should not be teaching it.

And there's one huge problem: The Cham Pumo-ron does not say it. It does not say it. [Editor's note: does not mention the above-mentioned allegations]

So again, like that [deepfake audio](#) in Baltimore, it's going to be difficult to undo this because the misinformation and the confusion is already out there.

To be continued. Part 4 coming soon.

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Facing Deep Fakes, Confusion, War – Keeping Faith

• October 13, 2024 • Knut Holdhus

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God longs to see his dream – his ideal – realized, yet in a world of strange teachings, idols, deepfakes, confusion, war, keeping faith in the ideal is not easy



Dr. Michael Balcomb, here delivering a sermon in London 15th September 2024. Photo: FFWPU

Part 2 of extracts from a sermon titled "Yesterday, Today and Forever", that Dr. Michael Balcomb, the President of the Europe and the Middle East Region of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification, gave at the Sunday service in Geneva, Switzerland on 6th October 2024. Slightly edited.

See [part 1](#), [part 3](#)

Actually, the next verse is very interesting. It says,

"Do not get led away by diverse and strange teachings [...]" (Hebrews 13:9, RSV).

I could add here, "nor by idols". These days, we don't make idols of stone

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and wood, but actually we have many idols in our life: our career, our work, our children, our home. There are so many things that we're tempted to start putting ahead of **God**. We all are susceptible to it.

Also – and it's been a problem for the last 2,000 years – we tend to be a bit gullible. Do you know what gullible means? It means we believe things too easily without checking to see if they're true or not. And even if we find out that they're not true, the residue of that confusion remains.

On the way here, I read a very interesting and disturbing article from America, from the city of Baltimore. [...] Baltimore is a big city, halfway between Washington and New York. And historically, a lot of black people live there.

One day there was this **bombshell of an audio recording**. It said the principal of a local high school was complaining about his students. And in this audio, he was saying,

"How long do I have to put up with these ungrateful kids? They come late, they don't work, and the teachers are not much better either."

Of course, this spread. And very quickly there was an uproar, and the police had to be called to protect the principal. Pretty soon the whole community was asking, "Hey, how can this be?"

But then



Another deep fake: AI-generated image of Donald Trump wading through floodwaters. Photo: Wikimedia Commons. Public domain image

somebody started to investigate. They found out this was a deepfake. It wasn't him at all, actually. It was one of his staff who'd been fired for theft and had used his computer skills to create this entirely false audio. So, it was reported,

"Sorry, everybody, it was false. It wasn't true."

But actually, six months later, **still half the population believed it was true**. Because in that first moment, it must have touched something deep inside them that they were already thinking. And it confirmed for them,

"We live in a racist town, and our principal is racist."

Even though it wasn't true, even though it was proved not to be true, still the poison remained.

And if you think about it, this happens a lot. We hear something. We don't like what we hear. We're busy, so we don't necessarily really check it out because we think,

"Yeah, I always thought that."

So here are two things to bear in mind. The background of this message is a community that's in trouble. They were in trouble from the outside because there's persecution, as there is, for example, in Japan these days, but also in trouble from the inside because there's confusion and even fatigue. We have been doing this for a long time, and we begin to wonder,

"Did we make the right choice? Are we really heading for the **Cheonilguk (Kingdom of Heaven)?**"

The True



God is our Parent. Father and Mother Moon proclaim a simple message. Here in Washington DC, USA 16th April 2001. Photo:

Send us a message

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Parents' message is actually very simple. When you boil it right down, the message is that **God is our Parent who wants to live with his and her children and grandchildren in peace forever**. It really couldn't be more simple.

But of course, as we know through the **Divine Principle**, **this dream was lost. And it's always been lost. There's never been any human being ever who saw the dream of God.**

So **even to believe that it exists requires effort**, right? It requires commitment, "Yes, I believe that dream is true."

And now **True Mother** says **the time of fulfilment is now**. You heard it right here on this video we watched, right? It's now, not in the distant future. Then you check the date on the video, and you see that was in 2020. That's already four years ago.



Fighters from the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah carried out a training exercise in Aaramta village in the Jezzine District, southern Lebanon, on Sunday, May 21, 2023. Photo: Tasnim News Agency. License: [CC Attr 4.0 Int](#)

And meanwhile, when we look at our world, what's going on in Israel, in Lebanon, in Ukraine and Russia and Yemen, **it takes real effort, actually, to believe that the kingdom is now**, because it definitely doesn't look like it. It **looks like things are going backwards.**



From a peace rally in Independence Park in Jerusalem in October 2003. Photo: FFWPU.

I can't help remembering when I was working in Israel and Palestine 20 years ago, and the kind of easy, cordial relations – despite everything – that we had with Jewish, Christian and Muslim leaders – how peaceful it was and how we managed to fill up the park in the middle of Jerusalem with people to crown Jesus. It's astonishing.

I think that could not have happened today. So this is a challenge. What we see with our eyes, what we hear with our ears, is not the same as what we profess. Am I the only one who has this doubt?

[...] **If you believe that progress is somehow linear, you start low, and you keep going higher and higher and higher.** If you then see this **sudden drop off, you will be very disappointed**, because you'll think,

"Well, that's it. We were winning for a time, and now it looks like we're going backwards. And who knows if this will change? Doesn't look like it."

It's possible then, that we start thinking,

"Have I made a mistake? Did I join the wrong church, or did I come to the wrong city? Should I have taken that job instead of this job? Should I have become a missionary, or should I have stayed in Japan?"

I think those thoughts are out there. The other great reformer, Martin Luther, not John Calvin, said,

"You can't help it if the birds of temptation and confusion fly around your head. You can't help it, but if they make a nest in your hair, you can help that."

You have to **chase away those thoughts when they come.**

Continued in [part 3](#).

See [part 1, part 3](#)

Featured image above: *Keeping faith in a world of confusion and war is not easy. Illustration: Microsoft Designer Image Creator, 13th October 2024.*

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