

Golden Age Newsletter - July 2022

Richard Buessing and Carol Pobanz
July 7, 2022

Dear Golden Age Newsletter Subscribers!

We pray that you and your families are doing well during this beautiful summer season!

Following is the *July 2022* issue of the newsletter. We hope that you enjoy it! Our mission is to help keep Senior Unification Members (60 years plus) connected through sharing God's love – what is positive in our lives as a result of finding Heavenly Parent and True Parents.

The motto of the Golden Age Newsletter is “This is the Dawning of our New Age”. We are always in the process of redefining ourselves as we grow older and as we add experiences to our lives. Therefore, we must consider how God can use us even when we may be decreasing in our physical capabilities!

We invite you to share your own article with us for inclusion in a future issue of the newsletter. See more at [Sharing Articles with the Golden Age Newsletter](#). Please also share the goods news about the newsletter with your friends. They can subscribe at [Golden Age Newsletter Free Subscription Form](#).

Thank you!

Rev. Richard Buessing
Carol Pobanz
Senior Pastors Association (SPA)



Featured Article

Never Give Up

by Judie Lejeune

Parentsheart88@gmail.com



In 1967 I joined the Unified Family (*that was the name of our movement then*) at the age of 21 in Los Angeles, CA under Jon and Sandy Schuhart. My first mission away from Los Angeles was in New Haven, CT, then New York City and finally to Washington, DC in 1973 to work for Dr. Bo Hi Pak. I worked for Dr. Pak for over six years and this opportunity truly formed the foundation for my heart to open and my filial piety for True Parents to grow and develop.

Also, from Dr. Pak I learned to value the uniqueness of each person and how to forgive and forget. This is a blessing of which I am still unworthy. I pray everyone has a mentor in their lives that can help transform them the way Dr Pak did for me.

I was blessed in 1975 and have three children and four grandchildren. This journey has not been easy, and continues toward completion. I am grateful for the unconditional love from my family that carries me through, day in and day out.

Like most of us who can relate to the Golden Age eNewsletter, our early days are so precious and they were the mold that formed us into what we are today.

I have been given many opportunities over the years to stretch and grow my love my skills, and to develop a humble heart. These include accepting the positions of Pastor, Youth Ministry Director, Sunday School Director, Local Education Director and Subregion BFM Coordinator, and more. The key here is "I accepted" these opportunities, even though I knew I was not qualified. When we accept what God puts before us, He always sends us what we need to accomplish if we humble ourselves and ask God to show us the way.

Finally, I began to think, "I really am making a difference." It was then that my physical body started giving out, refusing to take me where my mind wanted to go. I can no longer walk without a walker or stand for any length of time. My fingers, ridden with arthritis, make it painful to type (although I still type, just a whole lot slower) and my scoliosis makes it painful to walk or sit straight without leaning heavily to the left.

Depression set in. I didn't see a place for me to contribute any longer. I was ready to make the transition to the spirit world, thinking that there I can move. But that time never came, and I kept asking God, "Why am I still here? What am I supposed to be doing?" My dear family and my brothers and sisters in faith tried to tell me there is purpose to my life, but I could not see it.

Over a period of about a year of moving in circles between being grateful, I could still think, and being depressed that I could not physically actualize my thoughts, I finally realized I have a lot of unfinished business to accomplish.

I began a search for where I could still contribute to God's kingdom on earth and how I could perfect my family responsibility. I started watching Morning Devotion with Dr. Yong. I made HDH conditions and determined not to burden God with my situation. Revelation after revelation emerged and the way forward was slowly revealed.

I offered what skills I have to my DC, VA, MD community to help in any way possible that didn't require a lot of physical movement. Dr. Achille and Rev. Patton accepted this offer and opened this path wide and clear. Still, even though I appeared to be happy, I was deeply sorrowful. Somehow, I did not feel joyful or complete. I sincerely prayed "Heavenly Parent, what am I missing? What do you want me to do?" True Parents' internal guidance, especially when conveyed through Dr. Yong, pushed my conscience to do more. One morning I woke up and the words "never give up, I am with you" appeared before me. Powerful!! Meaningful!! Lifesaving words that I continue to live by each day.

COVID hit. Yikes!! As terrible as COVID is, the migration of communication to virtual has been a blessing for me. I was able to join an online education team. Even though I had been teaching Divine Principle for many years, I did not believe myself as qualified to teach as the brothers and sisters on the team, so I took the administrative role. This was not as satisfying, but it did push me into working diligently to develop my teaching skills, focusing on how to communicate the heart of God. I continuously studied the DP and read everything from True Parents about teaching, and I worked day and night to become the best teacher, friend and mentor I could be.

One day I got a phone call from two sisters (Lisa Take and Egii Dojoodorj) who had a guest they wanted me to teach. We didn't just teach this guest; we helped to raise this lady and brought her entire family to the cosmic blessing, all while supporting and raising up the spiritual parent to be the best she could be. Since then, we have helped bring three couples to the Cosmic blessing and through the 43 Day Journey. God has sent another couple and an 18-year-old girl we are currently teaching and raising.



We named ourselves the "DP Personal Touch Team." We meet every Sunday at 9:00am for a DP session. We teach our guests all the way through the Second Advent, give testimonies about how True Parents have changed our lives and connect them with the larger community. We become involved with the lives of those we teach, and raise them to the blessing and beyond as they start their families.

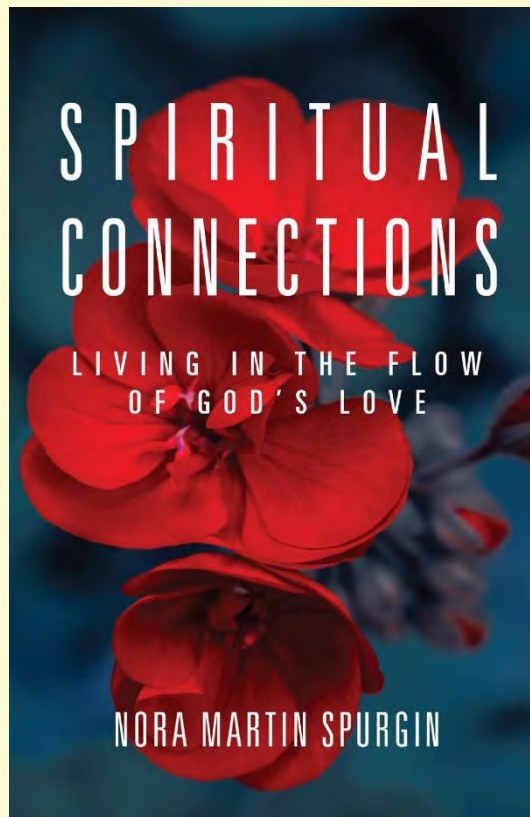
The spiritual parents of those we have taught and embraced have continued to join our trinity and we are now five in number consistently joining on Sunday mornings to support this effort to bring more of God's children home. CARP is even sending a young person to attend when we teach the 18-year-old girl.

I also offer to teach for those going out to witness and who then need someone to teach their guests. They call me and I will teach, over ZOOM, on the spot or be available for any appointment time.

Billy Graham said, "I can't die yet, I have too much to learn."

Yes, I am learning and growing every day. Thank you, Heavenly Parent and True Parents!

Bulletin Board



This book review, "[Spiritual Connections: Living in the Flow of God's Love](#)," by Dr. Gordon Anderson, originally appeared on *Applied Unificationism*, a blog of Unification Theological Seminary, on May 30, 2022. Used with permission. A Spotify podcast of the review is also available [here](#).

Spiritual Connections: Living in the Flow of God's Love (Circle of Angels Press, 201 pp., 2022) is an engaging spiritual autobiography of Nora Spurgin, who joined what was then called the Unified Family (later Unification Church) in New York in 1967. She served in many central positions as the movement led by Rev. Sun Myung Moon developed into a new global culture. Nora's identity is shaped by her connections to others in her lifelong pursuit to be in the flow of God's love.

Her story begins with her ancestors who came to America for religious freedom. Her sixth great grandfather authored *Confessions of Faith*, which is still used for religious instruction among the Mennonites. She grew up in Lancaster County, PA, in a farming community with large families, connected to her parents, siblings, extended family, and nature. Life was a mixture of hard work, fun play, and worship of God. Personal responsibility and maintaining the community was stressed. Her community was self-sufficient. Nora learned to design and sew clothes and her father even taught her every step in building a house!

At a young age, Nora's curiosity prompted her to ask questions about her faith in comparison to Catholics and others. She studied the people she met, wanting to learn behavior patterns and whether people were genuine or putting on a façade. She learned to approach others with confidence. While Nora wanted to learn fastidiously, her parents believed outside education would corrupt children's faith. She dropped out of high school after one year and worked at home and in a sewing factory until she turned 21 and became a free adult. Then

she grabbed lots of books, studied, passed the GED exams, and set out on the world.

A Mennonite Voluntary Service program caring for children of migrant workers in Florida exposed Nora to poverty and other cultures and broadened her faith. In college, she loved philosophy and history. On weekends she visited and served people in Appalachia, and experienced charismatic spiritual events. Then she went on for her master's degree in social work at New York University. The intellectual confrontations and big city life were far different than life on a simple Mennonite farm. Through all her encounters, she continued her search for connections to God and was prepared to meet the Unification Church.

At a religious meeting at Columbia University, Nora met Barbara and Diane, who had returned from six month's training in Japan and opened a teaching center in New York. They both had been Quakers. She studied the Divine Principle with them and joined in New York in 1967. After completing her graduate work at NYU, she moved to Washington, DC, to further her religious study with Dr. Young Oon Kim, an early Korean missionary and theologian sent by Rev. Moon to spread his teachings. There she engaged in interfaith dialogue with Dr. George Lamsa, of the Eastern Church that began in the area of Palestine before the Eastern Orthodox Church. He had translated the Bible into English from the original Aramaic language.

[To read the whole article, please click here!](#)

An Open Letter regarding Alaska Providence

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

If you have any stories about your experiences doing Providential work in Alaska, or any stories of your experiences with True Parents in Alaska, we want to help you record them and to share them. Please contact us.

Brothers and sisters are stepping up to formalize and to implement a process that we hope will produce some finished products to embody the legacy of God's Providence working through our precious True Parents' work in Alaska ...

[To continue reading the whole letter, please click here!](#)

History Bytes

Lending A Hand In Las Vegas

by Steven Matthew Goldberg
Severna Park, MD



Las Vegas is the last place on earth you would expect to meet the returning Christ. It is a city without historical roots in the American spiritual narrative. Pilgrim fathers did not come to Nevada in order to build the Kingdom of God on Earth. Pilgrim mothers did not flock to Las Vegas to live a life of faith in Christ on Earth. Las Vegas was founded by evil people. Mafia. Gangsters. Bad actors. Sex workers (pimps, whores and prostitutes of all genders).

If the devil himself imagined a city representing the Kingdom of Hell on Earth, it would be Las Vegas. Las Vegas are proud of it. "What happens in Las Vegas stays in Las Vegas." That slogan can be translated loosely as follows. You can do anything you want in Las Vegas and no one will ever find out about it. So go ahead and sin and forget about it.

By the way, did I mention that the Devil is a liar?

Everything you and I do, dear seeker after goodness, beauty and truth, is recorded in a sort of video archive of Eternity. No exceptions. The truth is, if you sin in Vatican City, it will be on the record. Nevada is no different except for geography.

Why was Reverend Moon building an education center in the middle of a city that has the reputation as "Sin City"?

This is the question that was rattling around in my head as I stepped out of a 15-passenger van onto a hot asphalt parking lot in the middle of Las Vegas in July of 2011. The heat was overwhelming. I carried in my bag several autobiographies of the Reverend Sun Myung Moon titled *A Peace Loving Global Citizen*. There was an acrid smell coming from the rubber soles of my sneakers frying on the pavement beneath my feet. So I did the only thing a spiritual person could do – I prayed for guidance. "God, what do you need me to do?"

"Go find an oasis!" There it was, clear as a bell, the voice of God. Go find an oasis? Is that it, God? You want me to find an oasis in a parking lot? I must be hallucinating, hearing voices maybe. Answer to prayer, indeed!

I looked around for signs of water. A palm tree maybe? Or some sand? Suddenly, there it was on the far side of the lot. I spotted a big white motorhome with a big sign on the side. I squinted to read the lettering.

LOOKING FOR AN OASIS in the DESERT? FREE WATER.

"OK, God, I will get right on it." I headed for the motorhome. Knocking on the door, I was surprised when a grizzled head of white hair poked out of the opening side door of the motorhome. "Come in sonny, it's hotter than blazes out there, get yourself a bottle of water." As I stepped into the air-conditioned living room of his "desert schooner," he handed me a cold bottle of mineral water.

"Whatcha selling on a hot day like this?" I held up the autobiography of Reverend Moon, wondering what his reaction might be.

[To read the whole article, click here!](#)

Culture & The Arts

Art

by Neville LaBrooy

I have fond memories of painting with my dad and it was a very enjoyable bonding experience. I was able to watch my dad paint and get ideas and inspiration for my paintings. I also helped him gain inspiration for his paintings. The two of us were a great team. The Principle states that you can know God through his creations. One way I can experience God is by painting and pouring my emotions and imagination into my artwork.



In 2003, my daughter Mi-Ran and I teamed up to create paintings that brought joy to others and we marketed them on eBay. We discovered God's Heart through painting landscapes and abstract art on canvas, using acrylic and oil. We sold painting in the US, Europe and Australia. We had such wonderful time together and we did it all from our home. We painted for two years. Mi-Ran has now, since been Blessed in marriage to Toby Ryan and they have three children.

My wife (Judite) and I followed them to Bellingham, WA, where we currently reside.



About Our Book Club

by Poppy Richie



When I went to study abroad in Rouen, France in 1968, the books I read for my French history and literature classes came alive on my walks around the city. In my French history classes at *l'Université de Rouen*, we studied about famous *philosophes, artistes, and écrivains* of the 17th and 18th centuries who met together in cafés and private homes to share their views about philosophy, art, literature, and politics.

These gatherings were known as salons. Now that I was seeing firsthand some of these historical places, I imagined the lively conversations that took place among friends and acquaintances back then.

Three decades later, when my husband and I started a book club with some other couples in our northern California neighborhood, I was reminded of this experience in France. Our weekly hour-and-a-half meeting with hot drinks and snacks revived memories of my walks past cafes, patisseries, and nineteenth century homes in Rouen, when I wondered what it might be like to visit a famous French salon in the 1800s.

I realized that what we were doing in our book club wasn't that different from the salons in France – the concept was similar; we wanted to gather, inspire one another, and build friendships. Once a week, we met in our home to share our ideas, opinions and experiences, based on the chapters we had read the previous week. This was stimulating for us all, and we continued reading and discussing books for around 10 years, until my husband and I moved to Colorado in 2019.

In Loveland, Colorado, Jim and I started a new book club. It consisted of the two of us, meeting weekly at the Village Inn Diner, where we splurged and ate sumptuous breakfasts while discussing the books we were reading. Of course we missed our small group back in California, but it wasn't long before we were joined by Nancy and Paul Bulow, and a few months later, Richard and Marjorie Buessing. We were all transplants from other places, brand new to Colorado, so the first book we decided to read was James Michener's *Centennial*, about the history of our new state. It was more than 800 pages long, the longest book Jim and I had ever read in our book clubs.

What I like about our gatherings are the discussions. We talk about the chapters we read that week, and how the content connects with our life experiences. As we share stories, we get to know one another, and this builds a bond of love and mutual appreciation. What's present is honesty and authenticity, humor and, on rare occasions, tears.

If you've never experienced a book club, you may want to give it a try because it's very easy to set up and maintain. Our group uses a democratic method of choosing books. When we're on the last chapter, we bring up ideas for our next reading adventure. Then we vote to pick one.



What sort of books do we read? Here's a short list of some we've chosen in the past year: *Ikigai* by Francesc Miralles and Hector Garcia, *Stroke of Insight* by Jill Bolte Taylor, *Memory Rescue* by Dr. Daniel Amen, and *Your First Grandchild* by Claire Nielson, Paul Greenwood, and Peggy Vance. These are all non-fiction, which is what our group prefers so far. The only outlier was *Centennial*, which is historical fiction. Even though it took us months to get through all those pages, we now have an in-depth understanding of Colorado's history. All of these books have given rise to very stimulating discussions, and we have no regrets about our choices.

A new book is a grand adventure – it always has been that way for me from the time I learned to read. Book clubs have added a new dimension to my literary experience. I now enjoy rich discussions through which I can extend my understanding of the content. We all have so much to learn from one another's experiences, just as folks did in the salons of the past. This is especially true now in the golden years of our lives, when we can talk about and value the decades we've lived through!

Health and Recipe

During the next few months we will be running a longer article by Dr. David Carlson in several sections. We hope you will enjoy it.

Wholeness, Health and Healing (Part 4)

by David Carlson



David met the TPs in 1972 while serving in the US Army in Korea, and studied UT with Dr Sang Hun Lee. Returning to America he taught UT at Belvedere, helped with MSG, YS and WM campaigns and was selected by True Father to attend UTS. Upon graduation, he worked in Upstate NY and was then called to UTS to teach DP, UT and world religions. In 2004 he returned to Korea, teaching at the Cheongshim Graduate School of Theology in Cheongpyeong until 2014. He presently lives in Indianapolis, engaged in church outreach.

It is important to understand that we operate on the basis of various kinds of energy. When we consume a meal we are replacing the physical energy which we use every day. This energy, as is well-known, must be maintained at certain optimal levels for good health. A second type of energy, which is just as important, if not more so, is emotional energy. Although more subtle than physical energy, emotional energy may be even more important in the maintenance of one's health. It is well-known that we may often become emotionally "drained" in the face of some traumatic experience, or, on the other hand, when we feel elated, our energy to engage in life's activities is almost magically multiplied. We find ourselves able to do things beyond our normal limitations.

There is yet a third type of energy, which is even more subtle, and which many people may not be so aware of, and that is spiritual energy. Not so many people are able to utilize this kind of energy effectively because it takes certain disciplined training to recognize, access, or utilize it. One often visualizes the Buddhist who meditates for hours in a secluded place. But everyone can tap into spiritual energy if they understand the nature of spiritual energy. Those people who are devoutly religious, or who are spiritually inclined, know the tremendous support which a clear, firm faith conviction can give one, even in the most trying of times. A sense of hope, of meaning, and purpose animates a person beyond what might reasonably be expected. Compared with the average person who may be burdened with life's many inconveniences, and burdened by a sense of hopelessness, or meaninglessness, a person who is able to tap into spiritual energy, is able to meet life's challenges well, with vigor and enthusiasm.

Let me now turn, more briefly, to Napoleon Hill, author of *Think and Grow Rich* (69). Although not a doctor per se, and not addressing the topic of health directly, Hill is yet another writer who emphasizes the power of our thinking, not only on our health, but on every aspect of our life, and indeed on our ultimate success in life. He says "Your mind is your spiritual estate! Protect and use it with the care to which divine royalty is entitled."(70) Here again we see the incredible power of the mind and of our thoughts on reality. "Verily, there is nothing, right or wrong, which belief, plus burning desire, cannot make real."(71) Here is really elaborated the power of positive thinking. It is stated in his book: "Whatever the mind of man can conceive and believe it can achieve."(72) Again, "Through some strange and powerful principle of 'mental chemistry' which she has never divulged, Nature wraps up in the impulse of strong desire 'that something' which recognizes no such word as impossible, and accepts no such reality as failure."(73) Again, "all thoughts which have been emotionalized (given feeling) and mixed with faith, begin immediately to translate themselves into their physical

equivalent or counterpart.”(74) These statements again show the incredible power of our thoughts over our lives (including our health), but to relate this to our topic here, health and healing, it is interesting that of the thirty-one major causes of failure, Hill lists “Ill Health” as number six:

No person may enjoy outstanding success without good health. Many of the causes of ill health are subject to mastery and control. These in the main are:

- a. Overeating of foods not conducive to health.
- b. Wrong habits of thought; giving expression to negatives.
- c. Wrong use of, and over indulgence in sex.
- d. Lack of proper physical exercise.
- e. An inadequate supply of fresh air, due to improper breathing.

(75)

In what I have stated so far, I have tried to bring to our attention the fact that a number of individuals, doctors and otherwise, are emphasizing certain ideas about healing which are fairly new (and not to be found as playing an important role in traditional thinking about health and healing, especially in the West). I hope it has become clear how vitally important is the mind-body relationship, and, perhaps even more importantly, in the context of that relationship, an appreciation of the mind as a very powerful, even dominant, factor in its influence over the body in the maintenance of one’s overall health and healing. Trusting that I have sufficiently established these points, let me now turn to the second of my subtopics: the relationships between people.

Fresh Strawberry Sheetcake

contributed by Jennifer Yashiro

This recipe is from Jenna Barnard of Butternut Bakery.



Ingredients:

Strawberry Cake

- 2 cups (264g) all purpose flour
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup (98g) cake flour
- 2 tsp baking powder
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp baking soda
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp salt
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup (170g) vegetable oil
- $1\frac{3}{4}$ cups (250g) granulated sugar
- 4 large eggs
- $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups (325g) lightly pureed strawberries (about $1\frac{1}{2}$ pints)
- 1 tsp vanilla extract

Strawberry Cream Cheese Frosting

- 8 oz full fat cream cheese, room temperature
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup (110g) unsalted butter, room temperature
- 4 cups powdered sugar
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup (58g) lightly pureed strawberries

Instructions:

Strawberry Cake

1. Preheat the oven to 350F and grease and line a 9x13 baking pan with strip of parchment paper. Allow the paper to cover the bottom and the two longest sides of the pan with some paper overhanging for easy removal.
2. To puree the strawberries, place them in a food processor and let it run for a couple seconds. Then pulse until it's almost completely pureed but with a few small strawberry chunks. This is also the same process for the strawberries in the strawberry cream cheese frosting.
3. For the cake, whisk together the all purpose flour, cake flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt in a bowl and set aside.
4. In a large bowl, whisk together the oil, sugar, eggs, strawberry puree and vanilla extract.
5. Fold in the dry ingredients just until the batter comes together.
6. Pour it into the prepared pan and spread it even.
7. Bake for 35-40 minutes or until a toothpick in the center comes out clean with a few mist crumbs.
8. Let the cake cool completely in the pan before frosting. If you would like to lift the cake out of the pan, refrigerate it for at least an hour before doing so.

Strawberry Cream Cheese Frosting

1. Make the frosting right when the cake is done baking so it can chill alongside the cake.
2. Using a hand or stand mixer with the paddle attachment, mix together the cream cheese and butter.
3. Mix in the powdered sugar 1 cup at a time, followed by the strawberry puree.
4. Refrigerate the frosting for an hour so it can thicken up.
5. Once the cake is completely cooked, spread the frosting on top. Serve right away or store in the fridge for up to 7 days. Enjoy!

NOTES

*GLUTEN FREE – Although I haven't tested it, I believe this cake would do well with gluten free flour. Sub the flour with a good quality gluten free baking flour – one with xanthan gum. I like Bob's Redd Mill 1-to-1 gluten free baking flour. Also spoon the flour into the measuring cup and level it off with a flat edge. Don't scoop directly in to the flour as this packs it into the cup, leaving you with way too much flour – thus a dry cake.

**PUREE – These measurements are of the puree, not the strawberries. First, puree the strawberries and then measure to the amount listed above.

Find it online: butternutbakeryblog.com/fresh-strawberry-sheet-cake/



Unification Thoughts

Rearing Monarchs - Part 11

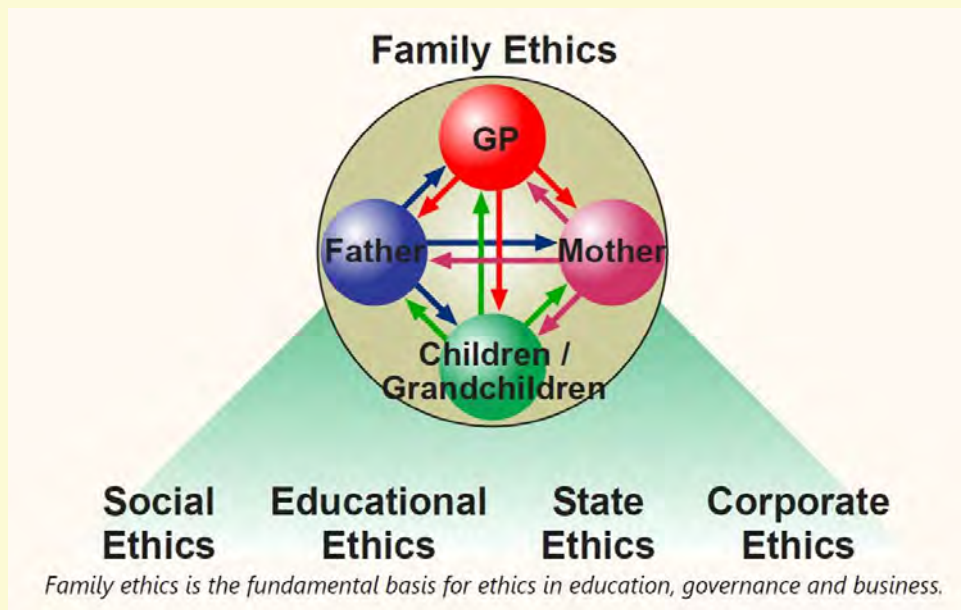
by Prof. Gerry Servito

Welcome back

In this article, we'll continue looking into the scope of family ethics - meaning its expansion into the real world beyond a child's family. And in case you're joining us for the first time, please take a moment to read about the *purpose* and *focus* of these *Rearing Monarchs* series, of which this article is the 14th.)

As we'd established in the past couple of articles, the values and ethics that a person learns in their childhood form the backbone for their ethical life as working adults. As UT explains:

"...family ethics is the basis of all ethics. If family ethics is applied to society, it becomes social ethics; if applied to corporations, it becomes corporate ethics; if applied to the state, it becomes state ethics."



Where we left off and where we're going

Last time we'd looked at the application of family ethics in business. This time, we'll look into how family ethics applies in state ethics (i.e., politics)...

[To read the whole article, please click here!](#)

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Spiritual Connections: Living in the Flow of God's Love



SPIRITUAL
CONNECTIONS

LIVING IN THE FLOW
OF GOD'S LOVE

NORA MARTIN SPURGIN

By **Gordon L. Anderson**



Spiritual Connections: Living in the Flow of God's Love (Circle of Angels Press, 201 pp., 2022) is an engaging spiritual autobiography of Nora Spurgin, who joined what was then called the Unified Family (later Unification Church) in New York in 1967. She served in many central positions as the movement led by Rev. Sun Myung Moon developed into a new global culture. Nora's identity is shaped by her connections to others in her lifelong pursuit to be in the flow of God's love. Her story begins with her ancestors who came to America for religious freedom. Her sixth great grandfather authored *Confessions of Faith*, which is still used for religious instruction among the Mennonites. She grew up in Lancaster County, PA, in a farming community with large families, connected to her parents, siblings, extended family, and nature. Life was a mixture of hard work, fun play, and worship of God. Personal responsibility and maintaining the community was stressed. Her community was self-sufficient. Nora learned to design and sew clothes and her father even taught her every step in building a house!

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Nora first met Rev. and Mrs. Moon in Washington, DC, in 1968 and watched the first blessing ceremony of 13 couples in America. In 1970, she was sent out as a missionary to Kansas City, MO. She took a job at a Veterans Administration hospital by day and taught Divine Principle lectures in the evening. While there, she was matched to Hugh Spurgin and then blessed in a ceremony for 777 international couples in Changchung Gymnasium in Seoul, South Korea. Hugh then joined her in Kansas City where they began married life. The next year they were sent to Berkeley,

CA, to help take care of a fast-growing center, and next sent to Philadelphia where their first child arrived.



Nora Spurgin and Dr. Hugh Spurgin, former President of UTS, at their home in Clermont, FL.

A new stage for the movement began in 1972 when Rev. Moon announced his first public speaking tour in America, and Philadelphia was the second city on his schedule. A mobile team of 15 people arrived in advance to help prepare for the event. Father and Mother Moon stayed with them in their center. By October 1972, the Unification Church legally organized as HSA-UWC, purchased the Belvedere Estate in Tarrytown, NY, and the Moon family had a permanent home in America. Next, Hugh and Nora were sent to the upper Midwest region, headquartered in Minnesota for three years, to guide church growth and host speaking engagements by Rev. Moon on his American tours. They acquired a school in Greenville, IA, to serve as a homebase and a Divine Principle workshop center that brought in many new members in these years.

In 1975, Nora participated in one of Rev. Ken Sudo's large training programs in Barrytown, NY, after which she was sent out as a national itinerant worker, visiting

new centers and members across the country. This meant large periods of separation from her family who lived in Barrytown with another family. It was a challenging period when “deprogrammers” were kidnapping new members and challenging their faith. While at Barrytown, Nora also worked with other mothers to set up Camp Sunrise for educational training and activities for the children, who were now school age.

Nora’s experience went international in 1978 when she was called to be part of an itinerant team of three who visited the American, German, and Japanese missionaries and church centers in Australia, India, Iran, Thailand, and Hong Kong.

In 1979, Nora’s fourth and last child was just one month old when she was asked to help prepare materials for large international matchings and the blessing of 2,075 couples at Madison Square Garden on July 1, 1982. After that, she and Betsy Jones created the Blessed Family Department and published *The Blessing Quarterly*. Lots of time was spent counselling couples who came from very different cultural backgrounds. Finally, in 1983, working out of New York City, Hugh and Nora were able to buy their first home across the river in New Jersey. Nora’s book goes into detail about raising her family and the national and international connections she helped make for her children during these years.

In 1991, as the Soviet Union collapsed and faced a moral vacuum, Nora went to Lithuania on a summer mission to teach about democracy and character. When she returned, the Church, undergoing financial hardship and budget cuts, closed several departments and laid off Hugh and Nora. They had to declare bankruptcy and moved to their “hometown providence” in Pennsylvania near Nora’s family to find new jobs and an apartment.

It wasn't long before Nora was asked to lead a new project. Mrs. Moon had founded the Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP) in Seoul in 1992. She asked Nora to become the American president of this new organization. Nora was challenged to set up a new non-profit corporation with regional chapters in America that would host Mrs. Moon on an eight-city speaking tour. Then Nora accompanied Mother Moon on an international WFWP tour to England, Germany, Austria, France, Russia, and China. The WFWP developed sisterhood ceremonies, where women of different countries and backgrounds would walk bridges of peace in a ceremony. They would then work to become bridges of peace between their countries.



WFWP-US President Nora Spurgin (left) with former President George H. W. Bush, former First Lady Barbara Bush, and WFWP-Japan President Motoko Sugiyama (right) at the WFWP rally, Tokyo Dome, Tokyo, Japan, on September 14, 1995.

Keynote speaker was WFWP International Founder Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon.

Former President George H. W. Bush and his wife Barbara attended several of these events. In August 1995, WFWP scheduled an event at the Fourth World Conference on Women in China and arranged for Maureen Reagan, daughter of former President

Ronald Reagan, to give a keynote address on family values. Nora even made a trip to North Korea with a WFWP tour group. By 1997, the WFWP had become quite visible and was granted consultative status with ECOSOC at the United Nations. Nora handed over the presidency of WFWP-US to Alexa Ward.

In June 1997, Nora and the family followed Hugh to Bridgeport, CT, where Hugh had become President of a residential high school, New Eden Academy, for children of Unification Church members. As it grew in reputation, the school opened its doors to nonmembers and was renamed Bridgeport International Academy (BIA) and eventually received a grant to buy a building. In addition to dealing with student problems, accreditors, and building inspectors, after Hurricane Sandy she had to deal with FEMA and clean up from flooding. The school continued to flourish. After working 19 years at BIA, Nora retired as the principal in 2016.

This brief summary of the highlights of Nora's life and missions just touches the surface of this spiritual autobiography rich with stories of the people she met, the connections she made, the challenges faced, and the successes achieved. It is an in-depth story of a wife and mother who was able to raise four children while helping Rev. Moon's activities in America and the world.

Reading *Spiritual Connections: Living in the Flow of God's Love* will both enrich one's knowledge of the history of the Unification Church in America and show how people like Nora, committed to feeling God's heart and serving God's will, were able to plant seeds for a new world culture. Teaching the *Divine Principle*, practicing Blessed Family life, counselling others, creating schools, and public service activities that touched U.S. presidents and the United Nations made Nora's a rich and fruitful life.

I highly recommend this book for spiritual seekers, parents, and public servants. You will come away inspired.♦

Spiritual Connections: Living in the Flow of God's Love is available in paperback or as an e-book [here](#). The current edition of Nora's well-known *Circles of Angels: How You Can Call Your Own Circle of Angels to Energize Your Life* is available [here](#).
Dr. Gordon L. Anderson (UTS Class of 1978) is the President of Paragon House, Editor-in-Chief Emeritus of the International Journal on World Peace, and Adjunct Professor at the California Institute of Integral Studies. He earned an M.Div. in Christian Ethics at Union Theological Seminary and a Ph.D. in Philosophy of Religion from Claremont Graduate University.



Fresh Strawberry Sheet Cake



by Jenna / 83 Comments



JUMP TO RECIPE

PIN RECIPE

Nothing makes me feel more nostalgic than strawberry sheet cake. It's something my sister and I made for my dad's birthday when we were little, although that was with a strawberry cake mix and canned frosting. It only felt right to redeem ourselves and create a fresh strawberry cake from scratch! No mixes, just fresh strawberries, cream cheese, and everything in between. It's moist, flavorful, and all homemade!





How to make strawberry sheet cake using fresh strawberries

Before my mom told me that we actually just used a cake mix for my dad's cake, I was scouring the internet trying to find the recipe I thought we might have used.

Through my deep dive, I found that most strawberry cake recipes out there rely on some sort of mix and hardly any actual strawberries. I just couldn't accept that!

I made it my mission to create a flavorful and moist strawberry sheet cake that was also easy to make. To do so, I decided to use freshly pureed strawberries in the cake AND the strawberry cream cheese frosting.

The key is to get the perfect puree consistency. It should be thin enough to blend with the batter but not too thin to where you can't see those pretty strawberry specks.

When running the strawberries through a **food processor**, stop right before they reach the point of a completely smooth puree. I've found this is the perfect way to bake with strawberries as I also did something similar with my **Roasted Strawberry Cupcakes** - they turned out to be a huge hit!

And because this is an oil-based cake, which is what makes it so moist, it's important to use enough strawberries to cancel out the oil flavor. Using fresh strawberries helps to not only cancel out the oil, but also balance out the sweetness of the cake.

Why you should make strawberry cake from scratch

If you're going to make a homemade strawberry cake, using fresh strawberries is the only way to go!

The main reason being that it's easier than it might seem and doesn't take that much more effort compared to using a jello or cake mix. The only extra step is to puree the strawberries which, in the grand scheme of things, isn't that big of a deal especially when this cake is the outcome!

Many strawberry cake mixes have strawberry flavors and dyes to get that "strawberry" taste.. but why bake the fake stuff when you can have the real deal??

Finally, you probably already have all the ingredients you need to make a strawberry sheet cake from scratch. It doesn't require anything fancy, unless you don't keep cake flour in your kitchen. If that's the case, using all all-purpose is totally fine. Your cake

won't turn out as tender but it will still be just as moist and flavorful.

Ok, I rest my case. Just know that baking with a fresh strawberry cake is so worth it.



How to remove a strawberry sheet cake from the pan

There are a few ways you can serve a sheet cake. The most popular route is to keep it in the pan which makes it easy to frost and store in the fridge. All you have to do is cover the top in plastic wrap.

If you prefer to ditch the pan completely, there's two ways you can remove the cake. The first way is to grease the cake pan and cover just the bottom in parchment paper.

When the cake is completely cooled, flip it out onto a cooling rack then flip that back on to a serving surface.

The other way, which is what I chose, is to line the bottom and sides with one big strip of parchment paper (also greasing the pan). Letting the paper hang over the edges along the length of the pan allows you to lift it out later.

The cake must be in the fridge for at least an hour for this step. Then simply lift and place the cake on a surface, frost, and slice!

To store the strawberry sheet cake, it's easiest to slice the cake then place the pieces in an air tight container. Keep the strawberry cake in the refrigerator for up to 7 days.





Silky strawberry cream cheese frosting

Arguably the best part about this strawberry sheet cake recipe. The strawberry cream cheese frosting is so smooth and flavorful. I could easily eat it by the spoonful.

It's also so easy to make and consists of just 4 ingredients:

- Butter
- Cream Cheese
- Powdered Sugar
- Strawberries

First and foremost, make sure the cream cheese and butter are at room temperature to get the perfect silky consistency. Cream the two together using an electric mixer then mix in the powdered sugar one cup at a time.

Once combined, mix in the strawberry puree.

The frosting will seem very thin, almost like pudding, which is why it's made right when the cake is removed from the oven. This way, the two can chill alongside each other so that the cake cools completely and the frosting thickens up.

After the cake is completely cool to the touch, smear on the entirety of the frosting. Just know that as the frosting warms up, it will soften into a super silky consistency.

How to store fresh strawberry sheet cake

Since the frosting softens quickly, I don't suggest leaving the cake out at room temperature for more than an hour. So to store, cover the cake and keep it in the refrigerator. It will keep fresh for up to 7 days!





For more delicious strawberry dessert recipes, check out my:

- **[Strawberry Cupcakes](#)** (made with roasted strawberries!)
- **[Fresh Strawberry Cake](#)** (layer cake)
- **[Strawberry Pizza](#)**
- **[Strawberry Pop Tart Shortbread](#)**
- **[Strawberry Pretzel Tart](#)**

Make sure to tag me [@butternutbakery](#) on Instagram or leave a comment below if you make this Fresh Strawberry Sheet Cake. I love seeing my recipes come to life in YOUR kitchen! To pin this recipe and save it for later, you can use the button on the recipe card, the buttons above or below this post, or on any of the photos above. Happy baking!



Fresh Strawberry Sheet Cake



5 from 24 reviews

Author: **Jenna Barnard**



Total Time: 1 hour 10 minutes



Yield: 9x13 sheet cake

 **PRINT RECIPE**

 **PIN RECIPE**

This strawberry cake is incredibly moist and made with FRESH strawberries! No mixes, no food coloring, just natural strawberry flavor with a silky strawberry cream cheese frosting.

Ingredients

SCALE **1X**

Strawberry Cake

- 2 cups (264g) all purpose flour *see notes for GF option
- 3/4 cup (98g) cake flour
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp baking soda
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 3/4 cup (170g) vegetable oil
- 1 3/4 cups (250g) granulated sugar
- 4 large eggs
- 1 1/2 cups (325g) lightly pureed strawberries** (about 1 1/2 pints)
- 1 tsp vanilla extract

Strawberry Cream Cheese Frosting

- 8 oz full fat cream cheese, room temperature
- 1/2 cup (110g) unsalted butter, room temperature
- 4 cups powdered sugar
- 1/4 cup (58g) lightly pureed strawberries**

Instructions

Strawberry Cake

- 1 Preheat the oven to 350F and grease and line a **9×13 baking pan** with strip of parchment paper. Allow the paper to cover the bottom and the two longest sides of the pan with some paper overhang for easy removal.
- 2 To puree the strawberries, place them in a food processor and let it run for a couple seconds. Then pulse until it's almost completely pureed but with a few small strawberry chunks. This is also the same process for the strawberries in the strawberry cream cheese frosting.
- 3 For the cake, whisk together the all purpose flour, cake flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt in a bowl and set aside.
- 4 In a large bowl, whisk together the oil, sugar, eggs, strawberry puree, and vanilla extract.
- 5 Fold in the dry ingredients just until the batter comes together.
- 6 Pour it into the prepared pan and spread it even.
- 7 Bake for 35-40 minutes or until a toothpick in the center comes out clean with a few moist crumbs.
- 8 Let the cake cool completely in the pan before frosting. If you would like to lift the cake out of the pan, refrigerated it for at least an hour before doing so.

Strawberry Cream Cheese Frosting

- 1 Make the frosting right when the cake is done baking so it can chill alongside the cake.
- 2 Using a hand or stand mixer with the paddle attachment, mix together the cream cheese and butter.
- 3 Mix in the powdered sugar 1 cup at a time, followed by the strawberry puree.
- 4 Refrigerate the frosting for an hour so it can thicken up.
- 5 Once the cake is completely cooled, spread the frosting on top. Serve right away or store in the fridge for up to 7 days. Enjoy!

Equipment



Food Processor

Buy Now →

9×13 Baking Pan

Buy Now →

Offset Spatula

Buy Now →

Notes

i *GLUTEN FREE - Although I haven't tested it, I believe this cake would do well with gluten free flour. Sub the flour with a good quality gluten free baking flour - one with xanthan gum. I like Bob's Red Mill 1-to-1 gluten free baking flour. Also spoon the flour into the measuring cup and level it off with a flat edge. Don't scoop directly into the flour as this packs it into the cup, leaving you with way too much flour - thus a dry cake.

i **PUREE - These measurements are of the puree, not the strawberries. First, puree the strawberries and then measure to the amounts listed above.



Prep Time: 30 minutes



Cook Time: 40 minutes



Category: Cake



Method: Baked



Cuisine: American

Keywords: *strawberry cake, strawberry sheet cake, strawberry sheet cake recipe, fresh strawberry cake*



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Meet *Jenna*

I'm the creator, baker, and photographer behind Butternut Bakery. Here I share desserts for every diet because I believe everyone should have a chance to indulge!

[LEARN MORE ABOUT JENNA](#) →

Comments

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RECIPE RATING



POST COMMENT



Molly says

June 19, 2022 at 4:07 pm

This cake is amazing! I am gluten free and used Cup4Cup GF flour and the texture

was amazing. My family was blown away and asked for this to be made ever birthday.

REPLY



Jenna says

June 21, 2022 at 4:07 pm

Ah yay! So glad it worked as a GF dessert!!

REPLY



Grace says

June 21, 2022 at 10:00 am

Could this recipe be used to make cupcakes instead of a sheet cake?

★★★★★

REPLY



Jenna says

June 21, 2022 at 4:02 pm

I suggest my **roasted strawberry cupcakes** instead! They're so so good

REPLY



Delia Evin says

June 22, 2022 at 2:56 pm

Question, is there a way to substitute the cake flour? I haven't been able to find any in my local stores.

REPLY



Jenna says

June 27, 2022 at 11:56 am

Oh no! Try subbing in 3/4 cup all purpose flour but subtract 1 tablespoon and replace it with 1 tablespoon of cornstarch.

REPLY



Mina says

Thank you so much for putting in the measurements in grams! It's a lot more precise and makes it so much easier to bake. Can't wait to try the recipe tomorrow<3

REPLY



Jenna says

June 27, 2022 at 11:54 am

Of course! Enjoy!

REPLY

« OLDER COMMENTS

Recipe Key

		 VEGAN
 VEGAN OPTION	 GLUTEN FREE	 GLUTEN FREE OPTION
 DAIRY FREE	 DAIRY FREE OPTION	 NATURALLY SWEETENED



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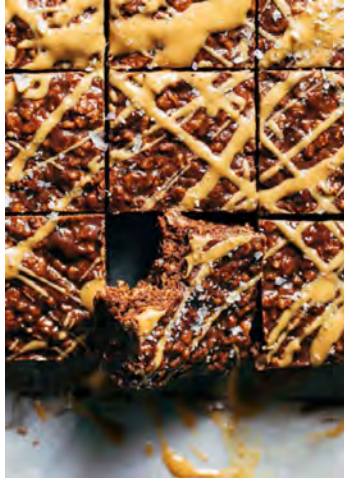
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An Open Letter regarding Alaska Providence

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

If you have any stories about your experiences doing Providential work in Alaska, or any stories of your experiences with True Parents in Alaska, we want to help you record them and to share them. Please contact us.

Brothers and sisters are stepping up to formalize and to implement a process that we hope will produce some finished products to embody the legacy of God's Providence working through our precious True Parents' work in Alaska during their lifetime. This is a labor of love with so much heart. Would you want to help?

Each person who has contributed is jumping in with their years of experiences and through their talents and skills as volunteers to challenge a great-unknown, that is, 'Where are the stories, photos and documents that go with a timeline that we know for True Parents' when they traveled to Alaska?' We acknowledge our Sub-Region 5 Leader, Rev. Kevin Thompson for asking Rev. Larry Krishnek, myself (Donna Avey), Jenny Leguineche, and others who have come along: Ken & Masako Whitmore, Michael Downey, Captain Minoru Kageyama, Nelson Mira and David Roberts.

We are grateful for all our supporters who have given time and talent as well as spent time sharing their stories for our first interviews. We also appreciate the timeline contributions of Dr. Michael Mickler's team as well as UTS students, such as Tasnah Moyer Bercy, and the Headquarters IT Team members, including Tom Tanemori.

Many people have contributed to the legacy of the Providential heart, prayers and blood-sweat-and-tears offered to God for the sake of humanity and the Ocean and environment through our True Parents during their days in Alaska. Hopefully, we can catch their documents and stories that create a dynamic record of the living history and contribute to the words and records that we have from these years of the True Parents' Ministry.

Our True Parents in Alaska (TPAK) History Project team wants to inspire and to motivate your contributions. If you or someone you know has previous journal entries, can verbally recount memorable tales or have photos and/or videos to copy and to be shared, we need them.

For your consideration we also need help to create a platform and the process to capture the new stories that are emerging now. These new chapters are actively being made through the lives of Kodiak and Alaska members working with Ocean Providence and Ocean Challenge participants as well as the efforts to forge the Peace Road and the Bering Strait Tunnel. As you can imagine, this process needs creative talent and expertise in new, and sometimes old, technologies. After all, what is VHS?

Alaskans are grateful for the people of the land of the Kodiak Island Native Association and the other Native tribes and clans who have cared for all these Alaskan lands since ancient times. These same people have watched over the oceans and seas that merge and flow through the Pacific-Rim area around the Bering Sea and Arctic Ocean, as well as Cook Inlet, Resurrection Bay, and other areas of the Pacific Ocean and the watersheds that feed these bodies of water. We hope to find and to merge their stories with our True Parents into these documents and publications, if we can. If you are aware of any of these Alaskans, also, please let us know.

Therefore, please contact us. Work with us as soon as possible. Help us to record your part of the story of True Parents in Alaska.

Sincerely,

Donna Avey, Coordination Assistant, True Parents in Alaska History Project Team

907-301-4421"

Lending a Hand in Las Vegas

By Steven Matthew Goldberg

Las Vegas is the last place on earth you would expect to meet the returning Christ. It is a city without historical roots in the American spiritual narrative. Pilgrim fathers did not come to Nevada in order to build the Kingdom of God on Earth. Pilgrim mothers did not flock to Las Vegas to live a life of faith in Christ on Earth. Las Vegas was founded by evil people. Mafia. Gangsters. Bad actors. Sex workers (pimps, whores and prostitutes of all genders).

If the devil himself imagined a city representing the Kingdom of Hell on Earth, it would be Las Vegas. Las Vegas are proud of it. "What happens in Las Vegas stays in Las Vegas." That slogan can be translated loosely as follows. You can do anything you want in Las Vegas and no one will ever find out about it. So go ahead and sin and forget about it.

By the way, did I mention that the Devil is a liar?

Everything you and I do, dear seeker after goodness, beauty and truth, is recorded in a sort of video archive of Eternity. No exceptions. The truth is, if you sin in Vatican City, it will be on the record. Nevada is no different except for geography.

Why was Reverend Moon building an education center in the middle of a city that has the reputation as "Sin City"?

This is the question that was rattling around in my head as I stepped out of a 15-passenger van onto a hot asphalt parking lot in the middle of Las Vegas in July of 2011. The heat was overwhelming. I carried in my bag several autobiographies of the Reverend Sun Myung Moon titled *A Peace Loving Global Citizen*. There was an acrid smell coming from the rubber soles of my sneakers frying on the pavement beneath my feet. So I did the only

thing a spiritual person could do – I prayed for guidance. “God, what do you need me to do?”

“Go find an oasis!” There it was, clear as a bell, the voice of God. Go find an oasis? Is that it, God? You want me to find an oasis in a parking lot? I must be hallucinating, hearing voices maybe. Answer to prayer, indeed!

I looked around for signs of water. A palm tree maybe? Or some sand? Suddenly, there it was on the far side of the lot. I spotted a big white motorhome with a big sign on the side. I squinted to read the lettering.

LOOKING FOR AN OASIS in the DESERT? FREE WATER.

“OK, God, I will get right on it.” I headed for the motorhome. Knocking on the door, I was surprised when a grizzled head of white hair poked out of the opening side door of the motorhome. “Come in sonny, it’s hotter than blazes out there, get yourself a bottle of water.” As I stepped into the air-conditioned living room of his “desert schooner,” he handed me a cold bottle of mineral water.

“Whatcha selling on a hot day like this?” I held up the autobiography of Reverend Moon, wondering what his reaction might be.

“Well, I’ll be danged if it aint old Moonie. Been seeing posters all over town about him. Tell me more, sonny.”

What else could I do? I told him about the autobiography, I told him part of my personal testimony of how finding peace and comfort through Jesus and the Holy Spirit had led me to meet Reverend Moon and how I came to understand the meaning of the Second Coming of Christ.

He got real quiet for a while. A long while went by before he spoke. Then he said, "Any friend of Jesus is a friend of mine. How much do you want for the book?"

And that's how it went that week in Las Vegas. People of faith showed up in the most unexpected places. But that's not really what I wanted to tell you about in this story. I want to tell you about one of the last times I took the Messiah by the hand, only to discover that he was taking me by the hand.

At the end of the week, Reverend Randy Francis and our team of pastors, most of us old timers, were about to head out of town to the airport. But we wanted to stop by the newly purchased warehouse one more time. The place was a huge framed building, mostly storage space. A makeshift office and distribution center for the autobiography books had been set up by the front entrance. Reverend Francis dropped me and Freeman Daugherty at the front door. Freeman needed to pick up a box of books. We found the books and headed for the door. Suddenly, a wide-eyed younger brother raced into the book distribution center. "Heads up, everybody. Clean up everything; clear the tables, boxes in closets or under tables. We have to clear a path! Hurry it up! Father will be here any moment; I just got a call, Father is in the car and on the way."

I sent a quick text to Randy Francis, alerting him to what was about to happen. He was a few blocks away doing another errand with the van. It all happened so fast that we barely had time to clean up the room before a parade of Korean elders surrounding True Father poured through the door. They walked around the building, looking at this and that and speaking in rapid Korean. Less than a half an hour later, we saw them coming from the end of the building toward the door. Most of us just ran outside and got in a line along the sidewalk so we could at least wave goodbye as Father left.

The entourage came through the door with Father in the middle of a half-dozen Korean men. Suddenly I noticed that he walked very carefully, relying on a cane, which he held in his right hand, for support. I was standing a little to the left of our beloved True Father and my heart reached out with love and respect. Suddenly he seemed so vulnerable! He swayed a tiny bit in my direction and instinctively I extended my hand to support him in case he needed a little support. Father grasped my hand and held on to it firmly, stopping for a moment to look at me. Father pressed my hand with a firm grip that held me for a moment. That touch spoke to my soul. In my mind, I “heard” him saying, “I am fine, you just hang on and let’s keep on doing for God. Thank you, Matthew.”

Father did not speak a word to me on that occasion. He did not have to. His touch said it all. “Keep on doing for God.”

Recently as I continue to read both True Father’s and True Mother’s memoirs, I realize how fortunate we are to be on earth at this time in history. Just hang on to the True Parents and keep doing for God and everything will work out well.

Matthew Goldberg
Severna Park, MD

Family Ethics and Politics

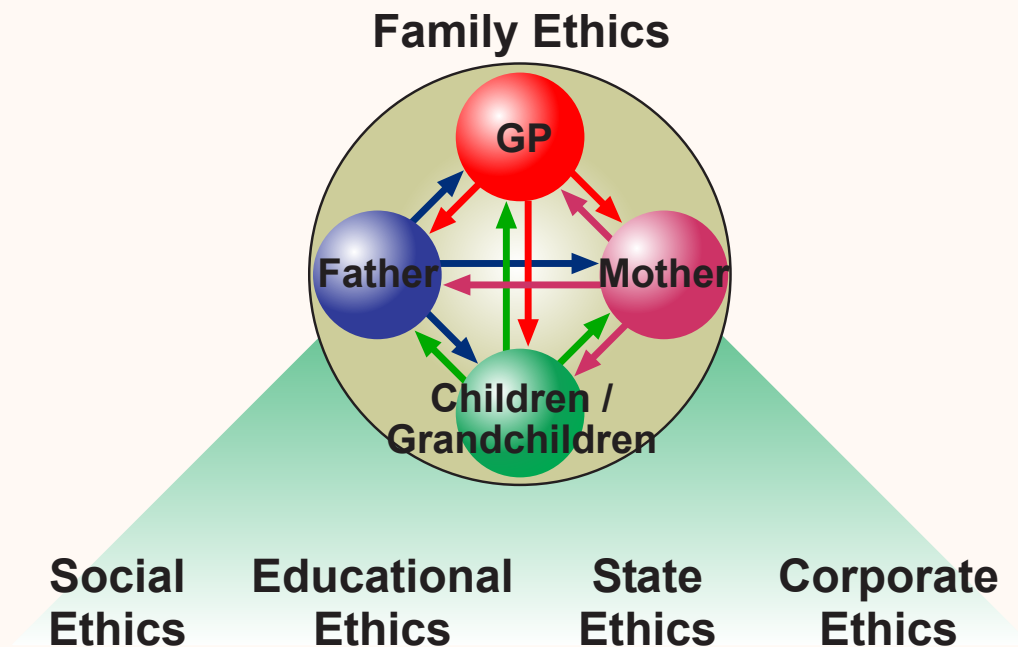
Unification Thoughts, July 2022

~20 mins.

Welcome back In this article, we'll continue looking into the *scope* of family ethics—meaning its expansion into the real world beyond a child's family. And in case you're joining us for the first time, please take a moment to read about the *purpose* and *focus* of this *Rearing Monarchs* series¹, of which this article is the 14th.

As we'd established in the past couple of articles, the values and ethics that a person learns in their childhood form the backbone for their ethical life as working adults. As UT explains:

"...family ethics is the basis of all ethics. If family ethics is applied to society, it becomes **social ethics**; if applied to corporations, it becomes **corporate ethics**; if applied to the state, it becomes **state ethics**." • NEUT, p. 285



Family ethics is the fundamental basis for ethics in education, governance and business.

Where we left off and where we're going

[Last time](#), we'd looked at the application of family ethics in *business*. This time, we'll look into how family ethics applies in state ethics (i.e., *politics*). Inherent in the core ideas of this series of articles—*kingships* and *monarchs*—is the idea of governance, and therefore politics.

Though I haven't personal experience in politics and government, there are important examples which I'll mention later. But let's lay some basic groundwork about Principled politics first.

Politics as it's introduced in the Principle

Politics is mentioned 19 times in the DP chapter on the *Parallels* in history, from p. 317–343. Of those mentions, this particular paragraph goes a bit deeper:

“...religion and economy are related in that they are responsible for restoring the **internal** and **external** aspects of fallen people's lives. ... **Religion and economy are integrated with our life in society through politics.** Especially in Western Europe, politics has sought to connect economic development...with the path of Christianity, which has often lacked a clear sense of its providential direction....” • *Exposition of DP*, p. 334–335

I think this paragraph holds an important idea for our young ones to understand: that Principled politics is an integration of *religion and economy*. I consider that important because of the impression I gained while teaching that politics is not well-regarded by many of our young. And indeed that opinion was pretty widespread among my own generation. Especially during my college years, we thought that politics is a “dirty business” and it's best to steer clear of it.

But this perspective offered by the Principle is different and quite important for our young ones to at least be aware of. Who would be more qualified to administer a heavenly economy than those persons who are truly religious, and whose motivation is to *care for others* as members of Heavenly Parents' extended family? This means that being a *true* politician is actually a noble calling. So it should be a respected option for those of our young who have such talents or ambitions. For in the Settlement Age, when blessed families are tasked to actually build the CIG, there will be a genuine need for principled people in government. The time for future leaders to learn those ethical values deeply is when they are young.

Note that in two of the Principle's chapters building up to the last one, we are introduced to the three *Ideals of **Interdependence**, **Mutual Prosperity** and **Universally Shared Values***². They are described as “the three aspects of religion, politics and economy”. And they are so essential to our concept of a peaceful, ideal world that they have been highlighted in our most important public events in recent years. But that chapter in the Principle closes without any real explanation of those ideals. We can turn to UT for that.

Politics as it's explored in Unification Thought

In the textbook *Essentials of Unification Thought*, politics is explored in its *Appendix*, in the section on mutual prosperity:

“The principle of **mutual existence**, **mutual prosperity** and **mutual righteousness** is a principle addressing a certain dimension of Rev. Moon's concept of Godism, namely, the dimension including economics, politics and ethics.” • *NEUT*, p. 507

The three ideals are named slightly differently here, due to differences in translation between the Principle and Unification Thought³. But regardless of differences in

translation, they address the three same areas: **economics**, **politics** and **ethics**.

In case you missed it, four paragraphs earlier the Principle mentions *religion* rather than ethics. So are two different things being addressed? In short, no: in this quote from UT, religion and ethics are equated:

“...the ideal world is a world of values, and will be a unified world characterized by the three major spheres of true life, ethical life and artistic life, and at the same time it will be a society of “mutual existence, mutual prosperity and mutual righteousness,” wherein God’s love is realized in **politics**, **economy**, and **religion (ethics)**.” • *NEUT*, p. 96

Which is understandable, because religion is a major source of moral and ethical guidance. So now, we can take a look a some of the values of true politics.

State Ethics

What follows is not an exhaustive explanation of the political views of Godism. We’re after all focused mainly on raising our children, so that they can become “kings and queens of the present” in their adulthood. So rather than a detailed exploration of Godism’s political positions, we’ll only suggest how the ethical and moral values a child learns in its family can become the basis for the way that child conceives of politics. Which impacts how that child could *practice* politics as a civil servant later on. As Unification Thought says:

“If family ethics is applied to...the state, it becomes state ethics.”
• *NEUT*, p. 285

Our young people are pretty idealistic and the community has an ethos of living for others, so there should be some future civil servants among them. In that case, long before they take their first political science class, they should know and understand at least the basic perspective of Godism. Here then are just a few quotes which indicate the general perspective of true politics.

The benevolence of parental heart; the fidelity of siblings’ heart

Here, the role of a president toward the citizens reflects the heart of the parent or grandparent toward their family:

“The role of the president of a country is to **govern the people well and empower them to live well**. The role of the governor of a province is to harmoniously govern the province...” • *New Essentials of UT*, p. 527

“If this ethical system is expanded to the national level, it means that the President or Prime Minister of a nation will **love the people as if they were members of his own family, thinking of them whether awake or asleep**. As the people respect and support him as a parent, (harmony) is created, and the nation develops.” • *Explaining UT*, p. 236

And here is quite a different understanding of how civil servants would be selected:

"... the relationship among the candidates would not be that of rivalry, but that of brothers and sisters attending the Messiah... the candidates would run for election not by their own will, but rather with the recommendation of many neighbors...." • *New Essentials of UT*, p. 518

That kind of relationship would make the tone of campaigns would be one of sincerely offering one's best, rather than of attacking or discrediting adversaries.

Democracy then would take a different character, again reflecting the extension of familial ethics:

"...a joint government will be a "government of the brothers and sisters, by the brothers and sisters, and for the brothers and sisters, centered on the True Parents of humankind"... (It) can be expressed as a fraternal democracy." • *New Essentials of UT*, p. 519

This stands in contrast to democracy as we experience now experience it.⁴

The mother's heart

The role of the mother is specially highlighted as it applies to the wider world. UT mentions this:

"In order to realize world peace it is highly desirable for women to take the lead, since the primary force for peace in a family is the mother."
• *New Essentials of UT*, p. 290

So this becomes another essential awareness to cultivate in our young ones. The founding of the Women's Federation for World Peace in 1992 brought to the forefront the critical importance of women in establishing the peaceful world. That is an entire area of study that needs attention throughout a child's education. But for now, we have books that give the principled perspective on it:

1. *Pyeong Hwa Gyeong*, [Book 6: The Role of Women in Creating the Ideal World](#)
2. *Chambumo Gyeong*, Book 12: The Family Federation for World Peace and Unification and the Women's Era⁵

The relationship of government branches

Lastly, it might be useful to be aware of an important notion about the working relationship between branches of a principled, ideal government in the future:

"Under the principle of mutual prosperity, a separation of the three powers is proposed, but more in the sense of a division of the work of the three branches, legislation, judicial, and administrative, all working in harmony." • *New Essentials of UT*, p. 520

So it is not a matter of agencies keeping a wary eye on each other in order to keep them reined in, but a matter of synchronized cooperation, like the organs of the human body. Here's how the Principle describes it:

“In the human body, the lungs, heart and stomach maintain **harmonious interaction**... By analogy, the three branches of government in the ideal world—the legislative, judicial and executive branches—will interact in **harmonious and principled relationships** when they follow God’s guidance as conveyed **through Christ**....” • *Exposition of DP*, p. 361–362

Family ethics on a grand scale

That last point is what makes harmonious interaction possible: *Christ* manifests the benevolent heart of Heavenly Parent towards all the family members. That heart and its parental concerns provide the primary, common motivation for all governance.

The prime example of these last two points is organizations like the [IAPP](#) and the years of Omonim’s national and international peace conferences and meetings with heads of state.

I think that the role of the [UPF](#)—the “Abel UN”—and Think Tank 2022 are also practical examples of family ethics applied to politics, even on a grand scale. Which leads to one last interesting point.

The distribution of power

When there is a common heart and driving purpose at every level of governance, it isn’t necessary for every single decision to be made only at the top. Rather, they can be made at the governing level that is most appropriate for a given situation. UT uses the example of the way government actions are decided by referring to the procedure in Korea:

“...information that cannot be handled by the subcounty is sent to the county; if it cannot be handled there, it is sent to the province; if necessary, it can finally be sent to the central government. **Almost all information, however, is dealt with below the province.**”

• *Explaining UT*, p. 162

What makes this possible is the united commitment to a shared, common purpose. Once again, it’s like the human body, where every single action or function isn’t necessarily reliant on the conscious direction of the brain. There is autonomy in the different body parts to decide and act as needed.⁶

Another example is the relationship of members of a successful sports team: each player is able to make decisions and act as needed without having consultations with the other players, the captain, or the coach. (Imagine if they had to do that!) This is only possible of course when (like a healthy human body) they have a single common purpose/heart which guides the decisions that any team member makes.

Resources

In addition to the big examples of family ethics as applied to politics mentioned above, there are other ones that you may know of from the past, that you might

have been a part of, or that you are currently involved in. I'm certain there are many that I don't know of, but here are three that came to mind:

American Freedom Coalition (AFC) - Father Moon briefly indicated his intention for the AFC in *Chambumo Gyeong*.⁷ There isn't an AFC website any more, but [this page](#) provides the fascinating background of the organization, its purpose and its activities. One of its members who served as a senator for many terms told me that in his experience *every single problem* he dealt with in governance could be traced to family problems. I was incredulous, but he assured me that it was indeed so. For that reason he expressed great appreciation for Mother Moon's investment in strengthening families.

Peace In - This organization does [community service projects](#) which immerse young people in different cultures and therefore involve and inspire elected officials. It's also a noteworthy example of women having impact in communities and their politics. It's connected to the Universal Peace Federation which was mentioned above.

Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness, version 4.0 - This is the one book I'm aware of that examines American democracy from a Principled viewpoint. The overview of this [book](#) states that it:

"...explains the evolution of the core principles of political philosophy contained in the US Constitution and how, in the quest for power and wealth, they have been circumvented and misapplied by those who followed after the founders. ...The final chapter suggests changes that would eliminate numerous conflicts of interest and create checks and balances that would make the system more efficient and functional."

I've highlighted more passages on more pages in this book than almost any other in my library. An extension of the ideas in this book can be found in this newer [website](#).

* * *

This has been a pretty long article, so it's time to close it. Please remember that it's *not* a thorough examination of the political theory of Godism.

Nor is it about how *soon* this will all happen. Like the Principle of Creation and Unification Thought, this is about a *vision* that can inspire and guide us to proceed toward a New World.

Our concern here is to highlight the importance of the ethics and morals a child learns in their family. Those are the foundation for their lives in government service, if that is indeed their destiny. Because the Settlement Era CIG *will* need people skilled in governance; true politicians who are genuinely religious and who can guide economy in a genuinely benevolent and principled manner.



Endnotes

1. This series' purpose is to offer the perspective of Unification Thought on raising our grandchildren. Our basic premises come from 1) the [Realms of True Love](#)—in which Father and Mother Moon explain the *five* realms of divine love—and 2) the [Three Great Kingdoms](#)—which inspires the title of this series. If you take a look at those two links, you'll at least understand the *perspective* of the preceding 12 articles, if not the details.
2. The ideals of "interdependence, mutual prosperity and universally shared values" are mentioned 19 times in the *Parallels* chapter on pages 342–344 and seven times in the *Preparation* chapter on pages 347–365.
3. I read an explanation that UT's use of the word "mutual" is a reflection of the original Korean which used a single identical prefix to the three ideals. That common prefix was adhered to in a related textbook that Dr. Lee wrote:
"...in the course of human history the unified state will be realized...in accordance with God's providence. That will be ... the state based on the principles of coexistence, co-prosperity and co-righteousness... (i.e., a society of the three 'co-' principles)." • *The End of Communism*, p. 165
These were newly created words which the translators of the 1996 version of the Principle chose instead to render, using *existing* English, as "interdependence, mutual prosperity and universally shared values".
4. UT appreciates the value of democracy, but also notes that it can become misdirected:
"...democracy, which was established by overthrowing absolute monarchy...was closely united with individualism.... Individualism is to be respected in that it emphasizes the importance of individuality, personality, and individual values. Due to the policy of the separation of church and state, however...capitalists perpetually pursue the maximization of profit, and politicians regard political power as their concessions.... So...corruption and various kinds of injustices and crimes are rampant in democratic society today.
...However, it is not that liberal democracy has failed in every respect. Clearly, it has played an important role in securing freedom of faith.... • *New Essentials of UT*, p.514
5. At the time of this article, all the links to the book *Chambumo Gyeong* (<http://truelove.org/csg2/toc.htm>) are currently broken; the physical book will have to suffice.
6. In the textbook *New Essentials of Unification Thought*, there is [an explanation](#) of how the decision-making capacities of the human body are distributed throughout different areas of the nervous system (p. 424). This information goes pretty far beyond our concern with raising children, but it's included *just in case* you'd like some backup for the position that UT takes. Look for the section F entitled: "Process of Cognition and Physiological Conditions" where cybernetics is discussed.
7. *Chambumo Gyeong*, Book 11, Chap.1, Sect. 4, para10.



Gerry Servito was appointed by Dr. Sang Hun Lee to the *Art and Culture* section of USA's Unification Thought Institute. Currently, he's Senior Teaching Fellow of [RIIWT](#). He found Unification Thought after spending college looking into philosophy (esp. [existentialism](#)), the [Gita](#), and doing transcendental meditation. He was very grateful to find a spiritual path that pursues not only centered mind-body unity, but a 2nd and even a 3rd Blessing—all for the greater purpose!