

April 2026 Golden Age Newsletter

Richard Buessing and Carol Pobanz
April 2, 2026



Golden Age Newsletter

April 1, 2026

Hello Goldies, Welcome! We hope you enjoy!

Where is God is this month's featured article from Carol Pobanz, then a deeper look at Jesus' life by Dr. Lewis, a loving remembrance by Mr. Downey on his experiences with True parents, Mrs. Anne Marie Mylars successful request for Unificationist Veterans, oriental body exercises suited for seniors and 2 book reviews complete this month's newsletter!

This Month's Message

Where Is GOD?



Excerpt from EPIPHANIES (a memoir in progress)
by Carol Pobanz

Toward the beginning of my first semester, senior year in college I had an especially significant spiritual experience. Since my time back at home as a child, I had continued praying every night. I carried that tradition with me even until college. Most nights I prayed out on the balcony, on the fire escape. On this one particular night I was praying, and I could smell the garbage from the large bins in the alley below, as well as hear the constant screech of sirens—ambulances, fire engines and police cars screaming down Broad Street, one block over from the dormitory residence.

As I spoke with God in prayer that night, those sirens spoke to me about the pain and misery in the urban environment and I found myself trying to comfort God, apologizing for all the bad things in the city and then suggesting to Him that if there was anything He needed me to help with, then “Just let me know.” As I turned to go back inside, I heard a voice, from where I don’t know—from within or from outside of myself I don’t know, but the voice said, “He helps those who help themselves.”

EPIPHANY: I understood that God needed my help but it was necessary for me to figure out what it was he wanted me to do.

I felt that somehow in this search to find out what it was that I was supposed to do, I needed to attend church. Therefore, in the weeks that followed, I began to visit churches of all kinds. Like a spiritual gypsy, I visited first the Catholic Church (which was my root). Then I also visited Methodist and Unitarian churches and even a synagogue. Most of these visits were made with friends but the one to the Catholic Church was alone.

In the past I had always felt a special warmth in the Catholic Church when the “sign of Peace” was offered—when all the people for a moment let down their defenses and extended a hand, offered a smile and even sometimes embraced a stranger. So, as I ventured out for my Catholic experience, I looked forward to that moment, in hopes that God could reveal something to me about what I could do to help Him. However, for some reason, on that particular day the “sign of Peace” was not offered. As I reflect on it now, I feel that it was left out in order to tell me that it was not in a church that God meant to communicate with me.

I left the church that day feeling very empty, wondering where God was. As I walked home reflecting on what had happened, I absentmindedly smiled at a passerby who automatically smiled and greeted me in response, and there, at that moment, I heard a whisper from God saying, *EPIPHANY: "Here I am, not in a ceremony, nor in a church service; I'm here in the relationships among people."*

Unification Thoughts

Spiritual Reality

Jesus' Life and Ours

For this Easter season, we can reflect on what we know of Jesus and what it means for members of the Holy Community. Let us look at His childhood, young adulthood, invaluable sacrifice, sacred resurrection, eternal commitment and finally, the concept of messiahship.

[To read more, please click here!](#)

Testimonies, Tributes and Thoughts

Love Is Just A Memory

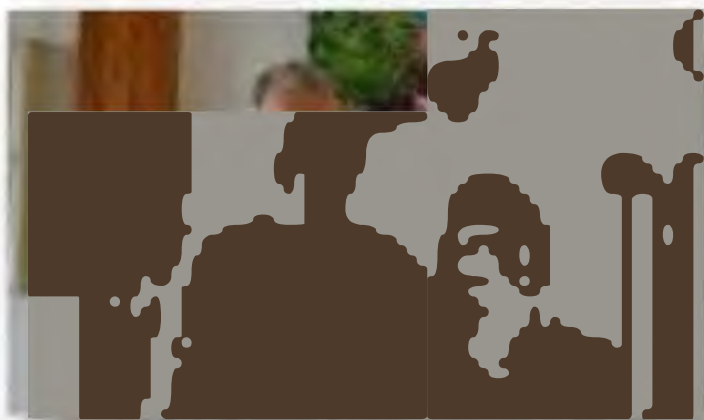
By Michael Downey



I first saw Father in Washington, D.C., in October of 1973. He spoke at Lisner Auditorium as a part of the Day of Hope Tour. I bought a ticket from a young lady who knocked on my door in Alexandria, Virginia. I told her at first that I wasn't interested

[*To read more, please click here!*](#)

Unificationist Veteran Honored with Religious Symbol on Gravestone



by Anne-Marie Mylar

Monday, November 11th marks the federal holiday of Veterans Day in which Americans across the country honor the people who served in the armed forces. Unificationist veterans include Kem W. Mylar, a Vietnam War-era veteran who passed away October 4, 2012, and who was recently honored with the emblem of his faith — the Unification Church symbol — on his plaque at the Delaware Veterans Memorial Cemetery. His wife, Anne-Marie Mylar, describes in the text below her husband's story of service and her experience requesting the symbol for her husband's memorial plaque.

[*To read more, please click here!*](#)

Health and Recipes

Tai Chi Excersises: Better than Walking



by Christine Libon

Touted as being better for you than walking, Tai Chi **exercises** have recently piqued and held my interest. I am **not** referring to Tai Chi **walking**. In my opinion, the “walking,” while I’m sure it is beneficial for balance and stress relief, is more challenging. Most of the exercise moves are simple, gentle, natural and relatively easy, and require very little space to perform. Yet they definitely get your breathing and circulation (and perspiration) going without strong complaints from your muscles the day after. Some routines remind me of aerobics with no or very little impact (jumping).

Snatch a few minutes at any time during your day to try a few Tai Chi moves. Experience how easy and convenient exercising can be! And as you feel the immediate benefits, you, like me, might just get hooked!

There are numerous Tai Chi videos on YouTube from “shorts” to 35 minute full body workouts. I have listed a few of my favorites below.

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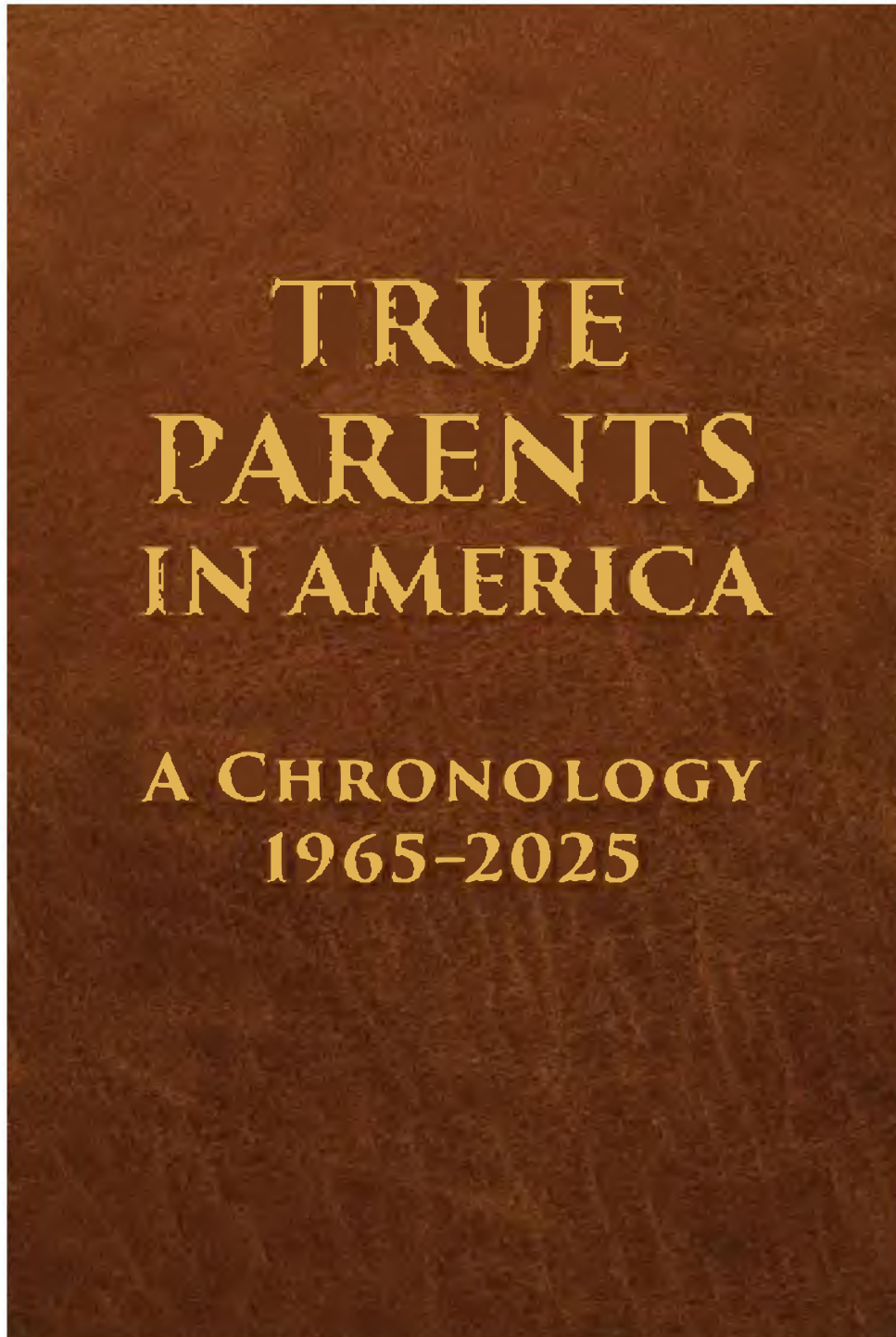
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Book Review

True Parents In America



True Parents in America: A Chronology, 1965-2025 is a joint project of the *Sunhak* Institute of History USA, the *Hyo Jeong* East Garden Museum, and the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification. The chronology documents True Parents' day-to-day activities in the United States over a span of 60 years from True Father's first visit in February 1965 through True Mother's visit to New York and Las Vegas in January 2025.

The scope of True Parents' work in America is immense but includes three major emphases. First and foremost, True Parents proclaimed God's Word. The chronology includes every recorded sermon, every speech delivered by True Parents during public speaking tours, all recorded commentaries delivered as part of daily *Hoon Dok Hae* gatherings for reading and study, all proclamations and all

conference addresses. Second, True Parents exercised spiritual and pastoral leadership. The chronology documents the establishment of holy grounds, holy marriage blessings officiated by True Parents, holy day celebrations, Director and Leader Meetings, workshops and training sessions in which True Parents participated, visits to centers in the field, prayer conditions, fishing conditions and tournaments, declarations of milestones in the providence and their initiation of new movement traditions. Third, True Parents pursued initiatives consistent with their vision of social and cultural transformation. The chronology documents their work with scientists, religious leaders, civic officials, academics, artists, journalists and others, their establishment of organizations and federations dedicated to world peace, and their development of economic enterprises dedicated to technological equalization and alleviation of world hunger. In addition, True Parents endured public opposition and prosecution, even persecution, as recorded in this chronology.

Sources used for this chronology include Unification Church/Family Federation periodicals, books, websites, speech collections, online and print chronologies, travel and visitor records, personal journals, eyewitness accounts, and non-Unification materials, i.e., books, investigative reports and newspaper accounts. Specific citations for each entry in the chronology will be listed in an online source document.

— Michael L. Mickler, Chair of the *True Parents in America: A Chronology, 1965-2025* Editorial Committee

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Hardcover

store.familyfed.org/products/true-parents-in-america-a-chronology-1965-2025? pos=1& sid=cc2370508& ss=r

Holy Mother Han and the Fifth Pledge



By Laurence H Baer



In 2026, as the 2000-year Church Age concludes, a profound Prophetic Realignment is unfolding centering on Holy Mother Han. This humble and soft-spoken great-grandmother and current political prisoner in South Korea is spearheading mankind's redemption through realized kingdom authority, earning respect from current and former global leaders including Donald Trump, Mikhail Gorbachev, Shinzo Abe, Kim Il-sung, and leaders of every nation in Africa.

We have entered the Millennium, the era of the visible establishment of God's Kingdom. As in the days of Ezekiel, a massive angelic mobilization is underway, now on a magnitude unimaginably greater than ever before. *Holy Mother Han and the Fifth Pledge* utilizes evidence-based spirit communication and angel communication to reveal how God is reclaiming the heavens and the earth.

The essential key to this transition—just as in the time of Jesus—is understanding Holy Mother Han's providential mission. Through her work, the gates of the spiritual realm have opened, allowing billions of spirits—including victims of the

Holocaust, African slaves, and First Nations, and even those who persecuted them—to undergo spiritual transformation and ancestral healing. Crucially, she has opened the way for all people, both in the spiritual world and on the earth, to finally return to God's lineage. This work is supported nightly at over 20,000 venues worldwide, where believers from all faith traditions offer three hours of tearful devotion to usher in God's Kingdom.

This restoration culminated in the completion of the actual Third Temple, the starting point enabling God to dwell substantially among His people. That temple, overlooking a mountain in South Korea, was officially opened in April 2025. This reality facilitates unprecedented Intimacy with God, moving us beyond hearing God's voice to active Kingdom participation.

With God as our Heavenly Father and Heavenly Mother, God's love is infinitely greater than any human capacity. Like the parable of the lost sheep, God's absolute and unchanging will ensures every soul is eventually reconciled and perfected. As God works to dissolve the tragic mistake of evil forever, this landmark new book invites you to witness the substantial establishment of Heaven on Earth and embrace your unique role in assisting God in this moment of Transformation.

Bulletin Board

Looking for more Articles



Photo credit: Carol Pobanz

The Golden Age Newsletter began as a small Clifton Senior newsletter about 3 years ago.

ARTICLE GUIDELINES

Purpose: The Golden Age newsletter has been created as a means to keep our elder community connected to one another. Articles are not in any way meant to proselytize or push a point of view.

It is a place to share God's Love – what is positive in our life as a result of finding our Heavenly Parent and True Parents.

Motto: "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.

The e-newsletter is broken down into eight sections:

1. A Featured Message of Inspiration – Helping others to feel hope and inspiration for the establishment of CIG.
 2. "Unification Thoughts" – any educational article on the "Fifth Realm of Heart" – Grandparents' heart
 3. History Byte – A short article on a positive memory, a funny or affectionate story about experiences in the church with True Parents or with brothers and sisters or an article about the development/experience of helping to develop one of True Parents' providential projects or events.
 4. Arts and Culture – A sharing about one's talents, hobbies or interests and how this relates to sharing God's love (to family, community, nation or world).
 5. Tributes and Testimonies- a personal testimony of one or more life learning experiences or a Tribute to a spouse, friend, or leader
 6. Health – An article that relates to health (physical or mental), possibly providing a link to an article you think might be interesting or important to other seniors.
 7. I Love being a Grandparent – stories about grandparenting or about things to do with grandchildren
 8. Recipe – Preferably a healthy recipe along with 2-3 paragraphs about what makes it a good or memorable recipe.
 9. Book Review – report on a book that inspires thoughts toward a world of peace
 10. Bulletin board – reports on personal activities, or request help on a project
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Jesus' Life and Ours

For this Easter season, we can reflect on what we know of Jesus and what it means for members of the Holy Community. Let us look at His childhood, young adulthood, invaluable sacrifice, sacred resurrection, eternal commitment and finally, the concept of messiahship.

Some profound understandings are available to us through the inspired words of Rev. and Dr. Moon and their first disciples. For that reason, commentary is minimal, so as not to diminish the force of the quotes.

Childhood

I still recall one Christmas morning in the Manhattan Center, when Father Moon called many local teams in from fundraising to hear a poignant and stirring Christmas message. These are just snippets from it:

When Joseph married her, Mary was pregnant and Joseph knew that it was not his child....how long do you think Joseph could feel righteous and happy about it?...Joseph looked upon Jesus as something which was not wanted and which had ruined his relationship with Mary.

...Because of their parents' attitude towards Jesus, even his own brothers and sisters did not respect him... Whenever parents respect a child then his brothers and sisters will also, but when the father and mother are indifferent or hostile, then the chances are that the other children will treat him the same way.

...Even now in a society as permissive as America's, if a girl has a baby whose father is not known then there is some talk about it. An even harsher situation prevailed in Jesus' time.... Certainly there would be cruel gossip. ...Every child that Jesus played with certainly must have made comments about things heard from his parents.

...even on holidays or special occasions no one made special clothing or gifts and presented them to Jesus. ...Mary was reluctant to anger Joseph by giving anything to Jesus. Of course Jesus must have wanted to wear the special clothes and eat the special food of that time, like we all do, but it was not possible to acquire it.

- The Participants in Celebrating Christmas, 12/25/77

Young Adulthood

In this section, we will look at quotes from Dr. Young Oon Kim. She was the very first missionary whom Father Moon sent to the USA. She had earned her doctorate in North America, spoke and wrote extensively in refined English, and she deeply appreciated and loved Jesus as well as the voice of God in the scriptures in the world's great religions. Besides teaching World Religions at UTS, she directed her considerable energy to publishing many volumes devoted to building strong bridges of deep appreciation and understanding between the HSA-UWC, Jesus and those who lovingly revered Him. Here, we learn a remarkable insight into the Gospel narrative which first emerged among Christian theologians around the 1960s (just when Father Moon began his global mission in earnest):

moon began his global mission in earnest).

...at the start of his public life Jesus...speaks and acts as if the divine kingdom was dawning. For example, to counteract the bitter religious animosity between Jews and Samaritans, Jesus taught the parable of the good Samaritan. To remove the antagonism between Jews and Romans, Jesus praised a Roman centurion for having greater faith than anyone in Israel. In opposition to the rigid social caste system, Jesus openly ate with publicans. And at a time when women were considered inferior to men, Jesus welcomed them into his intimate circle.

- *Unification Theology, Dr. Y.O. Kim*

Liberal Biblical scholars contrast two periods in Jesus' ministry; The early days which are compared to a "Galilean springtime" and a later period when Jesus faced dangerous opposition.

At first there seemed to be a real chance that Jesus' ministry would be crowned with success. ...a momentous change occurred as soon as the Pharisees persuaded Herod Antipas to suppress Jesus' movement.

To avoid a perilous clash with his Galilean enemies, Jesus fled secretly to pagan Tyre and Sidon..., then spent time outside Herod's realm in the Decapolis area.... Guignebert describes this period as the erratic flight of a man who felt hunted.

- various theologians, *Unification Theology, Dr. Y.O. Kim*

There are several clear signs pointing to his seeming lack of success (Mark 8, Matthew 13). The religious leaders had not accepted his preaching. The crowds which had previously been enthusiastic now began to abandon him. Jesus' disciples failed to understand him. ...there were two attempts to stone him.

All the Gospels hint that Jesus faced a serious inner as well as external crisis.... He seems to have been tempted to withdraw into seclusion, restricting his teaching to the small core of chosen disciples. ...there took place a radical change in his understanding of himself and his mission. Jesus was forced to reshape his faith.

- *Unification Theology, Dr. Y.O. Kim*

From the Ashes...

There is an emotionally laden icon of Jesus called *The Sacred Heart*, but it's so common that it's often taken for granted and skimmed over more than truly seen and understood. But quotes like the following brought home the full weight of that icon and elevated my understanding and reverence for Jesus to a different dimension:

If he chose, he could have fallen prey to self-pity and asked why he should go the miserable way of the cross. He could have set the entire universe in motion to breathe a deep sigh of despair with him.

God had a mind to pass judgment immediately, judgment that was even greater than that of Noah's time.

Instead...as he neared death Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing'. ...Jesus died clinging to the nation, clinging to the religious establishment and clinging to the cross. For this reason, God could not abandon humanity but held on to us.

- PHG, Book 5, *The Life of Jesus as Seen from God's Will*

Eternal Commitment

Two more quotes that reveal the utterly selfless heart of

Jesus more deeply:

Since Jesus was human...bitter feeling must have sunk deep in his mind and the feeling of great indignation must have overflowed his heart. However...Because Jesus realized that humankind would be destroyed if he cursed at this people, he could establish one standard of salvation.

If Jesus had expressed his feeling of being mortified according to how he felt...this world would have its hope all disappear. This world would have seen its end then.

- Let Us Understand the Heart of the Resurrected Jesus, 4/17/58

...it was the moment of anxiousness and seriousness when the second will of providential salvation had just been inherited and started its dispensation. That is how God could establish Jesus as the executor of the second salvation, and to command the grace of resurrection over humankind.

- Let's Be the Person Who has the Heart of Jesus, 1/26/58

Messiahship

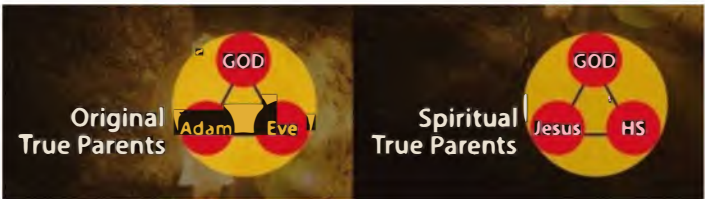
In this closing section, it's necessary to do a very quick recap of the first real meeting between Jesus and Father Moon. According to his autobiography, it was Easter Sunday, he was 16 and in desperate prayer about the misery and suffering he saw everywhere. Jesus appeared and asked him to gather Christianity together and complete the providence of restoration. Overwhelmed by fear at this enormous request, Rev. Moon wanted to decline, but when Jesus persisted, he had to accept that—as shockingly incredible as it was—this was in fact the answer to His prayer. With great trepidation, He accepted and, that Easter day, the seed of the movement was planted. (Peace Loving Global Citizen, p. 49–50.)



Next, we can review the concept of the Trinity, paying special attention to the explanation of the position of Jesus and the Holy Spirit:

When we believe in Jesus as the Savior through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, we receive the love of the spiritual True Parents, which is generated through the give and take between Jesus, the spiritual True Father, and the Holy Spirit, the spiritual True Mother. ...This is spiritual rebirth.

- Exposition of the Divine Principle, p. 171



It doesn't stop there however: a very particular responsibility is inherited by those who have been spiritually reborn. That responsibility has to do with a well-known but largely misunderstood term—Royal Family. The correct meaning of that term is made clear in the Holy Books:

What is the realm of the royal family? It doesn't mean the direct children of Adam and Eve. There is still this fallen world to be restored. Although you may have been restored yourselves, still, centering on the Blessed Families, centering on your own children, the Cain realm remains to be restored, as does the tribal messiah realm, and also the Cain realm on the world level.

- Cheon Seong Gyeong 2006, p. 2465

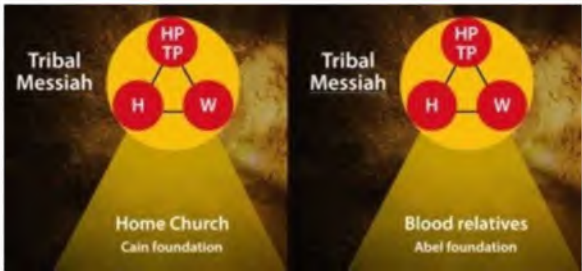


That means that the term *Royal Family* includes all of God's lost children—meaning all those in the world-level Cain realm who are still unaware of their original position and true identity as God's children.

They can be awakened to their original, true regal status through the Home Church work of the Tribal Messiah:

In your tribal-level realm, you pursue Home Church activities. Even if you are opposed and called names, you need to love the people with tears...the Home Church becomes the foundation of your tribal messiahship. ...The Home Church foundation is the Cain foundation and your own family's foundation is the Abel foundation.

- Cheon Seong Gyeong 2014, p. 929, 940-1



When Tribal Messiahs can bring together their own Blessed Families (Abel) with awakened, well-educated families in their Home Church (Cain), the misunderstanding of and the difference in identity between the two can be dissolved and thus, the complete Realm of God's Royal Family can emerge.

On that foundation, there's a "homecoming" for the Tribal Messiah families who've established their united Home Church. Indeed, it's the culmination of their messianic responsibility:

If you ask where you will be sent as family messiahs, it is to your family, your blood relatives.

- Cheon Seong Gyeong 2014, p. 931

It's here that the lessons and experience of all the previous work are fulfilled:

The purpose of Home Church activity is to train you to love more. ...Then when you return to your family...you need to love your family members hundreds of times more than you loved your Home Church. (104-064, 1979.03.28)

- Cheon Seong Gyeong 2014, p. 929

So with that, we might easily guess one key focus of the prayers of history's central messianic persons.



All photos contributed by Ricard Lewis

< Love Is Just A Memory

Where is GOD >

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Love Is Just A Memory

by Michael Downey



I first saw Father in Washington, D.C., in October of 1973. He spoke at Lisner Auditorium as a part of the Day of Hope Tour. I bought a ticket from a young lady who knocked on my door in Alexandria, Virginia. I told her at first that I wasn't interested in buying tickets to a lecture. She knocked on the door again 15 minutes later and asked to use the bathroom. I said sure; I was interested in young ladies. We talked for a long time, and I coughed up the last of my money and bought a ticket.

On the night of the speech, I hitchhiked into D.C. since my Triumph TR-4 wouldn't start—very temperamental. I considered it an odd experience. I remember thinking how strange it was for a Korean guy in a suit and tie to jump around and shout about God's hope for America. The fellow doing the interpreting seemed a lot more reasonable. I was taken by the bright young people that I met. I was very attracted to the vibe that surrounded them. I suppose they were love-bombing me, but I liked it. After the event, I was out of there and back to duty at the Marine Barracks. No one ever recontacted me.

About two months later, I encountered these young people again. The Marine Band was scheduled to play at the national Christmas tree lighting ceremony on the Ellipse behind the White House. I pulled security detail and was posted to the right of the band shell in front of the band. President Nixon was in attendance and may have thrown the switch. What I saw amazed and puzzled me. As I stood at parade rest, I continually scanned the arriving crowd. I marched what I thought at that time was a vision of heaven—a whole troop of nine- or ten-year-old Korean girls in matching red coats, smiling and waving little blue and white pennants. They looked like angels. The crowd was mostly young people, and they were all waving the same triangle-shaped flags. When I looked closer, I saw that the writing on the flags said, "Forgive, Love and Unite." Some said, "God loves Nixon." How strange! This was the height of the Watergate crisis, and nobody loved Nixon, including, probably, God. Next, I recognized these young people. By their bright smiles, and I guess their vibe, I knew these were the same people that I met and liked so much at Lisner Auditorium. I wondered to myself, "What's going on here, and what's the connection?" It gets more amazing.

At the end of the ceremony, the President left the stage and, with his entourage, left the band shell, turned right, and

rushed along the narrow pathway between the band shell and where the Marine Band was set up. Although surprised, I was no slouch. I had had some training, and I popped to attention, saluted and, in my best parade-deck voice, sounded off, "Good afternoon, Mr. President." The President stopped, turned to me with a big smile, saluted, and said, "Thank you, Marine. Where you from, son?" By this time, the whole entourage had stopped and bunched up. The Secret Service was pushing and shoving, trying to get them going again. Of course, I told him I was from Ohio. He replied, "Ohio? Good. Enjoy your time in D.C." He smiled again, turned, and they all hurried off. Next, those smiling, flag-waving young people, in a wave, overran us. They never got to the President. Years later, when I recalled this incident, I realized that on that day, yes, I had lifted up the President.



The next time I saw Father was in the spring of 1975 at the training center in Barrytown. By that time, I had already heard the Principle, accepted Father as the Messiah, and debated with the other brothers important topics like "how could a perfect person need to wear glasses," and could he levitate like other spiritual masters. At that time, Father had selected 120 missionaries from America, Japan, and Europe to go out to 120 nations in the world. The Americans were at Barrytown for 120 days of training before going out. We who were in the 40-day cycle trained alongside them. During that spring, Father visited almost every day to talk to the missionaries. It was a time when I formed my first real impressions of the man.

One day, Father and Mother arrived. Mother took her seat, and Father stood up and began. He started by looking down at us with what can only be described as an impish grin and fingered his necktie. He said, "Do you like my tie?" He was wearing light brown polyester slacks, a sports coat, a flowered Hawaiian-style shirt, and a brown-and-gold striped necktie. He went on to explain that when he got up that morning, Mother had complained, "Father, you never wear a tie anymore." So he put on the tie for Mother. He thought it was so funny—me too. I think that this is when I really began to like him. Another time, he drew a straight line on the board and said the fastest way to get from A to B is a straight line. Then he drew a zigzagging line starting at A and finally arriving at B. He explained that a person who has many different experiences in life can be a good leader. Now I really liked him for his simple wisdom. One day, he talked at

length about the role of the media in society. Of course, at that very time, Rev. Moon was under intense attack by the major media outlets in America. He advised the missionaries to work with the media in their mission countries and even start a newspaper. He planned to start a major newspaper in America and link it to papers in Korea, Japan, and others around the world. The true role of the media is to speak out against injustice and give a voice to the disadvantaged. I understood from this his deep identification with the downtrodden and his sense of righteousness. I loved him for this.

After five months at Barrytown, I was sent out as a pioneer. After the Yankee Stadium rally, I was sent to Mississippi as state leader. There were only three members in all of Mississippi, so essentially it was pioneering again. The great and terrible thing was that Father wanted to personally train us, and so every month we were all called to a state leaders' meeting with Father. He spent hour after hour pouring out his heart, wisdom, and experience to us in the hopes that we would be able to stand up and take responsibility for saving America. He also reported to us all the things he was doing. Most of us, on the other hand, had little to report. One day, after Sunday Service at Tarrytown, Father invited us to meet him at Barrytown. When we arrived, Father was out front with a few seminary brothers working on a fishing net.



He told us that it was a box trap for catching carp in the Hudson River. We all went down to the river to set it up. There was a lagoon created by a narrow inlet in the railroad berm that ran along the riverside. The lagoon flooded and drained daily as the tide rose and fell. The plan was to set up the trap in the lagoon at low tide, and when the tide came in, the fish would swim into the trap and would be caught. Father worked from a skiff, and four of the tallest brothers stood in the water and attempted to secure the four corners to four poles. I don't know what happened, but apparently some mistakes were made, and before the trap could be anchored, the tide flooded in, and it got pretty dicey. One brother had to be pulled out before he drowned. Time and tide wait for no man, and the plan was lost. We were all sent up to the seminary for lunch, and Father remained behind. As we ate lunch and rested, Father worked on plan B. With Gerhard standing in the water holding the skiff, Father strung an improvised net all the way across the lagoon. We were called back as the water ebbed out, and as the mud flat emerged, hundreds of flopping, wiggling carp appeared. All we had to do was crawl on our bellies in the mud and devil's heads and wrestle each fish up onto the bank. Of course, we had all arrived for the day's fishing in suits and ties. We were given access to the barn, where there was a big accumulation of used clothes. My only problem was footwear. I found a pair of sneakers that fit, but they had no laces. What I did was put the sneakers on and a pair of socks over the sneakers to keep them on. Later in the day, In Jin Moon saw me and laughed. "What are you wearing? It looks so funny." Hey, it worked. I don't remember how many carp were caught that day, maybe around 300. I saw them completely fill the bed of a dump truck. We all felt victorious

that day. Father took responsibility and made it happen. The next day, we all went to East Garden and celebrated True Parents' wedding anniversary. At that time, Father asked Mother to give her testimony. She talked about her painful course, and she cried and cried as she talked. At the end, she said, no more tears.



Years later, I met Father again in Alaska. In 1983, I was fishing for the giant bluefin tuna with Ocean Challenge out of Gloucester, Massachusetts. I was crewing for Dr. Tyler Hendricks on a good-go boat. Dr. Hendricks was an old comrade and had just graduated as the first UTS grad to go on and get his PhD. Of course, Father appointed him to be the head of Ocean Church. We had a great summer hanging out, and we caught nine tuna. Once, Father came out to the grounds to see Dr. Hendricks. Father's boat came alongside, and I caught the lines and held the two boats together. Father started talking about various knots and what they are best used for. Then he talked about Ocean Church and his vision for the ocean. He explained clearly why ocean training was important. He told us that living on the ocean is more difficult than life on shore. If you train to do the difficult things at sea, those same things will become much easier on the land. When the difficult things become easy, you can lead other people. His words that day reinforced my desire to go to sea. A couple of weeks later, they asked me if I wanted to work in Alaska on the boats. I didn't hesitate. I was informed that they needed two guys and, if I wanted to go, I had to be interviewed by Father. That day, I was taken by boat out to the northwest corner to meet Father. The interview took place via the VHF radio. Daikon Onuki translated. Father said that if I went to Alaska, I would have to carry a million dollars in one pocket and a pistol in another. I told him I was an ex-Marine, and I could do that. He said, "Go right away." I and another guy were on a flight out of Logan that night.

When we arrived in Kodiak, Alaska, True Parents and Heung Jin Nim were already there and staying at the Bancroft House.



Since we had just arrived, we were invited to have dinner with True Parents. The table sat about eight people, and the menu was king crab. I put my head down and focused on

men was king crab. I put my head down and focused on eating. Finally, Father said, "Mack, do you like king crab?" Father asked in English. In Alaska, Father always called me Mack for some reason. I replied shakily, "Yes, it's my first time." Father said, "Good, eat a lot." Later, Mother asked Mr. Choi in Korean, "Who are these two guys with the bushy beards?" Mr. Choi told her we were Ocean Church brothers, and we grew beards to hide our baby faces. That night, we all sat with Father in the living room, and he demonstrated and taught us how to make an elaborate rig for catching halibut. He was skilled in building tackle, his fingers nimble and hands strong. The next day, we all boarded floatplanes and flew to Shuyak Island to fish for halibut. Our guides were a couple who were homesteaders on the wilderness island. The plane landed in the small bay where the homestead was located and motored up to the shore. Everyone stepped off the pontoon and waded up to the beach. Since I was wearing waders—thigh-high rubber boots—I carried Mother on my back up to the beach. Red and his common-law wife, Deb, invited everyone into their small cabin and served tea and coffee. They talked to us about their self-sufficient lifestyle. Later, Father talked about this couple and said they were an ideal couple and reminded him of Adam and Eve living in the Garden of Eden. We spent the rest of the day fishing for halibut. Heung Jin Nim was with us that day. My impression of him was that he was such a gentle young man. He wore all white clothes and a big, floppy hat. He immediately made friends with the cat that lived at the Bancroft House and talked to us about his cats back at East Garden.

My most enduring image of Father is him sitting cross-legged, back straight, on the engine cover of a good-go boat. No matter what the weather or sea conditions, he always sat staring out to sea, unchanging. When I remember him on the ocean, I remember his unchanging posture, completely in control of his mind and body in the midst of the constantly changing marine environment. I greatly admired this persona of self-control because I myself always struggled to control my mind and body.

Locations around Alaska

At that time, I was running the company's salmon operation at Egegik in the wilds of western Alaska. We had prepared a lot to someday welcome True Parents to our windswept outpost. We built a guest house and stocked it with all the things we would need to attend True Parents. We also bought a late-model SUV and had it flown out to drive them around. When we got the word from Kodiak that they were coming, we had a Korean sister and a plane full of Korean food flown out. We then stood by. When the call came that they were wheels up out of Kodiak, we had less than an hour to wait. The problem was the weather. We were socked in. The thick fog was right down on the deck. Our airstrip was, in fact, the beach. I was in the SUV on the beach with a handheld VHF radio when I established contact with the pilot. He couldn't see the ground. I turned on the headlights and drove up and down the strip. I could hear the plane's engines as it flew lower and lower. I tried to talk him down for more than 20 minutes. It was a moment of truth for me. Could we welcome True Parents, or would the weather steal our blessing? As I look back on it now, I realize how foolish I was. Luckily, the pilot had no messianic vision and decided to turn back.





All photos contributed by Micheal Downey

Several days later, they tried again, and this time the weather cooperated. I toured them around the plant, and we had lunch together at the guest house. Father told me that I was a lucky man because I was able to live in this paradise of ocean, rivers, and tundra. He said he envied me. Of course, the main point of the trip was to fish. This was late August, and what was left of the salmon run was up in the river and wouldn't take a hook. I knew this but failed to clearly report the real situation. I had learned early not to give a pessimistic report. Anyway, there was a small chance that we could snag something. I drove them down the beach and up along the Egegik River to a spot where I had stashed a skiff. Along the way, we had to cross the land of one of the local legends—a hard-drinking fishing captain who had opened a hunting lodge on the river. We stopped briefly, and I introduced them. To get down to the riverbank, we had to drive down a trail that was rough and washed out. The alder bushes scraped both sides of the truck, and no matter how carefully I tried to drive, everyone was bumped and tossed around. The skiff was an 18-foot flat-bottomed aluminum boat with a 40-horse Johnson kicker. It was a typical western Alaska workboat. I had tried to clean it up as befitting the guests. We loaded up the guests and the gear and set out. In the boat were Mr. Choi's son, me, and True Parents. Needless to say, it was not a stellar day of fishing. By the time we started upriver, the tide had already turned, and the sandbars became a problem. Although the flat-bottomed boat was pretty good in shallow waters, we kept running aground on barely submerged sandbars. I tried to keep to the channels, but before long, I was in the water pushing the boat off the sandbars. Mother was in fairly good humor and at one point announced, "Oh, Mack, swimming in Alaska." The fishing was nonexistent. We moved the boat, and Mother and Father cast again and again. Over and over, Mother gently urged Father, "Let's go." Father grimly ignored her. To add to the good time, the mosquitoes swarmed us. Finally, Mother made a joke using a play on two similar Korean words, *moegi* meaning mosquito and *mool gogi* meaning fish: "We can't catch fish; only we catch mosquitoes." Finally, Father said, "Let's go back."

Back at the guest house, we had tea and snacks and waited for the plane to come and pick them up. Father told us that I had a special kind of character because I was a former Marine. Then he ordered me to get a bulldozer and fix that trail down to the river. Of course, I said, "Yes, sir." But what could I really do? The land was owned by the state of Alaska and was adjacent to a salmon stream. I could borrow the equipment and do it in the dead of night. The legal exposure would be huge, and the PR fallout would damage our ability to work in the area. Furthermore, during the very next spring flood, the trail would be washed out all over again. How could I explain these complexities to Father? But Father had ordered it done. I have a great deal of sympathy for the leaders who were with Father constantly.





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Unificationist Veteran Honored with Religious Symbol on Gravestone

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parents, in conjunction with his own personal effort to study the Divine Principle and True Father's words, convinced him beyond any doubt of the value of the True Parents and their mission.

Kem ascended on October 4th of last year (2012). His Seong Hwa and Won Jeon ceremonies were on October 16, 2012. His body was interred in a Veterans' Cemetery in which one does not have the choice of headstone or what it says on it. There can only be inscribed the name, military rank, and a religious symbol. That is it. I looked at all the available religious symbols but did not find one for the Unification faith. So, I applied for it. I did not want to put anything else but our own religious symbol. I was told by the Department of Veteran Affairs that it could take up to a year. By May of 2013 I received a letter that was letting me know that my request had been granted and I would receive the plaque at some later date. I felt very victorious, even though I had done very little; I felt that it was actually a great victory.

I waited. I kept on checking once in a while at the cemetery but the symbol was not there. Finally on October 4th of this year I went there with my daughter, and here it was. The plaque was there with our religious symbol on it. I felt happy. It was a beautiful gift on the anniversary of my husband's ascension.

So, I sent the picture to our Church President, Dr. Michael Balcomb, who thanked me in an email. From now on, any Unificationist military or former military personnel interred in a Veteran Cemetery will be able to use our own religious logo.



Kem W. Mylar, left, joins his spiritual father, Bruce Brown, right, on his first visit to the Cheongpadong Church, the first church center in Seoul, Korea.



Kem and Anne-Marie Mylar during their visit to Kona, Hawaii.



All photos submitted by Anne-Marie Mylar

The entrance of the Delaware Veterans Memorial Cemetery where Unificationist Kem. W. Mylar and many other valiant veterans rest.



The Department of Veterans Affairs honored the wish of the Mylar family to inscribe an emblem of the Unification Church on the grave marker of veteran Kem W. Mylar at the Delaware Veterans Memorial Cemetery.

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