

Boston Pastor Rev. Dmitry Vilchitsky Enriches Scripture Reading with Music and Video

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Scripture reading is taking a creative turn at the Boston Unification Church under the guidance of its pastor, Rev. Dmitry Vilchitsky. Equipped with video-editing experience and a penchant for engaging with modern technology, Rev. Vilchitsky recently created “World Scripture Animated” (WSA), a program that elevates Hoondokhwe reading before Sunday Service to a more contemporary level with the use of videos, slide shows and meditative music.

“The idea of this program dawned on me back in April after I watched a Bible-reading video called ‘The Creation Event’ in a modern Christian church,” said Rev. Vilchitsky. “In it, a pastor was reading the creation story from Genesis, accompanied with meditative background music, videos and several special effects [watch video here: <http://vimeo.com/19198083>]. I felt that all elements of The Creation Event were working together to put my mind into a state of reflective meditation, guide it in discovering a deeper meaning in the Bible story and to help me understand emotions behind the words of the scripture.

“Then, I made a comparison between this experience and experience of reading Hoondokhwe. That prompted me to ask myself: ‘Why not create a sort of contemporary Hoondokhwe program that can uplift people with motivational quotes, meditational music and relevant video animations?’ And that is how idea of the World Scripture Animated program was born.”

World Scripture Animated



Every Sunday, Rev. Vilchitsky holds World Scripture Animated sessions 15 minutes before the start of worship service and reads quotes from the Bible, Rev. Sun Myung Moon’s speeches or other related texts.

WSA sessions take place every Sunday, 15 minutes before the start of worship service. Rev. Vilchitsky reads quotes from the Bible, Rev. Sun Myung Moon’s speeches or other inspirational quotes focused on a specific topic. Readings in the past have primarily been passages from Dr. Andrew Wilson’s book, *World Scripture and The Teachings of Sun Myung Moon*, one of the eight textbooks selected by Rev. Moon, known to Unificationists as “True Father,” for continuous study. Topics for past WSA sessions have included “Knowing God,” “Eternal Truth” and “The Purpose of Human Life.”

“An important aspect of WSA is to use meditational music and a video slide show as a background for reading [click here to see an example],” said Rev. Vilchitsky. “We use a video-projector and screen to display the slide show or video, as well as speakers for audio. Music and video images help listeners calm their extraneous thoughts and emotions and start focusing on the program and reflect on the message.”

Rev. Vilchitsky hopes to see other local community members find inspiration to lead the WSA sessions, for he currently reads. “The goal is to read like in guided meditation, in a sedate and articulated voice that will allow listeners to grasp better the content of the message and reflect upon it,” he said. “Potentially members of any age can lead such programs, if they can follow these reading guidelines. I would like to share this program with any leaders of our Unificationist community in hopes that it sparks their imaginations and creativity related to their local worship services and ministries. Already, I received a request from Worcester pastor Rev. Kerry Williams to assist them with starting a local WSA program for them.”

In terms of further developing WSA, Rev. Vilchitsky is “fine-tuning” the reading topics, the amount of quotes read and the type of special effects, including professional stage lighting, incorporated into a given WSA session in order for it to be inspirational to others.



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The Value of Meditation

Rev. Vilchitsky, who upholds meditation as a “very helpful tool” in spiritual learning, recounted an experience with a meditative practice he had undertaken through Rev. Hyung Jin Moon, the international president of the Unification Church and newly-appointed president of the Unification Church in the United States.

“Rev. Hyung Jin Moon conducted two seminars at the Unification Theological Seminary campus in 2006 called ‘Cheon Hwa Dang Retreats,’” said Rev. Vilchitsky. “I was a seminary student there. Through the presentations, based on meditation lessons and Hyung Jin Moon’s then unpublished book draft of ‘Cheon Hwa Dang: The House of Heaven’s Harmony,’ we learned about our minds’ inner workings, about mind-body unity and the practical steps to develop harmonious relationship within our families and God. It was a spiritually enriching experience, and I hope such meditative practices can be adapted and developed in our church ministry.”

According to Rev. Vilchitsky, several members of his congregation, young and old, have expressed excitement for the budding WSA program. “I believe conducting WSA sessions help church members, especially the younger generation, to prepare their minds for the worship service and elevate their spirits,” he said.

Seiya Okubo, the emcee for the Boston Church, said that WSA “brought back that precious time” when Sunday Service was a time “for self-reflection” and “individual prayer.”

“I’ve watched [Rev. Hyung Jin Moon’s] sermons in Korea and I was able to resonate with God in those moments he gave us when we focused all our energy into a moment of silence [after his sermons] and appreciation toward God and True Parents,” he said. He continued: “The World Scripture Animated program is still in a premature stage, but I feel that it will accomplish that meditative/reflective time to truly resonate with God and True Parents. I am grateful that we have such a program to reflect on our week and listen to a scripture we have not heard in a while. Sitting down in the dark, watching beautiful scenery of God’s creation and listening to a calm, meditative song, is truly a time that I can resonate with Heavenly Father. It may feel strange initially to walk into a dark chapel, but maybe before greeting friends and neighbors, we can greet God and appreciate Him for what He has given to us.”