

Interview of a Prophet Samuel Radebe

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Founder of the Revelation Church of God in Johannesburg, South Africa with branches in Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe, with over four million members



Question: Prophet Samuel Redebe, please tell us about your interaction with the Family Federation in South Africa.

I met the organization, UPF, and I think the issue of peace attracted me, because we all need peace. Universal peace, I think, is a common language. I started to work with the organization, with Rev. [Bakary] Camara, and we started to spread the word of peace.

Question: What was your impression of the event that happened yesterday?

I am moved most by the vision. I was moved. When you are a visionary, the vision is what attracts you. That was the greatness. Looking at the event, one could only say the sky is the limit. Although others say that the sky is not the limit. The event was big. Everything was big. Looking at the event, you can see that the people behind were visionaries. In this case, Mother Moon, she is a visionary. Nothing was small. Nothing was left behind.

Question: What was your impression of the blessing ceremony?

It was good. I saw our commonalities. I also do mass movements, according to my calling. I believe the first human school is the home. Before you go to crèche, or any institute, the home is your school. So, you can never build a strong community without building strong marriages. It always excites me to see the marriage blessing. I think yesterday's event was even greater because it had many young people. I could see that this movement and Mother Moon have a vision for the future and for the world because if you invest in youth it shows you really have an interest not in your own future but in the future of the world, which depends on the youth.

Question: Our view is that the blessing removes original sin and brings God into the family itself.

Another way to say that is that it is a way to repair and to restore humanity. You cannot start on the society level. You need to begin at home, having good marriages, cleansing marriages, and having a good foundation. That is how you are repairing the world. This is great. It is the way of restoring the world, in simple terms, fixing the world -- true families and cleansing marriages.

Question: In my time, the spouses did not always know each other. Many didn't speak the same language, but somehow managed.

That's actually similar to our African culture before. We used to have organized marriages, which lasted longer than marriages nowadays. Nowadays, you have more of what I would call emotional marriages. Obviously, love is an emotion but when a marriage is based on only emotional love, it does not have a strong foundation. When you talk about marriage, you need to know each other; that is when true love

begins and that is not emotional love. That is true love. The emotional love that the world practices, based on looks, on race and all that, won't last because it is just emotions, and when those emotions finish the whole marriage finishes. Marriage is diminishing throughout the world. Young people no longer have interest in marriage because they can see the example of their parents. What the Unification movement is doing is not new to us as Africans. It forms part of our culture and tradition. Our ancestors had long-lasting marriages, not like what is happening today.

Question: Another aspect of the event yesterday celebrated the life of our founder, Father Moon. South Africa had Nelson Mandela, who sacrificed for his nation. How important are such figures?

They're very, very important, especially in the days that we live in. It's important that we inculcate values in our youth, because they don't have hope. They only look at actors and celebrities on TV, most of whom, unfortunately, are people who live only for themselves. To have such figures is important for the future, so that young people have role models and see that life does not center on itself.

When you sacrifice and live for others, that is when you find true joy. Many people on earth are not happy. They pretend to be happy, especially the selfish people. Some are so rich. They have everything that money can buy but deep in their hearts, actually they are stressed. They are unhappy. When you live for others and you sacrifice, you live a happy life. When you lay your life down and live for others, happiness comes. We need more figures like that; they are an inspiration.

The life of Rev. Moon, yes, I did hear about it. It is a life of inspiration and more people should aspire to live such a life. Actually, Jesus Christ taught us to live such a life.

Question: And sacrificed his own life.

Exactly, to save the world, and yes it is great.

Question: We often talk about world peace.

You don't hear much about that in society. Do people in South Africa have this vision or is it perhaps something people do not feel much hope for?

I really have to be truthful -- no, I think no; people probably do not. What is important, I think, is that you need to bring hope first to people. For people to bind to any vision or any dream, you first need to give them hope that it is possible. In South Africa, no; I can't lie. People do not have that hope. People only talk of peace; people don't have hope that it is possible.

Question: Nowadays, some good news is coming from Africa. We hear that twenty-five fastest growing national economies are in Africa. Do you see Africa as moving forward in the spiritual sense?

Ummm... Yes. Africa needs more spiritual-leaders. Actually, we always say that for Africa to be liberated, key people have to meet. Key spiritual people need to come together. So there is hope, because I can say that I am doing my part. I am meeting real spiritual people in Africa. We are meeting; there are talks. Personally, I have hope because we are praying. We are meeting and God is showing us that hope. Yes. We are moving spiritually, and I am part of that movement, and because I am part of that movement it was a bit hard to answer.

Question: I read a description of someone who attended your church service. It seems there is real spirit there. People are alive internally.

Yes, yes, yes. There is movement and only through the spirit will Africa be restored, because we must always remember that everything comes after that. Africa cannot be changed by politics. It must first be changed spiritually and then the spiritual part will drive the politics and Africa will change.

Question: A final question: Was this your first visit to Korea? What kind of impression have you had of the country?

No. I think it's my third. To be quite honest, I have not moved around much. I came to UPF events. To me, it's like Africa. I most like the respect. I believe in respect, so I can say that Koreans practice a lot of respect, which reminds me of Africa. We are known for it, for respect. Korea is a very calm country and very quiet. That is mostly what I have seen and what attracts me and what I like.