

Introductory Address at the Vice Presidential Inauguration of Mr. Hyun Jin Moon

Chung Hwan Kwak

July 19, 1998



Esteemed leaders and distinguished guests of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification International. It is my great pleasure to welcome you on this historical occasion. Today we have the distinct pleasure to welcome to our ranks a young leader of uncommon potential. It is a day of joy and much hope.

The Family Federation came into existence and has thrived since its inception on the foundation of God's love and blessing. The myriad, worldwide projects founded through the lifelong ministry of Reverend and Mrs. Moon, our True Parents are brought into a unified focus through the Family Federation. Here, the future structure of a peaceful world is established.

Reverend Moon originally had the mission to work with the leaders of all religions and from all areas of human endeavor to cooperate in realizing God's will for a peaceful and happy world. Sadly this cooperation was blocked. Instead, tragic events drove Reverend Moon onto an isolated and lonely path of rebuilding this original plan unaided. Time and again he re-convened the basic foundations for such a movement, working tirelessly and without complaint through many initiatives until at last he could inaugurate the Family Federation, and establish it on a secure foundation. This work was carried out through great sacrifice in the midst of persecution and misunderstanding. Nevertheless, by August 1, 1996 leaders from the world over gathered in Washington DC to declare together with Reverend and Mrs. Moon, the official launching of the Family Federation.

In the less than three years since the 1996 inauguration, the Family Federation has expanded immensely. It has done so both at the grass roots level, for example, reaching hundreds of thousands of families in remote villages accessible only by raft or on foot, as well as at the highest levels of national and international leadership such as True Family programs sponsored by national governments, as in Taiwan, and United Nations-sponsored conferences on issues pertaining to family and morality such as one held last month at the United Nations Headquarters.

The vision and activities of the Family Federation come from Reverend Moon's desire to build a better world. The Family Federation conducts marriage rededication Blessings, family education programs, health and medical programs, social and cultural programs, and all manner of support for strengthening families and securing family friendly social environments in nations the world over.

This work is destined to influence human affairs for the better. Its fresh vision, and compelling, universal world view appeals to men and women of conscience, and to leaders from all areas of expertise and social standing.

We are grateful to God and to our brothers and sisters in arms from every religion, from academia and the

sciences, from affairs of state and the arts who have played a vital part in expanding the Family Federation. In fact many of you are here today. We thank you for your attendance, and for all you have done for this noble cause in recent months. Hopefully our work already has had some effect to promise young people a brighter future. We are fortunate to have Reverend and Mrs. Moon to guide this work through an inspired vision and by their sterling example.

As you all know, we are gathering today to honor the appointment of our new vice president. For me, this is both a formal occasion and a personally heart-warming blessing. It has given me great happiness to have known Mr. Hyun Jin Moon over the years as he was growing up as well as during the time of his recent leadership responsibilities.

It is widely known, not just to me but to thousands of Unificationists, that Mr. Hyun Jin Moon is a man of integrity, and self-discipline. He approaches his responsibilities with seriousness and stability. Mr. Moon gracefully manages the fragile balance of responsibilities he carries as a dutiful son, as a husband and the father of a young and growing family, and as a successful business leader.

Mr. Hyun Jin Moon though young has significant achievements to his credit. In 1983 Mr. Moon took up an interest in competitive horsemanship. By 1988 he had developed the skills which enabled him to compete as an Olympic equestrian, first in the 1988 Seoul Olympics and four years later in Barcelona. Following the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, Mr. Moon took up his position as president and chief executive officer of the United Vision group. Under Mr. Moon's leadership this corporation was transformed from a collection of small businesses to a unified enterprise, which Inc. magazine identified as one of America's 500 fastest growing corporations for three years running.

Impressively, in the midst of all this, Mr. Moon completed a history degree at Columbia University graduating Cum Laude in 1995, and with departmental honors from the history department. The A average required for such honors is most difficult to achieve at Columbia.

In 1997, Mr. Moon entered Harvard Business School, widely recognized as Harvard's most difficult graduate department to enter. Each year the school receives over 100,000 inquiries. Only ten percent eventually apply, and from among those just ten percent are accepted. Those admitted typically come from positions in the world's major financial houses, rather than from smaller corporations. In June of 1998 Mr. Moon graduated receiving the prestigious MBA degree from Harvard. The Family Federation for World Peace and Unification International is blessed indeed to receive into its leadership a person with these qualifications and with a proven track record of keen competitiveness and success.

Ladies and gentlemen, nothing is more crucial at this time than to co-ordinate and invest the best talent and the human and material resources necessary for the establishment of God-centered families. Through them we can create strong educational programs and the enduring heavenly family traditions which can guarantee a coming era of peace and shared prosperity.

With such a pressing task before us, we are encouraged by the leadership appointment of Mr. Hyun Jin Moon.

I hope that you will rejoice as I do in welcoming Mr. Hyun Jin Moon to the position of vice president of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification International.