

Hyun Jin Moon:
Victory in Paraguay for God and True Parents

April 21, 2013

Blessed Family Member is New Governor in Paraguay

The beginning of a great new chapter for the providence in Paraguay

Paraguay's Colorado Party led by party president Senator Lilian Samaniego had a huge victory in the general elections for governors, senators, and congressmen, as well as in the presidential elections that were held on April 21, 2013. The party's presidential candidate, Horacio Cartes, won over other candidates with a clear margin of over 10%. Colorado party candidates also won almost half of the 45 senatorial seats and a slight majority of the 80 seats in the National Congress. In addition, Lilian's party had a landslide victory on the state level, with 15 out of 17 governors being elected from their party.

Just 5 years ago the Colorado Party had lost its steam as a party and was labeled a corrupt party, thereby completely losing the confidence of the people and having to hand over the presidency of the country to a leftist government for the first time in 60 years. But the Colorado Party then chose Lilian Samaniego, a woman senator and leader with resolute determination and integrity, to be the representative of the party. Lilian became the president of the Colorado party right around the time when she assisted as the Chairperson of the Organizing Committee for the first Global Peace Festival that took place in Paraguay in 2008. At the time she saw that she resonated with the vision and message of universal values and principles that GPF taught, and the conviction in her beliefs never wavered. Since then, Hyun Jin "Preston" Moon, also intimately referred to as Hyun Jin Nim, has been like a trusted mentor and spiritual supporter to her. Lilian met True Parents a long time ago and she has always maintained great respect for their principles and commitment to establishing and supporting God-centered families.

It could be said that Senator Lilian Samaniego is the real political winner of this election in Paraguay. She decided to take a step back for the sake of the country and her party; instead of seeking position herself she focused on supporting Horacio Cartes who was a new face in politics to become a presidential candidate. Her decision bore fruit and on April 21, 2013 she was re-elected as a Senator with very high chances of becoming the next President of the Senate. The path that Lilian is walking is in many ways similar to the path that current Korean president Geun Hye Park had to walk. Although it is a mere coincidence Lilian is also still single. Lilian Samaniego shares GPF's vision and mission, and also yearns to build a nation centered on God and universal principles and values. Lilian's brother, Arnaldo Samaniego, is currently the mayor of Asuncion, the largest city and the capital of Paraguay.

In another part of the country, Marlene Ocampos, a blessed family member, was just elected governor of the state of Alto Paraguay, which happens to be the most poor and neglected region of Paraguay. She won the governorship by an astounding margin of 24.7% against her closest competitor. In Paraguay the position of governor actually holds as much or even more

stature than a senator or congressman. And Marlene happens to be the only woman among the 17 governors in the country. So with this election, Governor Marlene and Senator Lilian have effectively emerged as the two most influential women in politics in Paraguay. Marlene's list of candidates for state council also won, giving her an ample majority in the statehouse, and her running-mate for the state's one congressional seat won as well.

As it was with Senator Lilian Samaniego, Marlene also deeply resonates with and is inspired by the work being done in the Global Peace Foundation (GPF) and she has wanted to bring character education, family values, and practical tools to empower the people in her hometown. She also feels that in her own spiritual life doing public work and living a life of service to others is the most enriching experience. And in her life she has always found that True Father's vision of creating a nation for God was the most worthwhile mission anyone could undertake. With that motivation in mind and heart she has worked as director of the social area of GPF for the state of Alto Paraguay. Marlene expressed that once she is sworn in as governor in August, she looks forward to working with GPF and its think-tank "Instituto de Desarrollo del Pensamiento: Patria Soñada" (IDPPS) to promote good governance in the affairs of the state. Once she is inaugurated as governor of Alto Paraguay, she will be overseeing a territory bigger than that of over 80 countries. Her spirit and determination is to help Paraguay become a model nation for God's providence. Surely, many positive changes will continue surprising those who are dedicating themselves.

In many ways Marlene's victory had already been predicted by Heaven's blessing. The people of the town of Puerto Casado and other towns in the state had seen her sacrificial attitude as she dedicated her time doing service projects for those in need in the region. The elections were not easy. There had been a corrupt congressman who controlled the state for over a decade through shady practices, and he used every trick in the book to win re-election for a third term and to defeat Marlene with his own candidate for governor. However, the people's vote reflected their desire for change and they could no longer allow this congressman to dominate them. GPF has been already assisting to find and implement the best practices for municipalities and governorships to ensure transparency in their administrations, with the goal of "zero corruption". Especially, GPF is preparing to carry out character education programs in every school in the state and to request the national government to improve infrastructure and the quality of technical education. GPF is doing the same for the areas of health, environment, and security, as well as making alliances with people in the business community to bring in investment and provide jobs.

This kind of victory is due to the investment of True Parents and the dedication of those carrying their vision forward, as well as the effort of Hyun Jin Nim and the team that dealt with wave after wave of crises that took place after 2008.

In 2001, based on True Parent's inspiration and vision for South America, a huge tract of land was acquired in Paraguay along the Paraguay River which borders Brazil. Much of this land is situated in the northeastern state of Alto Paraguay, in and around the town of Puerto Casado. A portion is prime land for raising cattle and agriculture. Hundreds of thousands of hectares are

covered with rich forests, with a tremendous variety of wildlife including jaguar, puma, tapir, deer and fox. There are hundreds of species of birds, and the rivers and streams are filled with fish. Below the land is a wealth of mineral resources. The place is so rich in resources that leaders in Paraguay all say that the future of the country lies in the Chaco region (where the Chaco property is located).

Sadly, the Chaco Property was thoroughly mismanaged and many difficulties took place. As a result of the mismanagement, 52,000 hectares were expropriated by the government (this order was later reversed by an act of the National Congress), and various ranches, properties and installations on the Chaco Property were occupied by squatters belonging to a corrupt group called "Pro-Tierra" (people who take land by force), which was supported by the most radical, leftist groups in the country. The vast majority of the population of Puerto Casado became "anti-Moon", and massive demonstrations, sometimes violent, were organized against the administrators of the land. There were problems everywhere. Those in charge were facing multi-million dollar lawsuits, and the image of the Unification Movement and "Moon Group" could not have been worse. There was a real possibility of losing the entire Chaco property.

With the situation spiraling out of control, in 2008 True Parents especially asked Hyun Jin Nim for help in resolving the issues in Paraguay. The details of the work that was done to fix the situation was very complex and would require a much longer document. Nonetheless, there was a dramatic change in Paraguay ever since Hyun Jin Nim began working in 2008. Through a meeting with the President of Paraguay, he began to change the perception of the movement. He spoke in the national congress, giving a testimony of his parents to many of the top leaders of the country. After Hyun Jin Nim's intervention, high-level people began speaking positively about True Parents and the "Unification Movement" for the first time ever. Hyun Jin Nim then went to the Chaco region and led a 5-day cattle drive with an international group of youth from some of the leading families in Paraguay. Without exception, they had an amazing experience as he led and guided them directly during the adventure. Immediately afterwards, Hyun Jin Nim spoke at the highly successful first Global Peace Festival, challenging the audience to become owners of the vision of building "One Family under God." It was in the Festival in Paraguay that Hyun Jin Nim moved the heart of Bishop Ferreira, the head of the Assemblies of God church in Brazil which has tens of millions of members. The Bishop was so inspired by what he saw and felt in the Festival in Paraguay that he held a GPF in Brazil, at his own expense.

Over the next four years, under Hyun Jin Nim's leadership, serious legal claims against the Chaco property were resolved, saving millions of dollars and thwarting a forced transfer of land to the corrupt leadership of Pro-Tierra which was supported by the national government at the time. And despite many problems that arose due to the internal situation of the movement, these were overcome in every instance and True Parent's vision for the Chaco was able to advance. The work led to the creation of jobs in the region of Puerto Casado and surrounding areas which naturally led to a change in the perspective of the indigenous population towards people associated with the Unification Movement. They changed from very negative to positive. All the properties and facilities which had been illegally taken by the Pro-Tierra group and

squatters were reclaimed; and on the occasion of recovering True Parents' house in Puerto Casado, Hyun Jin Nim visited the town of Puerto Casado to give a special offering prayer.

Today the work is advancing by leaps and bounds. In the area of non-profit work, the Global Peace Foundation, which Hyun Jin Nim founded, has become one of the leading, most recognized NGO's in the country. Also GPF established a think-tank called the "Instituto de Desarrollo del Pensamiento: Patria Soñada" (IDPPS) with some of the country's top thinkers and statesmen, each one carefully selected for their reputations as moral and ethical leaders in their respective areas. These include a former minister of the Supreme Court, former Ministers of Education, Environment, Agriculture and Planning, a former president of the Central Bank, former Commander of the Armed Forces, and others. With them, GPF is working on a roadmap for the future development of the country into a model nation. IDPPS is not only working in Paraguay. On the international scene IDPPS and GPF launched the Latin American Presidential Mission with 19 former heads of state to improve relations between North, South and Central America and help bring about a spiritual great awakening based on universal principles, values and aspirations.

Among the most remarkable successes has been that in the town of Puerto Casado. From the beginning, in 2009, GPF set up office in the middle of the all the violence and confusion and began carrying out social service programs and projects to serve the local residents and nearby indigenous communities. The programs GPF initiated include a communal vegetable farm, a fish farm and a bakery, all of which provide food and jobs to hundreds of families. Then in 2010 a trusted foreman in the town defeated the "Pro-Tierra" candidate in the municipal elections, thus becoming the new mayor. His first public act was to sign a cooperative agreement with GPF and its think-tank by which its experts assisted him in setting up and running a transparent administration with zero corruption. After just one year, this town -- which was famous for its corruption, violence and poverty -- was transformed into a normal, peaceful place. At the end of 2011 the mayor was awarded in the National Congress for having the most transparent municipal administration in the country. Since then, most of the streets of Puerto Casado have been paved for the first time ever. Street lights have been put up. Small bridges over creeks and streams have been built. The town is now peaceful.

Throughout 2009 to the present, rampant legal attacks and brutal character assassination have plagued the Unification movement. Yet, much has been accomplished in Paraguay under these adverse conditions. If these negative situations weren't taking place today the Movement could be celebrating even greater advances by now. Praise God and True Parents that GPF has advanced God's providence. It must be said that this would have been impossible without the work of Hyun Jin Nim who poured his heart and effort to protect God's providence and True Parents' legacy despite being blamed with false rumors and many misunderstandings. Now Paraguay is taking its steps towards the highest goal of achieving God's dream. If members of the Movement continue to focus on advancing God's providence, it will not be long until that desired nation of God's ideal can be established.