

Easter Sunday NYC Mega Church Lovin'life Ministry Rocks!



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by Dr. Donna

An awesome beginning, when New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and even Washington D.C. Family Federation for World Peace and guests met for Easter Service on April 12th, 2009, the beginning of Lovin'Life Ministries at the Manhattan Center. Here is one account:

Upon entering the seventh floor of the Manhattan Center, we saw subtle, smoky rays of light emanating from the stage, surrounding the band and

Text of Sermon on pages 2-5

the silk screen pillars of light that together, created a fantasy illusion a structure on stage. "Is this a magical mystery tour?" I whispered to my husband. Twenty minutes before the service began, Rev. Henri Schauffler came over to us and began a conversation, (more than a nod), as we rekindled a relationship from over twenty years ago. We in turn, introduced ourselves to a couple sitting next to us who had driven all the way from southern New Jersey shore to attend the first Lovin' Life Ministry service. Already, we felt a message. People matter. People care.

Photo spread pages 14-15



Now, it didn't feel like some churches (solemn and still). Everything seemed internally moving....And there were no programs to read..."Where were the Easter flowers?" I whispered again. It was going to be a surprise....

Soon, David Hunter came out on the stage. "Are you ready?" His capacious voice boomed as though it had the capacity to inhale the entire atmosphere of the hall inside himself and then exhale it in one swift breath to every corner and space of the entire hall. "Let the Service see MEGA on page 4

DISCOURSE ON UNIFICATIONISM

Lovin'

by Rev. In Jin Moon

The following is a transcription of Rev. In Jin Moon's speech to over 1,500 people who gathered to hear her speak at the Manhattan Center in New York City on Easter Sunday, April 12, 2009.

Good morning, brothers and sisters. Please have a seat. I'm delighted to be with you this morning on this beautiful Easter Sunday. And thank you for coming into the city to worship with me here at the Manhattan Center. We're truly delighted to have you.

Ever since the year 325, Easter has been observed on the first Sunday after the vernal, or spring, equinox, when the sun crosses the equator, and Christians have come together to remember this day of resurrection. For a lot of the younger people in the audience, Easter is one of those days that we look forward to because Easter means Easter bunnies, chocolate eggs, and arts and crafts. I am no different. I remember spending many days in preparation for the great event, making arts and crafts, decorating eggs with different dyes and crayons with my children.

I remember my husband always putting on a rabbit-ear headband to get into the spirit. Before I sent him off to hide these special, precious eggs that the children would discover all around our house, I would make a big puff-ball of cotton for him and stick it on his butt. That's when he knew that it

was time to go: He had only 30 minutes to hide those precious eggs.

While I was keeping the kids busy in the kitchen, making cookies, doing paintings about what Easter means, or making beautiful renditions of the bunny, my husband would be going around the property like a Ninja. He'd go behind the house, making sure no children were in sight, and then run to the front, hiding the eggs in the bushes. Then we'd see him disappear into the garage, or the annex, as we called it, to hide some eggs there.

I remember that he was so satisfied with himself when he came back undetected and undiscovered. Then we would give the children the go-ahead: "It's time for the Easter egg hunt!" The five screaming little munchkins would disappear all around the house, from the second floor on down to the basement, all around the property, into the bushes. Off they went. We would be waiting for their little squeals of delight when they discovered the eggs. We as parents would just be in the house, waiting for those baskets to come back. For the little kids, that was what Easter was all about.

But of course when we grow older, we understand the real significance of what Easter is. It's really a day of resurrection. But the day of resurrection was preceded three days earlier by the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. That has got to be the most heart-breaking, most painful aspect of our human history,

that week prior to the crucifixion when Jesus faced his trial and experienced his own disciples' denial, especially Peter's. Jesus actually foretold that Peter would deny him. And there was the heartbreak and pain that one of his disciples, Judas, sold him for a chunk of change. Can you imagine what the son of God must have been feeling at that time?

I want to share with you how my father feels when he thinks about Jesus and that sad moment. Nothing is more heartbreaking than to hear the words of Jesus Christ in his prayer at Gethsemane. I think a lot of the believers understand the prayer as a sign of weakness on Jesus' part, especially when Jesus asked his Heavenly Father if this cup could pass. But Jesus was the son of God. If Jesus came to die and he realized that this was his divine mission, then wouldn't he have ushered in his death as a courageous son of God? But Jesus asked this question not out of weakness but because he realized he wouldn't have any more time to fulfill what he had come to do.

Even in the eleventh hour, even when

the disciples that he took with him to pray at Gethsemane fell asleep, Jesus came back after the first prayer and asked them, "Can't you just stay awake for an hour?" And he went back to pray. And then he came back and realized that they were heavy-lidded again. Then he prayed again, and when he came back the third time and saw that they were still sleeping, Jesus realized that the time had come and that he would be facing his physical death.

His crucifixion was an incredible tragedy for humankind. But of course we know that three days later, through the resurrection, Jesus had a spiritual victory. Jesus could stand in the position of a spiritual father. We also hear in the Bible about the emergence of the Holy Spirit, in the second chapter of Acts, where we see a true mother figure come into being. Together with Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit became the spiritual true parent. For over 2,000 years they have worked hard to bring unbelievers into the realm of love and into the understanding of who Jesus Christ really was.

What about the physical victory that

M A Y 2 0 0 9

Ahn Shi Il • 3rd, 11th, 19th, 27th

- 1 HSA-UWC Established (1954)
43 Couples' Blessing (1969)
Ceremony for the Total Dissolution of Resentment (1975)
Day of Victory Over Resentment (1974)
- 4 Hyun Jin Nim's Birthday (4/10/69)
- 5 Day of Ssang-hap Ship-seung (2004)
- 6 Professors World Peace Academy Established (1973)
- 7 Shin Su Nim's Birthday (4/13/06)
- 10 Unification Theological Seminary (1977)
- 14 Cheonju Haebang Shik: Liberation of the Universe (1999)
National (American) Won Jeon Shrine Dedicated (2002)
- 15 36 Couples' Blessing (1961)
Citizen's Federation Unification of the Fatherland (1987)
- 16 Day of the Love of God (1984)
- 17 Shin Yeon Nim's Birthday (4/23/90)
Unification News Established (1982)
Washington Times Established (1982)
- 21 118 Couples' Blessing (1978)
- 22 American Clergy Leadership Conference Established (2000)
- 24 Day of All True Things (5/1/63)
- 30 Declaration of True Parents' East and West Victory (1999)

J U N E 2 0 0 9

Ahn Shi Il • 4th, 12th, 20th, 28th

- 3 Inauguration of the Federation for Cosmic Peace and Unification South American Headquarters (2001)
- 4 72 Couples' Blessing (1962)
- 8 Shin Goon Nim's Birthday (5/16/02)

C A L E N D A R

- 9 Young Jin Nim's Birthday (5/17/78)
- 10 Il-Heung Shipbuilding Established (1986)
- 13 Hee Jin Nim & Hye Shin Nim's Blessing (1998)
39 Couples' Blessing (1981)
1st Stage of the 360 Million Couples' Blessing (1998)
- 14 Jeung Jin Nim's Birthday (1982)
Declaration of True Parents' Cosmic Victory (1999)
- 17 Declaration: Return of the Sea to Heavenly Dominion (2000)
- 20 Shin Kwang Nim's Birthday (5/28/01)
- 21 Rally for the Unity and Completed Settlement of the Parents of Heaven and Earth (2002)
- 23 Il-Sung Construction (1978)
Day of One Heart (1989)
- 24 Declaration of the Return of the Land to God (2000)
- 29 Ceremony of the Return of the Cosmos to Heaven (2000)

J U L Y 2 0 0 9

Ahn Shi Il • 6th, 14th, 22nd, 30th

- 1 Chil Il Jeol: Declaration Day of God's Eternal Blessing (1991)
Day of the Celebration of Victory (1973)
2075 Couples' Blessing (1982)
- 3 Inter-religious and International Blessing and Rededication Ceremony (2002)
- 4 Religious Herald Established (1971)
- 13 International Blessing of 400 Million Couples, 4th Phase (2003)
Universal Ballet Company Established (1984)
- 17 Bering Strait Resolution for Peace (2005)
- 18 Sung Jin Nim & Dong Sook Nim's Blessing (1973)
- 24 124 Couples' Blessing (1963)
- 26 5th Phase of the 400 Million Couple Blessing (2004)
Youth Federation for World Peace Inauguration (1994)
National Parents' Day (1994)

Due to the manner in which the lunar calendar corresponds with the solar calendar, Yun Ah Nim's, Un Jin Nim's, Shin Choon Nim's, and Hyo Jin Nim's birthdays are not celebrated in 2009. Contact me if you come across any errors. (c) 1999-2004 Kathryn Coman [KathrynComan@worldnet.att.net]

DISCOURSE ON UNIFICATIONISM

Life

Jesus longed so much to substantiate? That is why he uttered the prayer asking God if he could have a little bit more time. We know now that Jesus did not have time before he was crucified. Yes, there was great victory in the spiritual salvation, in the resurrection. But still quite a few works needed to be done. Jesus knew that he came not to die but to fulfill God's original purpose of creation. What is that original purpose of creation? It's to create an ideal family.

The Bible alludes to the fact that Christ would have to come again. For thousands of years, people have been waiting for the Second Coming of Christ. Then what happened? In 1920 a young Korean boy was born; when he turned 16 and knelt to pray on Easter Sunday morning, Jesus appeared before him and asked my father, Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon, "Please fulfill my mission, please fulfill God's original purpose of creation, please build the ideal family. I am only a spiritual victor in that I am the spiritual true parent, but I need you to fulfill my mission and establish the physical true parents, substantiating God's dream has of an ideal family."

I know many of you in the audience might be around the age of 16. I ask you the question, if Jesus Christ appeared before you this morning and said, "Can you please fulfill my mission?" what kind of an answer would you give? Maybe you would think, "Well, I really wanted to get my driver's license. I have a driver's ed class to go to, and then I have to practice driving so that I can get that permit." Or maybe some of you would think, "I promised my friends I was going to spend some time with them at the mall. I'm really not sure, Jesus Christ, if this is for me. I don't really see how going to the mall and saving the world have anything to do with each other." Or maybe some of you might fall down and cry because you saw Jesus, you heard Jesus, you experienced Jesus.

From what I know, that experience of the 16-year-old boy whom I call my father was an incredibly profound one. It changed his life forever. From the moment that he said, unwilling at first, "Yes, I will try my best; I will fulfill your mission," that poor boy has never, ever wavered.

Just recently, on January 31, we had the honor of celebrating my father's birthday. I've never seen my father so happy for so long. I feel that he was so happy spending time with you because he could feel your spirit, he could feel the love the American members have for him. I think in his mind he was hoping, "Just as I was changed on that Easter Sunday, I'm hoping my American children can go on with the same devotion, the same determination, and the same commitment that I've kept

throughout my whole life."

As a daughter looking at this father, who's 90 years old, sometimes it's a very interesting experience for me. He



can still outspoke anyone. Just recently in Las Vegas he spoke for 11 and a half hours. Those poor leaders couldn't even take a bathroom break; they had to sit there listening. I was watching them, wondering what was going through their minds right then. He can outdance anyone. I remember my kids coming to me after being at Hoon Dok Hae at the 90th birthday celebration. They said, "Ooh, Mom, Grandfather really can move." And especially when he put in his two twists, my kids were like, "I had no ideal!" I said, "You know what? Maybe that's why you're such great dancers. You didn't know you got it from grandfather, did you?"

He can stay awake longer than anyone. Even many teenagers cannot outlast this man. Not only is he physically such an incredible specimen of a human being, but I have never seen anyone so obsessed with a singular dream and purpose, totally driven to make it into a reality.

Father has said over the years that what is most central in the universe is the parent-child relationship because that is why God created the universe. God wanted to experience what it would be like to be a parent, to be a mom and a dad. I know that regardless of what we might think when we're young, "Oh, I never want to be blessed, I never want to be married, I'm going to be independent and do my own thing," when the biological clock starts ticking, we start thinking about those little pink and blue things in the baby department. We start wanting a family; we start wanting to experience what it would be like to love something as yours.

This was the desire out of which our universe was created, and this was the dream that God had in wanting to establish Adam and Eve as his first physical manifestation on earth, to carry on his lineage. But then we know what happened, right? Adam and Eve messed up. They made a mistake, and human history had to pay a great price before we could welcome the son of God, Jesus Christ.

I've often thought about why people had such a hard time understanding Jesus. Even the Bible speaks of Jesus as a self-proclaimed messiah. He was badly misunderstood. He was ques-

the world would already be a peaceful world. But we know that Christianity had a hard time uniting with my father, and, therefore, he had to go out into the wilderness, build his own church, raise his own disciples, come to America...

At first he was embraced because the message of true love is so beautiful. It's undeniable; it's what I call simple elegance. I remember in the 1970s my father was given the keys to every state of the United States, and people were joining our church, several hundred a week. The centers weren't big enough.

Then what happened? People were afraid that this Oriental man was exercising too much influence over young Americans. Then we saw a backlash, saw the persecution start, saw ourselves being labeled as Moonies, being belittled as weird, being categorized as cultish. How many times did I see the newspapers refer to Rev. Sun Myung Moon as the self-proclaimed messiah? Just as the Bible refers to Jesus as the self-proclaimed messiah.

I did not know English when I first came. In American culture, I was a chink, a Moonie. I remember one incident at middle school. Sometimes girls can be really nasty to each other, much more nasty than boys. I remember a group of four or five girls who followed me around in the hallways, saying, "Isn't your father Reverend Moon? Aren't you a Moonie? Aren't you a cult? You're a Moonie. Your father thinks he's the messiah." I turned around and said, "Do you even know what Moonie means? In my language, in Korean, it means a design. ?? (Moo-neui) is like a design on something. So you can call me Moonie as much as you want, but the way I'm understanding it is that you're calling me a beautiful design of this school. And I have a design on you that one day you're going to say it lovingly."

When I talked to these girls, they were literally a choir, saying "Moonie, Moonie." I thought, "Okay, the only thing I can do is clap along, at least turn it into a performance." One boy was watching this whole thing. He was what you would call the hot kid on the block, the jock that every girl wanted to be with. Having gone out with every girl in the school, this guy found it intriguing that this Oriental girl was fighting back; I was making fun of them just as much as they were making fun of me. He came to my side and said, "Ladies, ladies, you are much more beautiful when you're smiling." Then he took my hand, and we walked down the hall together. I looked back and saw these not-so-nice girls with their jaws dropping, "Oh, my God, the jock of the school is walking down the hall with a Moonie!" He said to me, "In Jin, let me apologize for their immature behavior. I'm so ashamed I belong to this school." We became great friends, even to this day.

That's what a John the Baptist is. At that moment, he was my John the Baptist. If the real John the Baptist had been there for Jesus, he would not have been crucified, and we would not be celebrating the spiritual resurrection of Jesus Christ. I've often wished that my father had a true John the

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tioned. The issue of illegitimacy surrounded him his whole life. When you read the Divine Principle, you realize that this misunderstanding should have been cleared up by John the Baptist. He was the Elijah returning to proclaim to the world that Jesus was the messiah.

John the Baptist came from a prominent family. His father was Zechariah; his mother was Elizabeth. He was a second cousin to Jesus Christ because Elizabeth and Mary were cousins. The Bible refers to him as a very educated man, quite prominent and devout. But parts of the Bible refer to Jesus as having a very difficult childhood, a very hard life.

When you look at these two cousins, you have to wonder, how could John the Baptist say he didn't know Jesus? They were cousins. How could he not know? If Heavenly Father blessed John the Baptist to be such a prominent figure, could it have been that maybe because of his own prominence and position, there was something in him that made him struggle about whether he should hand everything over to Jesus, to this second cousin with a question of illegitimacy around him?

I am sure that John the Baptist struggled with this issue. When we read the Bible, we know that ultimately because John the Baptist could not proclaim Jesus as the son of God, this sowed disunity among the people and helped lead to his crucifixion.

I think about how often my father has said to me that Christianity was prepared in the same way to receive the messiah and to proclaim him to the world, and how often he has said that had Christianity united with him,

MEGA from page 1

begin," boomed Mr. Hunter. What a blast! I thought to myself.

The music began with the internal, soul-searching spiritual, "Amazing Grace...how sweet the sound...that saved a wretch like me..." This was like Christian church, after all, with a rock band flair and a new age technology.

The song leaders sang from their hearts. One song performed was "Everlasting Love," a song by Gloria Estefan.

*Hearts go astray
Leaving hurt when they go
I went away
Just when you needed me so
Filled with regret
I came back beggin you
Forgive, Forget
Where's the love we once knew?
Open up your eyes
Then you'll realize
Here stand with my
Everlasting Love.*

Then, they sang "My Sweet Lord," a Beatles song by George Harrison with both Christian and Hindu motifs.

*My Sweet Lord
I really want to see you
Really want to be with you
Really want to see you, Lord
But it takes so long, my Lord.*

These selected songs seemed ready-made for our first generation audience of parents and missionaries from our early church of the 1970's. The music was accompanied by virtual images of the ocean, Easter flowers and the song lyrics.

Along with this wide-reaching embrace of electrifying professional music ministry, the Easter message of Rev. In Jin Nim Moon captured my heart as well as the heart of my husband and our

fourteen year old daughter who shared, "The thing I liked most about the Easter celebration was the music and Rev. In Jin Nim Moon's speech. Her speech was funny, but, at the same time, inspiring."

Hearing Rev. In Jin Nim Moon was like being part of a conversation with her. As the daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Moon, she spoke in a candid and forthright manner, appealing to my head and heart with explanations about how she reflects on her life, the contemporary world we live in and her relationship to her Father. Gifted in integrating levels of experience from her own family upbringing to her present family of parenting her own five children, she related to second and third generation children as well as the parents and elders in her congregation who have known her parents' ministry for many years. She recalled her Father's dancing and how his grandchildren were awed that he could dance so vibrantly at age ninety-one. She mimicked his quick, dancing moves.

Her Easter Message recalled the sacrifice of Jesus, the tremendous beauty and loyalty of his offering on the cross and the spiritual resurrection he accomplished. She explained the deep revelation of Rev. Moon's Divine Principle that shows the true suffering of Jesus himself and God's ultimate sorrow from the tragedy of Jesus' cruci-

fixion. Since God originally intended Adam and Eve as the heirs and co-creators with God of the pure lineage of human creation, God intended the original family to begin the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth. Due to Adam and Eve's fall, Jesus was intended to restore

of Heaven that can only begin from a pure family of true parents free of sin that would endow a new family lineage on the earth. Rev. In Jin Moon further explained that the true purpose of her Father and Mother's mission was to enable God to recreate this new family lineage representing the Third Adam and True Parents in God's providence.

As the music and Easter message reached multi-levels of meaning, Rev. Jesse Edwards, of the Christian Pentecostal tradition, preached on the sacrifice of Jesus and the cross, the victory of his heartfelt unity with God and his resurrection. To me, the Lovin'Life Ministries illuminated a connection to the past, present and future

through the music and the message.

Rev. In Jin Nim Moon is a new woman minister who is called to bring a new message and real relationship among peoples of diverse backgrounds. This experience of Lovin'Life Ministries reminded me of a photo of Rev. Moon holding his fishing rod up against the background of an expansive, blue sky. The rod is the symbol of truth and the sky is the symbol of God's wide, embracing parental love for all.

Lovin'Life Ministries offered fellowship after the service with Rev. In Jin Nim Moon and her staff. An awesome beginning! Lovin'Life Ministries Rocks❖



LOVIN' from page 3

Baptist, somebody who's prominent in our society, somebody who runs maybe a megachurch. Maybe God would bless that person so that he or she could stand in the position of John the Baptist to share with the world, "Guys, the Second Coming has already come. It might not be in the shape or form you want it, but he's here." Maybe some people are waiting for a Jesus to return that looks like Ben [Ben Lorentzen, one of the performers]! Doesn't he look like Jesus?

Maybe they weren't expecting a robust, funny, engaging, and compelling man like my father. But my father came. And you know what? Despite all the persecution and the difficulties, he just kept on going, one step at a time. He had a huge dream, but he took things one step at a time.

It was a glorious day in 1960 when the world could witness the Marriage of the Lamb. He found the True Mother; they were wed in holy matrimony and thus could substantiate the beginning of the dream that our Heavenly Parent wanted to realize in the body of Jesus. Jesus' mission is still carried on to this day with our True Parents.

True Parents didn't come just to tell you, "Look how great we are. We are the first man and the first woman to stand before you as perfected Adam and perfected Eve, and you guys cannot become great people yourselves." No. True Parents are saying, "Just as we have become True Parents, you can become true parents, too." We can graft onto this true olive branch and share in this lineage of our Heavenly Parent and in so doing become one family under God.

Brothers and sisters, this is an incredible time. Just as the egg symbolizes life and the potential of what it can be, this Easter Sunday morning symbolizes our life and the potential that we have in our hands to determine what kind of people we want to be. I'm hoping that as Americans, not only should we stand as loving couples, loving families, and loving children, but as proud and loving Americans we can share a little bit of our blessing with the rest of the world in service, through mission work.

My father has built so many hospitals and schools all around the world, hoping to teach people and nurture them so they can become great. How wonderful it would be if we could give a little bit of our-

selves in the different categories that we happen to be really good at, that we can be passionate about, and in so doing, as representatives of this great country, go out into the world and share the good news.

Jesus brought us the good news, but you know what? True Parents brought us the breaking news. It's breaking news time, brothers and sisters. This breaking news is a message of hope, a message of love. It is an invitation to live our lives filled with gratitude and happiness, in celebration and appreciation of each other, not being the kind of religious people who judge but instead the kind of religious people who have an incredible capacity to love, who

can raise up not only beautiful children but inspire our young people to become a generation worthy of the name Generation Peace.

Our children need not die at school. Just last week somebody came into a civic center and killed 15 people. Another person killed three policemen. We have numerous school shootings all around the country. Our children need not die just because they want a chance to study and get better. Our children need not be afraid of going to Palestine or Israel, walking the streets in fear of suicide bombers.

We as parents need to do our mission of creating and encouraging ideal and loving families, really showing our children how we can live in a multicultural, multireligious society with respect and honor. We don't want to just coexist with each other, like the bumper sticker that you see all over the place says. Instead of different religions and cultures merely coexisting and putting up with each other, how incredible would it be if we could actually love each other!

Yesterday I was watching the news.

Some commentators were saying how this is the worst economic crisis in the history of America. They were throwing out dire warnings. One of them said, "The economy is really bad, and the only things that are doing well in society are the churches, the bars, and the movie theaters." This person talked

within and they can find empowerment in the church.

For those people who are looking for connectedness in bars, maybe they can come home to church and realize they can do it much better here; instead of just commiserating, they can actually learn to love. And maybe instead of going to movie theaters to forget, maybe they can come back home to church and worship together so that they can truly celebrate the life that they've been given.

When I call this ministry Lovin' Life Ministries, it means that it's not about Rev. In Jin Moon. This is about you and me, all of us in this room, and all of our lives that combine in this incredible tapestry called the human experience, the tapestry of the children

of God. I'm hoping that as we move forward and get to know each other a little better each Sunday, we can realize how beautiful everybody is, how much we can learn from each other, and how much we must be grateful that we have this opportunity to build and live in an ideal family that Jesus never had a chance to do.

Let us not be heavy-lidded, brothers and sisters. Let us not be asleep like those disciples at Gethsemane. Let us open up our eyes and realize that we're living in a providential time, that we're living in a time when the Second Coming, our True Parents, walks with us, encouraging all of us to become true parents.

On this beautiful Easter morning I'm hoping that we can all remember our dear brother Jesus, that we can remember our True Parents and remind ourselves that we are a phenomenal movement.

We are the most successful movement, while the founder is still alive.

I'm hoping you'll invite me to your 90th birthday party. I would like to see you bogeying with the moves that my children were so gung-ho about when they saw their grandfather.

I'm hoping that as we move forward and pass on into the next life, we can reap the rewards of a life well lived, that we can be with our ancestors and they can be happy for us, that we can be with our brother Jesus up in heaven and we can be happy for him.

Brothers and sisters, let's open up our eyes on this Easter morning. I would like to leave you with a quote from a famous British novelist, Graham Greene. He is remembered as saying, "The door is always open for the future to come in." The door is open on this Easter Sunday morning, brothers and sisters, and the future is what we make it. So I'm hoping that we can make it a loving one, a respectful one, and a celebrating one. So welcome to Lovin' Life Ministries, and see you next week. ❖



in the cold with nothing, I'm sure they must be looking for meaning in their lives.

Why bars? Because people want to feel connected to each other. They want to find some kind of commiseration together over a bottle. And why the movie theaters? People want relief, so they go to forget.

But I was thinking, maybe this severe economic crisis is a way God is helping all of us ask the very simple and very profound questions about the meaning of life. Maybe God wants us to go back to church. Maybe God wants us to come back home. And instead of just asking what is the meaning of life, maybe people will actually realize that the answer is



SUBSCRIBE TO THE UNIFICATION NEWS

Sermons of Life, Love

“God, What Would You Have Me Do?”



This interview was done with Mary Jane Anderson on her experience with deprogrammers and how she kept her spirit fighting through the whole experience with love.

Question: Please tell us about your experience.

In 1977, thirty-two years ago this month, I was 25 years old, a college graduate and a fairly new RN. Now working as a missionary, I decided to visit my family over the Easter weekend. It had been about eight months since I saw my parents, but longer since I was home. In 1974 I joined a new religion which was very different from my Lutheran background—at least by all accounts in the newspapers which were not kind to new-age faiths. But to me my new-found faith was an answer to much prayer and seeking; seeking my parents did not or could not fully understand.

I won't take the time now to explain how I met the faith, but it was pretty miraculous, at least to me and because of that "one of a kind" experience I would have to undergo a whole lot of torture to make me recant or give up my beliefs—beliefs that I feel have been with me since I took my first breath out of the womb. I had found my home. I had a profound conversion experience, but try to explain that to my parents...not so easy.

My joining a new church was hard for them, but they accepted it the best they could until someone called them on the phone --seemingly out of the blue. The caller gave them not much choice: "We can save your daughter...she is in danger...if you want to ever see her again you can hire us and we can get her back.... etc."

These were deprogrammers who like vultures were looking for vulnerable parents who could be propositioned for the right fee. Any parent would want their child safe, no matter what their age. Trusting them and the media over me, I was now on the "snatch" list.

I made it quite easy for them as to their surprise I called and said I'd be coming home for Easter. No need for a complicated kidnapping as I was going to walk right into it. However, knowing about other members who got "kidnapped" I knew the possibility existed for me too, but another voice said, "No, my parents wouldn't do

that;" a possibility, but highly improbable, I thought. But just to cover all bases, I stopped in at the local church center on my way home and told them if they did not hear from me in three days they could assume the worst. In the seventies it was becoming quite popular for parents to deprogram most any "child" from some undesirable group or cult--being 21 or older did not make any difference.

Originally the plan was for me to arrive sometime on Saturday, but I decided to surprise them and arrive on Friday afternoon. About three o'clock in the afternoon, I pulled up in a borrowed church vehicle but didn't sense their nervousness. I found out later they had to rearrange their schedule to accommodate my early arrival. I also didn't notice the windows nailed shut in the bedroom as I took a little nap before supper. After a supposedly uneventful meal, I went down to the basement to get something when my luck changed big time. My father spoke first, "Honey, I'm so sorry to do this to you, but I must." He, then with the help of my two brothers-in-law, tied my ankles with plastic straps as well as my wrists behind my back. I was carried to the garage and squeezed in between the two guys in the back seat of the car as my dad drove two hours to the Twin Cities.

It was a very tense ride for me—I don't remember much of it—we were all in an ordeal never experienced before. (Deprogrammers never do the dirty work if they can help it—they don't want to be caught in a crime—better to let the family do it). It was dark when we arrived—I couldn't tell where we were. The street light was shining brightly onto a group of kids playing in the street. I began to scream as they opened the car door, but my screams were drowned out by the kids making their own noise. It turned out they were planted there, kids of the chief deprogrammer, to distract anyone from hearing my screams—and to make it more useless, a gag was placed into my mouth as I was carried into a new basement. Here I would stay for about a week.

I was placed on a twin size mattress on the floor in a recreation type room that had its own door. Since it was late, I was allowed to sleep—a sleep that I don't recall, but I guess now must have been pretty difficult. The room was totally dark. Others who I later learned were "employed" by; I will call Judy, the head deprogrammer, slept around me especially in front of the door. I was always escorted to the bathroom and was never alone even while peeing. Shampoo was diluted so I wouldn't drink it and cause an inconvenient trip to the hospital.

The first 24 hours were fairly

bearable—no heavy faith de-bunking. Easter Sunday came and I was presented with a huge plate of ham and all the trimmings. They wondered why I picked at it—any bite made me quite nauseous. At some point the real reason for my confinement began: The interrogation phase. From the minute I woke up to the minute I was allowed to sleep, I was bombarded with ridicule and abased with degrading remarks. Anything I said was used against me in some way or another. If I said nothing, I was called a zombie without a brain cell left etc, etc. It was me against three to five about 16 hours a day. When one deprogrammer got tired, another one would take their place. At some point my family's pastor was allowed in the room to watch. He put in his five cents from time to time. Another person not known to me was also allowed to watch for a few days. Later I learned she was a reporter from the main newspaper in the city. Everything that came out of mouth that seemed outrageous or seemed to support their image of a brainwashed zombie was jotted down; must have made great reading material for inquiring minds.

I tried to tell them things that I thought they wanted to hear. For a couple days I thought it was working—they weren't so hard on me. Then at some point there was a moment of silence...they stared at me and commented in a slow and commanding voice... "Sweetie, we believe you as much as we believe in the Easter bunny!" And, "You are so full of s---, your eyes are brown!" I was devastated. What do they want me to say? How much more can I take?...my patience was running thin... At some point after this new affirmation of not believing me, I remember running for the doorknob and trying to escape. Judy, who was on the plump side, was in my way. With my right foot I kicked her in the gut as hard as I could and out of my mouth came the best expletive curse word I could muster, not one to ever swear in my whole life: "Boy, you're FAT!" But for some reason that is what they wanted to hear and see! I was showing some emotion, some actual reaction, some LIFE! Being a religious zombie defines you to be blind, deaf and dumb so any fighting emotional outburst was a moment of victory for the deprogrammers. I'm sure they could now give my dad and step-mother hope. I was coming back to life. (My father was not happy with the early part of my "treatment." I heard later he wanted to take me out, but wasn't permitted to do so).

When I began to learn how to get into their minds and to think how they thought, I began to take a "step" out of the basement. After they thought I was worn down enough, they let up on the constant bombardment

of demeaning remarks and started the next stage. I guess they thought I was ready for logical proof and so the next phase consisted of reading pages and pages of negative articles printed through out the years against my faith. With all this "truth" I would then hopefully have an epiphany. I would rejoice and be thoroughly grateful for my "salvation" from the awful, mind-robbing cult I unknowingly was entrapped. My deprogrammers would now be my rescuers and I would be forever indebted to them.

After a week of little sleep, little appetite and no defense, I didn't have a whole lot of energy for rejoicing. But that was to be expected...They knew I was actually just beginning the real deprogramming! But at least I was finally permitted out of the basement—even if it was to start stage three: The Rehab Stage. This is where I joined all the other newly "saved" folk and together we learned each day how duped we all had been. One guy was from the Hari Krishna Hindu based faith, one was from a fundamental Christian Bible Study group with a charismatic leader, and I was from another new and strange Oriental based group. After daily group sessions where I had to think up some good reasons for attacking the cult I was saved from or naming faults of the cult leader, I was given more privileges. I was taken to bars, parks, movies, bingo, waterskiing, river rafting, and golf. I was forced to do things I didn't necessarily liked to do, but it was my therapy so that was that.

The house was well equipped with "booby traps" for anyone thinking of taking a hike. Wind chimes at every door. Triple locks and even the phones were tampered with. The mouthpieces were removed and so you could hear the caller, but the caller couldn't hear you. Judy usually kept the mouthpiece in her pocket for her use only.

One early Sunday morning, the Hari Krishna guy decided to make his break. Somehow he managed to escape those sleeping by the door, ran up the basement stairs and broke through the side door. Running right behind him was a deprogrammer in her baby doll PJ's. He, not wearing much either, quickly jumped in the back seat of an elderly couple's car on their way to church who were stopped at the stop sign. I wonder what they thought of these two strange people sitting in their backseat arguing with each other! They just took them to the police station to handle the problem and went on their way to church. The officer asked him his age and when he said he was over 21, the cop gave him a phone and said call whoever; you are free to leave. I wish I had been so lucky, but I had to act sad that he got away. Lying is very hard for me to do so all of this was torture. They watched

Lineage, and Faith

A Lesson in Loving Unconditionally

every gesture and word I made.

Probably, the biggest test was yet to come. By this time four weeks had lapsed and I was beginning to wear out my welcome. I guess they didn't expect me to stay there forever. So, the next phase was for me to make

a public speech against my cult and tell how wonderful it was to be out and free. If one publically renounces one's beliefs, I assume it would be harder to go back. But, I thought to myself, "Oh, no. Not that!" I could never renounce my beliefs—they are who I am...I would have to deny myself. I may be a zombie to some, but I'm no hypocrite. My heart had never left my religion and to fake it in a public place was too much—I was definitely not a good actress either. But as I had told God, if I ever got kidnapped, I would never leave until I had substantial proof or witnesses to bring deprogrammers into a court of law and put this insane practice to an end once and for all. When they told me I was to speak at a school nine miles from my hometown, I started to rethink the plan. If there were a few people in the audience that I knew, I could always use them as witnesses if I planned something like a getaway. I told myself, "If they want me to talk, OK, I'll talk." Just give me a mike and I will talk plenty, but it won't be what they want me to necessarily say!

I knew I couldn't do this alone. I needed help to escape after my talk. So, I told Judy I'd like to call someone from my high school class who should come and

hear me speak. She agreed. I decided to make the call while everyone was eating and not paying too much attention to my conversation. Luckily, the phone had a long cord and I sort of danced around gleefully talking to

my girlfriend telling her about the time and place etc and that I'd love for her to come. Except I wasn't actually speaking to a girlfriend; I was speaking to my church's center director. As I danced over to the basement stairs I hastily said in a whisper, "George, please be there, I need you to help me escape!"

I began to form my speech in my mind. It wasn't hard. I would just speak from my heart and give the folks a side that was hopefully believable. I hoped not to come off as a crazy person, but someone who cared enough for them and who thought they deserved to hear the truth.

We got to the school. It was quite a crowd. I guess the whole town wanted to hear how deprogramming saved the three of us. Just like I thought, I did know many people in the audience. I asked to be last. George wasn't there yet so the longer I waited the better the chance of him getting there in time before I spoke. But when it came to my turn, he was still late. I thought, "Well, here goes, George or no George. This was something I had to do, help or no help."

In a nutshell, my talk consisted of three main points. The first was to praise the audience for offering me a great community to grow up; one with many churches

giving me faith and strong commitment to family values. I told them truthfully that I felt the whole world needed this same type of community, a feeling where all of mankind could be in harmony with

one another. In college I met people from many different cultures and longed for a way to unite them all. It was then that I met a new religion. (At this point George entered the back of the room and my speech takes a new turn—later the deprogrammers believed that when I saw him, I was instantly brainwashed again and snapped back to my zombie state! I never bothered to show them my whole speech and how it had been written out in its entirety while driving to the school long before I started to speak.)

I began explaining what deprogramming was really like. I stated that if this was from God, then I didn't want anything to do with God or religion. I went into detail of the step by step humiliation that was bestowed on me for last few weeks and thankfully, no one stopped me. I concluded with the fact that as an American I have the right to assembly, the right to free speech and most importantly, the right to believe in any religion I so choose...and with that I thanked them and said, "And now I wish to do just that! God Bless America!"

Upon my conclusion, I raced for the back of the room to get to George who thankfully came with another guy to help. I was so happy to see them. But my happiness was short lived. George and his helper were soon chased out of town by the sheriff and I was caught leaving the building by two people. One took my right hand and held it up against the outside wall of the school and another took by left arm and it soon appeared and felt that I was looking like someone on an invisible cross. The main audience was kept inside so few saw what was going on. A relative came up to me and she told me how Satan comes like wonderful light and can deceive easily, meaning I was deceived by believing in my new religion. It then hit me hard; I felt, even if it was a small iota, I could feel the heart of Jesus at the crucifixion when he uttered, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." This was now my own public crucifixion and I too was again all alone. George was long gone. It was just me and I actually began to wonder, "Where are you God?-have you forsaken me too?"

It was soon apparent that all I had worked to do, to come to this relative phase of freedom was now gone. I would soon be back in the basement. This time certain people took it upon themselves to "save" me. Even my parents didn't know where I was going. My new abductors must have understood that they were apart of a crime and had to hide me quickly. The deprogrammers couldn't trust my father anymore—he being a righteous soul could blow the whistle on them all—this wasn't what the

deprogrammers had bargained for at the start of the evening!

I was whisked away in a car and taken to my childhood second home. This neighbor and his wife had been like second parents to me growing up...their kids and my sisters and I played together all the time; Sunday school together, swimming lessons, and tons of sleepovers. I was grateful for a familiar place even though I was highly frightened of what was to come next. Yet, there was a feeling too that I was no longer alone—maybe the Holy Spirit was with me? It was a comforting feeling. I felt some assurance that all would eventually work out. I was no longer on the defense; the deprogrammers now were and I had done that with my little talk and attempted escape. Maybe I didn't fail after all! I sensed they were scared more than me—this was a great feeling. I guess their tail and horns were starting to show so to speak.

I didn't know it at the time, but George had the insight to go straight to the county attorney and tell him what had happened at the school. The county attorney was obligated to do his job and investigate. He began asking people what happened and most importantly, "Where is she?" Produce the body, but nobody knew because nobody saw who took me away.

The deprogrammers started a phone system. No one answered the phone unless it rang once...hung up for a few seconds and then rang again. Then they could be assured that the caller was on their side. I was rather amused that I had started such a commotion. At least at this house, I was allowed to rest and talk privately with my "mom." (Since my biological mother died when I was young, this lady was like my mother, more than my step-mother). I was able to talk freely even though I wasn't actually convincing anyone that they should let me go. I guess love is love and in their eyes they loved me enough to risk everything—even jail—if need be, for me. Deep down, I felt this love and I will always think of them in a loving way as well. Maybe it was my own mother's spirit coming to me and giving me comfort too. I hope I made her proud. She was such a religious and faithful woman.

It was Sunday, Mother's Day, and my "mom" was busy getting ready to play the organ at the little country church just a few yards away from the house. I was allowed to go take a shower that was in the basement next to the beloved Finnish sauna I had used so much as a child. I also knew that a phone extension was also in the basement, one that the deprogrammers didn't know about. I turned on the shower and made all the

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Sermons of Life, Love

Anderson from page 7

sounds like I was actually bathing. I was instead making a call to George or whoever answered to let them know where I was and to tell the county attorney, Ed, as fast as they could. In having to talk so fast and quietly, Karen, who answered the phone, got the message but not as clear as I would have liked. When she called the county attorney, he assumed that I must be at the Nelson warehouse (business), not at their farm home. So instead of looking for me at the house where I was, he went to the warehouse in town. Joe, who happened to be at the office that morning must have been quite alarmed when Ed came walking in asking him where I was? Or should I say, he asked, "Is she here? Not really lying, all he needed to say was, "No, she is not here. Look around if you like." So, Joe thought, "How could Ed have connected me with himself when no one was to have known my actual hiding place?" Especially Ed, the county attorney! Somebody must have tipped him off, but whom? Whoever it was didn't matter now; I had to be moved right away!!!--before the authorities start looking on the farm.

So, my second attempt to escape was foiled, but at least I found out someone was still looking for me. I just had to endure a little longer. Soon, I was in a car again. I guess when Joe called the farm using the special code, telling them of his recent visit everyone went crazy trying to think up a new plan: where do we take her now?

Well, they took me, blindfolded, for about an hour's drive to another county. And, yes, I was put in their basement. I was back to being really watched, every second and definitely no where near a phone! I was in the home of a doctor whose daughter was successfully deprogrammed sometime earlier. The deprogrammers tried very hard to hide the location from me by the blindfold and also by not letting me see any faces of the owners of the house. But, I knew, because I helped witness to their daughter and knew her name. By overhearing certain things in the house, I put two and two together and

I knew exactly where I was. The deprogrammers were digging themselves and a whole bunch of other people into their sinister hole day by day. If free, I could have them all arrested—at least two families and counting! Boy, were they nervous. For me, I wasn't feeling too bad.

By this time I was back to reading over and over the same old articles. By now, I should have had them all memorized. The basement was musty and the rug smelled of dog urine. I really wanted to sleep on the floor because the couch was the kind with very thin cushions that slanted backwards. My back was killing me, but it was better than lying on the stinky rug.

Luckily, I didn't stay at this house very long because either the law was closing in or the family was getting too nervous and didn't want me there anymore. So, back in the car we went, blindfolded as well. This time, they drove me not too far away but out in the country. I remember stopping, someone getting out opening a gate, driving a ways more, stopping opening another gate until we finally made it to this old abandoned farmhouse. There was some furniture, but limited and I don't think there was any running water or electricity. All I remember was the bed was an old feather tic type and it wasn't helping my back any—I was starting to feel sick. Besides, the birds that were flying around inside the house were making too much noise for me to sleep. When would this ever end?

It turned out to be a temporary place while calls were being made on where to put me. My dad still didn't know where I was. About three in the morning, I was awakened from a sleep that took a long time in coming. I was thankful to get off that bed! Blindfolded again, I seemed to be in the car forever. This time I was in another county in the southern part of the state.

This was a family whose husband had deprogrammed his wife out of a fundamental Christian group. They were willing to help. Being in another new county meant I was

farther and farther away from help...I wondered if they all gave up looking. I had my driver's license with me which they didn't know I had. (My dad had sent it to me when they started taking me to bars and I needed it for an ID). At

the doctor's place, I secretly hide it under the corner of the carpet. If I ever had to prove I was in that house, all I had to do was tell someone where to go to find my driver's license. Well now, I was out of bread crumbs.

This was a nice home, but again out in the country. I was locked in a bedroom. They took the shade off the ceiling light so just two 100 watt bulbs burned down on me all day long. I was really getting sick. I found that if I pulled the bed away and sat on the floor behind the head of the bed, I could shield myself from the

gave him a peck on the cheek and he seemed satisfied.

But, no one was going to let me go "home" just yet. It wasn't until they heard me give a reason why I was resisting so much? I had to come up with something good. I could only think of this: That I was so afraid of going to hell if I left my faith. Well, that must have been the magic words, because it worked. After a good cry—I can't remember if I faked it or not (I needed a good cry by this time, anyway), I was allowed more freedom in the house. My dad was allowed to visit and I was soon returned back to the rehab house.

Things may have been easier now. They were definitely tired of me and pretty much left me alone. I spent my day reading books of my choice and playing guitar. But it was getting back to the basics that started me on the road to real freedom.

I started to get my prayer life back again. God seemed so far away and I wondered if God was sleeping on the job...I really could have used a break here and there and a little spiritual intervention would have been very welcome!

Somehow, I asked God, "What would You have me do?" What is Your will for me? I sought an answer in the Bible. I randomly opened the book and I knew I received my answer. I had automatically opened to Matthew 5: 43-38. Reading it I knew God had never left me; He was trying to teach me something very important...it would be my key to unlock the door to freedom.

43 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I say to you,

Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? 47 And if you greet only your brothers, [1] what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? 48 You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Love my enemies...be perfect in my love? Could I do it? And how would I do it?

I began by serving Judy. I voluntarily cooked, cleaned and dusted. I even baked her an apple pie. Soon she was very nice to me. She took me out for coffee. She talked; I listened. She told me many things. Things like how she felt when her husband had left her and married an ex-nun. Many other hurts came out. I began to see a different person, one whom I could love and have compassion for. I now understood the

"Somehow, I asked God, "What would You have me do?" What is Your will for me? I sought an answer in the Bible. I randomly opened the book and I knew I received my answer. I had automatically opened to Matthew 5: 43-38. Reading it I knew God had never left me; He was trying to teach me something very important...it would be my key to unlock the door to freedom."

glaring light and heat. When they realized I was too comfortable, they made me move. It is now late May and the weather is getting warmer outside too. The window was never opened—actually it was boarded up so I could make no indication of my presence to anyone driving by.

It was back to reading stuff over and over all day long. At some point a new face was introduced to me. The called him Stan. It turns out he was a hypnotist from Chicago. I wondered how much my poor dad was paying to fly him up here and pay his fees besides. I guessed they thought I had enough crap, for lack of a better word, on them all by now to send them to jail for a few years, so they could do either one of two things to me—kill me or hypnotize me! Good grief! Stan did his hypnosis thing on me and I'll spare you the details. The craziest thing was that before he woke me, (I faked it), he wanted me to express to him in my most intimate manner a way to thank him for his help. What a test! Is this how he was testing me to see if I was under or not? Go to bed with him? I



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Lineage, and Faith

reason for why she was doing what she was doing. My heart began to change. I was forgiving her for everything.

Miracles began to happen, small but real. While cleaning the kitchen table one day, I picked up the ash tray. Stuck to the under side of it was a postage stamp. I used it to secretly get a letter out to my brothers and sisters in my faith to let them know I was ok and not to worry—I would be back soon. It was a trick to mail it, but God gave me a means to do that too.

Judy asked me if I would mind taking her kids over to the mall and I could use her car! Wow, how easy it would be to just drive away. But, it could be another test...I respected her enough to return her car. Maybe I could gain another liberty and sure enough it happened. I asked her if I could look for a job. She liked the idea very much. My idea was to walk to the nearest bus stop and get on as quick as I could. I walked about three blocks from the house and sat down at a bench to wait for the bus. It was in front of small group of shops. While I was sitting there, a bus didn't come but instead it was Judy in her car. I thought, "Oh my gosh, she'll catch me sitting here, at a bus stop...here I go again, back to the basement!" But no, I quickly told her I was deciding on what store to go into to next and had to sit down to think. She bought it and suggested that I get into her car and go with her to the mall where I might have better luck. So I got back into her car and was soon in Sears with her filling out an application so she could watch me do it. I told her I would apply at a few more places and that I would see her later on.

I hid out in Sears for an hour paranoid that I would run into her again. When I felt confident I could make it, I ran to the far side of the mall and waited for another bus. With the three dollars I had won at a recent Bingo they took me to, I got on the bus and ran to the back where I could stare out the back window looking for Judy to start following me at any moment. The paranoia was intense. I shouldn't have been afraid, but I was. I guess my post traumatic stress syndrome was starting.

I started to relax as I went mile after mile. I got downtown and went into the largest skyscraper I could. I phoned the church and was dismayed, but smiled, "This number has been disconnected!" I knew George must have let the phone bill lapse for one reason or another...I phoned NYC and got someone at national headquarters. Within an hour I was on a plane.

I called my dad to let him know I was OK. I told him to let me live my life and I prayed things would be better between us in the future.

And it was. But that is another special gift from Heavenly Father...how I met my husband. Together we gave my dad four beautiful grandchildren ...but that is

and space; true freedom is knowing who we are and what our relationship is towards God and to others. We are our brother's keeper. We are God's hands and feet on this earth to do His will of loving others as He has loved us. Jesus commanded us to be perfect in our love. We should not pick and choose; we love all equally. The

the very thing he created us with, freedom.

Jesus came to supposedly a people prepared; the chosen people. Watching His son hang on the cross, being rejected by the very people He spent thousands of years teaching, loving, raising up and preparing to receive His son was the most miserable situation for God to bear. And yet, He could do nothing. One could speculate, if just one person close to Jesus would have come forward at the time of the crucifixion and offered himself to die instead, like Isaac who was willing to sacrifice himself as an offering under the hand of his father, Abraham, then that one person's faith and love would have opened the door for the kingdom to come 2,000 years ago- Jesus could have lived to be a living sacrifice, continuing to show people the way of love, living for others, but thus gaining life because loving frees us

“When you love you should love unconditionally all the way without strings attached. I needed to forgive unconditionally as well....We look too quickly for revenge. That is what evil loves...it gains its power through revenge. Satan can continually accuse God, “See, your children follow me, not Your son.””

another chapter.

Question: What was the outcome of your ordeal? Was there justice done? Were you able to press charges?

I did not originally pursue any. I was later contacted by the ACLU to try and bring charges. Looking back, I wish I hadn't agreed with them. Out of the four counties only one agreed to hold a grand jury hearing. The folks on the grand jury sided with my father. I felt betrayed a little by the system. But that was another lesson. When you love you should love unconditionally all the way without strings attached. I needed to forgive unconditionally as well.

As citizens of the planet we are all corrupt one way or another. 'Who ever has no sin, cast the first stone.' Wouldn't it be wonderful if the world's people could repent all at the same time. Then when that was all over, we could have one great big group HUG!

Question: What did you learn from your experience?

Love is the key to all doors-total freedom. Keeping resentment and hatred inside one's heart closes doors-no freedom. Freedom is not being free necessarily within time

rain falls on the good and on the bad.

I learned that every opportunity that comes to us is a way to grow in our love for others. Loving the most difficult person may be a challenge, but spiritual growth that comes from doing it; having a parental, unconditional heart, is a way to liberate God himself from His suffering state. For everyone who suffers, just multiply that times every person alive today plus those who have lived in the past and you may sense the terrible situation that God is in. Your tears would fill an ocean. God wants so much to reach down and release us from our pain, but can't because he would be violating

from Satan's grasp on us. Sadly, as it turned out Peter and many of the other disciples were crucified anyway for their faith--too little, too late. When will we ever learn?

My experience taught me many things. As I write this now, I just learned a whole lot more. When we stop and listen we will hear many lessons yet to be learned. I think God is ready to teach us the highest truths, but are we ready or open? I hope so for this planet's sake.

Thank you for letting me share a piece of my life with you. ❖



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Sermons of Life, Love

“Don’t Doubt in the Dark, What God has Spoken to You in the Light”

“If you want to be a loving person, do you think God will just “abra-kada-bra” make you a loving person? No way? If God is trying to make you a loving person, do you think He will put people around you who are easy to love? No way? It doesn’t require much maturity to love people who are easy to get along with. To help you grow, God will put you in the exact opposite circumstance, where you have to make a choice, and practice loving. Then your character will mature.”

By Rev. Tom Cutts

April 26, 2009

Rev. Tom Cutts is the District Director of the six Southern states of Florida, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana. He and his wife, Angelika, were matched by True Parents and Blessed with 2075 Couples in Madison Square Garden in 1982. They have three sons and one daughter. They matched their oldest son, Brian, and he was Blessed to Joy Harris from England in 2008 in Washington, D.C. Brian is now serving in the U. S. Navy. Their second son, Daniel, is on the Oceania Leadership Team based in Australia. He is currently leading a team in Fiji. Tom and Angelika reside in Marietta, Georgia with their youngest son and daughter, Atombo and Rebekah.

The title of our Message today is “Don’t Doubt in the Dark, what God has spoken to You in the Light.” Our Bible reading comes from Paul’s Letter to the Galatians, Chapter 5 verses 13 through 26. Here are those verses in the Contemporary English Version translation.

Galatians 5:13-26

My friends, you were chosen to be free. So don't use your freedom as an excuse to do anything you want. Use it as an opportunity to serve each other with love. All that the Law says can be summed up in the command to love others as much as you love yourself. But if you keep attacking each other like wild animals, you had better watch out or you will destroy yourselves.

If you are guided by the Spirit, you won't obey your selfish desires. The Spirit and your desires are enemies of each other. They are always fighting each other and keeping you from doing what you feel you should. But if you obey the Spirit, the Law of Moses has no control over you.

People's desires make them give in to immoral ways, filthy thoughts, and shameful deeds. They worship idols, practice witchcraft, hate others, and are hard to get along with.

People become jealous, angry, and selfish. They not only argue and cause trouble, but they are envious. They get drunk, carry on at wild parties, and do other evil things as well. I told you before, and I am telling you again: No one who does these things will share in the blessings of God's kingdom.

God's Spirit makes us loving, happy, peaceful, patient, kind, good, faithful, gentle, and self-controlled. There is no law against behaving in any of these ways. And because we belong to Christ Jesus, we have killed our selfish feelings and desires. God's Spirit has given us life, and so we should follow the Spirit.

One of the last verses is particularly important to us. If you grew up with the King James Version, this is how that verse reads.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering (patience), gentleness, faith, meekness, temperance (self-control); against such there is no law.

It has been said that most people forget 90 to 95% of what they hear after 72 hours. That means by Wednesday, you'll have forgotten most of what we talk about today. I hope you'll at least remember the sermon title, because it is an important instruction: “Don’t doubt in the Dark, what God has spoken to you in the Light.”

“...what God has spoken to you in the Light.” Has God spoken to you? I have neighbors and relatives who don't believe there is a God. There are others who believe that God created everything, but they cannot imagine that this Creator can personally relate to them, care about them, wants them to be happy, and wants the best for them.

I was in Las Vegas last month for an International Leadership Conference, and one participant from

our district told me he was an atheist. I'll call him Steve, though that is not his name. Steve does not believe in God. He certainly does not believe that there is a God who can speak to him.

But while he was in Vegas he had a curious experience. When Steve arrived at our hotel, he saw three teenage girls get out of a car. They wore high heel shoes, bright colored hot-pants, fishnet stockings, tops that exposed their tummies, and lots of make-up. They were teenage prostitutes.

Steve has two daughters himself, and when he saw these girls he actually started sobbing. Right there in his taxi, he broke down in tears. He surprised himself by how upset he was. Steve shared this experience with me, and challenged me saying, “How can you say there is a God? If there was a God, He wouldn't let these young girls' lives be ruined this way.”

I said to him, “Steve, your reaction, proves to me that there IS a God. You could have lusted for the girls, or judged them in disgust, or simply ignored them. Instead you felt the heart of a concerned father. Don't you find it amazing that you cried for kids whom you had never met before? Where did that emotion come from? It didn't just come out of the thin air.”

There has to be a source of our personality and our emotions. Not only did God create our physical bodies, but he is also the source of our personality and emotions. That means that God is a Being of Personality and Emotion. That's why we refer to God as Heavenly Father. He is a real Being who suffers when any of his children are abused. Through Steve's emotions, God was speaking to him. Steve was experiencing the heart of God when he shed tears for those three girls.

I don't think I convinced him that God exists, but I did get him to wonder about his own passionate reaction, and where those powerful feelings came from.

The founder of our church,

the Reverend Sun Myung Moon, has established a special mission in Las Vegas. Right now there is a saying that, “What happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas.” This means that people go to Vegas to do all sorts of things. Things they would rather the folks back home not know about. So, their naughty secret “stays in Vegas”. Rev. Moon wants to change the whole environment there. He wants Las Vegas to become known worldwide as a good place for families.

To make that change Rev. Moon is promoting Absolute Sexual Morality. Fundamentally, this means that people remain sexually pure until they are married, and when married, they only have sex with their spouse. But Absolute Sexual Morality is a lot more than not having sex with the wrong partner. It is a lot more than “no spare keys” to your sexual organ. It also means that you direct all your sexual desire and feelings toward your spouse. No seductive thoughts and behavior for anyone else.

I am very concerned about young men who are involved in pornography. Easy access on the internet has made pornography a big problem. Pornography addiction makes it really difficult to establish a loving and sexually fulfilling relationship in a marriage. One of the leaders in our youth movement, CARP, said that she found that the older teenage boys with the strongest addictions to pornography started looking at pornography when they were 8 and nine years old.

Of course, at that age boys don't have strong sexual feelings. But as they get older, hormones kick in, and if they masturbate looking at pictures, that delicious feeling becomes powerfully imprinted in their minds. Hormones bond them to that first sexual experience. They “fall in love” with sex. They need to repeat the same kind of experience in order to feel sexually satisfied. This makes it really difficult to be sexually fulfilled with a wife. Several of the marriages of our Second Generation have ended in

Lineage, and Faith

divorce because the husband was addicted to pornography.

God intended for your first delicious sexual experience to be with your eternal spouse. Then you fall in love with the person who made you feel so wonderful. You won't fall in love with "sex", but with your spouse.

Some kids think that if they don't "go all the way" there won't be any problem. But making out stirs up those same bonding hormones. And again, we fall in love with sex. This is why dating is not allowed in Absolute Sexual Morality.

God wants us to have tremendous joy in our love relationship with our spouse. The Absolute Sexual Morality is not a curse from God where he tells us "Don't do this" or "Don't do that." Based on the way we are designed, Absolute Sexual Morality is actually a gift from Heavenly Father. Practicing Absolute Sexual Morality can help us establish wonderful lasting marriages. So, please protect not only your body but your heart.

While I was in Las Vegas, Rev. Rev. InJin Moon addressed nearly two thousand of our family members. During the meeting, I saw someone who looked like the sister who introduced me to the movement, Poppy Richie. I had not seen her for some thirty years. I asked the sister who looked like Poppy, is she was Poppy. She said, "No, I'm not her, though I am often confused for her. But Poppy is in this meeting."

When I heard that Poppy was in the meeting, I really wanted to see her. I was afraid that if I waited until the end of the program, I would miss her as the crowd left the ballroom. An inspiration came to me to go up toward the front of the ballroom, on the far left hand side of the chairs. Then I could look back onto the audience and search for Poppy. I felt that if I stood in one particular spot, I would see Poppy.

So, I went to that spot, and stood there looking into the seated audience. There were a number of people standing along the wall, and one person said in a loud whisper, "Hey, you. Go stand somewhere else. You're blocking my view." It was

Poppy.

The sermon title today is "Don't Doubt in the Dark, what God has spoken to you in the Light." God speaks to us in many ways. He can speak to us through our feelings as he did with Steve. Or He can give us intuitions to go stand in a particular spot in a ballroom. Or He can give us

powerful insights that help guide our lives. Some people hear God speak with an almost audible voice. God also speaks to us through other people.

God can speak through the most unlikely people. One time I was leading a fundraising team in Connecticut, and I couldn't decide on the next area to go to. We were in a little town, and I pulled the van off the road and searched the map for our next area. I couldn't decide and was becoming paralyzed by indecision. Out of the corner of my eye, I caught sight of some movement outside my window. There was a drunk looking in at me. He had dirt and leaves in his hair, a scraggy beard, and his head wobbled around unsteadily. His eyes were not focused. Carefully, I cracked my window to see what he wanted. I was shocked by what this drunk said to me. He slurred, "Just make a decision." Has God ever yelled at you through a drunk?

I hope that God will speak to you today. In the

Bible, it is recorded that God spoke to a prophet through a donkey. Hopefully, He can use me to speak to you today.

Two weeks ago, our second son, Daniel, called home from Australia. He is on the Oceania Leadership Team (OLT). He was calling to say he was flying to Fiji the next day. He would be leading a team for the next forty days. In a couple of emails he mentioned that he was having experiences with the heart of God. So, I asked him how God had spoken to him.

He shared how he was the team assistant for the past forty days.

The team was fundraising, but his team mates were bad about getting out of the van to go fundraising. They would reach their drop off point, and spend a lot of time getting out. Daniel was trying to get them ready before reaching the drop off point. One day he thought he had everyone ready, but they were worse than ever. He got so angry with the team. He felt they were not concerned about the team, but were focused only on themselves. Later that day, Daniel had a showdown prayer with God. Daniel realized that his being upset toward his team was a tiny taste of how God might feel towards his rebellious children. But more profoundly, Daniel realized that he himself had caused God to suffer, when Daniel was more focused on himself and his own schedule. Daniel repented deeply with tears. And in his tears he even found a more parental attitude toward his teammates.

Our movement has a number valuable program for our young people. Programs like STF, OLT, and Jr. STF give our sons and daughters opportunities to put the Divine Principle into action. We are not called to just believe, but we are to mature our character. And that takes time, making good choices and practice.

I am really grateful to the OLT experience my son is having. We talked for nearly two hours. At the end of that Daniel told me how much he enjoyed talking with me. In the past, our conversations were rarely longer than a few minutes. Parents will understand what a joy it is to have a longer conversation with your child. I hope all of our youth can participate in programs like OLT and STF.

And parents, it is not enough to just come to church on Sunday. All of us need to mature our character. Spiritual maturity is not automatic. It takes intention, making good choices, and practice.

Our Bible reading today lists the qualities of spiritual maturity and good character. If we are in God's Spirit we are to be loving, joyful, kind, patient, peaceful, self-controlled, and faithful. So, how does God produce these fruits of the Spirit in us?

If you want to be a loving person, do you think God will just "abra-kada-bra" make you a loving person? No way? If God is trying to make you a loving person, do you think He will put people around you who are easy to love? No way? It doesn't require much maturity to love people who are easy to get along with. To help you grow, God will put you in the exact opposite circumstance, where you have to make a choice, and practice loving. Then your character will mature.

Heavenly Father has each of us on a character education course. And this explains one aspect of the "Dark" mentioned in the title of our sermon. If God is maturing the quality of peacefulness in you, you might be thrown into the darkness of chaos. Or if God is maturing the quality of joyfulness in you, you might find

yourself in the darkness of sorrow.

The key to growth is making the right choices. God gives us opportunities to mature our character. We can respond in fear and run away, or we can take a risk, and gain the victory. After winning smaller victories, God gives us opportunities for larger and larger victories.

King David didn't just go out one day and slay Goliath. God gave him opportunities while tending sheep. David could have been afraid and ran away, but he took the risk, and was victorious. Based on this small victory, God sent a lion to threaten the flock. David could have been afraid and ran away. But he took the risk, and got a bigger victory. Then God sent a bear to threaten the flock. David could have been afraid and ran away. But again, he took the risk, and got an even bigger victory. Based on this training, God prepared David to face the giant Goliath. And in the end, David was ready to tend not only sheep, but all the Hebrew tribes.

I am sure that David had some failures. He probably lost some sheep. But he did not focus on his failures. He kept his victories foremost in his mind.

Have you ever bought a car and then the next day notice how many other cars have the same color as yours? The number of cars with the color of yours did not change overnight. But your mind was attuned to the new color, and began seeing more cars of the same color.

Your mind is a powerful tool. We tend to find what we are looking for. When I was on MFT, I had a great time. Of course I faced rejection and physically it was hard work. But I focused on the joy I experienced with the last sale. That was what kept me going, and of course, the next sale always came.

One brother in our district came to me and said he was having trouble finding a job. He mentioned that the economy was tanking out, and he was being rejected everywhere he went. He was worried that he would be rejected again. He knew that with that attitude, he probably would be.

As we spoke, I was reminded of a story I heard about True Father and one of the church businesses in Korea. The manager wanted to fire one of the older employees. But Father said the employee could not be fired. The manager said the old man was not producing and paying him was a waste of money. Then True Father explained that the old man was bringing God's blessing to the company.

And this brings us to our conclusion. As God's sons and daughters, YOU are bringing God's blessing your tribe, to your neighbors, and to your workplace. Have confidence that God wants to bring his Blessing to others through you. Build confidence by remembering your victories, and finally never forget, "Don't doubt in the Dark, what God has spoken to you in the Light." ❖

“Heavenly Father has each of us on a character education course. And this explains one aspect of the “Dark” mentioned in the title of our sermon. If God is maturing the quality of peacefulness in you, you might be thrown into the darkness of chaos. Or if God is maturing the quality of joyfulness in you, you might find yourself in the darkness of sorrow.”

Sermons of Life, Love, Lineage, and Faith

Love is the Key; Ohio Family Church

by Rev. Andre Reese

04/19/2009

Jesus said: "A new commandment I give to you: that you love one another as I have loved you," thereby fulfilling the law, thereby fulfilling the fundamental need found in the other person and yourself. The need of all human beings is to know that we are liked, loved, and appreciated. Love one another.

We, as human beings, have many needs in life. We humans have fundamental needs that have to be met in order for us to survive. We have these very basic needs of air, water, food, and shelter. But I would like to suggest to you this morning that we have another fundamental need: the need to experience love, God's love, the need to receive love and the need to give love. The need is for the quality of love, God's love. We all have a need to experience genuine love; that is, to receive love, and to give love. And it is always in that sequence: to first receive love and then to give me. You can't give you what you first haven't received. ... This need to experience love, to receive and give love, is as necessary as water, air, food and shelter. You can't survive as a human being without water, air, food and shelter. Likewise, we as human beings cannot survive nor reach our full potential unless we experience love, to give and receive love. O yes, you can survive with less. You can survive on a lot less and still be human. You can survive having a minimum diet and having your minimum physiological needs met. You can meet your minimum social needs, your minimum sexual needs, your minimum work needs. You can survive on the minimum but you will never reach your full potential as a human being unless you experience love, God's love, receiving love and giving love.

Let me explain. For an example: if you have an apple tree at your house and all it does is produce beautiful apple blossoms, is that tree fulfilling its full potential? Obviously, not. The apple blossoms smell good, but is the tree meeting its full potential? No. Second example: let's say that you have a tomato plant and this beautiful tomato plant grows bushier and bushier, thicker and thicker, leafier and leafier, greener and greener, and this plant grows to be the bushiest, leafiest, greenest plant that you have ever seen, but it doesn't produce any tomatoes. Would you say that this particular tomato plant was fulfilling its full potential? Obviously not. How about a meadowlark. Let's say that you see a meadowlark fly and do all kinds of acrobatic tricks in the

air and fly the highest that a bird can fly, but the meadowlark never sings. Would the meadowlark be realizing its full potential? Of course not. Just as the meadowlark was designed by God to sing beautiful songs and just as the apple tree was designed by God to make luscious, sumptuous apples and just as the tomato plant was designed by God to produce big red tomatoes, so you and I have also been designed by God to love. To experience love. To receive and give love. That is our God given design. That is the way that God made us. We are made in the image of God; we are like God; and we have been designed to love. And it is only then that we reach our full potential as human beings. Only when we experience love, giving and receiving love, do we become fully human. I mean, a tomato plant with out tomatoes? How ridiculous. An apple tree without apples? How ridiculous. A meadowlark without singing? How ridiculous. A human being without love, divine love, experiencing love, receiving and giving love? How ridiculous. You can settle for less in your life, but your life won't be very good nor very fulfilling. You would be like apple trees with only blossoms and not apples, a tomato plant with only leaves and not tomatoes, a meadowlark who only flies and never sings. God has made you to love, and only in loving, experiencing love, receiving and giving love, that you find your true self, your true potential and true humanity.

Well, what is this love? Well, love is not easy to define. I mean, can you capture the waves of an ocean in a fishing net? No. Can you capture a beautiful butterfly by dissecting its wings and beauty? No. Can you capture love by writing a poem about it? Shakespeare wrote one hundred and fifty sonnets trying to capture love and after one hundred and fifty sonnets later, he could not define it. There are some things in life that are so mysterious and so big that you cannot capture them even in words, and that is the way love it. Love is so big. Love is so mysterious that you cannot capture it in words, but when you see it, you know it. ... I see it all around me every day of the week. I see it in the grief of a father, there at the bedside of his dead wife whom he loved for sixty five years, and you could literally see the love inside him and between them. I see love all the time. I saw love in Françoise Takanaka as she spoke with a refugee family at church last Sunday. I see love in Garrun Abrahams as he invests himself in the youth ministry, I often see him give up his personal time for one of his kids.

I see it all the time. I still cannot define it nor have any of the poets of life, but I know it when I see it. That is the way love is: fleeting,

mysterious, incomprehensible, elusive, when you try to define it, but love is a reality, a fact of life, a way of life.

To experience love, to receive and to give love, is to have Gods love inside of you. Where you say, I will forgive you no matter what. I will love you no matter what. I will be gentle with you no matter what. I will be with you no matter what.

God always accepts people just the way they are, but he never leaves people just the way they are, because he loves them. God always makes us better. God never leaves us just the way we are. He always makes us better. Or to put it another way, God sees beneath the soil to the seeds of human possibility. Or, God sees inside the seeds to the possibility of what we can become.

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, the Roman Catholic theologian, once wrote: "Sometimes after the mastery of the winds and the waves and the tides; after the mastery of the sun and the sea and the laws of gravity, we shall harness for God the energies of love. And when we harness the energies of love, for the second time in human history, we shall discover fire." ... What if we harnessed atomic fusion? Wow! But what if we harnessed the energies of love? The world would then be transformed.

This quality of love that I am talking about is not some impossible ideal. It is not some form of idealistic behavior that is confined to Disneyland, fantasy land and fairy land. I see it in the lives of people in our Unification Community. Now, I hate to admit it, but I have to admit it that I do not see any ideal families today. I see no ideal husbands, no ideal wives, no ideal children, no ideal pastors. I see no ideal anyone. Well,

maybe if we follow InJin Nims definition of Ideal - I DEAL with my wife, I DEAL with my husband, I DEAL with my family...

What I see here today is a bunch of real people with real struggles with real problems. In this real congregation, I see real loved lived out. I know it when I see it. I see this quality of love in so many of you and this quality of love says: I will love you no matter what, I will forgive you no matter what, I will take care of you no matter what. My life is yours. I see that again and again in this congregation. This love is based on a commitment to God to build a Blessed Central Family and a community and this is an inspiration and hope for God.

Do you know the length of longest sermon that was ever preached? The Guinness Book of World Records keeps records of everything, including for the length of the longest sermon ever preached. How long was that sermon? 60 hours and 31 minutes, by a Unitarian preacher.

But there is another world record. What was the shortest sermon ever preached? It was by Rev. John Albrecht, an Episcopalian priest, from Lake Orion, Michigan, and he spoke the shortest sermon ever given on record. He uttered one word, Love and sat down. That was it. No more. Some parishioners stated that it was the best sermon he ever gave.

What would ever happen if you personally discovered and harnessed, not power of the wind and the waves or the sun and the seas, but you harnessed the power of love in your life. You, for a second time, would discover, fire.. ❖

Suggested Reading:

The Inner Voice of Love: A Journey Through Anguish to Freedom by: Henri J. M. Nouwen

“Shakespeare wrote one hundred and fifty sonnets trying to capture love and after one hundred and fifty sonnets later, he could not define it.”

Making Victorious Teams

by Heung Jin Moon

This is from an address given on April 11 2009, at HQ Church, Seoul, Korea. Transcribed by Rev. Beatrice Clyburn, edited by Rev. Bruno Klotz.

You know we always start with something just a little, a little interesting. I heard this wonderful little story. There was a story about a mom and she was reflecting on her two little boys. She said that, "Years ago when my two little boys were very small, they were taught how to say their blessings before eating their meal. One night I was very busy scurrying around the kitchen, so I told them, 'Hey! Boys, say your prayers before the meal without me'." And then she took a moment to watch them as they both squeezed their eyes tightly, and folded their hands and began to pray.

The elder one, the 4 year old, finished very quickly, but the 3 year old kept on praying and praying. After about another minute or two passed, the 3 year old lifted his head, looked at his plate and was very angry. He said, "Hey! God did not take away my broccoli!" (Laughter) Now you know what he prayed for, right?

Brothers and sisters, today I want to talk to you about making victorious teams.

You know in order to live the blessed life, we have to learn how to make our lives victorious for God. In order to do that, we have to realize that life is not a solo activity, it is a team effort. There is no one, no company, no sports team, no religion that succeeds just because of ONE person. It is a team effort!

Great teams have a purpose. They have a strong sense of direction and each member has a strong sense of responsibility to pull his or her own weight for the team. Poor teams have weak purpose, weak sense of direction, and each member wants personal glory over team glory.

To know that one does not know everything and to be willing to work with others who have expertise in the portions that I don't have is one of the real keys to making great teams. To have the humility to recognize that life is full of things to learn and full of people to learn from, is one of the most essential keys to the blessed life.

Let's take a look at some of these world scriptures today:

First a look at Christianity. This is Matthew 25-28. Let's read it together. That's Jesus speaking, "Whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the son of man came not to be served but to serve."

He's talking about when we work together, when we build the kingdom, it's not only about my glory. It is about serving, helping the greater (unit) have glory.

Let's take a look at Taoism today from the *Daodejing* 81. Let's read that together. "The sage does not accumulate for himself. The more he uses for

others, the more he has himself. The more he gives to others, the more he possesses of his own. The way of heaven is to benefit others and not to injure."

Once again, although we may think that accumulating for ourselves is beneficial, in the end, what he's saying is that we lose our friendships, we lose all the things that are really precious. And when we use for others, when we help others succeed, then we are getting the benefits of benevolence and (walk) the way of heaven.

Let's take a look at Islam from the Hadith of Bukhari. Let's read this together, "The best men are those who are useful to others" says this hadith. Once again, those who can participate in helping others, be useful to others, can themselves be the best in God's eyes.

Let's take a look at Confucianism today. This is from the Analects 6.28.2. Let's read it together, "The man of perfect virtue, wishing to be established himself, seeks also to establish others. Wishing to be enlarged himself, he seeks also to enlarge others." Once again, connecting the success of others with the goal and purpose of oneself.

Let's tie that together on True Parents' words (10.20.73). Let's read it together, "God's definition of goodness is total giving, total service and absolute unselfishness. We are to live for others. You live for others and others live for you. God lives for man and man lives for God. The husband lives for his wife and the wife lives for her husband. This is goodness. And here, unity, harmony and prosperity abound."

Notice, this is a symbiotic relationship, this is a give and receive relationship, you live for others and others live for you. In that synergy, then there is prosperity. In that synergy there is unity and harmony.

You know, award-winning journalist, columnist and author of three Pulitzer prizes, Thomas Freedman, wrote a book that was entitled, "The world is flat!" I'm going to repeat that title to you, "The world is flat". This was a book about globalization and there were many many many insights in this work.

But one of his main points is that we usually think that the world is round. All of you at least learned that the world was round, right? And we may learn that there are hierarchies in the world, the first world countries, second world countries, third world countries, etc... But his point was that in this new market, in this new global economy, this view is actually wrong. The world is now flat because everybody is now able to play on an equal plain field. Everybody now can compete with each other on an equal plain field.

He gave one example: people in first world countries not only have to compete with other people in first world countries, they now have to compete with people in third world countries as well, for jobs etc... He gave the example of phone companies in America that hire thousands of Indians as phone

assistants over Americans because they speak English, they're polite and take less wages, etc... And he warns the first world countries that this is the case whether they like it or not, whether they think it's unfair or not, this is the case of the present world situation.

And he challenges- he actually challenges Americans- to train their citizens to work harder, to train their children to study more, to become more creative, to make them more competitive for the global age where the world is flat, where it's an equal plain field.

He goes on to say that in this kind of global world only the ones who are able to think, prepare and develop themselves for synergy and teamwork are those who will win. Essentially, leaders that are trying to do everything alone or by them-

selves or in their own countries will not be able to have the competitive advantage that other countries, who make synergies, will. This expert believes that in this new global market leaders are looking to create the best teams and team mates that play to win for the team and create success regardless of the new and modern challenges that they face.

"But in these rough times things are tough. I've got to look out for myself, I've got to look out for my family!" But we've got to remember, brothers and sisters, these times are also rough for leaders. They are looking for people who are skilled and also willing to sacrifice for the team's success. They want to keep this kind of people, and they want to reward this kind of people.

"But I can't help my team succeed. I have to succeed first, myself! I've got to get my thing done first!" Sure, it's always great to be your best. It's always great to actualize all the potential you have. But don't forget that no matter how great you become, you must always work with people. You're always going to have to work with people. And that involves creating teams, partnerships, synergies, win-win relations, etc... That is one of the keys and one of the realities in actualizing all our God-given potential.

In the midst 5th century a man named Heroditus travelled all over the Mediterranean from Scythia to Egypt, creating what are known as the histories of the Greco-Persian wars. Here, in this age, the Persian empire was humongous (huge). It dominated nearly half of the world. In 490 and 480 the Persians, as one of the most powerful empires, invaded the Greek territories. At this time the Greek territories were all split up. They were all different city states. But they realized that they had to bind together, they had to work to repel the invasions off.

In the battle of Marathon - for any of you who like to run the marathon, this is where the name came from, from the battle of Marathon- the Persians attacked, sending a fleet to sack Athens, to destroy Athens, and they landed on the bay of Marathon.

The Greeks had to defeat them quick-

ly and they had to protect Athens at the same time but this was impossible. The Persians outnumbered them by enormous amounts and they were more skilled, etc...

Miltiades, who was the general on the Greek team, sent 2 teams to block the Persians and they used the double encirclement. They totally surrounded the Persians at the bay of Marathon. And they attacked them as a united front. Because of this unity, the Persians at that bay were defeated and they were forced to flee.

Miltiades then sent the troupes to run to Athens- they had to RUN to Athens, from Marathon to Athens - and then they had to block off the Persian fleet that was coming in. The battle showed here that, when united, the Greeks could defeat a larger and more powerful empire and preserve their culture and their nation.

By 445, just a couple of decades later, the Greeks quickly moved into what is known as the Greek golden age, a time of great prosperity, great security and great development. But they would have never ever reached that age if they were not able to work together, to unite, strengthen their purpose and to repel the invasions.

At the time, Persia was so powerful. And because of that unity the Greeks were able to enter into their golden age and have a tremendous, tremendous history.

You know, in the Biblical tradition we also see this at work. Rev. Walter Fauntroy was speaking about it last week, that this is now the Joshua generation. When entering the promised land, the 10 spies said, "We cannot go in, we cannot defeat them, they are like giants and we are like grasshoppers." They saw themselves as weak, defeated. They saw themselves as incapable of taking on (winning over) the kings in the promised land.

But Joshua and Caleb, they disagreed. They had what Rev. Fauntroy called "the minority report". They knew that even though they were a minority they were a majority, because they had God on their side. And so they convinced the Israelites; they had to convince them, they had to argue with them. They said, "No, we can do it! We can get into the promise land. We can get into that land of milk and honey that God has promised our people for generation after generation." And they created a condition of unity to lead the people into victory and they did (got the victory).

Even though the other 10 spies continued to say, "We can't do it, you are crazy, you are going to lead us all into suicide, this is insane. We're not going to make it. This is definitely going to be our worst year..... 2009 we're not going to be able to make it through this. It's going to be terrible!" They were saying that. But what did Joshua and Caleb have to do? They had to block that out, and say, "You know what? I believe that I will make it into this promised land. I believe that I will lead this people into that land."

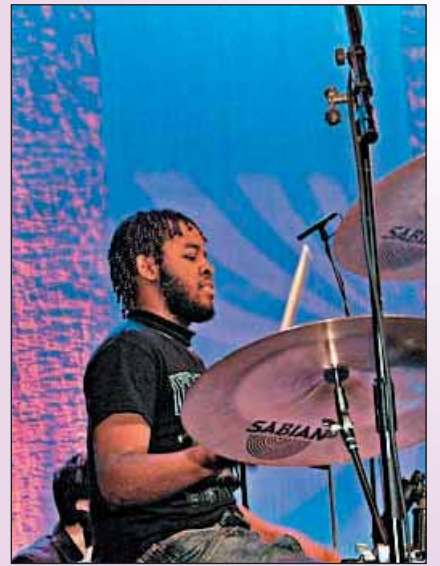
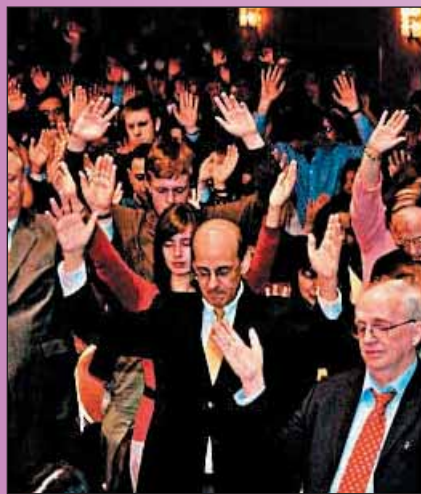
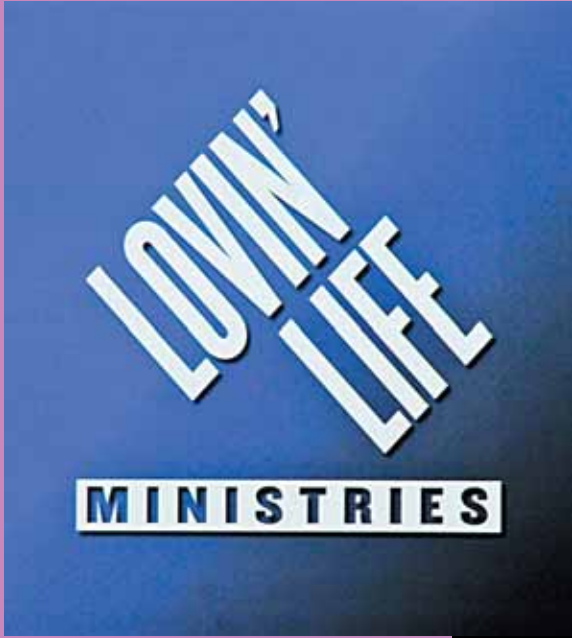
I remember in 2005, when Father announced I had to take responsibility for the religious side of the church, and Kook Jin Hyung for the economic

see **TEAMS** on page 16

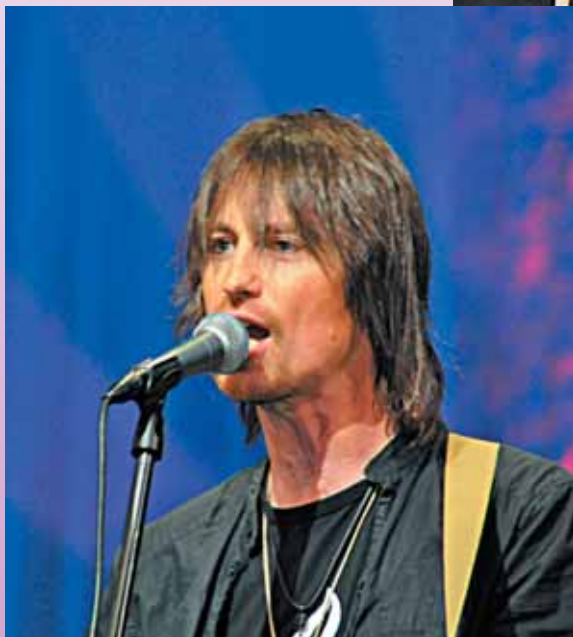
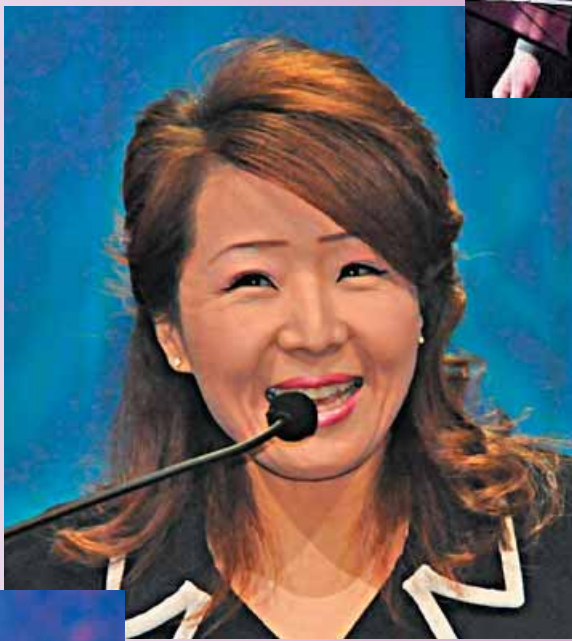
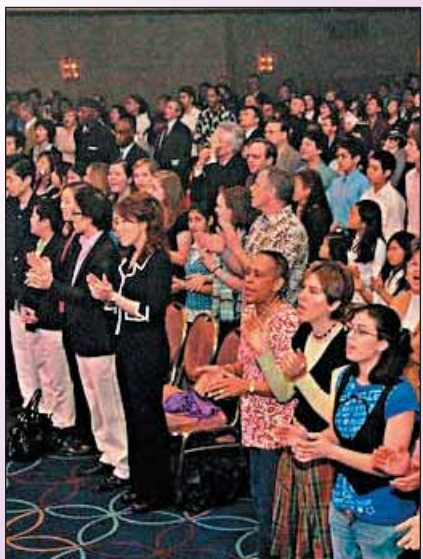
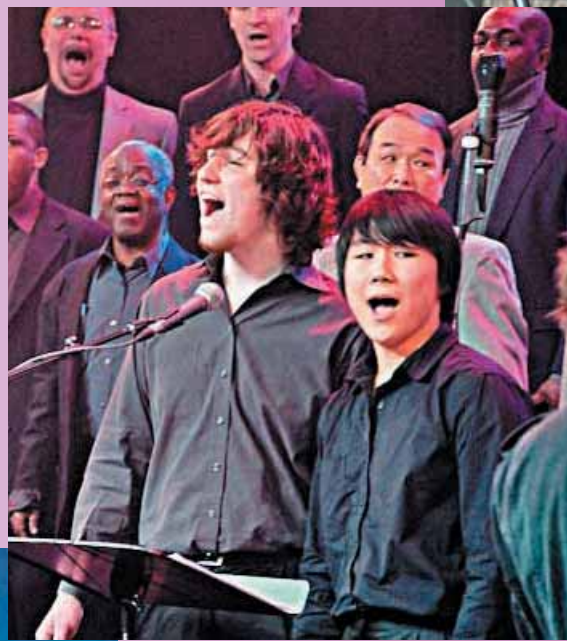


COMMUNICATE WITH THE
UNIFICATION COMMUNITY THROUGH
THE UNIFICATION NEWS

Lovin' Life Ministri



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TEAMS from page 13

side of the church, and I remember Kook Jin Hyung coming up to me one day. It was in America. He came up to me, and tried to talk to me, trying to sense whether or not I was open to the view and to saying, "Yes we can! Yes we can liberate the members from irresponsible leadership! Yes we can liberate True Parents from false reporting! Yes we can liberate many from the idea that the True Children can't work together! Yes we can liberate and grow the church, we can liberate True Parents, show success, show that our movement can become successful while they (True Parents) are here. Yes, we can do that!" And he wanted to sense me out, whether or not our hearts were united.

And there were so many who said it was impossible, "There's no way we can move the outside world. It's impossible! They are like giants in our view, they are huge out there. We are like grasshoppers. There's no way we're going to be able to inspire them and move them, no way we'll move them and make them understand the role of True Parents."

But we continued to work together, and just like Joshua and Caleb, we continue to believe that we will get into the promised land. We believe that we will be able to move the outside world, we believe that Unificationism will be victorious while True Parents are here. If you believe it, let's give it up for God and True Parents. (Loud applause)

See, God is preparing us for our golden age, the age of liberation and complete release. That's the age that True Parents opened for us, and that is our golden age. It's an age that True Parents started by liberating the heart of God because they revealed that He was a lonely God. He was high and mighty but He was totally alone. By revealing His divinity which is true love, a love that is selfless and can bring even Satan to voluntary surrender, they've afforded us that chance to inherit that true love and become equals to God, become his partners in love, that can reciprocate love with Him.

And now as True Parents' children we have a responsibility in the age of liberation, to do for them what they did for God, and that is, to liberate True Parents. How do we do that? We do that by making our movement truly, truly successful. We do that by having their tradition recognized, we do that by all the efforts and all the blood, sweat and tears that our first generation shed up til now. We allow that to be acknowledged by truly showing success in our movement, truly showing growth in our movement, showing that we can make a difference, we can make a tremendous impact in society in positive ways.

And it's not just about giving birth to new chil-

dren, we have to also raise them to be filial children, and also raise those children so that those children can make new filial children who can become true owners of this kind of cycle of liberation.

And now we are going to enter the growth stage of Cheon Bok Gung (Unification Temple). I'm sure all of you heard about it. By the end of this year we're going to be moving into the growth stage Cheon Bok Gung. It's going to be a whole new level in terms of how we're going to be able to communicate with the nation.

And at that temple, we're going to have to share

And now as True Parents' children we have a responsibility in the age of liberation, to do for them what they did for God, and that is, to liberate True Parents. How do we do that? We do that by making our movement truly, truly successful. We do that by having their tradition recognized, we do that by all the efforts and all the blood, sweat and tears that our first generation shed up til now.

our tradition, we're going to have to truly become proud and confident in who we are, in what tradition we represent, and we have to be able to share that with confidence with a smile on our face and with a 2-step and a 3-step. We have to be able to really show who we are and to have commitment (confidence) in our own selves as team members.

You know in the Buddhist tradition, there's this beautiful iconography, this beautiful picture of the Buddhissattva of compassion. In Chinese Buddhism, the "he" is a "she" and the manifestation of this Asian Buddhist iconography has 1,000 arms- has 1,000 arms, very scary for many people when they see that!

How come she has 1,000 arms? I'll tell you why she has 1,000 arms. She has 1,000 arms because the 1,000 arms reach out in 1,000 directions and they save 1,000 beings who are drowning and suffering, so the hands represent a savior's hand that is reaching out and helping those people who are suffering.

In this video that you're going to see next, I want you to keep in mind that this performance was done by Chinese performers, and the wonderful and amazing thing about these performers is that all these people, that you will see, are handicapped. Some of them are deaf, some of them have other types of handicaps. They are disabled individuals, but watch what happens when they come together. Watch what happens when you see the unity of power, when you see this team effort come together, watch how they

shine. Let's take a look at this video now.

Let's give it up for those disabled individuals (Applause)

When we look at these performers, of course it would be amazing on its own, without them being disabled. Even people like us trying to coordinate something like that, is so difficult, but take into consideration that all these performers were disabled, many of them could not even hear. The lady in the front she's completely deaf, she cannot hear, and that's why you saw the coordinators at the side, signing them on and showing them the beats of the music, etc...

By coming together and bringing together this work of art, shining this iconography, making this figure come to life, they not only challenge or inspire other people to live and become like this - to be able to, even despite challenges, come together, work together and continue to reach out hands in help - they inspire tremendously many many people who watch this performance to live up to that potential that everybody has within them.

Brothers and sisters, that is really one of the keys in working together in a team, to really be able to see the team glory as greater than personal glory.

Brothers and sisters, what can we learn today? Learning how to work together as a great team will be the key to living the blessed life. In order to create the teams we need to recognize that we can't do everything alone. We have a mission as well. Rev. Fauntroy was doing so much peace activity for the last 40 years, being involved in human rights and civil rights, working in the peace process and knowing the inadequacies of the current types of processes. And he was so excited to hear about the World Peace and Unity Temple.

And there it's not only a building. It is also our responsibility there to be able to share our tradition, to be proud of our tradition, because that's going to be the world stage, that's going to be the stage where people are going to see and recognize Unification tradition in a greater and greater way.

Now as we are moving to the growth stage of Cheon Bok Gung by the end of this year, it's time for us to bring the lonely children of the world to meet True Parents, to be able to understand our tradition, not only as people who participate and go through education program, but really become part of our community and really be able to allow us to work together to substantialize the world towards peace and unity.

You know, it's now the time for Unification golden age. It's time for our time, it's time for UC's time. Right now in Korea, True Parents' book has already reached the best-sellers' list. Last week it was number 4 on the best-sellers' list. It continues to rise. (Applause)

So we have to know that now is the time. Now is the time to be proud of who you are. Now is the time to know that people are interested in us as a tradition. They want to know what we're about. And now the True Parents have liberated God and now it's our turn, in this age of liberation and complete release, to be able to liberate them, that is, to really be able to raise filial children who can raise other filial children, and become those kind of children of God and True Parents.

By inheriting the true love of God, witnessing and building the Cheon Bok Gung together, we will be able to move forward towards that world of peace, move past the war-stricken world into a world of unity, filial-piety towards heaven, and a true pride for our Unification family.

Brothers and sisters, I do believe that if we do move forward with this kind of victorious team effort, we will bring to our world more victory, more illumination and more peace and we will live that blessed life that True Parents have blessed us to live. If you receive it let's give it up for God and True Parents. (Applause)

True Parents have blessed us with the blessed life to inherit the true love of God and to become greater blessings to our families, community, to our nations and to our world. ❖

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W F W P

Building a Culture of Peace on International Women's Day

by Nancy Bulow and Susan Fefferman

Washington, DC, USA - "Women as Peacemakers - Building a Culture of Peace" was the vision of the 5th Annual International Women's Day commemoration on Capitol Hill, March 12th sponsored by the Women for Peace initiative of the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) and Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP, USA). Peace X Peace, a woman-led NGO, joined as co-sponsor supporting this year's theme of "Creating Partnerships for Peace." The banquet room at the Rayburn House Office Building was overflowing with a diverse assembly of women and men, many colorfully garbed in their country's traditional dress, all with the hope of learning about and contributing to the work of global peace building.

Over 40 countries and 23 embassies were represented, making it a truly international celebration of the day set aside each year to acknowledge the accomplishments of women worldwide. The United Nations officially recognized International Women's Day in 1975, stating: "When women on all continents, often divided by national boundaries and by ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic and political differences, come together to celebrate their Day, they can look back to a tradition that represents at least nine decades of struggle for equality, justice, peace and development."

Alexa Fish Ward, President of WFWP, USA, Dr. Patricia Morris, Executive Director of Peace X Peace, and Gail Paine, UPF-USA, Secretary General for the DC Metro area, each offered welcoming greetings and described their organizations' goals and accomplishments. A video was shown highlighting the service projects of UPF young volunteers held during the Global Peace Festivals in the USA, Kenya, Mongolia, and Paraguay. Tomiko Duggan, UPF Director of Public Affairs, was attending the IWD Colloqui-

um in Liberia and could not be in attendance. Two beautiful operatic pieces offered by Yoshimi Kadota, "Cherry Blossom Lane" (in Japanese) and "Eternal Life" (from the words of Saint Francis of Assisi) inspired the audience.

Patricia Smith Melton, founder of Peace X Peace, and author and photographer of 60 Years, 60 Voices: Israeli and Palestinian Women began the main part of the program by engaging the audience through sharing her insights from having traveled extensively meeting women who voiced a common concern about the challenges of raising their children, often in war torn areas. She emphasized that "peace is not just

a cessation of violence", but the building of a culture where the unleashing of the human potential and genius is the first priority.

H.E. Houda Ezra Nonoo, Ambassador of Bahrain to the United States, the second keynote speaker, introduced the audience to the uniquely peaceful gulf nation of Bahrain, where Christians, Jews and Muslims have lived side by side for generations respecting one another's traditions. The ambassador described the open culture and the emerging status of women who share many of the same freedoms as men.

Pat Morris, also known as the calypso singer 'Pepper Pat', set the stage for

the more interactive part of the program by offering a heartfelt rendition of "From A Distance". Her voice wove a thread of warmth and hope amongst the guests moving the participants toward realizing that we are all one human family

The Water of Peace ceremony brought eight women brilliantly dressed in their native attire, each representing the cultures and continents of the world. One by one they poured a glass of water into a common vessel signifying the unity of life and the common desire of women to work together for peace. The blowing of the conch shell in the Hindu tradition by Minister Gupta of India, who

stood with his wife, recognized the female deity as the source of life. Other nations represented were Pakistan, Qatar, Haiti, Ethiopia, Israel, USA, and Japan.

The Bridge of Peace Ceremony, a tool for reconciling former enemies and divided parties, began creating new "partners for peace." This process started with Ingrid Guzman, representing the Dominican Republic, which had fought with Haiti, and the daughter of the Ambassador of Haiti, Ndeye Ndiaye.

The two enthusiastic women crossed the bridge leaving behind any possible resentment or fear, exchanging smiles, hugs and giving each other flowers. Partnerships for peace were then created between women from the USA, Egypt, Afghanistan, Laos, Iceland, Philippines, Swaziland, Equatorial Guinea, and Namibia. All the guests were invited to create their own partnership for peace.

Over twenty new pairs were spontaneously created as they sought to overcome obstacles they might have toward each other, thus creating reconciliation, unity and peace. A festive expression of networking and socializing completed the reconciliation program.

One participant noted, "This program is like none other than I have ever attended. The expressions of love and concern are so substantial I can feel it in my bones." The theme song of "Let there be peace on earth" faded softly as the evening ended with a truly successful event honoring International Women's Day 2009. ❖



by UPF-Switzerland

Interfaith, Intercultural Alliances at the UN in Geneva

Friday, April 03, 2009, Geneva, Switzerland - When nine religious leaders, role-played by youth delegates representing their faiths, reported the results of their fact-finding missions to the Middle East and South Asia on "Prevention, Mediation and Peacebuilding" in a simulation of a United Nations Interreligious Council, the full room of more than 250 government and UN representatives, religious leaders, experts, and civil society leaders listened intently.

"This is what should be happening at the Durban Review," said one Ambassador, referring to the upcoming review of the 2001 UN Conference against Racism. The review will be held at the UN in Geneva this month in an effort to salvage the difficult negotiations and unwillingness to compromise that tarnished its beginnings.

That sentiment was to be echoed again in the closing speech of Hon. Rémy Pagani, the mayor-elect of the city of Geneva, who encouraged the participants and especially the youth to continue their course. "Geneva today stands as a haven for peace and intercultural harmony," he said. "But we had a long and painful history of religious war and intolerance that had to be won first."

The conference, co-sponsored by the Mission of Indonesia, the Geneva Interfaith and Intercultural Alliance (GIIA), the Universal Peace Federation, and Women's Federation for World Peace International, was held at the United Nations in Geneva on April 3, 2009. There was a striking combination of both youth and elders as well as religion and government that harmonized remarkably well.

The Opening Session, "Forging a Global Leadership Alliance Committed to Ethics and Action," was chaired by Heiner Handschin, Secretary General of UPF in Europe Region 2 and GIIA Vice President. Speakers included Mr. Werner Schlieffer, Senior Executive Coordinator of the Conference of NGOs (CONGO), and Conference Chair Ambassador Makarim Wibisono, former President of the UN Human Rights Council and President of GIIA.

Also on the panel were Dr. Chung Hwan Kwak, Chairman UPF International; Hon. Anton Rop, former President of Slovenia; Hon. Pieter Beelaerts van Blockland, former Minister of Housing of the Netherlands; and Amb. Laura Thompson Chacon of Costa Rica.

Session two, "Towards an Interreligious Council: Accelerating the Process," was facilitated by Mr. Mark Brann, Secretary General of UPF in Europe Region 1 and included very prominent voices from the Geneva interfaith community: Rev. Dr. William McComish, Dean Emeritus of the Geneva Cathedral; Chief Rabbi Itzhak Dayan of the Israelite Community in Geneva; Dr. Hafid Ouadiri, spokesman for the Muslim community in Geneva for 28 years; and Dr. Arun Pabari, Coordinator for the World Sathya

Sai in Geneva.

Each brought a strong message, based upon personal experiences, that there is no going back to narrow and exclusive paths. Each expressed his appreciation for being invited into this initiative that calls for religion to strengthen the United Nations as well as the aspect of leadership training for their

session," this session of the "UN Interreligious Council" received reports of "task forces" that had been mandated in the session in September. These groups were comprised of representatives of religions of South Asia and the Middle East to go on hypothetical "fact-finding missions" and then report back to the Council about the evidences of religion

strate the important role that religion and cultural diversity could play in solving problematic issues of global concern, in general and specifically, if given a platform within the United Nations.

Similar Youth Councils were since inaugurated in London, Bergamo, Vienna, and New York with the long-term mandate to assist local governments



youth that carries such a serious and hopeful mandate.

Other speakers included the Ambassador of Senegal, Babacar Carlos Mbaye, and the Ambassador of Kenya, H.E. Richard Owade, who delivered a message from Mme Ida Betty Odinga, President of the League of Women Voters in Kenya and wife of the Prime Minister, who was unable to attend as scheduled.

The session's final speakers, Min. Jesus Domingo of the Philippines Mission to the UN and Dr. Thomas Walsh, Secretary General of UPF International, both presented very practical outlines of the work done in the UN, as well as research into the needs for and practical functioning of the proposed UN Interreligious Council.

The third session, "The Interreligious Youth Council: Special Session on Prevention, Mediation and Peacebuilding," was chaired by Carolyn Handschin, Deputy Director of the Women's Federation for World Peace International and GIIA Coordinator for the youth. Minister Jesus Domingo served as acting President in the absence of the President Ambassador Wibisono.

It was the fifth such event in five months in which youth role-played the proposed high-level United Nations Interreligious Council in formal sessions as representatives of their religions. In most cases, these youth, aged 18-24, were selected by the religious leaders themselves to play the role of delegates to this hypothetical council.

Taking on its first substantive "mis-

and interreligious cooperation — or lack of it — in the conflict prevention, mediation, and peacebuilding.

A "Resolution on Peacebuilding and Human Rights" was adopted by consensus in which all the Interreligious Council delegates pledged to "recognize and reinforce the sacred value in each other's beliefs and traditions and to work together, focusing on our common beliefs and values for our common goal of universal peace."

In Geneva in September 2008, a simulation of a hypothetical "United Nations Interreligious Council" was inaugurated with delegates from Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Islam, Jewish, Sikh, and Unificationist faiths in order to demon-

and institutions in reconciling — or preferably preventing — the misunderstanding that leads to enmity by drawing on the best that religion has to contribute to peace. An "Interfaith Declaration on Peace and Human Rights" was drafted and serves as founding document. Other regional councils have likewise adopted declarations and report annually to the Geneva Interreligious Council.

The closing session was conducted by Ambassador Makarim Wibisono, who formally adopted the reports and resolution. Mayor-elect Pagani added his own remarks of appreciation and encouragement for the youth and the initiative. ❖

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three attractive labels with different text on the back of each so you can choose an appropriate message to deliver. Furthermore, the wines are the highest quality Napa Valley wine so your family and contacts will appreciate the thoughtfulness of your gift. We have assembled True Parents guidance on the meaning and value of the Cheon Il Guk Holy Wines so that as much information about the use, meaning and history of holy wine is gathered in one place. Please visit our site.

The Global Peace Tour in the Eternal City

by Giuseppe Cali

Wednesday, April 01, 2009, Rome, Italy - The Global Peace Tour event in Italy took place in a conference hall at the national parliament, with support and participation from a number of senators and deputies from the national assembly and local political leaders from Rome and other cities, some of whom who had travelled through the night in order to attend.

Prominent religious leaders included a representative from the Rome Mosque, the largest Europe, several Protestant churches and Buddhist, Sikh and Hindu communities. A famous priest and theologian from the Catholic church also attended the conference and gave a wonderful speech on the importance of love in peace building.

Another inspiring speech was given by a Senator Albertina Soliani, who spoke about human rights and her effort to support the people of Burma. Although she is a politician, it was interesting to see how skilfully she also gave spiritual insights to the audience as well.

The event, UPF's first in Rome, attracted about 200 significant leaders, filling up the hall. Among them we were able to appoint 23 as new Ambassadors for Peace. UPF Italy would like to thank all of them, and also to note with appreciation the international support from



UPF International Chair Dr. Chung Hwan Kwak, Secretary General Dr. Thomas Walsh and UPF Europe Chair President Yong Cheol Song. Messages of support were also received

from a former President of the Italian Republic, from the Ministry of Youth, from the Mayor of Rome and from other important parliamentarians. ♦

UPF-UK New Vision Amid the Economic Crisis

Thursday, April 02, 2009, London, United Kingdom - Standing room only, in the House of Parliament's largest committee room, this conference, New

Vision Amid the Economic Crisis, contrasted the moral and spiritual values promoted by civil society and faith based groups with the approach of the G20 Nations Summit held at the same time in another part of London. In the lead up to the G20 UPF had issued a Statement emphasising the need for ethical change:

If there is to be lasting change, the G-20 must acknowledge that the current financial crisis did not happen by accident, and it was by no means inevitable. The root cause of the problem has as much to do with moral, indeed spiritual failure, as governmental or financial mismanagement. For this reason, improved fiscal, economic and trade policies alone are not enough. The attitudes and behaviour of people, institutions and even entire nations must change.

Lord King, a Patron of the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) - UK, warmly welcomed a conference to the Houses of Parliament that contained two sections, the perception of faith groups and the analysis of the economic crisis by activist organisations.

International Secretary General of UPF, Dr Thomas Walsh, presented an overview of UPF's activities. He emphasised the role of character education rooted in the experience of a loving family to build a

stable economy within one family of humankind under God.

Rev. Dr. Chung Hwan Kwak, the International Co-Chairman of the Universal Peace Federation, reading from a prepared text, emphasised that there are many policies we need to follow to sta-

bilise our economy or care for our environment but these will be best built upon the bedrock of loving families. He called for a Global Service Corps of youth that could heal divisions while working to fulfil the Millennium Development Goals. Imam Umer Ahmed Ilyasi, the Secre-

tary General for the All India Imams and Mosques organisation, who represents 500,000 Imams in India, spoke on the failures of the G 20 agreements. Speaking as a representative of the largest democracy in the world, I do not see eco- see UK UPF on page 20



UPF-Austria: Reconciliation and the GPF

Thursday, April 09, 2009, Vienna, Austria - Three hundred participants and civil society leaders representing more than 40 NGOs, gathered in one of the largest NGO conferences ever held in the United Nations building in Vienna, in the UNIDO Board Room, to attend the Austrian event of the Global Peace Tour 2009 entitled "Reconciliation and the Role of Global Peace Festivals". More than twenty embassies were represented by the ambassador or a senior staff member. The event was made possible thanks to the support of the NGO Liaison office at the UN in Vienna.

The Austrian Prime Minister, Werner Fayman, sent a message of encouragement which was read by the Secretary General of the Austrian chapter of the Universal Peace Federation, Mr. Peter Haider, who welcomed the participants.

"All people of this world have a right to live in peace, and we have to be ready to take responsibility for that. ... We can't simply accept a negative situation as our destiny; rather we should work for a better world without violence and injustice. Especially events such as this, create a platform for those who are ready to do this. Therefore this 'Global Peace Tour' is an important step in our endeavours for overall peace and enables us to have hope for the future." (Austrian Prime Minister, Werner Fayman)

The Vienna Peace Choir sang two songs to open the conference: "The Trout", an Austrian classic by Franz Schubert and "Let there be peace on earth" which inspired UN staff and was a refreshing change to often dry meetings.

The United Nations Year of Reconciliation 2009

In pursuance of the United Nations resolution (61/17) to proclaim 2009 as the International Year of Reconciliation the first part of the conference, which was chaired by Dr. Christian Bruenner, a professor of constitutional law, dealt with this topic.

The chairman of the UN NGO Committee on Peace, Dr. Klaus Renoldner, spoke about the steps of success his organization "International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War" experienced to attain the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. The CTBTO is

the organization which aims to implement the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty and is located in the Vienna International Centre, Vienna. He expressed his satisfaction about President Obama's recent call "to rid the world of nuclear weapons".

Mrs. Lilly Gundacker from the Women's



Federation for World Peace, an active member of various NGO committees at the UN in Vienna, then explained their ongoing project to have "Bridge of Peace" ceremonies as a concrete step to cross the separating distance between women and also men of enemy nations.

Mr. Stefan Maier, the Middle East coordinator of Caritas Austria, using moving photos, gave a lively insight into his experience in organizing International Peace Camps for children in the Middle East, which he has been doing since 1999 in a different country every year.

Mag. Gudrun Kramer, co-director of the Institute for Integrative Conflict Transformation and Peace Building, spoke about her experience working as a mediator in conflicts in Sri Lanka at the time after the Tsunami and now. She explained how it took one year to find a way to build houses donated by a campaign of the Austrian daily newspaper "Kurier" for Moslem, Buddhist and Hindu flood victims in the same village. It was much harder to find a solution for members of

different religions to live together, than to build the houses.

The first session concluded with a speech by H.E. Kairat Abdrakhmanov, the Ambassador of Kazakhstan to the OSCE in Vienna. He spoke about the determination of his country to become a member of the democratic world and about their perspectives for the chairmanship of OSCE in 2010.

He explained that more than 20 different nationalities live in his country. In the new capital Astana "The Palace of Peace and Reconciliation" was built in the form of a pyramid, where a "Congress of leaders of world and traditional religions" is held every three years, the next being in July 2009 under the theme "The Role of Religious Leaders in Building a Tolerant World in Conditions of Globalisation".

Global Peace Festivals

The second part of the conference dedicated to Global Peace and Global Peace Festivals (GPF) was chaired by Mrs. Zena Eggough, a distinguished member of the wider Vienna UN community, especially active with the UN Women's guild. She welcomed Dr. Yong Cheol Song, Chairman of UPF Europe, who has already visited 15 European countries on this Global Peace Tour, coming from Romania after successful conferences in Paris, Rome, London and Geneva.

His speech highlighted the overall theme of the GPF which is "One Family under God". "The main purpose of the Global Peace Tour and the Global Peace Festivals is to promote a platform of interfaith cooperation, strengthening the family, and a culture of service for the sake of renewing our communities and nations." As a native Korean he brought the spiritual energy of a person born in the Far East to the sober Viennese people.

He also challenged the United Nations "which should be helping the world to live together as one, but has adopted an entirely secularist worldview, excluding the spiritual dimension of human experience. It has focused on the principle of national sovereignty as its guiding value, but with little consideration of a God or the teachings of our world's great religions. ... We say 'One Family Under God' because the family is the cornerstone of peace. Regardless of race, ethnicity, nationality and religion: we are all members of fam-

ilies."

As a European counterpart, Dr. Leo Gabriel, a founding member of the World Social Forum, spoke about "From a Global Crisis to Global Peace - The Self Empowerment of Civil Society". He mentioned a poster which he saw a few weeks ago in Belem, Brazil, where two bare-foot boys speak about the global crisis, saying that 2/3rd of the world's population actually lives in permanent crisis.

He reported that in a recent conference he attended in the Russian Academy of Sciences in Moscow, it was postulated that for capitalism this crisis might represent something similar to the fall of the Berlin Wall for communism. In conclusion he expressed his hope that the GPFs be part of a worldwide, grassroots movement, just as Obama's rise to presidency was also carried by the support of the ordinary people in the United States.

A video was then shown summarizing more than 20 GPFs in 2008 in all parts of the world from Paraguay to Mongolia, from England to the Philippines. The spirit of hope, the cultural diversity and the images of excited young people was overwhelming.

The Mongolian Ambassador to Austria and the International Organisations in Vienna, Dr. Jargalsaikhan Enkhsaikhan spoke about the situation of Mongolia. While his country experienced political division last year, the GPF brought new energy to its people at home and to Mongolians abroad when they saw the excitement generated in the young people there on the internet and television.

The final speaker, representing the young generation, Pascal Haider, was designated as the coordinator for the GPF in Austria last year. He gave a dynamic speech on the vision of young people. "Vienna should become a 'City of Peace' and together with the support of the UN, we the young people of Vienna, can make a unique GPF here". He called upon the city to support this project and concluded with a declaration put together by a group of young activists of UPF, who have begun to introduce the GPF to students in several universities in the city of Vienna.

The GPF theme song "Where Peace Begins" sung by the Austrian Peace Choir, together with the young Korean soloist Yoon Ja Joong, concluded the conference, which was followed by a buffet dinner reception in the restaurant of the Vienna International Center. ♦

UK UPF from page 19

conomic growth reaching to the grassroots level. Imam Ilyasi said he will launch Faith in the 21st Century for interfaith action to solve common problems, later this year.

Frank Kantor, the Secretary for Church and Society for the United Reform Church and also one of the Joint Issues Team for the Baptist, Methodist and the United Reform Churches in the UK, had invested much effort in a statement in coordination with the Churches Together in Britain and Ireland.

He saw three significant roles for faith communities during this crisis: Firstly, a Prophetic role to present God's view as we understand it to the world; Secondly, a Pastoral role to care for those who are suffering due to lack of money and jobs; and thirdly, to form partnerships with civil society.

Anil Bhanot, the General Secretary of the Hindu Council UK, stated that there is nothing wrong with money itself but with business ethics. We need a 3-tier regulation system to prevent abuses.

Civil society groups, such as Nick Dearden, the President of Jubilee Debt Campaign, saw this crisis as an opportunity to rethink our economic system rather than going back to business as usual after the crisis is over. There is a \$3 trillion debt owed by the poorest parts of the world to the richest parts of the world. For every £1 we give in aid, poor nations pay £5 in debt payments.

Ruth Tanner, the Campaign and Policy Officer for War on Want, saw the crisis as a result of the failure of an economic system that has left 2.2 billion people live in poverty including 1.4 billion who live in extreme poverty. She added, What inspires me is how people on the ground are standing up to the system and the local partners of War on Want are setting up unions for the workers to campaign

for a living wage.

Moeen Yaseen, the founding member of Global Vision 2000, said the root of the problem is not money, but it is truth vs falsehood. We're living in an age of global deceit. There needs to be a moral and cultural revolution. He saw the world economy as a global casino economy where the house always wins. He added We need to clean out this city as Jesus cleaned out the Temple.

Richard Dowden, the Director of the Royal African Society, said that Africa is a rich continent full of poor people because of bad governance. The West has been complicit in this, although the prime responsibility lies in Africa.

A lot of corruption money from Africa goes into British tax havens and then into the city of London. The city is committed to eradicating drug money, terror money and corruption money. A nation's health budget stolen as corruption money kills more than drug money and terror money put together, but the city

has failed to address corruption money.

Jonathan Fryer, the Chair of the Liberal International Group, who is currently standing for election as an MEP said that he wanted to see a genuine new world order rather than a reshuffling of a pack of cards sharing wealth and decisions. Developing the G7 to G8 and G20 is a good thing in itself, but if we are just reshuffling the pack, 172 nations are still left on the sidelines. We need to work together with common moral principles and goals. Don't just lobby your MP but blog, tweet and make sure your voices are heard.

Inspired by our faith, armed with the experience of so many civil society groups and an unparalleled network of Ambassadors for Peace and Partner organisations the consensus seemed to be that this is an achievable campaign and one crucial step towards one family of humanity under God. ♦

by Pastor Mike Yakawich 4-12-09

This sermon was given to the Montana church on Easter Sunday.

Happy Easter Day! Happy Resurrection Day of Lord Jesus! St. John 20: 19-23: "Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews came Jesus and stood in the midst and said unto them Peace be unto you. And when he had so said he showed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciple glad when they saw the Lord. Then said Jesus to them again Peace be unto you as my Father has sent me even so send I you. And when he had said this he breathe on them and said unto them receive you the Holy Spirit. Whosoever sins you remit, they are remitted unto them and who so ever sins you retain, they are retained."

The journey of our lives to resurrection is a fantastic journey. Jesus set the way for us. Jesus is our spiritual father. He is my spiritual Padre. He is my spiritual father who brought me to this church. His journey is our journey. Jesus did rise from the dead. He gave us hope and inspiration. Within the heart of my sermon, is this message of resurrection and renewal that we each are called to journey on in our life of faith. It is a journey of resurrection and new hope that may require a vast toll, a debt paid, as Jesus had gone.

First there's the SWISH, SWISH, SWISH of the palms. Palms are symbolic of joy, inspiration and the welcoming of Christ into the city. People laid palms down as Jesus entered the city. It was a time of glory. How about you? Do you recall times of joy, times of inspiration, times of feeling God's love? I am sure you do. These palms that I am handing out can be remindful of the good times we have had, have and will have. Hold these palms in your hand to remember this glorious time of Jesus but also the good times, the joyful times of your own life.

"And a very great multitude spread their garments in the way; others cut down branches from the trees and strewed them in the way. And the multitudes that went before and that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna to the Son of David. Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. And when he was come into Jerusalem all the city was moved saying who is this? And the multitudes said This is Jesus the prophet of Nazareth of Galilee." Stated St. Matthew 21: 8-11. This was the great hope Jesus brought to the people and the people to him.

Pound! Pound! Pound! As the nails

Palms, Nails and the Holy Spirit: The Journey of Jesus

you hear are driven into this wood, we are made aware how much pain and suffering took place for the resurrection to take place. Nails may portray our own trials, our fears, and our great hardship. It is our suffering, the course of indemnity. It may require greater sacrifices for us to truly get to the Promised Land. Hold these nails in your hand to remember that there are and will be painful times in our lives.

A movie called "The Passion" portrayed Jesus' final hours on earth with such tragedy and misery. What must have gone through his mind as the people tormented him denied him and shunned him? I can only imagine his thoughts of Jesus when he cried Father, where are you? "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" (St. Mark 15:34) What tragedies, what failures have we been part of? Are we not all in need of a resurrection of our souls, our minds and our bodies? Do we feel at times spiritually or physical exhausted, vision lost or in despair? Yet, my hope and my testimony are to encourage you not to give up

BREATHE, BREATHE, BREATHE in the Holy Spirit. This is a great time to renew. As I ask you, do we feel burned out? Do we get stressed out? Do we encounter rather a death of our spirit? There is a famous mystic named St. John of the Cross. He wrote of the trials and tribulations of the faithful when they face crisis of faith. He calls this time "The Dark Night of the Soul". In these times, we almost feel abandoned by God. The famous Psalms when the faithful walk through this shadow of death touches on this. Jesus speaks of resurrection for all to participate in. We can look at our journey of faith as parents. Do we feel we could do a better job as a father? I can look at my own life and see a need for repentance. I seek out a new spirit, the Holy Spirit to fill me and us as we journey as parents.

We breathe in the Holy Spirit and we breathe out forgiveness, new determination, and renewed dedication. This is what the story of Jesus tells me. It is either a story of blame, accusation,

resentment, rage OR a story of forgiving our enemy, our friends, our family, our parents, ourselves and perhaps even God Himself.

Last week, at the workshop in Estes Park, Colorado for the missionary STF workshop, I discovered that we all seem to walk a course of palms, nails and the Holy Spirit. They honestly shared with me. They testified how STF changed their lives. It was a personal pilgrimage to see how much our youth have faced so much hardship as Blessed youth. Their lives were sacrificed in great ways and the spiritual wounds though often healed are there. So, I found myself needing to repent and seek forgiveness. I ask how we can move forward and seek new ways, now avenues, and new approaches to bringing greater joy to all our families.

There is the joy of life that our youth share with their parents. There is also the pain and anguish of growing up in this fallen world and our own personal faults as we parent. Finally, there is the blessing especially by the grace of God and such training as we may call the formula course that we emerge on the other end with renewed spirit, discovering the living God, the unique value of oneself and the anointing of the Holy Spirit. It is a time of renewal.

As your pastor, I humbly ask for your forgiveness. I recently wrote a letter to some of our youth acknowledging my failures as a pastor. I too wrote how proud we are of them and their sacrifices on their missions. I ask how I could have done a better job at providing education and support. Likewise, I seek ways to provide better education and service to all. A time to begin a new.

In the closing our Jesus' words, he gave us the power to forgive OR not to forgive. This I find very amazing. For we

each of us have this blessing, this ability to move on or not, to forgive or not, to vanquish our fear or not. We have the choice to pull out the nails or leave them in! Like a hammer that can pound nails in, it too can with its claw pull or remove nails as well. This is why I believe one of the most powerful forces in the universe is the power of forgiveness. As Jesus stated while nailed on the cross, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do!" (St. Luke 23:34) Father Moon stated, "Because Jesus prayed for the ones who were killing him, Heavenly Fate could resurrect him." He also commented, "Christianity was born out of Jesus' heartistic foundation of prayer on the cross, when he prayed for the soldiers piercing him."

Yesterday, with your help, we set out 5,000 Easter Eggs stuffed with candy in the park. You helped me stuff these eggs a couple of weeks ago. Sponsored by the local South Side Neighborhood Taskforce and other businesses we could help host this annual South Park egg hunt. The joy and happiness we could bring to hundreds of youth at the park reminded me that Easter should be a time of hope, anticipation of God's blessings and renewal of ourselves and our community.

In this spirit, I will baptize our church and our membership with this Holy Water. With these palms dipped in Holy Water, I Baptize you in the name of the Father, The Son and the Holy Spirit, in the name of the Cosmic Parents, Parents of Heaven and Earth and in our names. Receive this baptism, this cleansing of your sins, this forgiveness of sins as I ask you to do to all others.

I pray that we all may have a true heart of a father. Our journey as a people of parental heart, conjugal love, and sibling love we renew our relationship with Heavenly Father. May we seek ways to awaken our hearts to the calling of God. May we resurrect our love for each other. May this be a new Easter spirit of new hope, new joy, and new inspiration for all of us. Let us be renewed, let us renew our family, our neighborhood, our city, our state, our nation and our world at this Easter Season. ❖



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THE NEW VOICES OF OUR GENERATION



Enjoy summer in sunny California in the beautiful San Bernardino Mountains surrounded by all your amazing brothers and sisters!!

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One Heart has a dedicated and caring staff of 1st and 2nd generation who are working together to create a truly memorable and unforgettable experience for all Blessed Children.

If you're interested please contact Annie Steinbronn

(anniemoo7@comcast.net) or Brenna Iredale (rbiredale@comcast.net).

Leadership Training: July 2-4 (\$50)

High School Workshop: July 5-11 (\$325)

Middle School Workshop: July 12-18 (\$325)

COME and Be A Part of the Heart! We would love to see you there!

A Message from the Assistant Editor

The New Voices of Our Generation has now been running successfully for over a year and the editors at UNEWS would like to thank all those who have contributed an article to this section. Spread the word, communicate, and link yourself to the rest of America by subscribing to the paper and submitting your voice at newvog@gmail.com for this section. We are looking to fill this section of the paper with the following submissions: **articles written by our first and second generation focusing on second generation – that includes ALL second gen's!**

Be as *subjective* as you please, but keep in mind, that as this is a public paper, be respectful in your opinions.

If you have an idea for submissions to this section, please let us know at

newvog@gmail.com

and send something in. keep in mind, everything will appear in UNEWS in b&w. All articles must include name, contact info, relevant dates, etc. If you wish to remain anonymous, please include that in your email.

Please send all submissions for this section via email to: newvog@gmail.com.

Want to respond to an article, please email at newvog@gmail.com

Spread the word, subscribe to UNEWS.

God Rocks! NYC



God Rocks had its opening night Friday, February 20th. The room was filled with people who enjoyed the live music and inspiring message. After beginning past its scheduled 7pm start, the program captured its audience with music led by Kristof

Heller. Diane Kung, Kristof, and the program's director, Claire Munsell, treated the crowd to covers of some pop/rock songs. At its 43rd Street location in Manhattan, the lighting and the arrangement of the furniture created a feeling of being in a cross between a café and nightclub.

Kenshu Aoki, CARP president, gave the program its very first message-why college students need God. Drawing experiences from his past, Kenshu gave

practical advice on the value of having God in one's life.

Following the night's message, the audience was left to share with one another the importance of God in their lives. The band resumed playing to end the night's program. Some of the audience members got caught up in the music, waving their hands in the air.

Many of the attendees left wanting more, asking if the program would be longer next time. The organizers of the God Rocks admit that there still needs to be improvements but

with all the smiles in the room, God Rocks' first night appeared to be a success. ❖





THE NEW VOICES OF OUR GENERATION

There is nothing more precious than our children and nothing more important than the education and training of our children.

We have been busy planning and getting ready for our **21 DAY 2009 Training**. To see an overview of our 2009 workshop, go to <http://www.truefamilyhealthtrainingacademy.com> and click on the Summer 2006 menu item on the left. We have put together a short video that will give you a clear picture of the format, some of the sights and activities. There is also a great letter from Christine Froelich (a 21 Year Carp Leader and 8 years in STF as a Lecturer) that will give a good overview of our program.

The 21 Day workshop gives the youth a balance of spiritual growth and character development and is long enough to witness change and maturity. We have been training Teenagers for the last 12 years with 21-day programs



This year our program will start on July 4th and end July 24th 2008. We will take 80 Participants this year . We will have our Program Starting in the US this year. We will start and meet at Camp KOHOE (Dieter Jesper's place) at 661 N. Park Road. Benton Harbor Michigan 49022-9769.

We will pick up everyone who arrives by air at the Detroit Metro International Airport on July 3rd. Please schedule flights to arrive around noon or early afternoon.

At the True Family Health Training Academy Inc. we teach your children to fundraise which adds spiritual muscle and develops confidence in their character. We will teach them Core Values. that helps them understand how to use words wisely and work together. The Parent Child Relationship is key, to a Healthy Family.

Words in reality are an expression of one's heart. They are the means by which human begins initiate give and take. If they are used wisely, the power derived from such give and take, can give rise to the fulfillment of mankind's most precious dreams. Used foolishly, words possess the power to destroy hopes, and dreams, and a life time of accomplishments.

We want the youth to encourage, support, and love one another. We stress Teamwork.

We also teach business skills that can help lessen the financial burden of the parents.

We teach ways to apply the principle in everyday life. Besides putting spiritual muscle on your child, we put physical muscle on them with our training in swimming, running, kayaking, exercise circuit system, rock jumping, basketball, soccer, karaoke, and more. We sing together, play music together, do sports together, and develop together. All teenagers are encouraged to bring any musical instrument that they can carry. (eg. guitar, viola, violin, flute, clarinet etc...)

If you are interested in having your children participate you need to notify Roddy Portelance by email truefamilyhealth@aol.com tel: (705) 523-1301 fax: (705) 523-0629 by May15th 2009

We can use all the volunteer help we can get. However, I will do my best to pay the help what I can. The cost per child is \$400.00 each for the 21 days. We decided to make this price because we will be fundraising for some period, to offset the cost.

If you are interested please let me know ASAP.

We will soon purchase land and more equipment so that we can operate all summer and create employment opportunities for our kids.

God bless everyone and let's have a great camp.

Roddy Portelance

True Family Health Training Academy Inc.

THE NEW VOICES OF OUR GENERATION



2009 Summer Internship at New Hope Farms

New Hope Farms, (located at 517 Neversink Drive in Port Jervis, New York) is accepting candidates for the 2009 summer internship/work-study program. This program is open to youth, ages 13 and up, who are families of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification and their recommended contacts. Interns will perform farm work, learn to ride horses and act as counselors for the various camps and events held here at the farm. Room, board, instruction and materials are included.

Dates are from June 27, 2009 through August 2, 2009.

The cost is \$120.00 for the summer and enrollment is limited.

For applications, contact New Hope Farms, c/o Lesa Ellanson, 845-856-6792, or email nhfarms@frontiernet.net.



My Piece of Peace

CARP just launched a web site for expressing, sharing and expanding the vision of "One Family under God" through poetry, music, and other forms of art. Join today and see how you can bring "My Piece of Peace" to your local area. Visit us at myshowpeace.com



Camp Horizon

Hugh Taylor Birch Park
3109 East Sunrise Boulevard
Fort Lauderdale, Florida
33304
Phone: 954-564-4521

Dates: July 5th-10th

Workshop fee: TBA
(\$100-\$150 range)

Main Contact Person:

Caterina Pette
786-970-6343

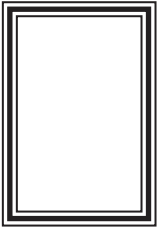
cattylovesmail@yahoo.com

A Perfect Eternity

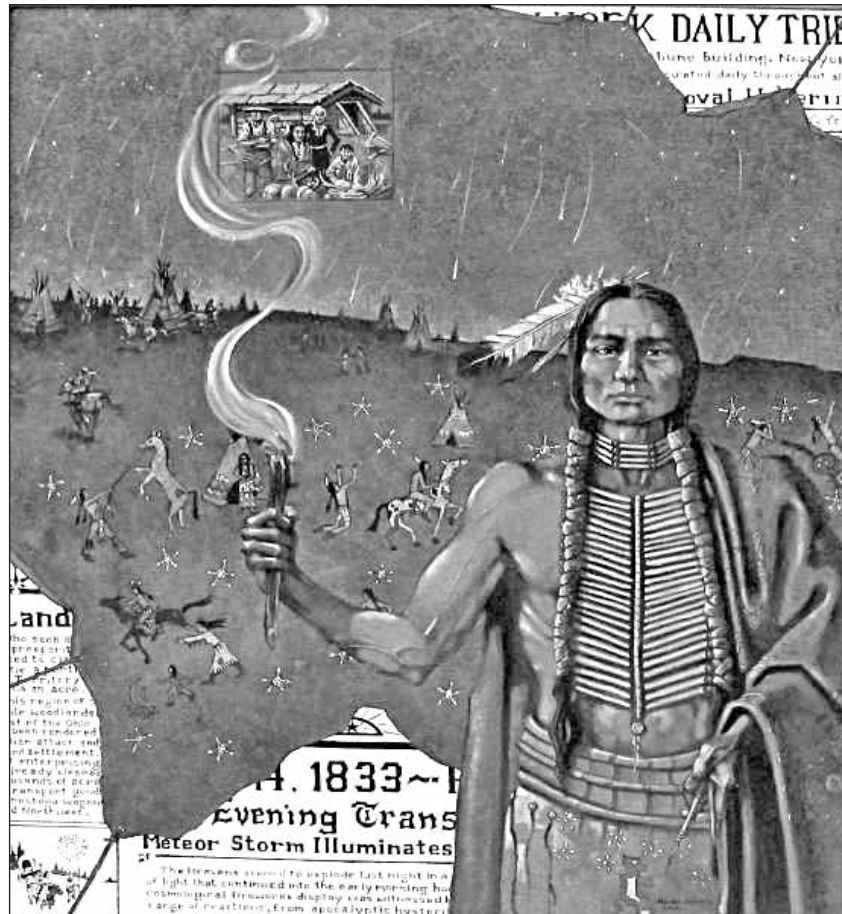
by Matthew Breland

Of all things, the greatest are Life, Love and Lineage;
Without love, life is heartless;
Without life, love is pointless;
but with Lineage
comes the purpose of Love and Life
and that purpose is to grow forever.

Of all things, the greatest are Life, Love, and Lineage,
for from these three
comes
A Perfect Eternity.



Article removed from the Internet edition of the Unification News before being posted online.



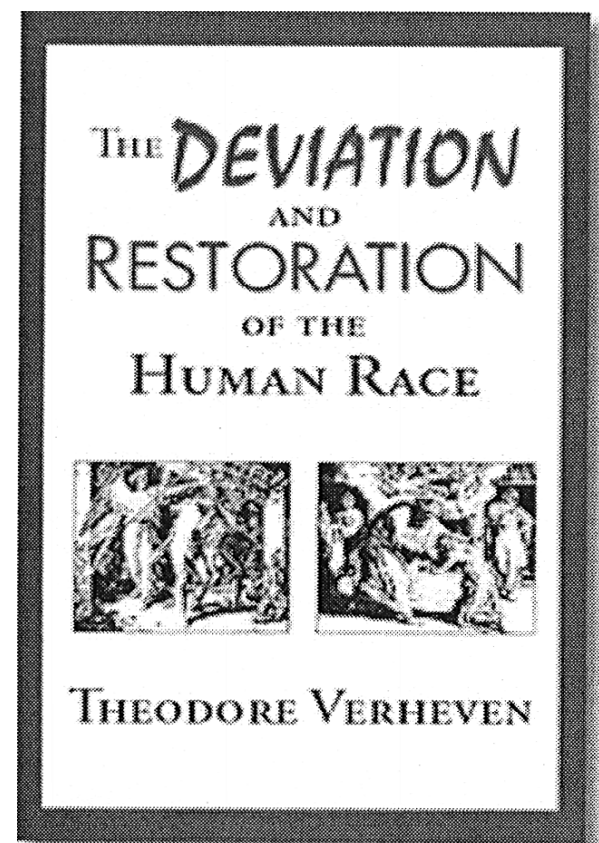
The Deviation and Restoration of the Human Race

by Theodore Verheven

Teddy Verheven was sent as a lone missionary in 1965 from Los Angeles to Holland (his country of birth), by the leader of the Unified Family, Reverend Sun Myung Moon.

This writing not only explains the purification and development of the inner self or human spirit (moral and intellectual), but also the unfolding of the innermost self or Divine Spirit, by awakening and feeding the growing soul with the Love and Truth of God.

For more detail, go to: "The Deviation and Restoration of the Human Race" on AtlasBooks.com - "Category" Biblical Studies or Body, Mind, Spirit. See Summary and Testimony and click on "excerpt" for Foreward and 10 pages of Table of Contents.



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PAUL
CARLSON

Mr. Carlson is involved with marine aspects of the Providence in the Bay Area

This article is about the value of friendship. It's good to have friends. It's even better to have good friends, and that means being close friends with good people.

LEVELS

Do you have friends? Never forget, not everyone does. There have been cases of people who've died inside their apartments, who had automatic bill payments set up, who were not missed for weeks. In a few reported cases, somebody actually sat there dead, alone in front of the TV set, for several years!

Surely there is no Unificationist in such a lonely situation, in this life or beyond...

Most people have plenty of 'casual' friends, who they might see at work or while shopping, but not at other times. This is a heck of a lot better than nothing.

Millions of people now have Facebook friends, with whom they chat online. However, most of these 'friends' have never actually met, and might not recognize each other if they passed on the sidewalk. On a brighter note, beyond its shallow and silly origins, many people have lifted Facebook (and its many competitors) into a serious tool for networking and activism.

Your author has noted that most Unificationists have easily three times the average number of Facebook friends, and better still, those online companions are usually decent people who share common values.

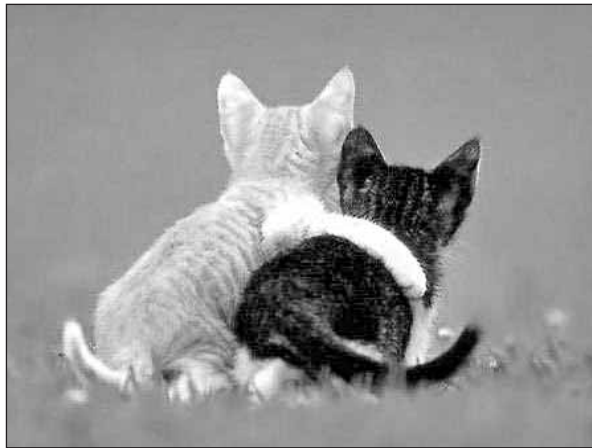
There are, as everyone knows, deeper levels of friendship.

On a silly note, one my oddball writer buddies proposed a little test: What if I showed up unannounced, on your doorstep at 3 AM, with a dead body, a badger, and a jar of mayonnaise? Would you shut the door, or

sound the alarm, or listen and help me? (Some of the wags just had to ask, "What kind of mayo?")

TRUST

How many people have true friends? Someone you can trust with your greatest struggles and secrets and aspirations, and share many aspects of your life? Folks can have more than one such confidant, hopefully (especially for Unificationists) of the same gender. One such person is often, but doesn't have to be, your church Pastor.



Your spouse can also acquire this role, and this becomes one of the best things about a long-term marriage.

Unfortunately, often times a young person will get betrayed by a gossiping friend, and the resulting scars will hamper future deep friendships. Worse, a struggling person with little trust and a low self-image might then seek low-class friends, slackers and stoners who are very easy to impress.

Worse yet are supposed friends who'll attempt to bring a person down. Kevin Thompson's prison journal vividly describes a life in confinement with people who lie and cheat continually, and who cannot be trusted with any precious item or personal secret, even for one hour. If those sleazy types do gain any friends, it's likely they will soon illustrate the Divine Principle's Fourth Fallen Nature, and drag everyone into even deeper trouble.

Opposite this, my family recently attended the STF Family Workshop at beautiful Estes Park, Colorado. Gath-

ered in the lecture hall were 400 amazing and resourceful people, many of them old and new friends, all of whom I'd confidently trust with my life.

VALUES

Friendship has multiple benefits. Humans are social creatures. In a physical sense, our primate relatives hang around in close-knit jungle tribes, and flourish through cooperation. Despite the Fall of Man, ancient humans formed tribes then nations, and advanced together on many levels.

Humans do better medically, emotionally, and also spiritually, in the company of good friends. In general, friendly people do better financially as well.

Women make close friends more easily, while men must strive to overcome their innate pride and reticence. Men, please do this! Make the effort, even though you could meet people who betray your confidence; or aren't mature enough to understand, much less help you much. It's still worth it!

At the BAFC we have a Men's Fellowship, an informal group which meets every month. The guys can enjoy snacks and banter--and will frankly discuss everything from their job situations to their challenging marriages. Listening without judgment, and advising based upon one's own knowledge and experience, can be highly beneficial.

Friends are especially valuable in times of struggle, and of loss. I've participated in Internet fund drives, to quickly help friends and colleagues who've encountered terrible misfortune. Even if each participant only pitches in five dollars, homes can be saved, and medical bills paid off, often in less than a week. (Of course you'll want to verify the authenticity of such efforts.)

A similar worldwide effort

helped free our sister Elizaveta Drenicheva from an unjust prison sentence in Kazakhstan. There is, sorry to say, no shortage of such causes.

Confidants can help you through the worst of tragedies, when nothing else seems to matter. Our minds know that jobs and homes can be taken away, and that loved ones (including pets and family members) will not live on this Earth forever, yet our hearts are never fully prepared for the magnitude of such losses.

One ancient psalm, as beautifully translated in the Douay-Reims Bible, refers to this troubled world as a Vale of Tears. (As the old Vulgate Bible says it in Latin, "In valle lacrimarum, in loco quem posuit." This is a reality every human must face, and God placed true friends here to help us through each challenge.

CONCLUSION

In the coming Kingdom of Heaven on Earth, beginning with the substantial realm of Chun Il Guk, the citizens will uphold a higher standard of life. True friends will be easier to find, and worthy of our mutual trust.

Already we can see the consequences of many different beliefs and lifestyles, especially in the mid-to-long term. I will boldly state that we do embody the best one, and by virtually any measure, subjective or objective. Sometimes we lose sight of this, and I invite readers to make a fresh evaluation.

Ultimately, all of God's realms will come into unity. We shall no longer be separated from our loved ones in the spirit world, thus our joys will be undimmed and eternal. ❖

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Useful Internet Addresses

Unification Church:	unification.org
Family Federation:	familyfed.org
IIFWP	IIFWP.org
Blessed Family Dept.	familyfed.org/bfd
USA 2nd Generation Dept.	www.ipathfinder.net
Special Task Force (STF)	stfusa.com
Matching, 1st Generation	firstgenmatchmaker.com
Matching 2gen Website:	bccandidates.com
HSA Bookstore:	hsabooks.com
Unification International:	www.tongil.or.kr
Bridgeport University	bridgeport.edu
The Significato Journal"	worldcommunity.com
UTS:	uts.edu
Ocean Church	oceanchurch.org
Sun Moon University:	sunmoon.ac.kr
PWPA:	pwpa.org
World CARP:	worldcarp.org
HSA E-Directory:	suntek.ch/edirectory
ICRF:	religiousfreedom.com
Religious Youth Service	rys.net
World University Federation	wufed.org
Int. Religious Foundation	IRF@mindspring.com
IRFF	irff.org; www.irff-europe.org
Tong-Il Moo-Do (world)	www.tongilmoodo.com
Tong-Il Moo-Do (NYC)	www.nyctongilmoodo.com
High School of the Pacific	www.hspacific.org
Kona, HI Family Federation	www.familyfedkona.org

Please let us know of any mistakes or potential additions.

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