

This Week in History: September 15 – 21, 2013

Lymhwa Kim
September 18, 2013
Edited by Krista Moon

September 14-15, 1978

Rev. Moon's Special Matching and Holy Wine Ceremony in England

Rev. Moon called the second Unification Theological Seminary (UTS) graduating class to Lancaster Gate in London, England in June 1978 to prepare for the official launch of the Home Church Providence. Whilst in the midst of the home church trenches, the UTS graduates and cohorts from various European countries were called to Lancaster Gate in central London, where about 200 people gathered. On Sept. 14, Father Moon seated graduates down in the main meeting room and treated them to an inspiring and joyful talk, and then proceeded to match the participants. The next day, Sept. 15, 1978, Father Moon declared it to be the Engagement Day. The couples lined up in the main meeting room in typical Blessing format, the men in spiffy suits, the women in nice dresses. Father explained to couples the protocol of receiving the Holy Wine, and the spiritual significance of the wine and of the format of the Ceremony. All of this transpired in a most holy atmosphere.

September 15, 2011

Statue of Four Great Saints, the Founder of Four Major Religions, Unveiled at Cheon Bok Gung



A statue of the four saints, the founders of the four major religions — Buddhism, Christianity, Confucianism and Islam—was unveiled at the Cheon Bok Gung main church in Seoul.

The unveiling ceremony for a statue of the Four Great Saints, founders of four major religions, was held at 10:00 a.m. September 15 in the open space in front of Cheong Bok Gung, the main church in Seoul. More than 400 people attended, including International President Rev. Hyung Jin Moon and his wife, Rev. Yeon Ah Lee, members of American Clergy Leadership Conference (ACLC) and senior Unification Church members. Representatives from the four religions (Confucianism, Buddhism, Christianity and Islam) each lit a candle and gave a celebratory invocation for the sake of amicable relations and communication between adherents of the religions.

September 15, 2012

Rev. Moon Laid to Rest by his Family at Won Jeon Burial Ceremony



Rev. Moon's widow, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon and two of her children, Ye Jin and Kwon Jin.

On July 29th by the Heavenly Calendar in the 3rd year of Cheon-gi (September 15, 2012), at 1:30 pm, the widow

Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon and her children lay Rev. Moon to rest at his burial site during the “Sun Myung Moon, the True Parent of Heaven, Earth and Humankind” Universal Seonghwa Wonjeon Ceremony. A wonjeon (translated as “returning home to the palace”) is the graveside service at the burial site.

September 16, 2011

Korean Names Bestowed Upon 172 Faith Leaders from the U.S.



Newly bestowed with Korean surnames, 172 Ministers from the United States pose in a group photo with Rev. and Mrs. Moon, in front of the Cheon Jeong Gung Peace Palace in Korea.

A grand ceremony for bestowal of Korean surnames upon 172 ministers, 43 each from the North, South, East and West quadrants of the United States, came to Korea representing America, Christendom and the entire world, with the purpose of registering in God's Kingdom and testifying that God had anointed Father Moon. Going to Korea represented an offering of gratitude in return for everything True Parents have done for America and the world. In a strategic sense, the clergy, who understand and support Father Moon's historic mission from the point of view of 77 different religious denominations were united through a singular cause. By joining into and becoming part of a Korean family and exchanging names, they gave a powerful testimony to the Korean people of the fruits of Father Moon's work to remove all barriers between race and denomination. Through proclaiming that Korea is God's Homeland and Hometown, they affirmed that God had chosen this nation to be the base for the Kingdom of God and the family culture that honors elders and has fidelity and faithfulness in every aspect of the family – from marriage to the filial piety of children to their parents.

September 17, 1991

True Mother Keynote Speaker for Women's Federation for Peace in Asia

On September 17, 1991, served as the principal speaker at a rally in Tokyo of approximately 7,000 members of the Women's Federation for Peace in Asia (WFPA). She also spoke to numerous large and small gatherings of the church.

September 17, 2010

Scholars of Religion Urged to investigate Human-Rights Violations in Japan



Dan Fefferman, President of the International Coalition for Religious Freedom, urged religious scholars from Europe and North America to conduct independent investigations into the abductions and forced de-conversions of Unification Church members in Japan.

Speaking to the Center for Studies on New Religions (CESNUR), Dan Fefferman, President of the International Coalition for Religious Freedom, urged religious scholars from Europe and North America to conduct independent investigations into the kidnappings and forced de-conversions of Unification Church members in Japan. CESNUR is the world's premier gathering of scholars dedicated to the study of new religions and religious minorities. Approximately 150 scholars attended the conference, held in Turin, Italy at the University of Turin.

Fefferman reported to CENSUR attendees that 10 to 20 Unification Church members are currently victims of forced de-conversions each year in Japan. Two new victims were abducted against their will during the month of August, 2010, and several more church members remain missing. While so-called "deprogramming" has been eliminated in the United States for nearly 20 years, there exists a well-organized movement in Japan to kidnap Unification Church members and hold them against their will for months or even years at a time. Most Japanese government officials turn a blind eye to the human-rights abuses, and police refuse to investigate in part because there are not enough independent voices demanding justice.

September 18, 1959

David S. C. Kim Arrives in the U.S. as a Missionary



David S.C. Kim, one of the first Unification Church missionaries to the Pacific Northwest.

David S. C. Kim was a founding member of the Unification Church in 1954 and its first overseas missionary, having gone to Swansea University College, Wales as a U.N. scholar during the mid-1950s. He was the second Unification missionary to the United States, arriving in Portland, Oregon on September 18, 1959.

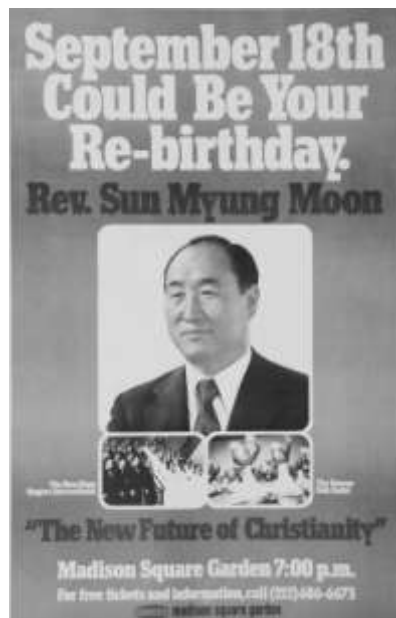
September 18, 1961

Unification Church Incorporates the Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity in California

Of the missionary groupings that were established in the United States during the 1960s, the Unified Family, led by Miss Young Oon Kim, flowed most naturally into the Unification Church of the 1970s. This was due, in part, to its incorporation in California as the "Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity" on September 18, 1961, approved in 1963, which became and still is the legal basis for the Unification Church in America.

September 18, 1974

Overflow Crowd Hears True Father's Message at Madison Square Garden



Posters advertising the Madison Square Garden Rally were posted throughout New York City, transforming it into "a blue kingdom of heaven," according to a participant

The culmination of the movement's evangelistic activities in 1974 was its concluding eight-city Day of Hope tour, which opened at New York's Madison Square Garden on September 18, 1974. Taking as its theme, "The New Future of Christianity," the itinerary included New York City, Washington, D.C., Atlanta, Chicago, Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and New York City. The watershed event was the speech at Madison Square Garden, which drew 25,000 people as well as thousands waiting outside. The speech was reported by major New York media and brought the movement to the attention of millions.

September 18, 1976

Rev. Moon Delivers Address to 300,000 People at the Washington Monument Rally



Rev. Moon holds an evangelist rally at The Washington Monument in Washington, D.C. on September 18, 1976.

The Washington Monument Rally was another watershed event in the history of the Unification Church in the United States. It closed out the initial proclamation phase of True Father's ministry and opened the way for new initiatives in the fields of evangelism, education, interfaith relations, business, media and public life. The movement became increasingly diversified in the following years. This slowed the pace of its advance. However, the church began to develop an infrastructure that greatly expanded its ability to exert influence in the United States and elsewhere. This was in keeping with True Father's original strategy.

September 18, 2011

Rally Proclaims and Upholds the Declaration of True Parents

To prevent further confusion and obstruction to the providence, True Parents prepared, signed and announced "True Parents' Declaration" (4.23 by the heavenly calendar) on the cosmic level. This opened the path for the dissident UCI leadership and members under their influence to reconcile without further distancing themselves from True Parents. This declaration expressed True Parents' desperate plea. It arose from their fervent heart overflowing with longing for the prodigal son to return. It is truly tragic that a situation has arisen within the Unification community such that the True Parents, who are God's substantial self, are compelled to announce this declaration.

Click here to read the full declaration: <http://www.tparents.org/Library/Unification/Talks/Pak/Pak-110918a.pdf>

September 20, 1971

International Pioneer Academy Established

The International Pioneer Academy officially opened on September 20, 1971 with an entering class of 30, 20 of whom were members, and eight of whom were professors. With ballroom and balcony, Page Street headquarters also was well suited for a succession of "International Friendship Banquets" which led to a culminating Christmas banquet for 1,200 guests at the Kabuki Theatre on December 18, 1971.