

This week in history: August 17-23

August 19, 2014

August 18, 2000

True Father Proposes Interreligious Council at the United Nations



Father addresses the United Nations

From September 6 to 8, 2000, the United Nations convened a Millennium Summit in New York City which was the largest gathering of world leaders in history to that date. It resulted in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals. Prior to that meeting, the Interreligious and International Federation for World Peace (IIFPU) convened “Assembly 2000” from August 17 to 19 in New York. It was co-sponsored by the Permanent Missions to the UN of Indonesia, Uganda and Mongolia under the theme “Renewing the United Nations and Building a Culture of Peace.” More than 400 world leaders from over 100 nations attended, including Oscar Arias, former president of Costa Rica and Nobel Peace Prize laureate; Robert Dole, former U.S. Senate majority leader and Republican presidential candidate; Sir Edward Heath, former prime minister of the United Kingdom; Kenneth Kaunda, former president of Zambia; and Richard Thornburgh, former UN undersecretary general and governor of Pennsylvania.

The centerpiece of Assembly 2000 was True Father’s August 18th keynote address, “Renewing the United Nations to Build Lasting Peace.” True Father made three proposals. The key one called for the establishment of “an interreligious assembly to serve as a senate or council within the United Nations.” According to this proposal, “each nation, in addition to its current ambassador, [will] send a religious ambassador ... to serve as a member of the religious assembly or UN senate.” A second proposal called for the creation of “peace zones in areas of conflict ... governed directly by the United Nations” with a special emphasis on North and South Korea. The third called for “an official commemorative day to uphold the ideal of the family ... specifically ... that True Parents' Day be established as a day of global celebration.” True Father’s proposals launched the Unification movement’s Ambassador for Peace and Abel UN efforts.

August 18, 2011

True Father Dedicates the Won Mo Boat



True Parents launch the Won Mo boat.

True Father had long expressed interest in cleaning up the gambling industry. To that end, he made Las Vegas a center of movement activity from 2008, stating his intention of “transforming” Las Vegas into “a special vacation spot for families” and a venue for education programs. Some spoke of his vision to reposition “Sin City” as a “Shining City.” In 2011, the Unification movement purchased a massive 135,000-square-foot warehouse near McCarran International Airport. It was the venue for the unveiling of

an innovative 28-foot Won Mo sport fishing boat, invented by True Father and developed by the movement's Master Marine corporation. The Won Mo featured a resin plaster mold hull and helium tanks that rendered it unsinkable while moving through the water at up to 45 knots, lighter and faster than other vessels in its class. At the dedication True Father expressed his hope that the Colorado River region, especially the area around Hoover Dam, would become the Western hub of a marine leisure industry extending from the Far East.



The Won Mo boat was dedicated in 2011.

August 19 to 30, 1992 First World Culture and Sports Festival (WCSF)

Following the conclusion of the Seoul Olympics in 1988, True Father stated his intention of sponsoring an “Olympics of World Culture.” This came to fruition in the first World Culture and Sports Festival (WCSF) held in Seoul from August 19 to 30, 1992. The World Culture and Sports Festival was the culmination of True Father’s worldwide activity to that point, bringing together representatives from all of the organizations he had initiated. The festival included the 19th International Conference of the Unity of the Sciences (ICUS), the 5th International Congress of the Professors World Peace Academy (PWPA), the 12th World Media Conference, the fifth Summit Council for World Peace, the first Women’s Federation for World Peace convention, the 3rd Assembly of the World’s Religions, and the 8th CARP Convention of World Students, which also included the Hanmadang Sports Festival. The centerpiece of the festival was the International Holy Wedding of 30,000 Couples in Seoul Olympic Stadium, the largest Blessing yet conducted by True Parents and one that extended the Blessing beyond the Unification community. It also was the venue for True Parents’ declaration of their messianic identity on the world stage.

August 20, 1985 True Father Released from Halfway House, Welcomed at “God and Freedom” Banquet



True Father is welcomed at the God and Freedom Banquet in Washington, D.C.

True Father’s “Danbury Course” consisted of his indictment, trial, appeal and imprisonment on tax evasion charges. It was his sixth imprisonment and one of the most unjust. True Father was incarcerated at Danbury Federal Correctional Institution in Connecticut from July 20, 1984 to July 4, 1985, and then from July 4, 1985 to August 20, 1985 at Phoenix House Foundation Inc., a halfway house in Brooklyn, New York. The evening of his release, 1,600 clergy and prominent laypeople gathered at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C., to welcome True Father back at a “God and Freedom Banquet.” Earlier that day, twenty prominent clergy, including Rev. Jerry Falwell, head of the Moral Majority, and Rev. Joseph Lowery, president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference—usually at opposite ends of the religious-political spectrum—held a news conference at which they decried government encroachment upon religion and called upon President Ronald Reagan to pardon True Father. True Father expressed his appreciation to those who had supported him through the court battles, amicus briefs, and rallies and expressed his determination “to relieve the great and long suffering of God.” He called upon

all present to "transcend denominationalism" and "to consider seriously the mission of Christianity to lead a supra-denominational, cultural revolution on a worldwide scale."

August 20, 1972

U.S. Mobile Fundraising Teams (MFT) Established

The early Unification Church in America struggled to find a viable means of financial support. Following True Parents' arrival and first 7-City Day of Hope tour, the need for funds became acute. One breakthrough came as a result of the breakdown of the tour's missionary bus in Frederick, Maryland, when members found that they could garner donations. This realization, combined with the increased financial demands of national mobilization, led to more sustained fundraising efforts. In April 1972, the Washington, D.C., center surpassed a goal of \$4,000 profit through door-to-door sales of candles produced in the basement of the College Park, Maryland, center. Candle selling proliferated rapidly and pioneer centers began fundraising for expenses. Still, there was no central focus or coordination.

True Father solved that problem when he directed the American movement to locate a large property in New York State suitable for use as an international training center. The resulting "Belvedere Project" mobilized the entire American movement in an effort to meet the overall goal of \$36,000 profit per week for the down payment. The campaign was successful, and the most important innovation was the formation, for the first time, of mobile fundraising teams. Beginning on August 20, 1972, members from across the country began traveling on two mobile teams—one on each coast, selling candles full time. Keith Cooperrider, Belvedere Project assistant at the time, commented, "We found that people, cut off from normal center activities and given the sole responsibility of selling, could do phenomenally well."