

**FFWPU Europe and the Middle East: 25 Years Since Huge Blessing In Seoul**

Knut Holdhus  
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*Marriage Blessing 7th Feb. 1999 in the Olympic Stadium in Seoul, South Korea*

**Father and Mother Moon filled Olympic Stadium in Seoul for huge Blessing ceremony in 1999**



*[Father](#) and [Mother Moon](#) at the 7th February 1999 huge blessing ceremony*

On 7th February 1999, at the [Seoul Olympic Main Stadium](#), an extraordinary event unfolded. 150,000 people gathered to witness a momentous occasion: a [Blessing](#) Ceremony, also described as a [mass wedding](#). This event, presided over by [Father](#) and [Mother Moon](#) was a celebration of love, commitment, and unity.

At the [Olympic Stadium in Seoul](#), 37,000 couples participated. 12,000 of those had been chosen for each other by [Sun Myung Moon](#). They had previously asked [Father Moon](#) to find them an eternal partner. The remaining 25,000 couples were married couples who wanted their existing marriage [blessed](#) by [True Parents](#). [Father](#) and [Mother Moon](#) declared all the couples to be true husband and wife and asked [God](#) to bless them.

Along with [Father](#) and [Mother Moon](#), eight prominent religious leaders, from other religious traditions, bestowed their blessing on all the couples.

At the same time as the event, ceremonies were held all over the world, linked to the one in Seoul via satellite or internet, and in which a total of 110,000 couples participated.

Dr. Tyler Hendricks, President of the [Family Federation](#) of the USA 1994-2000, described the grand ceremony,



*One of the couples exchanging rings 7th Feb. 1999*

"The main event began with Dr. Bo Hi Pak's sonorous baritone resonating in Korean and English, announcing the start of the event to heaven and earth. He introduced the one man 'on the ground' most responsible for the overflowing stadium (at 30-days' notice), Rev. Sun Jo Hwang, president of the [church](#) in Korea. Moments after his prayer to open the ceremony, representative leaders of the world's religions ascended the stage. Each gave their blessing on the couples according to the tradition of their faith.

Among them, Chicago pastor T. L. Barrett's prayer in particular was powerful. He gave his entire heart and soul, lifting up [God](#) and [True Parents](#) to the world. The Archbishop Emmanuel Milingo's prayer and counsel on stage was also extremely meaningful. He is head of the Pontifical Council for Refugees, and one of the first, if not the first, active Vatican leader to play a major public role in a Unificationist religious event.



*Religious leaders giving their blessing on the many couples 7th Feb. 1999 in Seoul. Kranz is 6th from right, Milingo 4th, Osman 3rd, Barrett 2nd*

When we consider that on the same stage with these two spiritual leaders were an eminent American rabbi, Herzl Kranz, Sheik Alamin Osman, the Grand Mufti of Eritrea, together with major leaders from Buddhism, Hinduism, Eastern Orthodoxy and Sikhism, we can see that the convergence of humanity's spiritual paths is finally a substantial historical reality.

It is happening in one place, beyond the conference room tables and academic journals, in the midst of God's holy [blessing of marriage](#). This can only be the hand of [God](#). In the hand of [God](#) is the hope of the human race.

The ones who set this all in motion, our [True Parents](#), then entered the stadium in glory and with a light spirit to the strains of Handel's 'Hallelujah Chorus'. They performed the ceremony as they have done many times. It is at its heart very simple, with a sprinkling of holy water, the reciting of the marriage covenant, the benediction and proclamation of the [blessing](#), the exchange of rings, and congratulatory



remarks and songs.



*Kenneth Kaunda (1924-2021), the first President of Zambia from 1964 to 1991. Photo (1998)*

Former Zambian president Kenneth Kaunda gave the remarks, and the musical ambassador of Paraguay, Gloria del Paraguay, presented a lovely song." (From a report in Today's World, a monthly magazine published by the [Family Federation](#) 1980-2013, February 1999 issue, p.17).

There was also entertainment before the main ceremony, ranging from Korean folk music to contemporary pop.

In the same article, Tyler Hendricks also shares how it was to be a spectator,

"Sunday morning, the day of the [Blessing](#) Ceremony, we departed our hotel at 10:30 and were engulfed in the flow of buses arriving from throughout the Korean peninsula. Some had begun their journeys from far away as early as 2 or 3 in the morning to be there on time. We heard that the church leaders of Korea who prepared for the event expected some five thousand buses to converge that morning.

We found our parking place and indeed, rivers of people, literally rivers, flowed past us. These were hardy country folk, taking on several hours in the frigid weather with a simple suit or sweater. It was an overcast day, although a sun filtered by haze broke through after the event started. It was as warm as anyone could hope for on a Seoul day in early February."

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"25 Years Since Huge Blessing in Seoul" - compiled by Knut Holdhus from various sources, including Today's World.

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has always longed to live among us here on earth. That is what he wanted when he created the first human beings. However, no one has ever experienced anything like that. It has only become possible now in our age.

A new millennium has begun! We have the opportunity to create a new and better future for humanity. But such a future depends entirely on a renewal of the family.

A global renewal of the family is necessary if we are to have hope for peace in the world. Nevertheless, such a renewal is something that neither governments nor religious communities can achieve.

That is why **God** has called **Father** and **Mother Moon** to arrange **large ceremonies** so that as many as possible may receive the Marriage Blessing. Since 1960, they have faithfully carried out this task.

The ceremonies, which are open to people of all races, nationalities and religions, have only grown in scope. When thousands, even millions, of men and women begin to do their best to realize **God's ideal** of love in their **marriage** and family, this will eventually change the world.

During the wedding ceremony, each married couple promises that:

- Your family (the cornerstone of society) becomes a place where **God's true love** is found.
- Your children will be raised to live according to **God's** will.
- Your children will be raised to form pure **relationships** and not have sexual relations before **marriage**.
- Your family will be a support and inspiration for other families, regardless of skin colour, religion and nationality.

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