

FFWPU Europe and the Middle East: FFWPU's Relevance Emphasized at its 71st Anniversary

Knut Holdhus
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From the commemorative ceremony held on May 27, 2025 at Cheonseung Church in Cheonwon Temple, Yongsan district, Seoul, to mark the 71st anniversary of the founding of the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#)

Korean media outlets emphasizing huge relevance in today's troubled world of Family Federation values - marriage, family, peace, interfaith harmony - in reports on commemoration of 71st anniversary

by Knut Holdhus, editor

A ceremony was held on 27th May in Seoul to commemorate the 71st anniversary of the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#). Many media outlets reported about the event, held in the Cheonseung Church in Cheonwon Temple in Yongsan, a central district of the South Korean capital. 700 pastors from across the country took part together with especially invited guests.



The Namdo Ilbo [reports](#) on the same day,
"The [Family Federation](#) was [founded](#) on 1st May 1954, at the 'House with 3 Doors' in Bukhak-dong, Seongdong-gu, Seoul (now Sindang-dong, Jung-gu), and has since carried out multifaceted activities to realize the ideal of 'One Family under God' under the teachings of its founders, [Sun Myung Moon](#) and [Hak Ja Han](#)."



In an [article 27th May](#), the Segye Ilbo writes,
"Since sending missionaries to Japan and the United States in the late 1950s, the [Family Federation](#) now operates in over 200 mission countries."



The Joongdo Ilbo comments [27th May](#),
"To commemorate the 71st anniversary, a variety of awards were presented in different categories: long service awards (including 33-year and 15-year service), recognition of churches with outstanding evangelism and blessing performance, awards for exemplary families, and a booklet competition. A 'new start resolution ceremony' was also held, symbolizing support and succession across generations between elder and youth pastors."

The Namdo Ilbo pointed out,

"As Korea recorded its lowest ever total fertility rate of 0.75 last year - now considered a national crisis - the international mass [Blessing](#) ceremonies, which emphasize [family values](#), are being reevaluated as a possible solution to declining birthrates and challenge such as anti-marriage trends and the DINK (dual income, no kids) lifestyle."

The Joongdo Ilbo commented,

"The [Family Federation](#) is also regarded as the origin of K-Religion [See editor's note below], having started in Korea and expanded worldwide. Believers from all over the world continue to visit Korea -

considered the homeland of their faith - on pilgrimages, with visitors this year coming from Europe, the Americas, Asia, and Africa. A growing number of foreign believers are also settling in Korea."



Regarded as possible solution to declining birthrates: Here, the exchange of [Marriage Blessing](#) rings April 12, 2025

The Namdo Ilbo also mentioned the congratulatory remarks by Pastor Gil-chun Choi of Changsine Church (Presbyterian Church of Korea). According to the paper, he said,



Rev. Guk Hwang-bo

"I thank the [Family Federation](#) for its devoted efforts in the religious peace movement over the past 71 years. The Korea Christian Clergy Association also shares the same heart and will move together toward our common goal of realizing [God's Kingdom](#), beyond the vision of a unified Korea."

The Segye Ilbo quoted Guk Hwang-bo, the president of the Korean branch of the [Family Federation](#). In his commemorative speech, he said,

"This is a meaningful occasion when we for the first time since the great victorious foundation of the [entrance ceremony](#) for the Cheonil Sanctum in the Cheonwon Temple was laid, can dedicate the [founding](#) of the [federation](#) to Heaven, amid the opening of an era with a sphere here on earth of living in the [Kingdom of Heaven](#)." He also added, "Today will be a historical turning point that reveals the status and power of the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#) to the world, and it will be a [providential](#) moment that testifies that our Heavenly Parent is alive and working."



Yeon-ah Choi Moon, Jan. 15, 2025

According to the media reports, the commemorative program also included congratulatory messages from Sun-jo Hwang, Policy Chair of the Central Administration of Cheonmu-won (the new international headquarters), and Kyung-deuk Yoo, Chair of the [Family Federation](#) Foundation.

There were also encouraging remarks by Yeon-ah Moon, Chairperson of the Sunhak Institute, representing [Holy Mother Han](#), and a special performance by youth pastors and congratulatory songs.

What was then called the Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity was [founded](#) on 1st May 1954. The name became the [Family Federation](#) in 1996. The founding date 1st May was according to our solar calendar, but recent anniversaries have been commemorated on the first day of the fifth month according to the oriental lunar calendar. It is common in South Korea to celebrate birthdays and anniversaries following this calendar.

Text: Knut Holdhus

[Editor's note: The term K-Religion (short for Korean Religion) is a relatively recent concept modeled after more familiar cultural exports like K-Pop, K-Drama, and K-Beauty, which have gained massive global followings as part of the Korean Wave (Hallyu). In this context, K-Religion refers to religious movements, spiritual traditions, or faith-based cultural phenomena that originated in Korea and are now gaining international influence.

K-Religion is about Korea becoming not only a cultural influencer but also a spiritual hub, where religious movements born in Korea are shaping global religious discourse. While not all such groups are mainstream or without controversy, their growing global presence is undeniable, and the label "K-Religion" seeks to frame that presence within Korea's broader international cultural identity.

Groups like the [Family Federation](#) (formerly the [Unification Church](#)) have placed a strong emphasis on international missions, establishing a presence in most countries of the world. This outward-facing dynamic aligns with the global brand associated with other K-Culture phenomena.

K-Religion can function as a form of soft power, promoting Korea's global image not just through entertainment or products but also through values like peace, family unity, and interfaith cooperation.]

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Suffering of God

God lost his lineage and children – the suffering of God

After creating Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, [God](#) intended to marry them with His [Holy Blessing](#) and bequeath them Heaven's right of ownership. [God](#) wanted Adam and Eve to inherit from Him the ownership of the entire universe.

However, all of this came under Satan's control because of the Fall. [God](#) is like a father who labored and sweated his entire life to accumulate assets for his children, only to have a thief steal everything overnight. Who can comprehend the [sorrowful](#), painful heart of [God](#)?

[God](#) lost His lineage, lost His children, and was forced to hand over the ownership of the nations and world to Satan.

There was only one way to recover this lineage and ownership. This was the path to win the natural subjugation of Satan, to have Satan surrender voluntarily. What is the secret to accomplishing this? It can only be accomplished by the power of [true love](#) when we love our enemies more than we love our own children.

Has there ever been a time when [God](#) could rejoice with human beings as their True Father and True Mother, enjoying the natural bonds of parent and child? Has [God](#) enjoyed even a year of comfort with His children, knowing that what He created was good? The answer is no; [God](#) has not experienced such joy for even one hour.

And has anyone been able to comfort [God](#) in this pain? No, because no one has known the reason for the unbridgeable gap that has separated [God](#) from humankind for tens of thousands of years. No one has known why [God](#) and humanity are in such a tragic situation.



Adam and Eve expelled from Paradise. [Public domain](#) image. Cropped

("Suffering of [God](#)" is an excerpt from [Peace Message 1](#), first delivered by [Sun Myung Moon](#) 12th Sept.2005 in New York. [Father](#) and [Mother Moon](#) have many times spoken about the suffering of [God](#) in their [speeches](#).)

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