

Lek and Vipa Thaveetermaskul of Thailand, victorious Heavenly Tribal Messiahs - 1st part

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Autobiography of Wolfgang Werner - Globetrotter for Christ



Lek Thaveetermaskul from Thailand and Chen Pai Hang from Taiwan were Blessed among the 6000 couples in October 1982 and have one son and two daughters. They had 430 couples as spiritual children who attended our church.

Lek was born in Bangkok, Thailand, on October 20, 1955. His parents came to Thailand from mainland China when he was young. He has seven brothers and sisters. His parents are from a traditional Confucian background, but he was born and grew up in a strong Buddhist country, so Buddhism came to have much influence on him. Since he was educated in Catholic schools, he also came to know something about Christianity. Generally, he was not very interested in religion. He only concentrated on studying and was quite a good student.

In 1976, while he was in his second year at the university, he was introduced to the Principle by a German missionary, Mr. Wolfgang Schawaller. After listening to a few lectures, given by Mr. Jack Hart, the American missionary to Thailand, he became very interested. He borrowed the Principle book and studied by himself at home, finishing the book within two weeks. In 1976 he became the first member to join in Thailand. He studied the Principle very thoroughly, read Father's speeches, and prayed a lot.

In 1981, 12 members were doing Home Church in Makkasan area and they were 20 in 1982 going every day. Dr Lek became president of the Unification Church in Thailand in 1987.

Dr Lek declared « We are hopeful of laying the foundations to build substantially Cheon Il Guk (Kingdom of God) in the near future. We are convinced to be able to realize the vision of True Parents of God's Nation by 2020. We have gained a lot of strength and of encouragement by True Father's Words where it says that if 12 Tribal Messiahs unite in a nation, they will surely fulfill their mission. We hope to launch a Pure Love movement, of filial piety and of patriotic spirit so that young people love and serve their family, their hometown and their nation. With the True Family Movement, we are looking to launch a new model family and a movement to create new village communities all over the country. We pray every day in order to be able to, with this strategy and this vision, to achieve True Parents' dream of Vision 2020."

He says furthermore "I want to offer my deepest gratitude to True Mother for the grace and the special blessing that she has given to our family and to every blessed couples of heavenly tribal messiahs.

These so incredible grace and blessing exceed our imagination. It is only thanks to the advices and the protection of our Heavenly Parent and the victorious foundation of our True Parents that we could have fulfilled the Tribal Messiah's mission. I believe that this mission is a mission of an amazing grace to establish the substantial Cheon Il Guk. As I withdrew from my public role after 20 years as Thailand National Leader, our family decided in 2006 to begin our Tribal Messiah mission. But when we have begun the activity to fulfill this mission, we didn't know how to do. We only knew that a foundation preparation, both internal and external, was necessary. The first thing that came to my mind is the necessity of the unity between husband and wife. With my wife, we have discussed and prayed about it. Then we have decided to begin the heavenly tribal messiah activities. Looking back on it now, everything was possible thanks to her. She has played a key role to carry out these activities. Educate in the same time the children of the Cain sphere and the children of Abel sphere."

They started reaching out the young students of Ramkhamhaeng University. First, Lek needed some active and devoted members. He sent students that he has met to attend 3-day, 5-day and 21-day workshops on the Divine Principle. Then he has guided them to his own home with his children, just like adopted children. The students attended Hoon-dok-hae early in the morning with their family, then went to study to the University. If they had free-time, they were joining the activity of fundraising or witnessing, as well as mutual aid projects. Their house has progressively become like a small family church of Hoon-dok. They have begun to contact young students one by one. After 2 years, they had more than 20 members, and had to find a new house nearby where they could stay. Even by gradually increasing the number of members, it has not been easy to maintain or increase the growth of the number of students. Indeed, at the time they met the students, many of them had already many problems. It was not easy to find on the campus pure and motivated young students. So, they went in the northeast of the country with their student members. It is there where are located the secondary schools they had graduated from. They had launched mutual aid projects and purity campaigns in the schools which allowed them to reach the pupils of secondary schools and to build relationships with them. Thanks to the trust and support built with high school students, they could find many good and pure pupils. Gradually, they developed the pilot project and have opened their foster care program for young people, a program conceived to help them to get into University Ramkhamhaeng in Bangkok, with the school's and parents' consent. They were looking for students who wanted to get into this renowned university and to study and they brought them from the countryside to the city. They gave them scholarships.

They accepted only students who have attended a series of workshops on Pure Love education, and participated to service and maintenance activities. The parents felt reassured that their children received help from trusted persons and would be guided to become healthy young people. They were also happy that their children may be protected from smoking, alcohol, drugs and sexual problems. Once the students have graduated from high school, they included them in their programs in Bangkok. For the 5 first months, they have attended step by step guidance and a series of educational programs and workshops on the Divine Principle. After 6 months, almost all became faithful and devoted members. Once members, these students then went to the high schools in their hometown to witness to new younger pupils. They met and guided these new pupils so that they enrolled in the model program for the youth the following year. Every year, the number of recruited pupils increased from 20 to 30, then to 40 and to 50. They continued to maintain trust and to develop good relationships with the high schools and the parents. With this program, they have found systematically pure and motivated students. They have educated and trained them, and have succeeded to set them on the path to becoming future leading figure that they wanted. In 2012, they had 6 student-centers welcoming more 100 members. The students who were graduating became candidates for the Blessing and central members. But they were still far from having reach the goal to bless 430 couples. It was not enough to guide these pupils from their high school years. They have established an even more systematic plan. They thought that by continuing to increase the number of new members until to have more than 100 every year, they could reach 400 to 500 members, if everything went well. They thought that the number who would receive the Blessing would increase similarly, because the students would be blessed one year after obtaining their university degree. Using this method, it would take them 4 or 5 years to reach their goal.

What motivates me to fulfill the youth-focused Heavenly Tribal Messiah mission is a story of suffering in Thailand. After 1991, the Thailand Unification Movement suffered criticism and persecution at the national level. After prosecution for charges for serious violations of the national security law under the military regime of that era, Lek and his wife along with six other young leaders, had to endure 21 months of imprisonment. The key members of our Church were judged. In this fight, the survival of our Church in Thailand was at stake. Lek felt always sorry when he thought how deeply the True Parents must have worried when they heard the distressing news from Thailand during this period. They were eventually released on bail in 1993. Democracy had then replaced the military regime after a bloody demonstration against this regime in May 1992. From that moment on, Lek as the National Leader, with his wife, delivered a 21-year trial to defend the name and the dignity of our True Parents and of our Movement.

Giving themselves the mission to revive the Unification Movement in Thailand, they started to offer jeongseong. After 12 years, they were found not guilty and have won the case. But the government went to the Court of Appeal. Two years later, they won again in the Court of Appeal. There were absolutely no grounds for the charges, and they had already won in the first two instances, they knew therefore what would be the final result. In spite of it, the government threw all its power and authority into continuing to bring the case to the Supreme Court. Legally, it was an extremely unjustified and unusual measure against our Movement. Our church leaders knew that they would eventually win, it was only a matter of time. But their case is bogged down before the Supreme Court, without a specific deadline. Finally, after 7 more years, on September 1st, 2011, this indemnity period of 21 years came to an end. Even Satan could no longer accuse them and had to throw in the towel. It was as Jacob's course, the case concluded in an absolute victory. Only then, were they able to wash away the pain in front of Heaven and truly feel the time has come when their path would be one of glory. Even today, Dr Lek cannot forget how True Parents were delight to learn that they emerged victorious from the courtrooms. It has become a day of liberation and joy and a historic day that they will never forget.

(To be continued)