

True Peace



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JUNE 2018



The Significance and Value of the June 24 Rally

By Ju Jin-tae



T rue Father spoke of a seventy-year lifespan for the communist Soviet Empire, and this theory regarding the time span is gaining ground again nowadays. [North Korea unilaterally “locked the gate” on the border between the Koreas in 1948.] Spring has brought forth a thawing in North Korean–South Korean relations through the work of the providence unfolding on the Korean peninsula.

After the success of the North Korea–South Korea summit on April 27 and the North Korea–United States summit on June 12, North Korea has continued to work toward denuclearization and is turning their sights on peace accords. We are deeply grateful to True Parents for designing and promoting the Rally for the Liberation of Patriotic Martyrs and Determination for North–South Unification.

When the crisis on the Korean peninsula struck the world last year with North Korean testing intercontinental missiles, True Mother said, “The Republic of Korea brings hope for the future!” True Mother then proclaimed the Hopeful March Forward Rallies aimed at a harmonious reunification and instructed that we explain various aspects of True Parents’ philosophy to people in villages, towns and cities nationwide.

This was not the only time the Korean peninsula has been in peril. Every time a precarious situation has befallen the people on the Korean peninsula, which is Heavenly Parent’s homeland, True Parents would even run back from somewhere overseas to protect this nation and people. Did True Mother not do so after being in America for the past month?

We call June “the patriotic month” for having Memorial Day on June 6 and the anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War on June 25. As this month ends, the spiritual and physical worlds united once again thanks to the liberation ceremony for fallen soldiers and all the patriotic martyrs whose righteous blood was spilled. These five thousand years of sacrifices brought about the birth and manifestation of True Parents, God’s only son and God’s only daughter. This rally is the opportune moment to pledge that a blessing will take place on True Parent’s birthday in 2020 in the holy land of Jeongju and Anju, North Korea, the birthplaces of True Parents.

There is a saying: “Dreams belong to those who dream.” I believe in the statement, “The dreams of ten thousand people united will make any dream come true.” Let us consider sincerely offering devotions through the Hyo Jeong Wish Fulfillment Papers and the Hyo Jeong Won [a home for our ancestors] in order to substantiate this dream.

Twenty thousand blessed family members and ambassadors for peace along with five hundred billion absolute good spirits came together for this rally to attend True Parents as the center of the cosmos and to set the conditions for the foundation of faith and the foundation of substance for attending True Parents. I am certain that this rally will provide the light of truth for world peace through the reunification of the Korean peninsula and will be renewal of hope for FFWPU for a Heavenly Korea.

As God’s only daughter and the substantial Holy Spirit, True Mother’s amazing victories have sprung forth in the shape of Heavenly Korea, Heavenly Japan, Heavenly USA expanding to Heavenly Africa and Heavenly Europe. In conjunction with the recent four-thousand-couple Blessing Ceremony in Zimbabwe, the upcoming one-hundred-thousand-person Latin America Summit in August and South Africa’s one-hundred-thousand-couple Blessing Ceremony in autumn will resound in the heavenly kingdom like a musical prelude to the substantial great works of True Parents.

Patriotic heroes from the past and future, awaken! Wake up and shout, “Our True Parents, the Messiah and the King and Queen of Peace, have come to the land that we bled to protect, the Korean peninsula!” 

Rev. Ju is vice-president of FFWPU for a Heavenly Korea and director of Subregion One.

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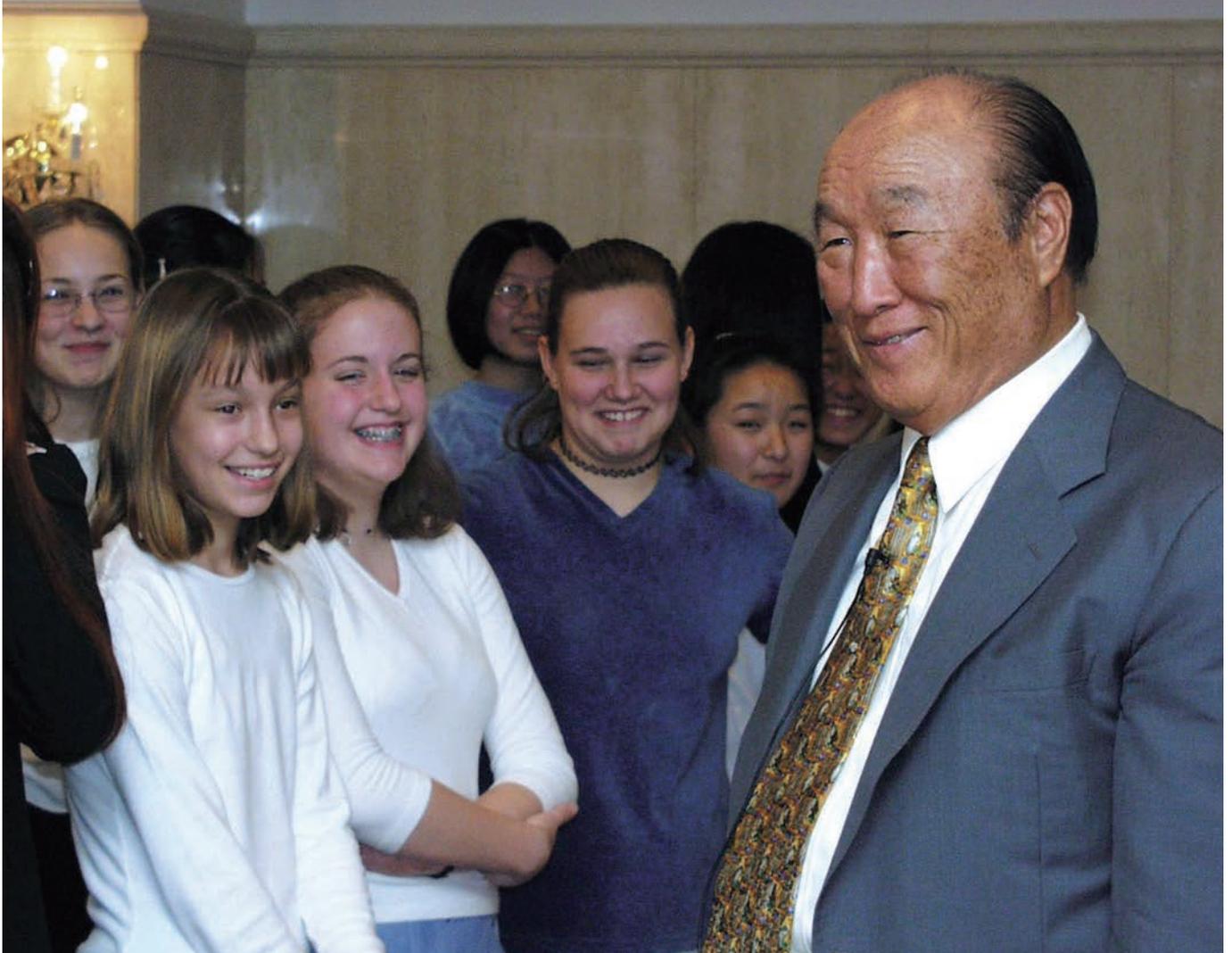
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The Significance of True Parents in the History of the Providence of Restoration

God created human beings to experience joy for eternity. Adam and Eve, the first ancestors of humankind, were created to be the object partners of God's absolute true love. Humanity had to originate from one ancestral couple. God created true love to flow in one stream; hence, he cannot begin another stream of true love from someone other than one man and one woman. If Adam and Eve had become perfect through God's absolute love and multiplied good descendants, they could have realized an ideal family. Everyone in that family would have attended God the Creator as their vertical, incorporeal true parent and perfected Adam and Eve as their horizontal, substantial true parents on earth.

Adam and Eve's true family would have expanded into Adam and Eve's clan. Their clan would have prospered, expanded into a society and nation, and ultimately built a world that fulfilled God's three great blessings to "be fruitful, and multiply, and have dominion over all things." That world would have been nothing less than the ideal kingdom of heaven that God intended to build on earth.





Father with his living legacy: *Opposite*: second-generation members at the East Garden Christmas party, December 25, 1999; *Above*: Father speaking to all the assembled members at a January 3, 2000 leaders meeting in the Manhattan Center in New York

From seeing Adam and Eve who were created in his image, we can understand that God exists with the dual characteristics of masculinity and femininity. God created Adam and Eve because God has both of these characteristics. Therefore, Adam and Eve needed to become one as subject partner and object partner, as a perfect man and a perfect woman. Had they done so, they would have reached a position equal to that of God. Then they would have given birth to sons and daughters and given them the same love that God gave them when creating them.

Human beings were God's greatest masterpieces among all created beings. He created them so that they could also stand in the position of creating such masterpieces, human beings, as their children. God therefore expected Adam and Eve to become completely one as husband and wife. Then, when looking at the children born from their perfect union, Adam and Eve would have inherited the tremendous joy that God experienced when he created them. God imbued Adam and Eve with the love that would have en-

abled them to give birth to children and love them with that very love. In other words, Adam and Eve, being God's beloved children, received every single thing that God, the absolute being, had within him.

The original Adam and Eve were God's body. What I am saying is that these originally good ancestors of humanity were to be a substantial manifestation of God. God wanted to enter their minds and become one with them in physical form. In that state, even as God wanted to give them more and more, they—God and human beings—would revolve around each other. Spinning like a rotor, they would become completely one.

Had such seeds of love been sown, their descendants, humankind, would have borne the fruit. Then, no matter how far you dissected that seed, its core substance would never change. However, because of the Fall, that seed needs to be dismantled and repaired; it must be fundamentally repaired, but this is impossible unless they bring God back into their lives and attend him.

God created heaven and earth in order to share his life and love. This is

why God, the incorporeal One, brings forth a man and a woman as the eternal embodiments of his love. They are the True Parents, the good human ancestors, whom he now introduces to humanity as the central substance of his love.

Eternal original parents

The original Adam and Eve were to have been the True Parents. As Father and Mother they would have been the center of the family and regarded as the king and queen of the family. Their sons and daughters would have been the heirs who could become future kings and queens. If the original ancestors, Adam and Eve, had not fallen, God would have been the grandparent who bequeathed his kingship to their family. That is why the True Father and True Mother are the king and queen of their family and represent all families in all nations. They are the original king and queen of the family, and you as their sons and daughters are in the position of princes and princesses who will inherit their kingship in the future as members of the royal family.

Due to the Fall of the human



Thousands of people who had glimpsed True Parents' significance came to an event titled "America Honors Rev. Sun Myung Moon—80th Birthday Celebration" on January 22, 2000.

ancestors, God lost the true ancestors of humankind as he had envisioned them according to his ideal of creation. Human beings, no matter how great or how wealthy, even if they have the power to move the entire world, are still from the lineage of the fallen ancestors. This is a most lamentable truth. People who are descended from the fallen ancestors are bound to plummet down to Satan's hell. People throughout history have been searching for the original Lord, the original parents who are the true ancestors who can embrace fallen humanity as their true children. For this, God strove to recover the positions of Adam and Eve prior to the Fall, following the path of restoration continually for four thousand years.

Adam and Eve, had they not fallen, would have become the true ancestors of humankind. They would have become the True Father and True Mother, the True Parents of humankind, in the flesh. However, Adam and Eve fell, and humankind became Satan's children. Suppose Adam and Eve had not fallen, but instead had become a man and woman imbued with God's heart. They would have joined in holy matrimony as God rejoiced over

them and become the True Parents of humankind. Then the created world would have united with them in harmony and joyfully provided their family with everything they needed.

Had Adam and Eve become a true son and daughter before God, had they become a true husband and wife as the model for all human beings, and had they become the True Parents of humankind who could attend God as their eternal parent, they would have been able to sing with joy and happiness throughout their lives. No one would ever have been able to lead them away, because they would have belonged solely to the one Lord. Their heart and their love would have belonged to the one Lord. Their one Lord would have been God.

The colossal tragedy

The Fall disrupted Adam's family. Therefore, the goal of restoration, to return to the original state before the Fall, is to restore Adam's family. God first strives to recover one individual who will be his partner; then he strives to recover one central family. Only after that can he strive to recover a church, a people, a nation and then the world.

Throughout history, God has been

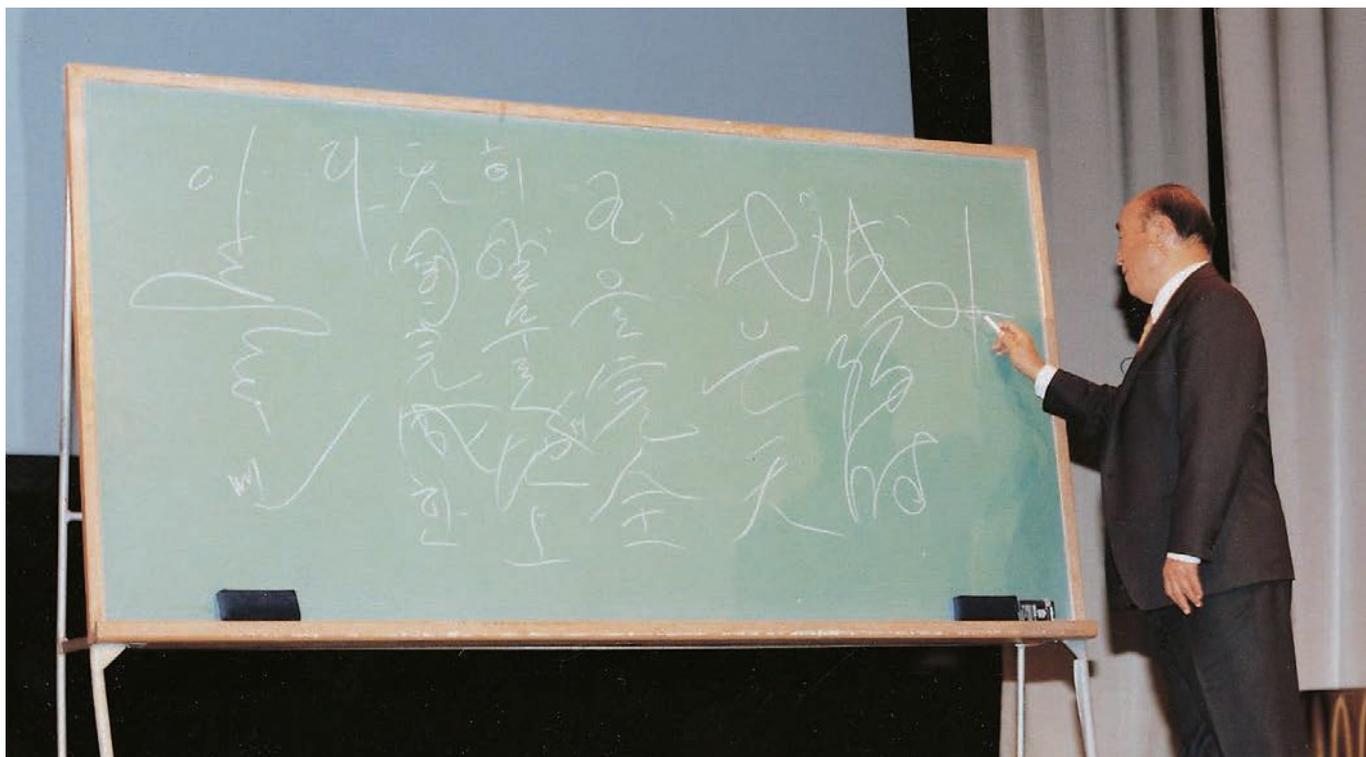
seeking a family that could become his ideal object partner. Such is the True Family. The True Family is fundamentally different in substance from ordinary families. Unless that God-centered family can be recovered and aligned with God's ideal, there is no way to recover the ideal for the nation or the world. This is the reason that God must first establish the original True Family. Similarly, salvation cannot be attained by individuals; rather, the basic unit of salvation is a true family.

Had it not been for the Fall, Adam and Eve would have become the ideal husband and wife and going one step further, the True Parents. They would have become the True Parents to their posterity and all humankind. Had humanity prospered with Adam and Eve as the True Parents, they would have built one great family and established the world of peace in the Adamic cultural sphere.

The history of God's providence of restoration is a sorrowful history. The fact that God lost Adam and Eve is something to grieve over. The problem is that this loss did not end with those two individuals alone. Losing them meant losing their clan, and this lost clan has since expanded into peoples, nations and the world. By losing Adam and Eve, God lost them all. Thus, the loss of Adam and Eve meant that God's kingdom and his sovereignty were lost. It meant the loss of God's family, God's clan and the people for his kingdom. It meant the loss of the ideal of man and woman, the loss of God's only son and daughter. That is why the history of salvation, namely the history of the providence of restoration, is to recover one man and one woman, Adam and Eve. If Adam and Eve had not fallen but had prospered, today every single human being among the many billions of people on our planet would be registered in the heavenly kingdom. Everyone would naturally enter the heavenly kingdom as one family.

The universe gone awry

Due to the fall of the first human ancestors, people could neither have true ancestors nor be true descendants. Even God could not stand in the position of true God. Nothing was centered on God, so there was no



True Parents are extraordinary for being able to articulate God's will in the modern age. Father is writing the title for his True God's Day morning speech, "To Fully Realize the Kingdom of Heaven in Heaven in the Completed Testament Era Means Realizing it on Earth" at the 10 AM commemorative service in 2000.

basis to build a true family, a true society or a true nation. For this reason, we must seek the true root, and when we find it, we will also find the nation in which everyone can live together as one true family. That is why, through the providence of salvation, God has sought to build the one world, the world of hope, true peace, love and oneness. To realize this purpose, God sends the Savior. The True Parents must come to earth to teach humanity to make God their central focus as individuals, and to put God at the center of the family, the nation and the world; by doing so, they are trying to return all humankind to the original world. Such is the course of the providence.

God's hope is not for the Lord to return on the clouds in the sky and build a spiritual kingdom like a fantasy world. The reason he returns is to plant his feet on the ground and find the one bride who can receive God's total love. He does this work to recover all that was lost because six thousand years ago the first human ancestors became false ancestors.

Therefore, in the course of history, a perfect woman must emerge who is absolutely connected to God's love. She must join with the perfect man

who lives in oneness with God's love. She is able to stand as the bride of the returning Lord, who comes as the groom. That time is at hand.

When they unite in this position, they are at the level of Adam and Eve before the Fall, when they were loved by God in the garden of Eden. They have reached the point of receiving from God the three great blessings. With them emerges the foundational point on earth that Satan cannot invade. Had Adam and Eve stood in this victorious position as the ancestors of humankind, the archangel Lucifer would not have become Satan; rather, he would have attended them as a faithful servant. This is the Principle of Creation. Because they lost that position, since that time, human beings have been orphans. Therefore, the True Parents of humankind, who can recover this position, must appear on earth.

The original Adam was one individual, yet he was meant to be the center of the family, the tribe, the nation and the world. The culture would have been Adam's culture. From that culture, a language would have begun. Thus, everything would have developed and prospered. Accordingly, all the events that con-

nect to True Parents can become sources for creating a new culture. From this new culture, a true history of humankind can finally unfold. True families, societies, peoples, nations and a true world can emerge.

The teachings that True Parents have established as the tradition will be central in every age. Thus far, human beings have based their hope for the world on a vision of the future, but no longer. Rather than looking forward to something yet to be realized, we will advance centering on the teachings that True Parents are practicing here and now. It is based upon their teachings that history will advance. The heavenly nation to be erected based on those teachings will establish the center of the past, the present and the future. Once this nation is inaugurated, its culture will not be short-lived. It will extend to the world and remain alive and well, becoming the source for future cultural development. There will be total oneness. It will be the same, whether at the beginning or the end. 

This text is from Book One, Chapter 1, sections 1-10 of Cham Bumo Gyeong.

The Significance of the Korean Nation and People

True Mother gave this speech at the Busan Exhibition and Convention Center (Bexco) at the Rally of Hope and Determination in Yeongnam (Subregion Five) on May 27. Yeongnam is a region in southeastern Korea comprising North and South Gyeongsang Provinces and three self-governing cities, Busan, Daegu and Ulsan.





The massive crowd listening to True Mother at Bexco

Esteemed dignitaries, ambassadors for peace and leaders from all fields—in particular, young people who will lead the future and blessed families of the Family Federation:

We have come together today with the hope of a unified Heavenly Korea, which we have longed for, in which North and South are united. Looking at this nation and the world, we can see that human effort and intelligence cannot solve today's challenges. People have made great effort in thinking about how to achieve a peaceful world, but the results were always the same.

That being the case, we have to organize a movement that properly attends God, the Creator and owner of the universe. The Bible says that originally when God made all things he created them according to his image; thus, minerals are either plus or minus, plants have either stamen or pistil, animals are male or female and humans he created as man or woman to be the ancestors of humanity. They were Adam and Eve, of whom the Bible speaks.

God gave human beings responsibilities to fulfill during their growth period. In other words, they should

have grown in absolute faith, absolute love and absolute obedience to God. However, halfway through, they became ambitious [as if saying] I can become like God too! Thus, they gave rise to the current fallen human beings. God's principles of creation cannot change. God has been longing for the day on which the good ancestors of humanity could understand the principle and his will and fulfill their responsibilities. God's providence has been the work of salvation.

The indemnity period for a good people to rise in the fallen world and establish a nation was so long and arduous, but finally, after four thousand years, God sent the Messiah, Jesus Christ, whom he had promised. Nevertheless, human beings did not know Heaven's providence. They did not know why Jesus Christ had come. Mary, who gave birth to him, the Israelites and Judaic figures failed to fulfill their duties to him. The birth of God's only son after four thousand years is not the end for the son. God's only son was to meet God's only daughter, create a true family and come into the position of True Parents to save the whole human race.

Preparing for the Messiah

Before going through the crucifixion, Jesus announced that he would return. Christianity began with the work of the Holy Spirit and the Apostles that were waiting for Jesus to return. The early days were so hard. Many endured persecution and martyrdom. Even so, their hearts still anticipated the return of the Messiah and they developed the Christian culture.

In light of that, what else should modern Christians prepare for while waiting for the Messiah? God does not reuse a people or a person who leaves responsibilities unfulfilled. God has to choose and prepare a people that can give birth to God's only daughter and finally complete the providence. That is the Korean people of Asia.

Korean Messiahs

I was born in 1943. God's only daughter must be born on a Christian foundation. Korea became independent in 1945. Following its liberation, the country divided, north and south, following communism and democracy. In those days, all intellectuals and Christians came to the South, but people in spiritualist

groups that awaited the return of the Messiah could not decide whether to leave or not. At that time, God made me come south. God guided me, and two years after I had come south, the Korean War broke out.

By then, the North Korea had already prepared and organized everything, but South Korea had neither the structure, nor the base to confront North Korea. Under those circumstances and in the midst of the providence, as God's only daughter, God had to give me time so that I could fulfill my responsibilities. Thanks to the miracle of the armies of sixteen nations mobilizing as the UN forces, South Korea now exists. On that subject, you need to understand that God selected and prepared the Korean people as the chosen people. That being the case, these people have responsibilities to fulfill. What are those responsibilities?

Today this people should feel gratitude for the deep love of God that helps them overcome crises every time they are in difficulties. Knowing the providence, although I was only a girl, I decided, and in 1960, the True Parents came to exist. Yet, just as in Jesus' time, Christian culture did not constitute the appropriate environment. While we were in the position of True Parents, we had to start from the bottom and work our way up to this day. This was the year of the fifty-eighth anniversary of the Holy Wedding. More than half a century has passed.

Heavenly Parent's aching heart

Knowing God's longing, we have sought a world of peace. Fallen people cannot go directly into God's presence. For that reason, they need a savior. True Parents are the Saviors. Through the blessing, which gives rebirth to all the children of the fallen world, True Parents give them rebirth, making them able to form blessed families. From this point of view, all of you here have lived different lives in many respects, but the only thing that can give you hope for the future is that you have found True Parents and have been reborn as true children.

Today, I tell many blessed couples that they should become tribal messiahs. The blessing must not end up being something that belongs only to



True Mother receiving a bouquet

you. You have responsibilities over three "generations," including the responsibility of guiding your ancestors and your descendants, the protagonists of the future. Fulfilling those responsibilities as blessed families will enable God to embrace the fallen world. Only when blessed families fulfill their mission as tribal messiahs and advance to the position of national and global messiahs can the peaceful world that humanity has longed for and Heavenly Parent's one family be achieved. To realize this, True Parents had to endure many sacrifices and overcome difficulties and plead with God not to abandon Christianity and its foundation despite knowing the pain felt by Heavenly Parent over Christians having proved unable to fulfill their obligations.

This country had difficulties and the US, which God had prepared for the global providence, was becoming sick. In the 1970s, we went to the US to make Americans aware of their illness. If we could teach them when they were already on the threshold of adopting communism so that they in turn would protect the democratic

world, it was due to True Parents making efforts that cost them blood. Thus, at that time, we trained young Americans and sent them as missionaries throughout the world. For forty years, their motivation did not change and today they are obtaining amazing results in Africa and Asia. Now, I tell them that the political force of an individual does not determine the future of a people. Hope will exist in the future when people serve the original owner, God, the Creator. Even now, I hope you will remember that only when this nation attends Heavenly Parent and moves toward the world, will it fulfill its obligations to the world as a blessed nation.

Where is Korea heading?

A hundred years ago, the great Indian poet, Tagore, wrote a poem about Korea, including "The day you light your lamp again, you will be the bright light of the East." What does light symbolize? Truth, but not human truth. Genuine truth can only come from True Parents centered on God. That is why many tribal messiahs in Asia, centered on Korea and Japan, are opening a new era for the Pacific Rim civilization. They are raising the banner of revolution to instill the *hyo jeong* culture of heart and with true love, living for others' sake, those in our second generation, our future leaders, are reaping amazing results all over the world.

When I went to the United States in the 1970s, I saw a show about the Wild West. The name of the series was "Bonanza." It began with an image of fire consuming a map and then a map of the modern American West arose. Today, in this place especially as the birthplace of the united kingdom of Shilla [AD 676-935], won't you dare to become the spark and redraw the map of God's immense homeland, the homeland of faith, the map of a unified heavenly Korea including North Korea? A united heavenly Korea... Our center is Heavenly Parent and True Parents.

I will end my speech here by wishing that you be ambassadors for peace, blessed families and leaders who attend the center, just as the sunflower aligns with the sun, wherever you are and in all circumstances. Thank you very much. ☞



Rally for the Liberation of Patriotic Martyrs and Determination for North–South Unification

True Mother delivered this speech on June 24 in the Peace World Center to members of Heavenly Korea's Subregion one, which embraces the cities of Seoul and Incheon.

Dear Excellencies, political and religious leaders and blessed families from Subregion One, we have come together today wishing for the reunification of North Korea and South Korea. Isn't that true? We need to recognize the truth that the providence has been moving forward through this nation. The original owner of the universe is God. Our Heavenly Parent is the Creator. In his image, he created heaven and earth and human beings; he created a man and a woman to be the ancestors of humankind. God bequeathed to human beings a special growing period. Their responsibility was to grow and absolutely unite with God. After they fully matured, they would receive the marriage blessing and become the true parents of humankind. However, Adam and Eve, who were supposed to be the ancestors of humankind, became too ambitious in their growth stage [as if saying] I can also be like God! Today's fallen humanity began from that thought.

The omniscient and omnipotent God cannot disregard the principle of creation, which he established. That means God must absolutely complete what he has willed. His providence of salvation, the providence of restoration, based on indemnity and intent on finding humanity, which had lost the way, took an excruciating six thousand years.

Replacing the original ancestors

Heaven was searching for someone in the fallen world who could complete all the indemnity conditions and bring victory back to Heaven by becoming the true parents, humankind's original ancestors. Two thousand years ago, God prepared the Israelites and sent Jesus Christ. If sending Jesus was that arduous and difficult, how much of a foundation had to be built for a true parent to appear after the long period of four thousand years? God needed a foundation to send his only son, Jesus Christ, someone whom he could finally call his son. The Israelites and providential figures should have created a welcoming environment for Jesus. (Even Mary, who gave birth to Jesus, could not fulfill her responsibilities.) They did not understand Heaven's providence. They did not know what kind

of person Jesus was. Their ignorance once again caused God to feel sadness. Today's Christians believe that they receive salvation through the blood from the cross. How surreal and foolish is this? That sin caused their father, their parent who had come to bring salvation to the fallen world to die early. We cannot just sweep that mistake under the rug.

We know indemnity was part of the course of the Israelites of history. Even knowing this, God has never given up on humanity and has longed to embrace us. We need to remember this. However, after Jesus' crucifixion, we saw the start of Christianity, though it began with the Apostles and the resurrection through the Holy Spirit. The problem is that central figures have been leading the providence with human beings as the center, and the two thousand years of Christian history has seen repeated failures.

Even if I do not say everything, you all understand. Thus, God has been searching for a new people to bless with the birth of the only daughter that he had been unable to find. God cannot reuse the same people that did not fulfill their responsibilities, because there is indemnity left. Jesus died on the cross and said he would return, and with his return, he would hold the marriage supper of the Lamb. Those words mean that Jesus was originally supposed to attain the position of a True Parent. However, today's Christians do not comprehend Jesus' original nature. They are unaware of God's providence. Christians said they would take on God's will as an organization, but the Christian foundation stifled God. Communism appeared and declared there is no God. How terrible was that from a heavenly standpoint?

The true devastation of the Korean War

Today, I specifically want to talk about June 25. In 1950, along with the liberation of Korea, the country divided into two—North Korea and South Korea and the Korean War began. North Korea's communist regime had fully prepared for the invasion. However, South Korea, as a democratic country, was still developing. There weren't any strategies or countermeasures to respond to the threat of com-



munism. At that time, this country was still unknown to the world. Though the superpowers had divided it, people around the world had not heard of Korea. How was it that the UN Forces from sixteen countries mobilized their armies; men sacrificed their lives in this country? This is what we call a holy war. Do you think this happened by chance? You have to know what the Republic of Korea is. Before we can wish for unification on the Korean peninsula, we are a country indebted to the world. We have to live for the world's sake in gratitude. By the way, what are we thankful for? Economic power? Political power? No.

A hundred years ago, a great Indian poet, Tagore, wrote a beautiful poem about Korea. "In the Golden Age of Asia, Korea was one of the lamp-bearers. That lamp waits to be lighted once again for the illumination of the East." He wrote this when Japan was occupying Korea.

How can this country become the bright light of the East? We here need



The stage at the Peace World Center was decorated to fit the theme of the rally, recalling past successes with communist figures and symbolically depicting the yearning for unity of the Koreans. The event had begun with a chanyang session to liberate suffering spirits from various parts of the body in preparation to receive True Mother..

to know this. This nation must know God. It must understand the deep meaning of the lyrics in the national anthem, "God protect and preserve our nation. Hurray for Korea!" Why would God protect the nation? Because this country gave birth to God's only daughter, whom Heaven had been preparing for six thousand years in order to complete the providence. In compliance with the principle of creation, God must give his only daughter time to grow and mature. For a child to lead the providence as soon as she is born is not possible. Because of this, Heaven has to protect God's only daughter as she matures until she finds her own independence. Korea's liberation in 1945 and the Korean War breaking out in 1950 were results of my birth in 1943. That is also why Heaven will absolutely use this nation to fulfill God's providence and why the unthinkable miracle occurred of the UN Forces protecting our democracy.

I remember that in the evening of June 25, 1950, rain drizzled down, and

the procession of refugees was forming. We joined in the procession, but my grandmother had us return home, because her son was an army officer and he might contact us. Then, suddenly at dawn, my uncle drove up in a three-quarter-ton jeep and told us to get in quickly. We crossed the bridge over the Han River. Many of our soldiers were joining the procession, with no end in sight. Though I was a child, I clearly remember everything.

The nation God chose

There is no other path to victory for this country besides the nation uniting unconditionally with True Parents, because this is the country where True Parents are responsible for the fulfillment of the heavenly providence. Every time difficulties arise, Heaven protects us, this nation, through the True Parents. From the position of a middle-aged person who has grown beyond the first fifty years of her life, I say this country is the homeland of faith to people that have accepted God's providence. In light of that, I ask

all of you to convey this nation's dignity as a light to the world and take responsibility as a people whose families have received many blessings.

As Tagore suggested, that road is the light of truth. It is the true word. True Parents' teachings opened the era of the Pacific Rim civilization. The Asian region, centered on Korea, is moving toward the world with a revolution to bring about the culture of heart and with values based on true love. We will fulfill the dream of one family under God when humanity centers on our Heavenly Parent. The kingdom of heaven on earth is exactly that. Won't you all rise in Heaven's presence for the realization of a free, peaceful and unified kingdom of heaven on earth, in which no more conflicts, struggles or wars exist? I am going to conclude now. I once again pledge before Heaven that all of you in Subregion One will march forward hand-in-hand so we become a nation that can stand tall and proud before the world.

Thank you. ㄹ

Rally of Hope and Determination in Yeongnam for a Heavenly Korea





- ① True Mother speaking at the Busan Exhibition and Convention Center in Busan on May 27
- ② The event drew twelve thousand people.
- ③ Heavenly tribal messiahs are multiplying day by day; this group is receiving the symbol of a house in the spiritual world they obtained for their liberated ancestors.
- ④ Lee Ki-seong, president of FFWPU for a Heavenly Korea, addressed the crowd; Seo Byung-su, Busan's mayor, gave a congratulatory address; Baek Jong-heon, chairman of the Busan City Council also congratulated FFWPU and helped welcome True Mother to the city.; Pak Gil-nam, president of the Busan area subregion also spoke.
- ⑤ Youth representative, Bak Seol-hwa spoke on behalf of the young people who will lead the Korea of the future.
- ⑥ Couples received recognition as heavenly tribal messiahs at the event for having completed blessing 430 couples





- ① Representatives participate in reciting the Yeongnam Regional Resolution, which is to unify their country and promote world peace with one accord. Oh Se-chang, dean of the Environment University of Daegu, said he was honored to participate in the pledge and added, "Today, with this event, I am committed to practicing from now on the creation of a new country in my country that once again makes it a sweet home."
- ② Cheers of Eog Mansei! resound throughout the exhibition center.
- ③ Young people playing traditional, mainly percussion instruments lent a martial air to the rally.
- ④ One of the various musical expressions of joy at receiving True Mother in their city and determination that Busan area residents will work hard to see their nation transform into one where Heavenly Parent might dwell.
- ⑤ One couples' blessing of the 430 couples necessary to qualify as having earned the status of heavenly tribal messiahs took place before the main event. Pak Gil-nam, president of Subregion Five (Yeongnam) and his wife, conducted the event.



Rally for the Liberation of Patriots and for Korean Reunification



① A central concern of our True Parents, on earth and in heaven, is ending the separation of families that has gone on for generations since North Korea unilaterally barred access to the territory above the thirty-eighth parallel in 1948. This event was one to pray for the unification of the two Koreas, over which the blood of righteousness was shed, and it took place the day before the sixty-eighth anniversary of the invasion of South Korea by North Korean troops marking the outbreak of the Korean War.

② True Mother receiving a bouquet of flowers

③ True Mother told the assembled members, who had come by car and bus from Seoul and Incheon to be with her, "We will fulfill the dream of one family under God when humanity centers on our Heavenly Parent. The kingdom of heaven on earth is exactly that."





- ① Representatives are offering hyo jeong prayer wish papers.
- ② A variety of religious leaders appeared. The Buddhist monk and President Lee Ki-seong, in religious attire designed by True Mother, prayed.
- ③ Ju Jin-tae, head of Subregion One spoke of the indemnity that made True Parents' advent possible; Chung Sye-kyun, ex-speaker of the National Assembly read a congratulatory message; Kim Yeong-u, a national assemblyman, said, "I hope that the leaders who attended today will gather their strength to achieve unification." Moon Sang-pil, head of CARP Korea, was the master of ceremonies.
- ④ Their number and the quality of each of these opera singers' voices resulted in rich musical tones wafting out over the audience like a sea wave on a shore.
- ⑤ North Korean women danced and sang; one spoke passionately about the pain of being separated from her family.

- ① A resolution for unification of North Korea and South Korea.
- ② Second- and third-generation Unificationists gave hyo-jeong-themed speeches
- ③ Young people dance and sing the song "Absolutely"





The Winning Team in Cambodia

Servant leadership: God's strategy to restore the nation

By Laurent Ladouce



Several different types of minister lead God's work in Cambodia. The Bible defines a minister as a servant and servant leadership keeps our movement in Cambodia healthy. Traditional leadership generally involves the exercise of power by the one at the top of a pyramid, but in the early 1970s, Robert Greenleaf wrote about servant leadership, in which the servant-leader shares power, puts others' needs first and helps people develop as highly as possible.

I met several Unificationist figures in Cambodia with different profiles and skills but who practice common traditions of leading through showing the example and serving others. This limited article allows me to speak of only a few, which is unfair. Meeting them reminded me of Ephesians 4, which describes the different roles of ministers, "some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers... for building up the body of Christ."

Prophet and evangelist

Rev. Hajime Saito has blessed 721 couples, of which 563 did the three-day ceremony. His great passion now is to empower dozens of people

to do the same. He is forty, and at this stage of his life, God is using him as a prophet and evangelist in Battambang with a mission to break through in a tribal messiahship pilot project. The special envoy to Cambodia, he spends half his time in Battambang, a quarter of it on activities in Phnom Penh (mostly PR work and church meetings) and a quarter of it visiting other provinces.

Rev. Saito has accumulated vast frontline experience, raising funds, witnessing, working in CARP and now tribal messiahship. He is a good teacher, who focuses on internal guidance "a strong point of Japanese Unificationism," he said.

How did he become such a person? He has served the providence in Indochina for years, which may not be a coincidence. That is where his grandfather's destiny changed. His paternal grandfather was a Manchurian medical doctor who married a Japanese woman. When Manchuria was a Japanese colony, the Japanese Army sent him to India. After losing the battle of Imphal against the Allied Forces in 1944, most of the Japanese officers of the 15th division committed suicide, but his grandfather did not. He walked from Imphal to Burma, where people of the Chin State, who were Christian, saved him from dying of malaria. Back in Japan, his grandfather decided to convert. The only Christian community near him was the Russian Orthodox Church. "My father also became a doctor, as did my brother," said Rev. Saito "Three generations of doctors, but not me. I inherited two things from grandpa, I converted to the Orthodox Church and I love Indochina, where he received a new life. A few years ago, as a Unificationist, I had a chance to visit the Chin tribe. It took me thirty-six hours to get there from Yangon, Myanmar's capital."

He had been raised Buddhist but grew tired of the rituals. As a teenager, he was interested in philosophy and the literary works of Soseki Natsume (1867–1916) and Mori Ogai (1862–1922) a doctor and novelist. His attraction to novelists influenced by Western thought brought him gradually to the Christian side. "My grandfather, a Christian Man-



Rev. Hajime Saito and his wife praying for a family under their spiritual care

churian, managed to become the national president of the Japanese Medical Association. He talked to me about Albert Schweitzer, a theologian, composer and medical doctor. I thought that this man substantiated Christianity. Without knowing much about Jesus, I decided to receive baptism in the Russian Orthodox Church. Dressed in white, I was immersed in water and reborn as Hajime Andrei Saito. Shortly afterward, in 1994, a Korean man, now the special envoy to Bolivia, witnessed to me. He took care of me well; without him, I could not continue. I accepted the Principle and then entered a military academy, but instead of joining the Japanese Army, I became a soldier for God."

After some time in Europe, Hajime Saito entered Sun Moon University. He graduated in theology and North Korean studies, with the help of his spiritual father. In 2003, the Korean FFWPU Overseas Department sent him to Cambodia to work with Service for Peace. At that time, few Unificationists were in Cambodia, but many young people joined through Service for Peace. Some are now Cambodia's core members.

Rev. Saito's wife is Thai. In 2012, at

the age of thirty-four, he became the FFWPU leader of Indochina (Cambodia, Vietnam, Myanmar and Laos). When Cambodia became a strategic nation, he became the Cheon Il Guk special envoy to Cambodia.

Rev. Saito is an accomplished and eloquent leader, who knows Japanese, Korean and English fluently. Korean and Japanese Abel figures respect him. Our international headquarters consults him. He can communicate in Thai and Burmese and give public speeches in Khmer. For a person who serves as a prophet and evangelist, this "freedom of speech" is precious.

"Why do I focus on Battambang?" he mused. "For pragmatic reasons. To restore a nation, we have to bless 10 percent of the population. Cambodia has 15 million people. If I stay in Phnom Penh and ask myself how I can bless 1.5 million people, I become dizzy. If I have a base in Battambang and I want to bless 10 percent of Battambang Province, gradually we'd have to reach 100,000 people with a good team and the local leaders' cooperation. We began the activity without a clear vision of the follow-up but we are now making clear rules and have a consistent methodology."



True Mother recognizing Peter and Masumi Schmitat for their years of dedication and efforts in Cambodia

Apostle and pastor-counselor

Mrs. Masumi Schmitat, another figure in the Cambodian movement, is Japanese, like Rev. Saito, but with a different profile. She and her husband are the German national messiahs to Cambodia. “We moved from Camberg... to Cambodia,” she said with a smile. Camberg is the German movement’s training center. “Peter and I were responsible to maintain those facilities. Before that, I had been involved in the Saeilo providence. We tried to sell machine tools in Germany for many years.”

Her life in Germany belongs to the distant past. Masumi has spent about a third of her life in Cambodia. Here, she reveals two key points of servant leadership. “When Father asked volunteers from the seven providential nations to apply to be national messiahs in 1996, my husband and I knew that we were unqualified, but we could offer our sincere help since there were not enough volunteers. We had a consensus as husband and wife that we had to do it.”

In the beginning, Mayumi came occasionally to Cambodia in 1996 and 1997. She and Japanese volunteers started a blessing campaign. The first

person to receive the holy wine was their landlord. As the blessing campaign was gaining momentum, Masumi heard that the worldwide goal of 3.6 million couples had been reached.

In July 1997, Masumi witnessed Hun Sen’s coup d’état of his co-prime Minister Norodom Ranarith. “Through the windows, we saw people fighting in the street. I can’t remember being afraid. Rather, I observed that young soldiers were crying, afraid to lose their life.”

In April 1998, exactly twenty years ago, things changed, when the former Khmer Rouge dictator Pol Pot died. Masumi then decided she would stay in the country, no matter what. She received financial support from different sources to rent a house and have her four children move to Cambodia. What about Peter? “For sixteen years, Peter stayed in Germany, spending most of his time making money to support our family in Cambodia.”

Today, Peter lives in Phnom Penh, and his beautiful paintings decorate the walls of the headquarters. Their four children, who grew up in Cambodia, with no other second-genera-

tion members, are all blessed. Today, Peter and Masumi Schmitat feel concerned to guide the young couples in their married lives and in the education of their children. The transition from center life to married life is always a critical issue in the growth of our communities. As a senior and successful couple, Peter and Masumi can help a lot.

“It was not always easy. When my son Kai became a teenager, he would not listen to me anymore. His father was never there. He became addicted to video games. I quarreled with him often and finally, we decided to go to Cheongpyeong, where he changed completely. At the age of fifteen, he started to go to Thailand occasionally to do fundraising. His dream was to study in the US, and nothing would change his mind. Now, he is happily blessed.”

A few months ago, Kai invited his three siblings and their spouses to a resort in Cambodia, with Peter and Masumi. He paid for everything. On the tenth anniversary of their blessing, Kai’s wife wrote to her mother-in-law, “It’s hard to believe ten years have passed already and yet, I can’t imagine I ever lived without him. I



Sophal Chamroeun, national leader of the movement in Cambodia, is at the far left; Hajime Saito, FFWPU leader of Indochina (Cambodia, Vietnam, Myanmar and Laos) is fourth from the right and is holding his wife's hand and Tang Kimsruy, president of YSP Cambodia, is at the far right.

struck gold with this man!

The presence of the Schmitat family in Cambodia for twenty years is an important factor for the current blessing coming to the country.

Pastor and teacher

Many Cambodian members are still university students but some have completed their studies. As they form young couples and become parents, they need role models slightly above their age who have made a successful transition from missionary life to stable family life in a settled congregation. A congregation of core members needs shepherds who can guide for life, show the tradition, protect and lead by example. Political authorities, the media and scholars should see these shepherds as accountable and reliable, so that society can consider our movement a legitimate voice, especially in the capital city.

Sophal Chamroeun and Dr. Tang Kimsruy are two such Cambodian Unificationist leaders. Sophal Chamroeun is Cambodia's national leader. He is a man of the city, apparently born into the Cambodia's middle class; whereas Dr. Tang Kimsruy

comes from a poor family from rural Cambodia. Both have abilities to represent the movement among the elites in Cambodian society, and they hope to serve the long-term future of our movement.

Sophal Chamroeun went through the process of joining our movement in 2003 through Service for Peace activities. "At that time, I was studying business administration. We ran a project together, and then I attended Sunday service. After that, I went to a two-day and a seven-day workshop. In 2004, I had a year of training in Thailand, where I could learn fund raising and witnessing. After my blessing in 2005, to a Japanese sister, I completed my spiritual training on a Cambodian team traveling in Asia. We visited Singapore, the Philippines, Malaysia, Korea and Japan."

From 2014 until now, he has served as the national leader of FFWPU in Cambodia. While his wife coordinates the Japanese wives living in Cambodia and is involved in the education of the very young members of the second generation, Sophal is taking much time in doing administrative tasks, dealing with

legal matters and PR work. He has invested all his heart in the new headquarters project, which will open a new era of settlement.

"I try to see the whole, not always the details," he explains quietly. "I was quite alone for a while. I badly needed to share my heart and ideas with a partner and assistant. Dr. Tang Kimsruy is just that man."

Tang Kimsruy, born in 1986, is the sixth child and only son in a family of seven children. His parents are farmers. He grew up with a lot of support from his parents as well as from his five older sisters. All of his older sisters had to drop out of school early because they had to work to support the family. In 2001, he entered the Thbong Khmum High School (in eastern Cambodia) and in 2004, he entered the Royal University of Phnom Penh, one of the top public universities in the nation. This is where he met the Unification Church in 2005.

Tang Kimsruy felt a call to use his intellectual capacities and spiritual resources to contribute to the betterment of Cambodia. With this dream, he pursued further education in Korea. In 2011, he entered a master's



Second from the right is Tang Kimsrui, president of YSP Cambodia; fourth from the right is national leader, Sophal Chamroeun.

program at Cheongshim Graduate School, majoring in theology. He arrived in the wintertime with less than \$2,000 in his pocket. It was very far from being enough to pay for his studies and to live in Korea. Kimsrui began a new life in a foreign land without a substantial means of financial support, but with hope to succeed in this impossible mission, because the purpose was bigger than he was. His first challenge was language. He was admitted to the Korean Language class which is also not cheap, and he struggled with it for about a year due to his financial situation and tough schedule (both the master's course and Korean language program which, ran from Monday to Friday).

In the second year of his master's program, the financial burden prompted him to go off campus three days per week to work in jobs including part-time jobs—dish washing, assisting in a bakery, waiting tables in a restaurant, construction work and language interpreting. These jobs taught him a lot about how to be a true human being. Since those jobs did not pay enough, he decided to find a new way. One day, he thought, If I go to a wholesale market to buy some socks and sell

them to Korean people, I can get more money.

He tried it and was successful. By keeping his purpose in mind, he succeeded in obtaining a master's degree a year and half later. But in the summer of 2013, Kimsrui decided to take on another impossible mission, to pursue a doctoral degree in theology. It was even harder for him because while the scholarship the school provided covered 50 percent of the tuition fee, he still had to pay more than \$9,000 for the three-year course. While he started the doctoral program, Kimsrui also started his family life four years after his blessing in 2009 to Sayaka Tani, from Japan. In the years that followed, Kimsrui was in Korea, while his wife lived in Japan, eventually taking care of their two children.

To complete his four-year doctoral degree, Tang Kimsrui had to live alone in Korea. He never felt isolated from his family in Japan and his supportive community in Cambodia. Throughout those years, he learned to be a good human being, to overcome hardships, to appreciate people around him, to engage with families and friends and to be a good husband and father. Kimsrui could overcome these challenges because

he learned and practiced True Parents' teachings. Dr. Kimsrui's doctoral work relates directly to national restoration, from a theological but also political viewpoint. He chose the topic "A study on the concept and structure of the sovereignty of Cheon Il Guk."

Now, Dr. Kimsrui is back in Cambodia and feels determined to support True Parents' work. His dream is to spread True Parents' teachings and love to all Cambodian people. Now, his family is together, living in Phnom Penh among the Cambodian community. For Dr. Kimsrui, the priority of the providence in Cambodia is to educate young people clearly, so they understand the Principle and True Parents' teachings as well as family values. He said, "Based on the foundation of faith and on understanding True Parents' hearts and love for human beings from my personal experiences in Korea, I feel strong determination to take responsibility for educating Cambodian people to accept True Parents' teachings and I love building Cambodia as a God- and True-Parents centered nation." 

Mr. Ladouce is the French-language news presenter for PeaceTv.

Hyo Jeong Cosmic Blessing Ceremony in Zimbabwe

This is an inside look at the 2018 Zimbabwe Four-Thousand-Couple Hyo Jeong Cosmic Blessing Ceremony officiated by the True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind.

By George M. Ogurie

On Saturday June 9, some four thousand couples—members of the Apostolic Christian Council of Zimbabwe (ACCZ) under the leadership of Archbishop Johannes Ndanga—participated in the Hyo Jeong Cosmic Blessing of the True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind. The Blessing Ceremony took place at the Harare International Conference Center (HICC) in Harare, Zimbabwe’s capital city, under the watch of our beloved True Mother through her representative Dr. Yun Young-ho, secretary general of the Cheon Jeong Gung International Headquarters. This blessing marked the first stage in the accomplishment of the 40,000-couple blessing proposed by Archbishop Ndanga during True Parents’ birthday celebrations in February this year.

As early as 4:00 AM, ACCZ members, who had traveled overnight from faraway places in Zimbabwe such as Bulawayo, Rutenga and Gokwe began arriving at the blessing venue. Due to the nationwide spread of ACCZ membership, many participants from very distant places could not arrive at the venue on time. From 10:00 AM, preliminary entertainment had begun with singing and dancing by various church choirs. They sang

mostly in their native languages and sometimes the dances were quite acrobatic. Until after lunchtime, when the Blessing Ceremony eventually started, those singers and dancers had ample time to perform.

When it was time to begin the ceremony, a twenty-man band of drummers and trumpeters escorted Dr. Yun, Rev. Bakary Camara, chairman of the Heavenly Africa Regional Group; and the officiators, Archbishop Johannes Ndanga and Mrs Judith Ndanga into the hall, where participating couples had already taken their seats and arranged themselves well.

A preface to the ceremony

Rev. Mwalagho Kililo, president of Subregion East Africa, who served as the master of ceremonies, asked everyone to rise as the officiators entered the room. Everyone remained standing while the Zimbabwean national anthem and the Cheon Il Guk anthem played. Bishop Masumbikwa gave the invocation, and then Archbishop Ndanga gave his opening remarks.

The archbishop’s address was a profound explanation of the blessing. He started by pointing out the benefits of the blessing—the protection of

one’s family from harm, the establishment of a happy family, the bringing of good fortune to the family instead of misfortune, the fidelity and trust that builds between husband and wife, the assurance of eternal joy for all future generations as well as happiness and blessings. He also explained the meaning of the blessing with biblical verses such as Genesis 1:27 and 28 as the re-enactment and recovery of the original blessing given by God to the first human ancestors, Adam and Eve. Using additional Bible passages he went further to explain the process of the blessing, which consists of five steps. Throughout his presentation, he was full of praise and acknowledgment of True Parents as the ones who bring the blessing to humanity.

After his address, the archbishop himself administered the holy wine to twelve representative couples onstage, while the rest of the participants received theirs in their positions with the assistance of senior blessed couples—all members of ACCZ—in forty locations throughout the conference center’s large auditorium.

The ceremony flowed smoothly to the end with the holy water sprinkling, True Parents’ blessing invocation, the blessing proclamation and



- 1 Dr. Yun Young-ho, secretary-general of the Cheon Jeong Gung International Headquarters, speaking to the assembled brides and grooms with the aid of a translator.
- 2 The view of the stage and some of the assembled couples
- 3 Representative couples preparing to receive holy wine from Archbishop Ndanga.
- 4 The holy water portion of the Blessing Ceremony



presentation of flowers. Rev. Camara and Dr. Yun made some congratulatory remarks. Each in his own way, they expressed the hope that this is the beginning of a massive spread of the blessing in Africa. Ms. Wija Ghomsi gave a beautiful rendition of "Song of the Banquet" as a congratulatory song. Zimbabwe's national leader, Rev. Bosako Iyolangomo, led everyone in four thunderous cheers of Eog Mansei ending the ceremony. After the master of ceremonies had declared the Blessing Ceremony officially completed, members of the ACCZ choir quickly found their way back onstage and began another round of singing and dancing, which brought many people to join the choir for a free-for-all dance. This crowned the whole ceremony with excitement and happiness.

Five bishops and a chief

While waiting to begin the main Blessing Ceremony, Archbishop Ndanga had requested that some of his church leaders receive the blessing separately and privately in a small ceremony. So at about 9:30 AM Archbishop Ndanga led a Blessing Ceremony in the Rainbow Towers Hotel suite where he was staying. The following people participated: Chief Njelele of Gokwe District, Midlands Province and Mrs. Njelele; Bishop Sibanda and Mrs. Sibanda; Bishop Matenda and Mrs. Matenda; Bishop Matanhike and Mrs. Matanhike; Bishop Masumbikwa and Mrs. Masumbikwa; and Bishop Mabhena and Mrs. Mabhena, all of ACCZ.

I, as the president of Subregion West Africa (South) coordinated the ceremony and delivered a fifteen minute explanation of the blessing. While Rev. Bosako Iyolangomo and Mrs. Laura Lynn Iyolangomo administered the holy wine.

I emphasized the forty-day separation as a critical component of the process of the blessing. I described it as "sexual fasting," an important condition for God to unleash his blessings upon their families. I enjoined the bishops to take the forty-day separation and three-day ceremony seriously and to accomplish them, as this will give them the moral authority to guide their members to do the same.



This first phase of the four-thousand couple Blessing Ceremony was met with great enthusiasm and was a joyful coming together of people of faith.

They pledged to follow through on all the steps of the blessing. Afterward, PeaceTv interviewed four of them and they all expressed profound appreciation to God and True Parents for the opportunity to participate in the blessing. They also pledged to spread the True Parents' blessing far and wide in their nation, Zimbabwe.

Testimonies

On Sunday June 10, FFWPU members gathered at the Peace Embassy for Sunday Service. Both Dr. Yun and Rev. Camara were present. It was an opportunity for members to share testimonies and reflection on the blessing just held.

Rev. Kililo reported that the church leaders he spoke with all confessed that it is only through the True Parents' blessing that salvation will come to their nation. They want to move fast in bringing many couples to the blessing.

Sumi Wakasaka, a second-generation Unificationist from Zambia, serving as a youth missionary in Zimbabwe, requested that Dr. Yun convey the gratitude of second-generation members in Africa to True Mother for liberating Africa in Senegal. Through that liberation, doors are opening and through the blessing yesterday, more doors will open in other places, she said.

True Mother's expectation fulfilled

Rev. Iyolangomo testified about how much True Mother loves Zimbabwe. He explained that the venue where we held the blessing is the same that True Mother spoke in in 1999 during one of her world tours. At that time,

True Mother expressed the wish that we hold a big blessing at that venue. It was very touching for him to see that wish coming true and therefore he attributed the victory of the blessing entirely to True Mother's prayers and efforts.

Regarding True Mother's representative

Pastor Mulenga, from Zambia, who invested himself in mobilizing the ACCZ church members for the blessing, recounted the challenges he faced in arranging transportation to bring people and noted that it was a miracle that that number of couples could make it. He thanked Dr. Yun for coming and said that meeting Dr. Yun was like meeting True Mother.

Dr. Yun Young-ho gave the sermon for Sunday service. When introducing Dr. Yun, Rev. Camara, the regional group chairman, said that from what happened the day before, he expects the fire of the blessing to burn widely in Africa. He expressed gratitude that True Mother had sent Dr. Yun to light that fire.

Upon taking the podium, Dr. Yun shared with everyone a message from True Mother, saying that she was very happy with the blessing. Nothing can be a more profound testimony to True Mother's immeasurable grace, mercy, kindness and love. This brought tears to the eyes of everyone present.

Dr. Yun went on to describe all the remarkable things happening within the providence around the world. He also spoke of how True Mother has kept on top of everything. He testified that True Mother lived in total attendance to True Father throughout her life. If True Father slept for three

hours a day, True Mother slept even less because she would wake up an hour earlier to prepare for him. After True Father's ascension, True Mother offered sincere devotion to True Father for three years on behalf of all humanity. Dr. Yun testified that once he asked True Mother why she is pushing herself so much and working so hard. "True Mother, you should rest," he told her. But True Mother said, "I am the Mother of all humanity. I cannot rest until the foundation for the salvation of all humanity is firmly established." Her driving force is the fact that she is the Mother of humanity. Come what may, Cheon Il Guk nations will be realized according to True Parents' plans. We should be confident and proceed with our duties diligently. At the end of his speech, Dr. Yun presented a cash gift from True Mother to the Zimbabwean mission. We all posed for a group photograph to conclude the service.

Although the blessing was completely centered on Archbishop Ndan-ga and the Apostolic Christian Council of Zimbabwe, FFWPU leaders at the Africa Regional Group Headquarters, such as Rev. Abdoulaye Wone and Rev. Jean Augustin Ghomsi and their wives, Rev. Moruti Ledwaba, Mrs. Evelyne Chimfwembe, Zimbabwean members and other members from Zambia including the youth envoy and youth missionaries worked hard behind the scenes to make the event a success. Everyone's sincere input was highly appreciated. 

Rev. Ogurie is president of Subregion West Africa (South) for FFWPU for a Heavenly Africa.

One America

A Dream of Interdependence, Co-Prosperity and Universal Shared Values

Over the past eight years Mario Salinas, director of Universal Peace Federation-Honduras and Carol Pobanz of New Jersey, representing UPF-USA have collaborated in numerous cultural exchange projects between Latin America and North America. These are their reflections on the importance of unity of the Americas and the Caribbean.



At the recent African Summit, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, our True Mother, explained in her keynote speech that Christians were profoundly persecuted initially but later Christianity spread throughout Europe and that the center of civilization reached Great Britain. Britain developed but without a proper understanding of God, instead of living for others, it conquered others and took things away from its colonies. Even though the British were believers who began in the name of Christ, they failed to teach by example the essence of Jesus’ message—they failed to love their neighbors. In other words, they were unable to attend God as their parent and unable to love others as their brothers and sisters. Mother’s speech that day, though, does not refer only to Britain’s outreach in Africa. It might be said of any Christian nation or anyone of us who professes to be a Christian.

Carol—compelled to work in Latin America

Usually when people hear that I have been working in Central America, they ask me why. In order to answer that question, I need to go back a few years, to 1999. My oldest son was fourteen at the time and he wanted to go on a



Helping to build a peace park in Tela Honduras, which encourages people to think in new ways about the relationship between Latin America and the Caribbean and North America by employing the theme, Peace Park, Only One America (*Parque de Paz—Una Sola America*).

service project to Honduras with Religious Youth Service (RYS) UPF's youth service branch, but he was too young to attend the program. However, John Gehring, who was directing the project, said my son could attend if I (his parent) went with him. To sweeten the offer a bit more, he proposed that if I went along as a staff member, I could receive some compensation. So, I went on my first service project, and it was my first experience in a developing nation as well.

As I prepared, and as I pondered True Father's designation of the United States as "the eldest son nation," I thought about how I, as a representative of this nation, would go to "help" the poor people of Honduras, a "younger son nation." But let me correct this and more honestly describe that I planned to help the poor, (forgive me) ignorant people of Honduras. Clearly, here is the portrait of the "ugly American," professing an attitude of some kind of national superiority.

When I arrived in Honduras, I learned that we would help to clean up after Hurricane Mitch. One of the norms or principles of these service projects is to work together with the community in mutual cooperation. They assigned me to work with a

young Honduran boy, perhaps nine years old. He is nameless to me now but that little boy changed my life and perhaps my destiny. We were cleaning up trash together. Joyfully and enthusiastically, he was running with a very old, rickety wheelbarrow when suddenly the wheel fell off and it tipped uselessly to a halt. Great, I thought, now we need to go buy another wheelbarrow. Well, while I churned this dispirited thought through my mind, my young friend scanned the dirt and quickly found a piece of wire. He bent down, skillfully reattached the wheel and took off running again. Then arose the heart of my epiphany, in the form of a question: "Who is the ignorant one now?"

In that moment, my world changed. Through that experience, I realized that God has blessed every single one of his children with strengths, talents and intelligence and blessed us to be born somewhere on this planet—some in the United States, others in Honduras, others in South America, Africa, Europe or Asia, with varying environmental, cultural or national situations. We all embody the same humanity, have a unique relationship with our parent God and are all faced with a variety of challenges in our lives.

My Challenge

My challenge, though not a physical one at all, was in realizing that I had no idea I had an attitude regarding people from Central America or South America or anywhere else in the world for that matter. I had no idea that I was an "ugly American." I thought the ugly American was just some clueless person walking around on vacation in shorts with a camera around her neck, someone totally oblivious to the culture. I thought that because I knew True Parents and I knew the Divine Principle and because I understood God's love for us as our parent, I was beyond any kind of prejudice. The fact of the matter is that even in the unification movement we are blind to our own shortcomings. Just because we sit together in the same church, believe the same thing and call ourselves brothers and sisters does not mean we love one another as brothers and sisters.

So back to the original question: Why am I working in Central America? I am working in Central America because I want to overcome my ignorance and understand who my brothers and sisters are, what their lives are like and share in their experiences. I want to take religion out of the book and make it my reality. This is my



Carol and Mario in Honduras with volunteers working on the peace park project.

religious practice. Peace begins with me.

I want to understand God's will and then expand my understanding through my family relationships, through community caring and through national cooperation.

Mario—giving back on behalf of my nation

In my childhood, I often saw United States' volunteers, perhaps Christian missionaries or Peace Corps volunteers, coming to serve my nation. They were helping us most of the time, and we would stand by as mere observers. So, I idealized my future by thinking, "When I grow up, I want to serve other people like these people do and if possible, I want to go to their nations to return the favor."

I joined the Unification Church in Honduras, as a teenager, in 1977, as one of the first three members during the church's pioneer missionary period.

My story

In 1989, I had my first experience in international service projects with World Students Service Corps (WSSC) the service branch of the Collegiate Association for the Research of Principles (CARP) which was organizing a

service project with young people from around the world to serve a Mayan community in Guatemala, a neighboring country of Honduras. A few years later, RYS called upon me to organize projects in Central America. I began doing this in 1995.

As national project director, I met Carol Pobanz (the coauthor of this article) and her son in 1999, during the fourth service project in the Central America region, which we arranged in response to the enormous restorative challenges in the aftermath of Hurricane Mitch in 1998.

After that project, Carol and I created a very strong bond of heart and have been working cooperatively ever since the initial Honduras Project so many years ago. Our experiences and our stories match perfectly inasmuch as they reflect the nurturing of our hearts through truly experiencing global familial ties.

As Carol mentioned, as a Honduran I represent a younger brother nation, and I always feel the importance of following the righteous example of my older brother nation, the United States. Carol and I have worked together undertaking several service initiatives from 1999 until 2013. But it was not until 2015 that I saw my dream as a young boy come



US and Honduran students cooperated to create these sawdust carpets at the United Nations..

true, not only by no longer being a mere observer, but by actually participating in an activity to give back to the United States. I must point out here that my nation is not financially blessed, and my offering to the United States was not of any actual monetary value, but I could experience my personal value as a national representative by sharing the uniqueness of my culture.

In 2015, embracing the philosophy of mutual cooperation, Carol and I were able to bring a group of young Honduran artists to the United States for a cultural exchange project in her hometown, the township of Nutley, New Jersey. The Honduran youth were able to share an expression of their culture by teaching the United States youth the artistic process of creating the Honduran sawdust carpet (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sawdust_carpet). The carpet, which was twelve by twenty-four feet (3.66 by 7.32 meters) in size and communicated a desire for friendship between our nations, was the centerpiece of an all-Sunday Family Festival with participants from local churches, organizations, clubs and family groups. Also participating were some students from each of Nutley's elementary and high schools, as well as



Faithful people who wanted to ease the way and honor religious leaders (figures in the hierarchy of the Catholic Church) invented these "carpets" made of dyed sawdust and other materials for religious processions to walk on.

enthusiastic educational and political authorities, many of whom simulated the sawdust designs with chalk drawings on the pavement. It was a day of art, music, food and great fun. The event concluded with a Bridge of Peace ceremony connecting the Nutley mayor and me in brotherhood.

I can only express the importance of this experience by comparing it to dynamic family relationships. When a younger brother is grateful to an older brother for his care and love, the younger brother wants to express gratitude for that love. The younger one may not be able to reciprocate fully but he can perhaps make a card or write a thank-you note—something meaningful, yet lesser than the original gift. That's what the Nutley sawdust carpet became for us as Hondurans, a gift of gratitude.

In 2017, Honduran young people were able to share with another group of US young people, making of another sawdust carpet, only this time by invitation and with the cordial sponsorship of the permanent mission of Honduras at the United Nations under the direction of Ambassador Elizabeth Flores, who also hosted the event. In this case, young Hondurans and young Americans worked in cooperation to create a carpet at the

United Nations Headquarters in New York City, this time as a combined gift to the global community, especially commemorating the seventy-second anniversary at the United Nations on the UN Plaza on October 23, 2017.

Perhaps an example of Jesus' recommended practice mentioned in Matthew 5:24, "first be reconciled to your brother[s] [and sisters] and then come and offer your gift." This second carpet, though only a symbolic gesture (which we also offered to our Heavenly Parent and True Parents) represented for us the unity between the United States and Latin America. It was a united offering of a providential younger brother with the older brother on a global level at the United Nations.

I recall that peace starts with me, by my overcoming my shortcomings and misconceptions about other people and learning to appreciate another's differences and strengths. Peace also builds upon meaningful relations. Peace expands as we share our successes and inspire others to follow our example. Though peace may sometimes seem to be a fanciful dream, when we hold fast to our vision of an interdependent and co-prosperous world, hold fast to our universal values of love and respect

for each individual and culture and remain steadfast in our endeavor to fulfill those ideals, we are certain to realize our dreams. There is only one American family of brothers and sisters from the North, Central and South and the Caribbean. Let us make our dream become a reality!

Presently, Carol and I are continuing our work to inspire solidarity among young people by developing a Peace Park in Tela, Honduras. This three-year project, a peace park themed Only One America (*Parque de Paz—Una Sola America*) is being built by young people from the Americas, including the Caribbean and is meant to be a substantial reflection of humanity's hope of all ages, a world of peace. We began building this park in January 2017 and continued in August 2017 as Phase 1, parts 1 and 2 respectively. The schedule calls for Phase 2 to take place from this August 10–22. We are inviting young people from the United States and all of Latin America to join in building this model of American brotherhood.

You can find more information or apply to participate in this project by clicking the green bar at www.peaceinproject.com and then following the link. 

Clergy Members Respond Enthusiastically to Divine Principle

Peace Embassy in Harare hosts a three-day workshop

On the first of three days, May 1, the twenty religious leaders studied the ideal God intended to achieve at the time of the Creation as well as predestination. They appeared fascinated to learn about God's nature, the purpose for which he created and the nature of the spirit world. It was clear from their questions and comments that something was taking place. The Divine Principle view of predestination also seemed comforting for them.

On the second day, we did hoondokhae, a reading from *Cheong Seong Gyeong* about God's existence and his attributes. This helped them to begin to connect with True Parents, especially the part on how "the mysteries of the human body testify to God's existence." Learning about the Fall was transformative. They said that some may have had a hint about the Fall, but True Parents' full explanation about what happened—how and why it happened—was unprecedented. The doctrine of the Last Days was next. Presentations on Resurrection and the Mission of the Messiah followed. They moved from

shock to shock. The workshop challenged all their concepts and clarified their understanding. At the end of the day, they were all shouting, "This is what we needed!" We also studied the chapter, "Introduction to Restoration." Rev. Jean Augustin Ghomsi was using any opportunity to talk to them about the blessing.

Religious leaders at ease

The third day came with no apprehension at all. The hoondokhae was about "The God who needs libera-

tion." They could connect to True Father's life and heart of attendance to God. Then came the study of the three primary families—Adam's, Noah's and Abraham's. We studied a summary of Moses' and Jesus' courses and the Second Coming in the afternoon. As Rev. Ghomsi was teaching the Second Coming with a summary of the preparation for the Second Coming, the World Wars, etc., their eyes increasingly glanced at True Parents' picture on the left side of the wall in front of them.



Harare, capital of Zimbabwe, population 1.515 million



Members of the clergy, with deep Christian roots, embraced the fundamental teachings our True Parents have bequeathed to humanity.

When at the end, Rev. Ghomsi proclaimed True Parents to be the Messiah, the returning Lord and Savior, it seemed that to most of them it was a done deal. They said they now understand why the reunification of the two Koreas has been taking center stage in world news lately. Rev. Oliver Mandisodza, the president of Men of Valor, Purpose and Vision (MVPV) a network of religious leaders through which most of the participants came, said, "I believe that the reunified Korea will become a world superpower!" They watched two videos in to conclude the day, "Realizing the Dream of One Human Family" and "The Power of True Love."

Reflect on this powerful message

In the end, Rev. Ghomsi asked each one to pray about what they had learned during the three days and ask Jesus and God what they think about these teachings. He said, "Father and Mother Moon are the only religious founders who have succeeded in creating a worldwide movement in their own lifetimes, despite all the persecution and six imprisonments!

The kingdom of God is closer than ever in human history. You are today's John the Baptists for your churches. It is up to you whether you fail or succeed in fulfilling your portion of responsibility. We can change Zimbabwe into God's nation in two years! Please prepare your families for the blessing. Start to prepare your churches for the blessing. We are going to have more workshops like this, even longer ones. We hope to hear from you soon!"

Rev. Iyolangomo, the national leader, also thanked the participants for having taken time from their busy lives to attend the workshop. He encouraged them to get ready for the blessing. "We are going to organize more workshops. We count on you to spread the good news."

A marriage saved

Pastor Benny Makoni testified to the power of the blessing. In 2016, he was about to divorce his wife as he could not relate properly with her and she had come to church while he was preaching to accuse him of being a phony to all the congregants. Some members of the congregation started

leaving him afterward. He met Pastor Joseph Tegwere who spoke to him and his wife and encouraged them to go through the blessing process. "Since then, my marriage was saved and my wife and I are more harmonized than ever, thanks to the blessing and True Parents!"

To see that they could so easily accept the Divine Principle was electrifying. None of them argued. The questions they asked were only for clarification, in order to understand better. How the Holy Spirit is working! Gone are the days when people came to workshops with preconceived ideas and inflexible viewpoints. They all came to learn and they were keen in learning.

They have requested more workshops. They want their spouses to take part as well as other pastors or bishops they know. The presence of Bishop Kenneth Mawire was reassuring and encouraging for many of them. The power cut that happened in the early morning of the second day did not prevent the workshop from continuing. On the third day, by lunchtime, we had borrowed a generator to finish the workshop.



Rev. Oliver Mandisodza, Team Leader of MVPV, Men's Ministry

Generally the workshop was uplifting, inspiring and enlightening as it was progressive and included vast captivating experiences. The facilitator, Rev. Ghomsi, articulated the FFWPU vision and training content exceptionally well. It was indeed refreshing, uplifting, enlightening and easy to follow. Because of the whole new approach to the Bible and revealed truths pastors and leaders who attended generally approved FFWPU concepts of family and marriages vis-a-vis world peace and unification. We shall make sure next time we fill this place. As men, we have to take responsibility for this nation. I am looking forward to the blessing and I will encourage everyone else to also take part!

Bishop Kenneth Mawire, Founder of TransAfrica Evangelical Ministries International:

This is a very powerful teaching. I am happy about the way the workshop progressed. I believe God made me meet FFWPU for a purpose even at my old age. I am happy that God has shown me new teachings. I would like, if possible, to learn separately at my own pace all that I missed, as I could not follow all the lectures because people kept coming to my place for spiritual guidance during the three days. I am going to encourage everyone to also listen to these teachings. I will mobilize pastors in my network of TransAfrica Evangelical Ministries International. They have to listen to this. I will support the work of the Family Federation in whatever way possible. I heard that although I am a widower, I could be blessed also. We will see about that.

Mrs. Monicah Mutero, Renewal Fellowship Pastor's Wife:

This is awesome! Since the first day, I have been sharing with my husband. He has been busy but he is preparing to come also. This is what we needed. I wish I had known this earlier! I want this blessing. Please help me to convince my husband when he comes. I want to meet the Messiah in my life! When is Mother Moon coming to Zimbabwe? Keep up with the good work!

Rev. Rudo Zimonte, True Believers Tabernacle / Soul Travailing Ministries:

When I decided to come to this workshop, I did not know what to expect. I thought it was just another Bible class focused on the family and family problems. Thank you for the lectures. This was a revelation workshop. I just feel we needed more time. I am looking forward to the next workshop.

Rev. James Chikukwa, United Apostolic Faith (MVPV):

The teachings are very clear and straightforward. No one can deny this. It is biblical. We have been teaching wrong stuff to people. I want to study more. I need to be well equipped. Can we have books? Many of our church leaders are struggling with family breakdown and immorality. Seeing these American religious leaders embracing this vision is encouraging and mind blowing. We need this in Zimbabwe. Thanks for bringing this to Zimbabwe. I am delighted to be part of this. Please invite me for any future program.

Rev. David Kambasha, Gospel of the Kingdom Ministries (MVPV):

I am grateful to the Family Federation for this wonderful workshop. We have heard the message. It is very powerful and clear. I have been to Bible college. However, it was nothing like this. Here all is clearly explained. No taboos or doctrines but universal principles. I hope we are able to have books or literature to read in our own free time and deepen our understanding.

Rev. Lameck Madzimure, Churchlife Ministries:

The workshop was good and very helpful. I just wish the finishing time could be 4:00 PM instead of 5:00 PM to allow those who live far away to go back on time. It is a helpful thing if the organization continues giving us such a wonderful workshop every month. God bless you in abundance, in Jesus' name.



In the past, Christian leaders in Zimbabwe were skeptical about FFWPU and our message, but as the testimonies recorded here will demonstrate, times have changed.

Rev. Mai Francisca Mushure, Oil of Joy Ministry for Marriages and Family in the Church of the Living God (MVPV):

I was impressed by all topics covered during the three-day workshop and my wish is for the number of days to be increased and the information to be on handouts for self-evaluation. Topics covered were all relevant and applicable to my personal life, my family, community and country. As a woman, I was challenged to be part and parcel to the ministry of preaching and uniting families. The information which we deliberated on should not only be known by pastors/leaders; it must be advocated to all as yet all are living in disobedience.

Who is answerable to people's blood and suffering? Advocacy should be extended to communities, families, even the street kids flocking our cities because of life's hardships. Our planning team should look around and advocate church leadership, community based programs to combat the drunkenness and committing of other sins. There should be a federation in all our nations to speak with one voice.

Human and material resources should be mobilized and spread with the goal of spreading the workshops to all provinces, districts, wards etc., nationwide and beyond our borders. This should not be limited to churches but should be a national community-based program for unity and peace to prevail.

Rev. Catherine Chikukwa, Rock Assemblies Ministry (MVPV):

I really enjoyed the workshop. I have no problem accepting Father and Mother Moon as the Messiah. Two years ago, I received a brown envelope in a dream. When I opened it, there was a picture inside. When I looked at it, it was a picture of a couple and underneath the couple were some writings in a language I could not read. The first day when I arrived here, as I was going to the toilet, up the stairs, I saw something on the wall. It was exactly the same picture I received in the envelope two years ago with the same message written in a language I could not read, only this time, there was an English translation of the message. I realized that I was in the right place. The lectures just came to confirm it to me. I am grateful to God to have shown me the way. I am looking forward to learning more.

Miss (Intercessor) Abigail Zhakata, Jesus Reign Ministries:

Shalom. The workshop was educational and inspirational. The Fall of Man makes me want to read more of the word of God and live it. It taught me to live a fulfilling life because it is not about me but him who loves me. 

A Visiting Friend Reminisces

The following describes an FFWPU-Milano and UPF-Monza Gathering in Monza, Italy, on May 13, which covered everything from Unification Thought to Sherlock Holmes.

By Renato Vallone

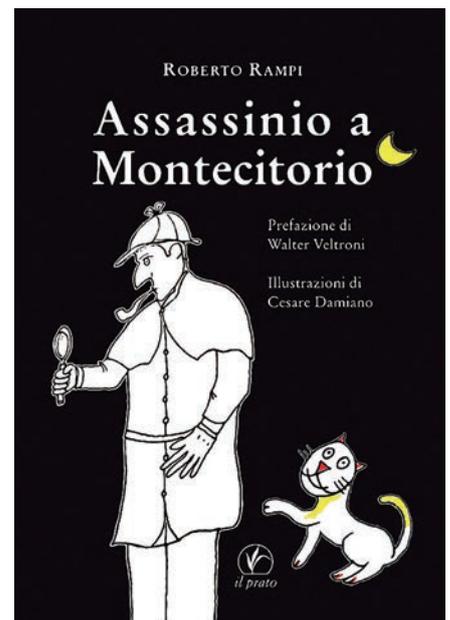
Promoted by FFWPU-Milan and the UPF chapter of Monza (a city located in Milan's hinterland) a meeting was held on Sunday May 13 with Roberto Rampi, who has attended several international meetings organized by UPF, IAPP and WFWP.

The meeting started with a video of the song performance, "Every Praise," and we immediately found ourselves in the Wiener Stadthalle, clapping our hands and singing in the spirit of the Peace Starts with Me event. Adosco Comito, pastor of the Bergamo community, whose members had also been present at the event in good number, offered the initial prayer. Carlo Chierico, president of UPF in Monza, as well as UPF national vice-president, in the role of master of ceremonies, presented what we would immerse ourselves in that day and introduced the senator and philosopher Roberto Rampi, who was greeted with a warm applause of welcome from the large audience present.

Senator Rampi, among the founding members of IAPP in Italy, spoke enthusiastically, conveying to all those present his heartfelt engagement in the various meetings he has participated in. He began speaking of his first experience with us in Sep-

tember 2014 when he attended the convention, "Education to Peace," organized by UPF Monza and covered everything up to the last, very recent experience in Vienna with True Mother. Along the way, he took us through the experiences in Seoul, London and other places. His testimony impressed those who were present for the enormous value he attributes to the work of promoting dialogue and world peace carried forward by True Mother through the numerous organizations True Parents founded.

Senator Rampi expressed his gratitude to UPF for having given him the opportunity to be present in these international meetings, at which he was able to meet and make friends with legislators and prominent figures of the religious community and civil society, coming from around the world for the sake of universal peace. Moreover, he emphasized that this work has to spread and can be carried forward in every nation by those who are elected representatives of the people, namely legislators. He sees dialogue with those in other political parties as an opportunity for general improvement and promotes UPF's vision to politicians of other parties. Furthermore, he highly values the



Senator Rampi writes historical fiction. This is a mystery novel he penned in 2016.

precious work of women, attributing to them a fundamental role in the process of reconciliation.

The significance of Sherlock Holmes

Audience members addressed many questions to Senator Rampi and he answered them with the great sincerity and passion, which animates him, sharing many personal experiences



From Left: Pastor Vallone, Senator Rampi and President Chierico (UPF): The connections we make with people in society are the result mutual effort. Those we contact are certainly trying as hard as we are to make friends and to find ways we can cooperate on projects of mutual interest. Senator Rampi graduated with a degree in Theoretical Philosophy from the University of Milan and went on to further studies in this area, which suggests a deep interest in understanding people who differ from him.

that generated in the audience a strong sense of hope for the concretization of the vision of going beyond the logic of division in politics.

Then Senator Rampi briefly presented his book *Omicidio a Montecitorio* [Murder in Italy's Chamber of Deputies] a short but intense novel set in the 1940s and having as its protagonist Sherlock Holmes; a rather enjoyable book to read, some of which he then signed dedications to for the many participants who asked for a copy.

Afterward, referring to the concept of politics shared by Senator Rampi, viewed as an active expression of the culture of service to citizens, Renato Vallone, a pastor in the local community, illustrated the basic concept of his

web site www.amailtuolavoro.com (Love your work) a spiritual vision of work and of the related corporate social responsibility based on the figure of the principle-knowledge-worker champion, who is a catalyst of creativity and of character development as well as a promoter of the culture of service and of excellence through the implementation of spiritual intelligence (S. I.) which is innate in every person.

With reference to Unification Thought, Pastor Vallone mentioned the S. I. spherical model of systemic development based on the multiplicative interrelation of the four (inner and outer) different types of four-position foundations. In a time of great global interconnectedness and opportunities,

people are calling on leaders in all areas of human endeavor to reflect profoundly on the applied logic of governance and on the results that their choices are generating and to invest in a model that promotes the benefits of a creative cooperation with a widespread acceptance of responsibility through the application of spiritual intelligence, which stands on a foundation of heart and on related principles. True love, to live for the sake of others, is the "unit of measure" for work; and principles, being absolute, are the necessary logic undergirding a sustainable systemic development upon which great general prosperity can result. The "love your inner and outer work" logic is the personal spiritual dimension of social transformation; we bring it with us in any workplace we enter. Based on this world of happiness, as True Parents have shown us, the vision of peace and unification manifests.

The morning, much appreciated by all those present, ended with the sharing in joy and friendship of a rich buffet prepared by the participating families. ☪

The Debating Chamber in the Palazzo Montecitorio; Senator Rampi was once deputy to the Chamber of Deputies for the Democratic Party,



Rev. Vallone has been the Unificationist pastor in Milan since 2015.

A Gathering of Interfaith Ambassadors for Peace

By Armando Lozano

One of the wonderful moments of our events is the break time, a relaxed moment when friends can relate to one another, coffee in hand, beyond boundaries of religion, age, race or culture. I witnessed this in our last UPF meeting in Vienna at the end of April. As I watched people socializing with one another, I thought, Why don't we convert the breaks into a program? I then realized that though many of our religious friends have been loyal participants in our projects (some for more than twenty years) they do not know one another much. I felt the absence of an interfaith, loving UPF family. Therefore, the plan was simple: I proposed to the one hundred speakers we'd had over the last ten years to come for a relaxed event with many tempting foods and drinks and plenty of time to get to know one another. Several told me they could not fully understand the program but at the same time, it intrigued them. Speakers tend to be busy people. Getting them together on a Tuesday evening seemed improbable, but finally twenty-three of them came. They were touched by the experience and expressed the



desire to have more “inter-spiritual family” events in the future. They will promote the idea to other religious leaders. We did not open the event to the public. Our other programs do that. We just invited several other Unificationists to help and to enjoy a unique event.

Of course, religious people cannot meet just for eating, especially during Ramadan! We had to add a few extra spiritual goodies to make it exciting. Our friends usually have so much to offer, they don’t just talk.

In the first part, our Sikh friends guided us through a mantra and a Catholic priest, who is a nationally renowned poet, recited two poems. Our Shia friend recited an Islamic text, which was comparable to hearing deep Flamenco singing. A Catholic theologian, considered a top Liberation theologian in Spain

and Latin America, prayed strongly. I gave a presentation on our inter-faith projects and our international events.

After that, we had a break with enough food for a hundred people. A beautiful moment came while taking a group picture with the brothers and sisters we have worked together with for such a long time. We closed with different prayers—Jewish, Tibetan Buddhist, Anglican and Catholic. For the final prayer, we held hands and ended by raising our hands, pointing our palms toward each person and wishing that he or she receive God’s blessing. To look into the eyes of each person in the circle and give that blessing fully intent on their receiving it—taking our time—was moving.

I was glad to see among us five prestigious Catholic priests (profes-

sors and theologians) and several lay Catholic leaders. One of my main concerns in the interfaith outreach here is to overcome misunderstandings with our Catholic brothers and sisters, who are the country’s spiritual foundation. We need to work together for society’s wellbeing. Besides the Catholics, we had an Anglican minister, a Mormon bishop, a Jewish synagogue director, Sunni, Shia and Sufi Muslims, several Sikhs (among them the president of the European Sikh Council) a Zen master, a Tibetan monk, a few yoga teachers and the president of the Spiritualist Association of Spain. They expressed how others’ sincere hearts had moved them and how they felt God’s presence in this unique gathering of peace loving people. *☞*

Mr. Lozano is head of UPF-Spain.



Helping Lower a Nation's Risk Level

Beninese members serve their nation

Because the government of the Republic of Benin is responsive to the circumstance of Beninese citizens, it is concerned about the state of the people's health and worries about environmental factors that are causes of disease and unpleasantness. Beninese members have participated in helping their nation become a cleaner and healthier place to live and work.

From some past time, many of us have become accustomed to some pollution in our environment. We focus on our daily activities and move through polluted surroundings. From time to time with great intensity and suddenness incidents occur that remind us just how harmful pollution is to our environment and to ourselves. What follows are descriptions of the three most notorious cases.

Belgium in 1930

Medical professionals and other scientists have long been aware that polluted air is bad for health. One of the first experiences that brought that fact to light was a thick fog that afflicted inhabitants of Meuse Valley, Belgium, in 1930. Meuse Valley today, in the south of Belgium, is an area of dense

In Meuse Valley, Belgium, in a 1930 incident, thousands of terrified people scrambled up into the hills to avoid the toxic air.



forest, with quaint riverside buildings hugging a shore that features rocky limestone cliffs. In 1930, Meuse Valley had a heavy concentration of industrial enterprises; the area described below was home to four coke ovens, three steel mills, four glass factories and three zinc smelters as well as establishments that manufactured explosives and fertilizer.

In 1930, December 1–5, a thick fog covered much of Belgium. In Meuse Valley, between the towns of Huy and Liege, thirty-four kilometers apart, people had much trouble breathing and began developing serious respiratory problems. The fog was thickest on the third day. It appeared as if whole swaths of people had suddenly developed asthma. People in the area also felt nauseous, some vomited. Naturally, the noxious fog affected the old and the weak most seriously but even the young and healthy were wheezing. People experienced shortness of breath, fluid formed in their lungs to the degree that their skin took on a bluish tinge, their breathing sped up alarmingly and their spit turned foamy. Nausea and vomiting were widespread symptoms but the only poisonous substance they had shared among them was the foul malodorous air. No food or drink contributed to this tragedy, just the air on which human beings depend for life.

During the course of days four and five, sixty people died. The highest number of deaths occurred in Engis, population 3,500. In later years, scientists gleaned from newspaper descriptions of forty-eight of the dead that those victims were between twenty and eighty-nine years old. Twenty-seven were male and their average age was fifty-six; the average age of the twenty-one females was seventy. The fog affected all of Belgium but doctors found poisonous particulates in the bodies of only those living in a valley where factories spewed those particulates into the open air. For the first time, scientific evidence showed the extreme threat to health that accompanies environmental pollution.

The United States in 1948

Similarly, a poison-laden fog descended on citizens of Donora, Pennsylvania, population fourteen thousand, in late October eighteen years later. The fog itself blanketed an immense area from the Northeastern to the Midwestern United States. In many towns and cities in that vast area, the fog adversely affected people—planes could not take off, traffic slowed and car accidents occurred due to low visibility. The fog inconvenienced people elsewhere, but people died in Donora.

The fog remained from October 27 to 30 in Donora and the nearby town of Webster, where heavy industry had been attracting workers since the turn of the twentieth century. They worked in the Union Steel Company mill producing metal rods and in the American Steel and Wire Works. Some worked at a zinc plating plant. Sometime after the zinc plant opened, the grass on the nearby hill died and none grew there again. The air was often bad, but the residents endured it because they needed the jobs that the steel industry provided.

The switchboard at the local telephone exchange began lighting up as the effects of the polluted air worsened; people were calling doctors to report shortness of breath. Some suffered heavy coughing but others could barely breathe. They kept the town's thirteen doctors busy and the local fire department sprang into action, rushing to homes—not to put out blazes but to carry an oxygen tank to aid the most serious sufferers. Within a span of twelve hours, seventeen people died. Three more died later. Out of a population of fourteen thousand people, six hundred became very ill and ten percent of the population sought medical attention.

The zinc-plating plant in Donora, Pennsylvania, produced pollution that was the main cause of the deaths that occurred.





Below left: A memorial to the tragedy that occurred in Donora; *Right:* In most extant pictures of the smog that killed thousands in London in 1952, discerning images in the dense gray mist is hard; this may have been taken outside the city or at the beginning of the catastrophe.

In a letter of complaint she wrote soon after the tragedy, Mrs. Lois Bainbridge informed Pennsylvania's state governor that the company bosses had talked for years about moving the zinc works away from populated areas. She continued, "Perhaps, this will awaken some of those high officials, who have built beautiful homes outside of Donora, where vegetation still grows."

Temperature inversion

Normally, as the sun warms cool air near earth, that air rises and cool air descending from high elevations replaces it. In rare instances, in what is known as temperature inversion (or anticyclone) which occurred in the tragic cases in Belgium, the US and the UK outlined here, dense stagnant fog blocks out the sun, preventing it from heating the air, which doesn't rise. Being trapped near earth, the air takes in an increasing amount of noxious gases as each hour passes. Fortunately, on November 1, 1948, rain poured down on Donora and Webster, Pennsylvania.

London, England in 1952

As was the case with Belgium and with Donora in the US, the city of London is in a valley, the Thames Basin, formed by the River Thames. Being in a valley is a factor in temperature inversion; the surrounding hills impede airflow. In London, the chalk hills to the city's north and south added to air stagnation when the other elements of temperature inversion were present.

About 8.6 million people were living in the Greater London area on December 5, 1952, when the densest fog any Londoner had ever seen descended on the city. The temperature was just below freezing. Visibility was below sixty feet (eighteen meters) and in some places it did not exceed twenty feet (six meters). The poisonous fog pervaded London during a time when many people were suffering from influenza. By December 13, four thousand people had died, from the poisonous smog alone or in combination with other factors. At the annual Smithfield Show, held that year at Earl's Court Exhibition Centre in Earl's Court, London, where the hardiest cattle, sheep, pigs, poultry and other livestock win prizes, even some cows died. In the year that followed, perhaps another eight thousand people died, as the poison residing in their bodies continued to do damage, or fighting against the poison lowered a person's resistance to some fatal disease.

That cumulatively so many people, in an effort to stay warm, burned coal in their home fireplaces, the fumes rising through chimneys, was later deemed a major factor in the air becoming toxic. Temperature inversion kept a lid on the city preventing those deadly fumes from dissipating. The Greater London area in those days also had factories that produced similar products as those in the Meuse Valley and Donora. Additionally, on July 5 that year, London had retired their electric trams as public transportation, replacing them with five thousand diesel-burning buses.

Serving the nation

This is all to say that pollution is not unique to Benin, though like most other nations, Benin suffers from it. From the above examples, we can see how dangerous pollution can be and how seriously we all ought to be about eliminating it.

On June 1, their nation's Arbor Day, members of UPF and the Family Federation in Benin conducted a project to reduce the amount of environmental pollution in their nation. Their report to PeaceTv stated the following:



Below left: The national leader of Benin, Emmanuel Allognon, accompanied by an ambassador for peace is presenting a moringa plant to a government official in Aplahoué, population 180,000; *Right:* The roots are edible and taste like horseradish.

As part of a project against pollution in Benin, UPF-Benin and FFPMU-Benin, in concert with a government program, developed a project to plant moringa saplings. For this, we went to three prefectures and gave a lecture to authorities from May 15 to 28. Our aims are to contribute to the fight against pollution and contribute to the health and socio-economic development of people living in three prefectures, Couffo, Zou and Littoral and seven communes, Zagnanado, Ouinhi, Zogbodomey, Akpro-Missérété, Grand-Popo, Abomey-Calavi and Kpomassè. At each stage, we explained to the authorities why we had chosen the moringa tree.

In accordance with the Action Plan of the government of Benin, UPF and FFPMU in Benin, have developed a project of cultivating moringas. We donate some of these plants. The project serves two purposes, fighting pollution and contributing to improving health conditions and promoting socio-economic development of the local population. At each stage, we explained to the authorities the good qualities of the moringa tree. Indeed, in addition to other widely known medicinal virtues, moringa leaves have a strong carbon dioxide absorption capacity, which helps to fight against environmental pollution. Everyone we approached seemed touched by our gesture of donating and the explanations we provided. In the commune of Zagnadado, where we donated two hundred moringa plants, we commissioned the mayor and two deputy mayors as ambassadors for peace. Benin, a nation of about ten and a half million people, is home to about one thousand five hundred FFPMU members. The country is French speaking and poor, but along with Senegal, Ghana, Zambia, South Africa and Namibia is among the most democratic nations in Africa.

Moringa oleifera

The moringa tree has attracted great attention for the great variety of problems it is a solution for. In one study, scientists at a veterinary college interviewed farmers to ascertain which natural medicines the farmers rely on to rid pigs, chickens and goats of parasites. They discovered that farmers relied on ten different natural remedies. The scientists recorded the part of the plant or tree used as a natural medicine in all ten remedies and the process the farmers used to prepare each, which was either pounding into a powder, heating and pounding or decoction (extraction by boiling). The scientists did a controlled laboratory study. They diagnosed pigs, chickens and goats suffering from barber pole worms, made a culture including the parasite and compared the effectiveness of various natural remedies in killing the worms. They recorded the part of the plant used and the dosage and compared the effectiveness and the speed at which an animal became free of the infestation. In a field of ten competing medicinal products, moringa oleifera proved the most effective against worms in pigs and chickens and the third most effective in goats.

The moringa tree has applications far beyond curing animal diseases and ailments. According to Wikipedia, humans boil the leaves and eat them or dry and crush them as a flavoring. Having compressed moringa seeds to extract the oil, which scientists are studying as a possible biodiesel fuel, the remaining mass of crushed seeds has proven to have qualities that purify polluted water. The living trees themselves have also proven effective in countering air pollution. Governments the world over are studying ways to use the efficacious qualities of this tree, which our fellow members in Benin have offered to various governmental agencies throughout their nation. 

This is based on an article submitted by FFWPU-Benin.

