

Family Matching Handbook





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INTRODUCTION

This Family Matching Handbook is a work in progress. This first edition will be continually revised and developed based upon practical experience and feedback, with relevant sections changed or added. But while previous guidebooks have focused upon the internal, spiritual aspects of the process, this handbook breaks down the challenge of matching our children and guiding them toward a lasting, God-centered marriage through a step-by-step process. It is not intended as a rulebook or absolute mandate, but provides ideas, recommendations and experience-based insights for candidates and parents to develop a clear plan for approaching the matching process.

The process and policies outlined in this handbook are based upon the new international matching guidelines developed under the guidance of HSA-UWC International President Hyung Jin Moon. The information and resources come from the experience of successful parent-guided matchings, and some of our most capable and experienced matching advisors. USA President and Senior Pastor In Jin Moon has shared deeply about the matching process, in her sermons and in guidance given to Blessed Children and BFD Representatives. These insights have guided the development of this handbook, and some are included, as well as those of our

International President. The teaching of our True Parents, the owner of lineage and founder of the Blessing tradition, are the foundation of this manual. Some key excerpts from Father's words are also included.

The result is a tremendous resource for parents who are entering the matching process, or those who have struggled to find the way to accomplish it successfully. Unfortunately, some of this book's most important lessons have been learned from painful mistakes made in ignorance. We are confident that parents will find inspiration, encouragement, confidence, and a wealth of wisdom about aspects of the matching process that they may never anticipate by themselves.

Young adult candidates can also learn a lot from this handbook. It provides clear ideas on how to prepare, and to know when I am ready to begin. It offers helpful tools and suggestions for the sometimes uncomfortable process of getting to know a prospective match, and the daunting task of figuring out whether we should be together for eternity! Doubts about the matching process; fears about how to make it work; struggles to trust the authority of parents; desires to take a more active role in the process; all these and more are addressed in these pages. We encourage parents to study it together with their adult children.

This particular handbook, we believe, provides the most clear, step-by-step, practical guide to the matching process ever published. We are pioneers of a new

tradition of matching and Blessing, inherited from our True Parents beginning in 2001. Many of us felt ill-prepared and overwhelmed by this responsibility, and wished that True Parents would continue to take this responsibility instead of us. Some mistakenly thought that parents were simply supposed to tell their children whom to marry, without knowing their situation and level of faith. Others simply suggested that their sons and daughters find someone whom they liked or wanted to be with, and recommend that person to the parents.

But none of these approaches will accomplish the great responsibility that True Parents have bequeathed to our families. It is our conviction that this handbook can assist our families in their holy task.

Finding God's Heart and Motivation

In fact, God's original design is that children grow in the love of their parents, develop a strong sense of identity and value in that love, develop their character and capacity in family relationships under that love, and find their eternal spouse through that love. This should be a more powerful process for God's presence than any distant authority, even True Parents. When Father matched the earliest Blessed Children in 1986, he told them that he was only doing it on behalf of their parents, and that eventually we would grow into that responsibility and role. Now is that time.

The romantic love we see in western culture is a relatively recent trend, especially as it has eroded into selfish love through free sex, cohabitation without commitment, and the separation of sex from responsibility for its implications and outcomes. Romantic love has been the least successful basis for lasting marriage in history. Many more cultures have established enduring marriages based upon parental involvement and matching. Little more than 100 years ago in America, if a young man wanted to court a woman, he was expected to seek her parents' permission. Dates were chaperoned, sex before marriage was scandalous (for women at least), and divorce was almost never considered as an option.

But those times and traditions are also connected with unhappy marriages, male dominance and double standards, secret abuses, and more. Parental matching in traditional cultures was often driven by desires for position, status, money, personal advantage or other selfish and narrow interests.

The motivation for Parents' matching in our tradition is God... bringing our Heavenly Parent joy, fulfilling God's original ideal. Our challenge is to find that heart and motivation, and create the conditions and process that will allow God to be present to guide it.

How do we as parents, and our children as candidates, get to that place in our hearts to create such a process? We believe this simple handbook, when read thoroughly and considered prayerfully, will

help guide and inspire each family to get there. We look forward to your feedback and suggestions from experience, and promise to work hard to continually improve its content and relevance.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The BFD wishes to thank Rev. Hyung Jin Moon, who created the new international guidelines, and our beloved Rev. In Jin Moon, who inspired and empowered us to develop a more healthy and thoughtful matching process. We are grateful to Marjorie Buessing, Michael Brunkhorst, Chen Fong, Harumi Gondo, Debby Gullery, Kyunga Connery, Margret Orr, Sandra Lowen, Cheryl Wetzstein, and the many others whose comments and suggestions helped to shape this first draft.

Rev. Phillip Schanker
National Blessed Family Ministry

OVERVIEW OF MATCHING PROCESS AND GUIDELINES

Every parent and candidate should become familiar with the policies, qualifications and process outlined below. Details for each step are provided throughout this handbook.

I. Important Policies

- A. Establishing a parent-centered process. If for any reason parents cannot be involved, matching advisors, advocates or other mentors will support.
- B. Allowing for and respecting each candidate's input in the matching process.
- C. Assuring the couple's ownership of their matching decision.
- D. When seriously pursuing a possible match, one candidate and family at a time.
- E. Full disclosure of candidates' situation and background—no secrets or hidden past.



II. Recommended Qualifications for an Applicant to Become a Candidate

- A. Matching Age—18 minimum to begin; 20 or 21 is recommended. Parents can begin the planning process earlier, and should be supporting and communicating with their child throughout. Parents should not involve their adult child in the matching process or begin communicating with other families until their child indicates he or she is ready.
- B. Divine Principle Education—to the level of 7-day content; deeper (21 or 40-day) is preferred
- C. Completion of Application Process by Candidate—with parents' support. If candidates don't participate, they are not ready.
- D. Completion of a Purity Interview—with District Pastor or representative. There is a path to the Blessing for every Blessed Child; that path also depends upon their situation.
- E. Completion of a Blessing Workshop—Level 2, for matching candidates.

III. Recommended Stages of the Matching Process

A. Preparation

1. Parents' spiritual and educational preparation
2. Candidate qualification and preparation
3. Developing a Family Matching Plan with your adult child
4. Practical and financial preparation

B. The Matching Process

1. Finding candidates
2. Choosing one candidate and family to consider a match with (one family at a time)
3. Recommending a candidate to your adult child, once all parents are in agreement
4. Clear communication between the couple and ownership of their decision. 4-7 months minimum is recommended for this, with a maximum of one year if the process becomes stalled. Candidates are free to say yes or no at any time in cooperation with their parents. This is not simply like dating, as prospective

couples should be developing a deeply intentional friendship.

5. Finalizing a match or re-entering the matching process with another family, after reflection, preparation and reconfirming your family plan .

C. Becoming a Couple

1. Planning a commitment ceremony
(take time and develop this together, 3-4 months is OK)
2. Holding a commitment ceremony, reporting and announcing the match
3. Growing as a couple, with objective support from parents
4. Participating in the Blessing Ceremony



TRUE PARENTS' and TRUE FAMILY'S GUIDANCE

Guidance from True Father

The Value of the Blessing

“In the entire life of True Father, do you know what the most valuable thing I can imagine is? It is the Blessing. For all of you, the ultimate gift in human history is the Blessing. The value of the Blessing cannot be exchanged even for the world. The Blessing is one man and one woman, centering on God’s will, becoming true father and true mother, producing true love.”

“Your ideal partner is the person who will be your companion on the road to the ideal world.”

“The perfection of a man and woman’s love is the perfection of the universe. The day this love was broken, the universal order was destroyed and the vertical world was broken. Therefore, you must know how important marriage is from the providential viewpoint. Through true love, man and woman gradually get closer to the center of the eternal world. Man and woman centering on God will unite into one in the center. Man and woman centering on God,

giving and receiving love, will become one and will give birth to sons and daughters. Sons and daughters who are born as the fruit of love, through give and take action centering on parents who are one with God, will produce the four position foundation.”

Parent’s Role in Matching Their Children

“I want you to understand that you are the pioneers of the tradition of the future. You are making the mold for others to fit into. I want you to prepare your home and clan for every eventuality. Those of you living close with me feel more to the bone this tradition. You must be ready to learn and take over the tradition.”

“You may be thinking, ‘It is only Father who can do the Matching, not us,’ however that is not so. You are all able to do the Matching, because God, who is supporting me, is also supporting you, just the same.”

“The promise between the Blessed Family and me is fulfilled when the Second Generation born to that family receives the Blessing.”

During a speech at the most recent Day of All Things, True Father confronted a church leader who was taking an active role in recommending a spouse to a member of the Second Generation. True Father admonished him saying, “How can you leaders take responsibility of the eternal lives of the Second generation?” True Father gave authority over and responsibility for matching Second generation to the parents of Second generation, not to the leaders,

not to the church, and not to Second generation.”

“In the dispensational view, the vertical connection is eternal and therefore more important than the horizontal, which is temporal. That is why parents must be a part of the choosing of the mate. This doesn’t mean that parents should arbitrarily choose partners for their children, but rather the parents should intervene, representing heaven, in order to ensure the harmony of the vertical and horizontal relationship. This is the meaning of the Blessing.”

True Father’s Words on Matching

“The ideal partner (ideal mate) in Father’s mind is completely different from the ideal partner we imagine. The ideal partner that True Father thinks of is a match of completely opposite types, such as spring and fall types, summer and winter types, etc. True Father says, “When a North-pole type person is matched with a South-pole type person, then out of such a couple a child will be born who has a huge capacity to embrace the entire globe.

“You may be thinking, ‘It is only Father who can do the Matching, not us,’ however that is not so. You are all able to do the Matching, because God, who is supporting me, is also supporting you, just the same.”

“In order for a spring-like woman to pass through summer and winter, she has to meet an autumnal man. A woman who corresponds to spring has to pass through summer in order to meet an autumnal man, and the autumnal man has to pass through winter

in order to meet the spring-like woman. Therefore both ultimately pass through all four seasons.

“When I am matching people one after another, I try not to look clearly at the contours of a person’s face, if possible. I rather look at two persons for a while, and check what kind of feeling comes. It is as if there is a measuring device for minds, and I compare the two without delay. If when I look at the two, instantly and without self awareness, I feel as if they are becoming one, then it is precisely a match made in heaven, a perfect match.

“More than anything, one’s love partner should establish an ideal harmony and balance. You should think that the person who appears as your beloved spouse is a son or daughter of God, whom He truly loves, and that therefore He may come disguised as the ugliest person. If you love your husband or wife with those eyes, it has the same significance as loving God’s son and daughter.

Candidate’s Attitude and Heart in the Matching Process

“The term “ideal spouse” is very good, is it not? Until now, you have thought that an ideal spouse is like this or like that. No matter how good your partner is, you will not find his or her value unless you have within you the quality to do so. Do you understand what I am saying? Where is your capacity to discover whether or not your spouse is excellent? Without

you yourself being the best, you cannot find the very essence of your spouse's excellence.

"It is through the merit of investing myself that my partner is moved and comes to appear as an object with value. God created heaven and earth not just to see them as they are. He created in order to love, with heart as the basis. In the same way the only thing that matters in re-creation is acting with the heart as the guide. Even though Adam and Eve are small, in the world they are not seen as small but big.

"Men naturally pursue women, but for what purpose – to receive love or to give love? That is the most important question. It is a serious problem that American people have not understood how universal law works. You should never think, "I'm so glad I'm getting married because now my life will be easier. I will have someone to... serve me." But all of a sudden, that is not what happens and you start to complain, "Hey, what's happening here?" Your first concept was wrong; you are not supposed to get married in order to make your life easier. You should think that your life will get tougher, but you should be willing to do it in order to give love.

"Why do you marry? It is to inherit the foundation of thousands of years and of ten thousand generations of chosen people; it is for the future generations. If you marry for the sake of yourselves, you will destroy everything. That kind of decadent trend is sweeping over the world, and all of it has to be cut off. If you have that selfish thought, you are my enemies.

“Let’s say there is a good looking person among the blessing candidates. He or she might look splendid on the outside. But what is important is whether or not that person has the value to exist in the future in front of the will of God. That is the primary question for the partner whom that person meets.

“Therefore, our marriages are for the sake of our descendants. Thus, even though candidates might appear unsuitable in some way, the problem is how to match people so that their children inherit only their parent’s good points.”

Guidance from Hyung Jin Nim

“The marriage tradition in our church is where we get to actualize all the things we heard when we were young and all the things we listened to in workshops. It’s the real place for us to actualize and refine those very important skills, such as understanding the power of the relationship, living for the sake of the other person, understanding the other person and practicing true love in the same way we always explain it. When we have differences of opinion, we recognize them; we come to deep understandings through them by natural subjugation, not by force.

“I think one of the great things about being Blessed is that we are constantly reminded that our most precious relationship is dynamic, not static. In order for it to be truly alive, it does require investment. It does require us to put in effort and to work at it. I feel some things have helped me personally—such as trying to understand my wife more. Sometimes, early on, I just didn’t get it. [Laughter] That’s okay; if you work through that, you learn. It is a process of learning, a process of growth, a process of continual improvement. I feel that the Blessing is not only a milestone; it is one of our most central practices. You may have a family soon—children—in a couple of years. Then you can also start this practice with your kids, raising them. It’s very exciting, very dynamic.

“One of the things I think is essential for Blessed Couples, Blessed Families, is to understand the concept that in giving the Blessing, True Parents have extended the Blessed life to us. That is something we can be proud of, and the Blessed life is something at which we can excel. And it does not have to stop with us. The Blessed life really is having the success and the victory God wants you to have in your lives, in relationships and so on. Then you take the next step and be that blessing to those around you, be that blessing to that person who needs a little help, your guidance, your mentoring. When we do that, we can start coming full cycle with living the Blessed life. Our view is that it can continually get better, which is very hopeful. I don’t think it has a limit in the sense that you reach some stage and just stay there. True Parents continually try to improve and grow—with the grandchildren, together, and so on.

*Rev. Hyung Jin Moon,
“Insights Into the Blessed Life”*

Guidance from In Jin Nim

What True Parents bring to this world is the concept of four-position foundation. That means we have God as our center, and as we become perfected in love, we come to understand what life is supposed to be and how we need to apply ourselves in our daily lives so that we can become responsible human beings. Together with the grace and the blessing of God, we can stand in the position of true couples and ideal families in the making, in the position to enjoy the children that are to come from our union.

The four-position foundation, if you really think about it, is like a diamond. When our Japanese members in America say the words, “True Love,” it sounds like “Tu-rue Rub.” I’ve often talked about how living a life of true love is like learning how to “rub” up against each other, going through the difficulties of life and turning ourselves, who are rough-cut diamonds, into brilliant diamonds, truly emitting the divinity within.

In this four-position foundation, for the first time in history, we have the chance to graft onto God’s lineage and to have sinless children, children who are not tainted by the satanic lineage, which was the result of the Fall. What God is wanting for each and every one of us is to own a wonderful, eternal diamond that we can think of as a family. The diamond symbolizes eternity for a lot of young men and women walking down the aisle because it takes tons and tons of pressure and thousands of years to create.

Just as it takes pressure and time to turn that rough-cut diamond into something beautiful, marriage and family are like a workshop in which we can become better husbands and wives, better sons and daughters, and better brothers and sisters. My father has often talked about the family as a textbook of true love. It is a place where we work out our problems and overcome various obstacles to become an eternal diamond.

How is it that the family becomes eternal? It's because each of us, when we have our children, live eternally through them. We live on forever in our children, their children, and so on and so forth. Therefore, in this concept of a family truly owning up to itself as a brilliant diamond, connected to the true lineage of God, we can have immortality through the beauty of our children. If you really think about it, there's really nothing quite like it. Just the concept that marriage is something bigger than ourselves, bigger than the two people walking down the aisle, is something truly beautiful to behold.

*Sunday Sermon, Lovin' Life Worship,
October 18, 2009*

An **ideal** family really is living a process of **dealing** with different obstacles and difficulties that arise in any relationship, learning to overcome them because we believe in something, we have a common purpose, and we want to get there together as a couple, or together as a family, or together as a community.

When you're thinking about the Blessing and marriage, you're preparing yourself for a great deal of love and happiness but also for a great deal of hard work and effort, which sometimes I think gets side-swept. A lot of young people come to marriage and the Blessing thinking that once a spouse has been found for them, it's just an easy walk in the park; automatically they will be seriously in love, they will be passionately in love, and things will fall into place. But marriage and the Blessing are not like that.

In order to live with another person, to deal with another person, you have to have a common denominator, a common purpose. You have to have a vision and plan for what kind of marriage and relationship you want, what kind of a family you want to build, and what kind of parent you want to be. Not only are we coming together because we love each other, but we're coming together because we believe that God is our Heavenly Parent. We believe that the vows of matrimony should be shared with our Heavenly Parent, with the rest of humanity, and between husband and wife.

You can be reassured when you think, "I am going to this Blessing with someone who shares my vision and my goal in life to live as an eternal son or daughter joined in matrimony and loyal to this person for the rest of my life." Both of you can affirm, "I will be a man or woman of integrity, and together we want to build an ideal family that understands and recognizes God as our Heavenly Parent, that recognizes

the philosophy of living for the sake of others, that recognizes a sincere desire to bring forth great children and to substantiate “the Generation of Peace that we so desire.” A successful marriage needs to have a common goal and vision.

When our True Father talks about an ideal subject and object relationship, he uses the diagram of a 90-degree angle, meaning there is God and there are children in the Four Position Foundation, but also man and woman. At the center of the Four Position Foundation, there’s a 90-degree angle, meaning that the man is not slightly higher than a woman in terms of divine value, but that they have equal and the same divine value because they are both eternal divine beings.

...the more we serve, the deeper we grow; the more we serve, the wider become our heartistic capacities; the more we serve, the more inspired our lives will be as we realize the extreme beauty in loving another person.

Implicit in the philosophy of living for the sake of others is the notion that you have to take care of the other person better than yourself. Implicit in the philosophy of living for the sake of others applied to marriage is the notion that the two spouses will grow together becoming better people because the more we serve, the deeper we grow; the more we serve, the wider become our heartistic

capacities; the more we serve, the more inspired our lives will be as we realize the extreme beauty in loving another person.

Then we're not going into this marriage relationship for our own gratification because we want a husband or wife, but we are entering this relationship because we honor the dynamic teamwork of a man and a woman truly respecting, honoring, and loving each other, and thereby empowering, inspiring, and encouraging each other. In the marriage relationship, teamwork is very important. It's not what you take away from the Blessing, but it's really all about what you bring to the table, what you bring as a part of that team.

The goal of every couple, really, is to experience the parental heart of God. God created Adam and Eve because he and she wanted to experience what it felt like to have a child, what it felt like to be a parent, what it felt like to truly love something more than yourself. In this beautiful environment called the Blessing, we have a wonderful opportunity to experience exactly what God experienced.

*Sunday Sermon, Lovin' Life Worship
October 17, 2010*



PREPARING FOR THE MATCHING PROCESS

For Parents

Spiritual Preparation

1. Seeking God's Heart and Perspective

We are seeking to establish a tradition of God-centered, not self-centered love, different than the western tradition of romantic love and sexual freedom. At the same time, our matching tradition must be different than many arranged marriages in the past: not for position, advantage, status, or narrow interests, but to bring joy to our Heavenly Parent, and create the foundation for God's guidance and involvement in the process, and the Blessed marriage that results from it. How can we make it possible for God to guide us?

2. Father's Words

True Father has spoken deeply about his own motive and methods in matching, as well as his confidence that God will guide parents as powerfully as He guided True Parents in the

matching process. He has also explained what heart, motive and approach parents should take toward the matching of their children. Included in this handbook are some brief excerpts from Father's words. Additional sources are listed in later sections, and more will be added in the future. Parents can benefit by reading, reflecting upon, and centering themselves through these words.

We have also been fortunate to receive wisdom and insight from In Jin Nim's experience as both a candidate and a parent, through her sermons, and specific guidance to Blessed Children and BFD representatives. Some selections from this valuable guidance are included. Many of these insights are also woven into the policies and process described in this handbook, which is also based upon the international guidelines developed with Hyung Jin Nim's guidance. Please read and consider these sources as you prepare to begin this holy and loving process.

3. Setting Spiritual Conditions

Husbands and wives can and should establish good conditions to connect with our Heavenly Parent, each other, and the heart of their adult child whom they will seek to match. How beautiful it is to simply pray together for the future Blessing and happiness of our children! How crucial it is to pray together if there is

disunity, or a child is distant or going through difficulties.

In addition to prayer or other traditional conditions of devotion such as bowing, HDH, etc., In Jin Nim encourages creative conditions that address the real situation of your family relationships. You might determine to set aside time with your spouse or child each week, or serve them secretly every day. You might call your child every day, or communicate words of love and encouragement, or a hug. Conditions to move Heaven, together with conditions of sincerity and service toward your loved ones, are a powerful combination.

Unity and good communication is the most important condition for God to work.

4. Unity is the Most Important Spiritual Condition

Remember wherever two or more are united in God's name, God will be present and active. One important goal of any conditions you set individually or as a family is to become one in heart—to get on the same page. For example, instead of telling your adult child what conditions you are directing them to set, ask them what they feel would be most important to do, and offer suggestions if they want. Unity and good communication is the most important condition for God to work.

Educational Preparation

Please read this handbook thoroughly, as well as Father's words in *Blessing and Ideal Family*, or other sources. In the resources section of this handbook you will find helpful, research and experienced-based materials on understanding your child, building communication, or supporting various stages of the process outlined here. Other ways to prepare your heart and understanding include:

1. Blessing Workshops and other programs on the value of the matching and Blessing.
2. Parents Matching Convocations—you should attend before your child reaches matching age, at least by the time they are 16.
3. You can also work with an available matching advisor, or experienced BFD Rep. When you are ready to begin the matching process, make an appointment to speak with them.
4. Hear the testimony of parents who have successfully matched their child.
5. In addition to the resources in this handbook, parenting and relationship materials can be extremely helpful.

Understand the Process

Through this handbook and the resources mentioned, make sure that you understand the basic matching process, and the most important do's and don'ts recommended.

Establish Communication

1. Husband and Wife

- Discuss the process with your spouse first. Even if one parent takes a more active role, it is important that you agree with one another on how to approach it.
- Clarify your goals and priorities. What is most important to each of you? When should you begin? Age, race, nationality, purity, etc...
- Consider your adult child's real situation and readiness. Has your child expressed the desire to go forward? Do you know what is important to them?
- When one parent is not present or unable to participate, the active parent can identify an advocate for support, or consult a matching advisor.

2. Parents and Their Adult Child

- Parents should respect their candidate's input into the process and give them ownership of the final decision and outcome.

- Parents should understand their adult child's goals, priorities and expectations, and be aware of their maturity and readiness. If an adult child wants to give their trust, parents can guide the process. If children don't fully trust their parents' role, or aren't ready to begin, parents should not push or force them.
- Parents need to clearly understand their candidate's level of purity and experience before beginning the matching process.

NOTE: Be sensitive in understanding your child's desired degree of involvement. He/she may want you to identify candidates, speak with their parents and make your recommendation, or may want to be more involved in the search process as well.

- If communication between parent and child is strained or difficult, you can seek assistance through a mediator, counselor or matching advisor. Listening and communicating are skills that can be learned. The more your child trusts you and feels you understand them, the more deeply they will receive your recommendation.

Practical and Financial Preparation

- 1. In Jin Nim has suggested** a beautiful way to prepare your child's heart while also preparing for the costs of matching and Blessing. She suggests that you encourage them to set up their own personal Blessing Fund when they are young—to “save for my future spouse.”
- 2. Consider and prepare for Blessing expenses well in advance. These may include:**
 - Blessing Fee—a condition of sincerity to receive True Parents' Blessing. Currently \$2,000 per candidate in the USA, \$1,500 when traveling to Korea.
 - Travel—\$500 in the USA, up to \$2000 for international
 - Clothing and accessories—from \$150 to \$1,000 if a family selects an expensive dress or suit.
 - Blessing ring—\$400 for a gold ring

NOTE: In previous Blessings, fees could be paid in installments with a payment plan. Payment plans will not be available from this point on, even though Blessing events may arise suddenly. Preparing the Blessing fee is an important expression of preparing internally for the matching and Blessing process.

For Candidates

How do I know I am ready?

The most important preparation is internal: faith, motivation, maturity and capacity to love. The matching should be the first entry to the conjugal realm of heart, where love first becomes exclusive, and grows to be deeply trusting. You should enter this realm with a sense of your own identity and value, which is meant to develop in the love of parents, and the capacity to love and relate well with others, learned in relationship with siblings and friends. Faith in God and True Parents is of course important, but each candidate may express this in unique and different ways. Some critical questions to ask yourself:

- What is my motivation to be matched? Am I focused simply on finding someone to love me, or someone I can truly love and make happy?
- How deeply do I understand the unique meaning and value of the Blessing? Is it just finding someone to love and committing to be together forever, or is there more to it?
- How comfortable am I communicating with and caring for others?
- Who am I? What are my own goals and plans for the future? Am I looking for someone to “complete me?” What if my spouse’s plans are

different from my own?

- What do I expect from my spouse? What do I have to offer?

It may not ever be possible to feel truly ready. However, there are some things we suggest you reflect upon:

- a sense of your own identity
- basic social skills
- self-control and the maturity to put others before yourself when needed
- a career or study plan
- a fundamental faith in God and the ideal of the Blessing

To help assure and support these, the following objective qualifications have been established:

Age

The international minimum age for entering the matching process is 17 years. We recommend entering the matching process no earlier than age 18, but 20-21 is better for many. Time and maturity are helpful, and In Jin Nim has specifically discouraged matching our children young simply to prevent them from temptations. It is, of course, important for parents to maintain good communication with

their child as they pass through the dangerous teen years and the challenging environment of college. We do not encourage that you rush, but if a candidate is still hesitant or lacks interest by the age of 24 or 25, it is important to discuss the reasons for this.

Basic Qualifications to Enroll in the Process

1. Divine Principle Education

The international standard is to have studied the principle to a level equivalent to the content of a 21-day workshop prior to entering the matching process. In the USA, the minimum requirement is 7-day level of content. If it is not possible to attend a 7-day workshop itself, some ways to accomplish this education are:

- Watching and discussing DP education video tapes
- Reading the DP and demonstrating basic comprehension
- 1 year of STF participation fulfills the DP education requirement for the Blessing

For additional ideas & suggestions, contact your BFD or church leadership.

2. Blessing Education

The international standard is completion of a Blessing Workshop within two years prior to the Blessing.

In the USA, three levels of Blessing education have been developed:

- Introduction to the Blessing
- Preparation for the Matching
- Building Relationship as a Couple

Completion of Levels 1 and 2 is recommended to enter the matching process (level 2 is required).

3. Completing the Application Process

It is important to complete the candidate information form, health forms and exams, and the purity interview with your district pastor or their representative. You should also begin preparing your Blessing fee. The required documents and steps can be found at www.familyfed.org/bfd under “Forms.”

4. Photographs

Prepare at least three high-quality photos (candidate head and shoulders, candidate full-length, and a family photo).

5. Completion of the Candidate Profile

A candidate profile conveys Information about the goals, dreams, values, interests and character of a candidate. You can download it from the BFD forms page or fill it out on “Matchbook.” It can be helpful for other parents seeking to understand more about you as a person. This profile should be completed by the candidate, not simply by parents on behalf of

the candidate.

All these steps will assist in the thoughtful preparation of candidates and their parents, and increase the assurance of their readiness to begin the matching process. The further along a candidate is in the application process, the more other parents can be sure that they are serious, and prepared.

Spiritual Preparation

1. Faith

In addition to prayer and traditional conditions of devotion such as bowing, HDH, etc., In Jin Nim encourages creative conditions that address your real situation and family relationships. You might plan to communicate with or your parents daily, or do something helpful for them or your siblings every day. You might attend worship services regularly as an offering of faith. Tithing and donating is an important spiritual condition that affirms our trust in God.

2. Action

You can mentor your younger siblings or others; support youth or young adult ministry, serving the church, community or a cause that you care about. Some have joined experiential programs such as STF, Next Gen Academy or Oceania Leadership Training to develop their faith and character in preparation for matching.

3. Unity with parents and siblings

Communicating and connecting with your parents and family is vital during this time. See details below.

Character Preparation

As mentioned, it is important to enter the matching process with basic maturity and a sense of self-identity. Working on personal growth and character development through volunteerism, challenge or group participation is a great way to prepare for a relationship. Living a spiritually and physically healthy lifestyle is another important way of taking personal responsibility.

In Jin Nim encourages creative conditions that address your real situation and family relationships.

Communication and Unity with Parents and Siblings

For God to guide your parents, or be able to receive and bless your own inspiration or suggestions, your unity and communication with them is important. You should convey your own priorities and preferences, based upon your trust in God, True Parents and your own parents. If you are calculating how to get the partner you want, struggling to trust your parents' guidance, or hiding a secret desire or situation, this process will fail. It is important that your relationship with your parents is honest and open, because you must share with them your level of purity and relationship experience before the matching

process can begin.

Harmony with siblings, and deciding whether they will be involved in the process or not, is also important.

If for any reason your parents are not present, unable to participate, or the trust relationship is broken, talk with an elder, mentor, or someone you trust. An advocate or matching advisor can stand in an advisory position to support you, working with your parents as much as possible.

Develop a Personal Presentation

As a deeper level of information you can prepare a **brief autobiography, photo montage, or other creative expression of yourself and your family**, to share with those parents who are seriously considering you as a candidate. This will help them to understand who you are.

Develop a Family Matching Plan

1. Clarify Roles and Relationships

Parents and their adult child should discuss and clarify their relative roles and level of input in the matching process. The approach and roles will reflect the candidate's faith perspective, relationship with parents, and their family dynamic. For example:

- Some candidates prefer to trust and receive their parents' recommendation with absolute faith.
- Some candidates want to discuss and agree with a suggested candidate before their parents contact the other family—and some specifically don't want this.
- Some candidates have suggestions to offer for their parents' consideration.
- Some candidates hope for their parents' approval for a particular person.

Be clear about the degree of your adult child's involvement at each stage in the process. You should empower their input, but not involve them where they don't want or need to be involved.

2. Agree Upon Preferences, Priorities and Strategies

Consider the candidate's preferences and priorities: age range, race, culture and nationality, language, faith, purity, future plans, openness to special situations, etc.

Because each child is different, candidate plans may look very different even within the same family. Communication and unity of heart is a key, as is maintaining a clear vertical role for the parents.

NOTE: It is healthy to match candidates with balanced characters, or from different cultures or nations. However,

when it comes to purity, it is best to match candidates with similar backgrounds and degrees of relationship experience. The more differences there are between two people's experience, the more potential for pain, hurt or mistrust there is. However, if two candidates and their families do make such a match, there must be full disclosure between the families and the couple themselves. This Is true regardless of what has been forgiven or absolved by True Parents' grace. There should be no secrets, hidden guilt or fears.

Consider Family Involvement—Do you want to involve siblings in the matching process or not, or make a family committee? Once you decide, keep the process confidential among only those you have agreed to involve.

3. Decide Your Approach to Networking and Methods of Outreach:

An important part of your plan is deciding how you would like to convey your candidate and search for possible matches. Some possibilities are:

- Websites—www.bcmatching.org; or www.blessedfamilies.org “Matchbook.”
- Matching Advisors—trained supporters who can encourage and guide families through the process, assist in searching for matching candidates, support candidate communication and help if things become complicated or unclear.
- Advocates—someone who knows a particular

candidate and family, and is able to represent and network for them, answer questions, or look for possible candidates.

- Parents Matching Convocation (PMC)—where parents meet and network to learn about other candidates and consider potential matches. These are held several times each year in the USA, twice a year in Europe, and regularly in other nations as well. Candidates can submit their profiles to international PMCs even if they and their parents are not able to attend in person. For details, see the International Section.
- Additional family or young adult networking events, such as workshops, community events, ballroom dancing, galas and sportsfests.

4. Develop a Set of Important Questions

Consider the questions you'll want to ask a potential candidate's parents regarding faith, expectations for the Blessing, degree of purity, future plans, etc., based upon the preferences and priorities you've developed. Be sensitive and respectful when asking delicate questions, but full disclosure between families is a must. Be prepared to honestly convey your own candidate's real situation, and to get answers to any questions that are important to you. You may also wish to prepare questions to interview the other candidate as well. See Appendices 1 and 2 for suggestions.



THE MATCHING PROCESS

STEP ONE: Finding Potential Matching Candidates

There are a variety of ways to approach the matching process, based upon each family's faith and relationships, and the mindset and maturity of their candidate. In some families, children may have a genuine faith in God and trust in their parents. They may simply expect their parents to choose their spouse. In other families, candidates will want to know whom their parents are considering before any outreach is made, or may have suggestions themselves. Some young people may want to be matched to a specific person, and will seek their parents' approval. All of these can be a basis for a good match, but three things are extremely important:

- Parents' guidance and approval should be the center of the process. The essence of the Blessing tradition is reversing the self-centered love that has undermined relationships, families, and society. Parents' approval provides that important vertical process. If parents are not present or unable to take this role, matching advisors or other adult advocates can provide this support for candidates.

- Parents should be responsive to their adult child’s attitude and faith—be on the same page. Don’t dictate to or force your child.
- Whether candidates completely trust their parents’ choice or want more involvement in the process, they must take ownership over the final decision. Once parents consider, agree upon and recommend a match, candidates must be given the time and opportunity to embrace it, and must have the freedom to say no.

Sources for Potential Matches

Parent’s Suggestion

Parents can find candidates themselves, using the PMC, International Matching Website or BFA’s “Matchbook” site, or through personal networking. Parents should make recommendations based upon a family plan, with the candidate’s agreement.

Candidate’s Suggestion

Sometimes a candidate has met another BC that they are interested in, while on a mission or participating in an activity. During the planning stage they should offer that name to their parents. Their parents can then consider that person as a possible match. It is far better for a candidate to offer their

suggestions to parents during the planning process than to pursue a particular relationship personally and privately. Their parents, being unaware of the secretive relationship, may introduce someone else to them. This will create emotional confusion and hurt, with a candidate thinking of one person while they are in the middle of a matching process with another. This will now affect the hearts of another innocent and unsuspecting candidate and family.

A Matching Advisor or Advocate

Supporters may make a suggestion, but only parents have authority to recommend or approve a match, and the candidates themselves should own the final decision.

When a Candidate Seeks Parental Approval

When a young adult asks for parents' approval and blessing for a particular person, what should parents do?

- Parents should recognize that their adult child's impulse is not automatically "fallen" or wrong. Our First Generation walked a path of restoration that included cutting off all personal attachments or attractions. However, it is important to remember that our children are on an original path, and their ideals and aspirations should be considered.

- Young adults should realize that an impulse or attraction is not necessarily true love, and that the younger and more immature they are, the less reliable such impulses are. Personal maturity should precede romantic attractions, and the key to inheriting the Blessing tradition is God-centered, not self-centered love. The more they pursue such an impulse privately, the more it will undermine God's desire to bless it.
- Candidates should offer up their desire or intention to their parents rather than pursue it "horizontally." Parents should take their child's feeling very seriously. Work together to place the relationship within a vertical framework. Pray and consider together carefully. If candidates pursue a relationship defiantly and romantically, it will be difficult for parents to embrace it. If parents try to force or control their adult child, it will also not work. But when parents and children come together centered on God, everything will become clear. Consider what time period, process or conditions will allow God to guide the situation, and take time to work it out.
- If parents and their adult child cannot reconcile their different perspectives or agree upon a process, you should seek the guidance and support of a matching advisor

or BFD counselor to mediate and assist in establishing a clear plan and process.

STEP TWO:

Finding and Recommending a Specific Candidate

Doing Your Homework

1. Consider making spiritual conditions.
2. Gather information about the candidate from advocates or others who know them. You may choose to ask their local church leader or youth minister confidentially about the candidate's personality and church involvement. Your child may be interested in someone active in the church, or a social person, serious person, etc. Consider your child's criteria and preferences in addition to your own priorities.
3. Be sure whether the candidate you are considering is ready to be matched. An important indicator is whether they have filled out all the forms themselves. If the candidate hasn't been so involved, you may wish to move on. Officially, someone who has not completed the application and interview process is identified as an "applicant," while one who has completed this process is a "candidate."

4. Contact the other parents directly or through someone to learn the candidate's situation more fully. To avoid catching them unprepared or creating an uncomfortable situation, it may be best to contact them first by E-mail. Some important questions to consider in this first encounter are:
 - Is their child ready to enter the matching process?
 - Is their child a qualified candidate, or still in the application process?
 - Are the parents currently talking with another family?
 - Are the parents willing to consider your child as a potential match for theirs?
5. If you receive an E-mail from another family requesting that you consider a match between your child and theirs, be sure to treat it with respect and sincerity. Even if you are busy or already engaged in the process with another family, **be sure to answer them**. Even if you need a week or two before you are free to respond fully, send them a brief acknowledgment within three days of receiving their inquiry. Such a request may be full of prayer and expectation, and failing to answer is disrespectful.
6. Be prepared that a family you ask to consider your child as a candidate might say no, and be

sure not to take it personally. There may be several reasons that have nothing to do with the quality of your family or the qualifications of your child: they may be in a sensitive discussion with another family and don't wish to go into detail; their plan and priorities may lead them to a different category or type of candidate.

7. Ask the other family for more information and photos. You should prepare good quality photos that present your candidate well if you plan to introduce them.
8. You may wish to Google the potential candidate, or check out Facebook.
9. Begin to dialogue with the other parents, in person if possible.
10. You can also use personality and character profiles at this point, such as Flag Pages or Love Languages to understand more about who this person is. See the Resource section.

Make a Clear Decision

Parents should decide clearly with the other candidate's parents to enter the next stage of the matching process: Parent Communication and Consideration. Be sure to discuss, commit to and maintain confidentiality. You should never discuss sensitive personal information about a candidate or family learned in the matching process with anyone outside that

process. Some other helpful approaches include:

- Consider and agree to some basic guidelines and goals for your discussion.
- Avoid being too intense or confrontational right off the bat. Begin by getting to know each other. Ask questions regarding each family's and candidates' respective life stories.

Remember that discovery and relationship-building is a step-by-step process. Don't rush, take time to develop trust and communication

- Sensitive or difficult questions may be easier for some to address in a process of written communication. If answers to some verbal or written questions lead to deeper, more sensitive questions, these too can be asked either in written form or verbally, depending upon the communication guidelines you agreed upon.
- Remember that discovery and relationship-building is a step-by-step process. Don't rush, take time to develop trust and communication.

One Family At A Time: You might communicate with several families at once while looking for potential candidates. But once both sets of parents agree to seriously consider a potential match between your children, you should pursue that possibility exclusively until its conclusion. Clearly inform any-

one else who asks you to consider their candidate that you are currently involved in the process with another family.

Consider the Candidate

Parents should prayerfully consider the potential partner according to the preferences you developed when making your family matching plan. While preparing that plan you should develop a list of questions that are important to your adult child, in harmony with your own concerns. This is the era of full disclosure and family ownership. Parents need to carefully ask the right questions. Each family is different, and these questions may or may not be important for your child or family. Sensitive questions should be asked with consideration, but full disclosure between parents AND between candidates is essential. It is important that you respect the confidentiality of any family you communicate with, and keep all sensitive information private. Some questions you may want to ask are:

1. Has your child completed their purity interviews? Are they at a similar level of purity and experience?
2. Is your child in good physical health? Have they ever had an operation, serious condition or disease? Is there any reason there might be difficulty having a family?
3. Is your child in good mental health? Have they

ever been diagnosed with any psychological condition, emotional problem or learning disability? Is there any family history of mental illness or suicide? Has your child ever needed medication for depression?

NOTE: See Appendix 1 for a more full list of suggested questions

4. Both sets of parents may agree to do parents' interviews with the other candidate by phone. Prepare questions to ask your adult child's potential match like: Why do you feel ready to make the unconditional commitments required for marriage? What does the role of a husband or wife mean to you? What is your passion? What is your dream for your marriage? How would you handle conflict? How do you believe your life of faith should be lived? What are your educational plans? What are your professional or vocational plans? How do you want to raise your family?

NOTE: If parents feel uncomfortable because of your candidate's particular background, challenge or limitation, do not attempt to hide or cover it up. Full disclosure is important, but you have alternatives. You can seek out those candidates with similar situations, or find those families that are more interested in the heart and character of your child than any particular limitation. For further guidance or assistance, consult a matching advisor or BFD counselor. One very helpful method is to develop a screening questionnaire that asks parents what they and their candidate are

willing to consider, such as someone who was previously matched or Blessed, someone who lost their purity, someone with a developmental challenge, etc.

Select a Candidate

If you as parents are satisfied that a candidate is a good match for your child then:

1. Communicate with their parents to reach consensus. Decide the best plan for each of you to offer your recommendation to your adult children.
2. Make your recommendation to your child. Once this is done, you should give the prospective couple the responsibility to take ownership and make a final decision and commitment. This is the next stage of the matching process: couple communication and decision. To accomplish this:
 - Make sure parents are clear and united in their recommendation. Once you give this to your adult child, you should not reverse, doubt or take it back, unless some undisclosed problem comes out later. Don't be fuzzy or unclear. Parents should be honest and thorough with each other, and then give their children responsibility, trusting and supporting them as needed.
 - Introduce your recommendation to your

child in a private setting such as at home, with a prayerful attitude. The candidate should have time to receive it calmly, focus and reflect. It can be stressful and distracting during school or exams. Parents should be sensitive, and not push or force the process, so as not to create a major disruption and distraction in your child's life. It may be good however, to let them know that you have a candidate in mind whom you want to share with them for their consideration at the right time (after finals or when they visit for a break). This can pique their curiosity in a hopeful way.

- First impressions do matter. Be sure to present your recommendation wisely, at the best time and in the most positive light.
- Connecting from the inside first—While candidate photos are important to most parents to gain an impression of the character of a potential match, many parents prefer that the couple they are introducing not be given pictures of each other immediately, but be introduced to each other's character first. This can be accomplished by giving them each other's answers to prepared questions and a short autobiography and resume of the prospective match. If candidates reflect and show interest, more information can be

shared, such as creative work that reflects the potential match's heart and character. Pictures can be shared after that, if there is still interest. If the candidate is open, parents can encourage them to pray and think about it for three days while they coordinate with the other parents. The first meeting should be coordinated with the other family only after the information is shared, each candidate has an opportunity to reflect and both are willing to proceed. If one of the candidates says no to the possibility, check for the clear reasons and report to the other family honestly but sensitively.

- It is important that the two candidates receive their parents' recommendation at or close to the same time. This will prevent the unhelpful possibility that one candidate might share with a sibling or friend, and the word gets around to the other candidate before they have received it from their parents.

Candidate's Responsibility During the Recommendation Process

- Be honest with yourself, God, your parents, and any potential match and their family.
- Stay in good communication with your parents. Ask questions. Make sure that your parents understand your desired level

of involvement as the matching process develops

- If you have someone that you are thinking of as a potential partner, it is important to share this idea with your parents. If receiving the Blessing is important to you, pursuing a relationship privately or secretly will only confuse the situation, alienate you from your parents, and make that relationship more like selfish love, and less like the ideal of the Blessing. Your parents can and should work together with you. If that trust is not there or you cannot reconcile your feelings with your parents' expectations, seek the guidance of a matching advisor or BFD counselor. We can help!
- Once you agree to consider a particular candidate, you will be entering the next phase of the process: communicating and getting to know your potential match, and reaching a decision as a couple. You will need to give the possible match enough time to know if it could be right. At the same time, there is no need to drag the decision out if it won't work. A recommended framework is a minimum of four months and a maximum of one year if the process has stalled.
- You should not make a quick or impulsive decision based upon initial feelings, external appearance or your own concepts alone.

True love grows out of respect, honesty, friendship, and establishing a genuine connection with someone. Invest in making that connection. You may have no idea what treasures lie within the heart and mind of another person unless you dig for them. You may be looking for someone who attracts you or makes you feel good. But what you may need is someone who balances or complements your character, someone patient, faithful and sincere enough to stand by you in the ups and downs of raising a family and building a life. Give yourself enough time and be open to a process. Kind words, loving actions and time to build communication and trust will help genuine feelings grow.

STEP THREE: The Communication Process: Building a Relationship, Reaching a Decision

In general, we recommend seven months for a couple to meet, develop an internal relationship and take ownership of their commitment as a couple with a minimum of four months time. The time and process will depend on each family's faith and the candidate's trust their parents. Candidates should respect and have faith in God's guidance through their parents, but know that they are free to say yes or no at any time during this process.

First impressions do matter. Be sure to present your recommendation wisely, at the best time and in the most positive light.

First Meetings: As discussed above, first impressions do matter. It is important that both candidates have the best chance to shine at each level of their first meetings. There is no need to rush. Timing and support are very important to making a comfortable connection, getting an accurate understanding of each other and having a good outcome.

Beginning Communication by Internet or Telephone

The next step will be the candidates' communication by phone or through the internet. Again, don't rush them. Have them choose a time when they aren't busy and can focus some energy on getting to know each other. Parents may suggest that the young man send an initial introductory greeting. Encourage them if needed, and make sure they have something to talk about. The recommended questions in Appendix 2 can be used by candidates to learn more about each other.

Communication can proceed naturally from E-mail to telephone or Skype, at a pace that is comfortable for the prospective couple. At any point either candidate may decide to end the process, but parents should not dominate or intervene to end it. If a candidate needs help, parents can suggest that they read their e-mail out loud before sending it to make sure that it conveys what they want to say. During this phase it is important that the parents maintain good communication with their child. Be aware of how often the couple is communicating. Help them

with any concerns or frustrations: “He answers all my questions with one word!” “She doesn’t make any sense!” “I don’t know what to say!” Consider and prepare translation if needed for an international match.

Parental and Family Support

Coordinating with the other parents can be helpful. Sometimes romantic expectations or the basic differences between men and women challenge the communication. Sensitivity, misunderstanding and quick judgments can undermine the process. It is helpful for candidates to use relationship tools to get to know each other to understand their similarities and differences. These are available from the BFD or a Matching Advisor (see Resources Section), and include:

- The Five Love Languages
- The Flag Pages
- Myers-Briggs or other Personality Survey
- FOCCUS, PREPARE, or RELATE couple inventories

The Candidates Meet in Person

The next and most important “first meeting” is when the candidates meet in person. Even if they know each other, this can be an awkward and

uncomfortable situation. It is imperative that both candidates have the opportunity to show their best selves to each other. One good way of doing this is for one family to visit the other for a weekend, or for one candidate to visit the other family with a family member or a very close friend. Too long of a first meeting can become stressful and demanding.

Thought should be put into this visit. It is usually better not to be around other church members, as their expectations and curiosity can create unnecessary pressure and uncomfortable feelings for the candidates prior to any commitment. It is helpful to choose activities that allow each candidate to express themselves naturally and at the same time observe the other. Some suggested activities are: family sight-seeing, a service project, hiking, visiting a zoo, bowling, miniature golf, family dinners, board games and maybe a movie for a break.

After this meeting both families should take three days to pray, evaluate and process the meeting. Then the parents can communicate with each other to determine whether or not the process will continue.

What NOT to Do

1. Do not share with people outside your family until the match is finalized and offered in a Commitment Ceremony.
2. If one candidate dislikes something about the other, or finds them unattractive, they should

not express this openly to the other, but share it honestly with their parents or advisor. Do not demean, hurt or treat a prospective match insensitively.

3. These are some “red flags” that should not be ignored: when uncomfortable or negative feelings arise and continue; when someone exhibits secretive behavior or withdraws, or seems excessively pushy or controlling. Take time to investigate and question any of these behaviors. Some of these issues may not appear until 3-4 months into the communication process, even with someone you have known for years.

Physical Closeness: What is Appropriate?

1. Prior to the Commitment Ceremony

From the time you are introduced you are getting to know each other and deciding if you have a future together. While there may be the hope of that future, this is the time to learn about yourself and each other. This relationship-building process is not the same as dating. As you come to know each other from the inside-out, and begin to establish trust, openness and respect, there should be no physical or sexual contact at all. The best sexual chemistry flows from internal chemistry.

NOTE: While you might send a thoughtful card or take your prospective match out for a meal, you should avoid

giving personal gifts until there is a clear, established commitment to a lasting relationship.

While a match is still being considered, your growing friendship should only be known within your family and not be shared with friends or on Facebook.

2. After the Commitment Ceremony

After your Commitment Ceremony you are a matched couple. Your matching should be announced publicly, at church the following Sunday or at a similar community event. You are promised to each other, but should develop the trust and closeness of a true brother and sister and become best friends. Premature physical intimacy can undermine or short-circuit the development of genuine emotional intimacy and trust. Continue to learn about each other and begin to make decisions together. Like any brother and sister, it is natural to hold hands, greet each other with a warm hug, dance together, and at the right moment, he might put his arm around her shoulders or she may place her arm in his. You should not kiss on the lips, lay down together or anything that begins the process of sexual stimulation. This will be deeper and more meaningful when it is based upon knowing and trusting each other, in the freedom of God's Blessing.

Many young men take this opportunity to prepare an engagement ring as an expression of their commitment. Some young women prefer that such a memorable expression be delayed until it can be

accompanied by their first kiss. You can discuss and decide this together as a couple

If for any reason you are uncomfortable sharing that you are engaged with school friends or extended family who don't understand the process, you may wish to tell them at least that you are dating.

NOTE: While public displays of affection can be cute and warming in the eyes of others, they can also be distracting in the environment of a church or young adult meeting, and can send the wrong message to younger BCs. We encourage you to make your growing relationship something personal and precious between the two of you. Be respectful and aware of the environment you are in and those around you. You should not use your newly-developing relationship to get attention from others or to show off.

3. After the Blessing

After the Blessing Ceremony, or after any additional period of offering established by True Parents for your Blessing group, you may naturally kiss, cuddle and develop a loving intimacy, based upon the respect and trust you have developed.

If you don't feel comfortable sharing with school friends or extended family that you are Blessed or married, you may want to say that you are engaged.

4. Consummating Your Blessing

Father has explained how profound and meaningful a couple's "first night" can be. Consummating your Blessing should be a very special experience.

Building internal closeness, trust and respect, and coming together free of any guilt or fear is important. You want to carefully plan for your first night together, and make it special, inviting God's presence. We recommend that a couple be legally married first, in accordance with the legal and social norms of your country and culture. Some suggestions for planning for this moment can be found on the BFD website.

Additional Suggestions for the Communication Period

Candidates who are unsure, or need more involvement and ownership, should be given the time they need to own their decision. When needed, a private commitment can be made between parents while candidates work through any lingering questions or insecurities. When children look in their parents' eyes and say "This is what I want. We (the couple) are committed to do this," they will be stronger when facing any future difficulty. Now is the time for a public declaration of their commitment. Once a commitment ceremony is held, they should not reconsider or change their mind. Therefore, before that time couples should take whatever time is needed, as long as the process is moving forward.

Through this thoughtful, step-by-step approach, our goal is that all members of both families benefit from this process, whether it ends in a matching or not.

The Importance of Prayer

When candidates pray for each other on a daily basis, this places God at the center of their growing friendship. They may also want to read and share Father's words with each other each day. These simple conditions begin to build a spiritual foundation for their relationship, and will impact their thoughts and feelings about each other and their relationship over time. During this time it is important that the parents support the couple by praying for them and for the process.

A Suggested Monthly Plan

A number of excellent relationship-building tools can help a couple get to know each other more deeply. One recommended way to use these is:

1. Months 1 and 2—Answer all the suggested questions found in Appendix 2 of this handbook. Couples can discuss two or three questions each week.
2. Month 3—Couples can fill out the Five Love Languages questionnaire and discuss what their love languages mean to each other. They may want to share the results with their parents. They can also go on line and complete Mark Gungor's Flag Pages, or one of several couple inventories (PREPARE, FOCCUS or RELATE). These are listed in the resources section of this handbook, and can be linked from the BFD webpage.

3. Months 4 and 5—Read and discuss the article “Selecting a Marriage Partner—29 Critical Matching Variables” by Neil Clark Warren, the founder of eharmony.com. This can be accessed through the “Resources” menu at the BFD webpage.
4. Maintain a consistent, growing spiritual life—It is helpful during this time for each partner to attend church and any available educational opportunities, such as workshops, camps or Young Adult Ministry.
5. Contribute—It is important that both candidates are serious about their tithing and that they are saving for their Blessing fee.

Through this thoughtful, step-by-step approach, our goal is that all members of both families benefit from this process, whether it ends in a matching or not.

Monitor the Relationship Monthly

At the beginning of each month parents should check with their child to see how things are going, and confirm that they want to continue the process. Sometime during the first seven months the candidates will usually make a decision.

If the Answer is “Yes”

The couple should begin planning their Commitment Ceremony, but there is no need to rush it. An additional 4-7 months is wise. Time is our friend, and allows things to grow, develop and mature. Delayed

gratification is a good thing. This time period is part of a necessary Foundation of Faith. By waiting and planning the ceremony the couple learns more about each other and the importance of the commitment they are making.

If the Answer is “No”

Both families will need to go back to Part 1—their Family Plan. Both candidates and their families need to allow time for healing, time for communication between parents and children, time for evaluation and a new beginning. We suggest a minimum of one month for every three months the couple was in the communication. Do not start again until your adult child agrees and is ready to.

Commitment Ceremony

Once a couple has made their decision, they should plan a personalized Commitment Ceremony, where they officially accept the match and make their eternal commitment to each other. From this point there will be no turning back.

The commitment ceremony should be very special and holy. This is the first time they pledge to be together eternally. It is a commitment between two families as well. Families can discuss when and where, and the couple can write their own vows if they wish. After the prayers and vows a Matching Declaration should be signed by each candidate and

all four parents. Send a copy to the district BFD, and report to the BFD leader and church leader.

See Appendix 3 for Sample Commitment Ceremony and Suggestions

After the Commitment Ceremony

***You Are in the Position of an Engaged,
Promised Brother and Sister.***

It is appropriate to hold hands and exchange a warm embrace when greeting or parting, but you should abstain from any sexual process until after the Blessing. Kissing on the lips, laying down or sleeping together, sexual touching, etc. are not appropriate now.

Invest in Your Growing Relationship

1. Invite God into your growing love through a habit of prayer and study.
2. It will benefit your future together if you attend all available education, especially any programs for couples.
3. Plan to attend the first available Blessing Workshop. It will have more meaning as you attend it together.
4. Live for others: find a creative way for each of

you to serve your community.

5. Find ways to date each other even though you live in different areas. Let your fiancé know they are the most important person in your life. **LITTLE THINGS MATTER.** Communicate, e-mail, phone, text, Skype, and visit. Find special terms of endearment for each other. Let your actions show you care. Loving actions create loving feelings. Each day ask yourself, “What did I do for my future spouse today?”

Preparing for the Blessing

1. Make sure that all forms, health tests and educational requirements are up to date.
2. Continue saving for the Blessing fee, travel expenses, blessing attire, blessing rings, etc.

The “I-Deal” Year

Any relationship between a man and woman, no matter how loving and committed it may be, will face challenges and difficulties. God designed men and women as complementary opposites; we love differently, and experience love differently. Growing to understand your partner’s needs, though they are unlike your own, is essential to building a healthy marriage. But because of immaturity, emotional barriers or ancestral burdens, and the stress of life’s unexpected challenges, many relationships face

times of crisis.

When painful times arise, the strength of your eternal commitment is of course important. But at the time of the Blessing, each couple will be asked to make a simpler, more practical commitment to an “I-deal Year.” If troubles arise and communication breaks down; if a couple cannot find the way to resolve their struggle, it is not acceptable to withdraw and avoid, drift into non-communication, or seek comfort in unhealthy ways. If you feel overwhelmed, it is important to report the situation honestly, not only to a friend, but also to a trusted

If you feel overwhelmed, it is important to report the situation honestly, not only to a friend, but also to a trusted mentor, counselor, or Blessed Family Department representative.

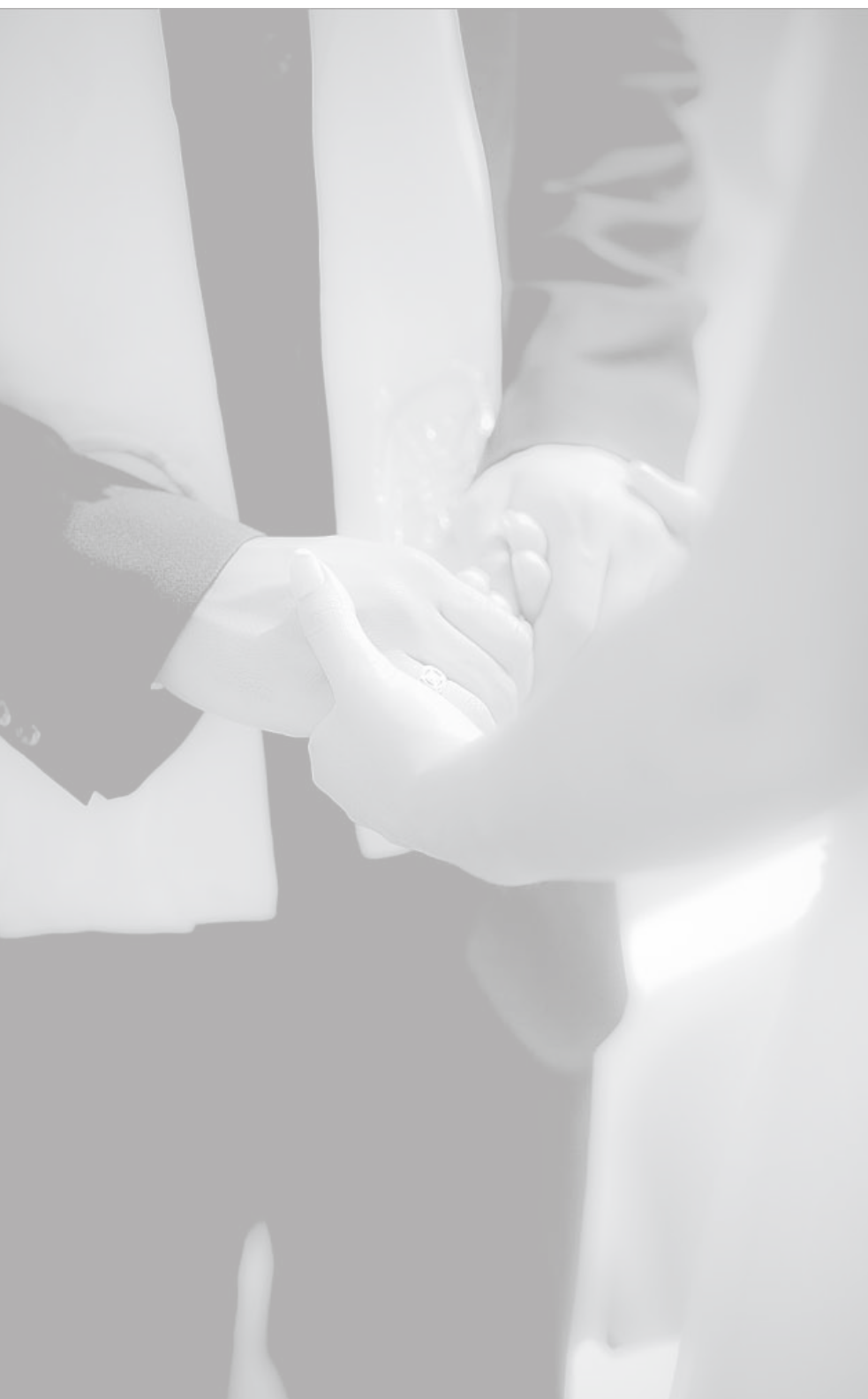
mentor, counselor, or Blessed Family Department representative. The BFD is committed to providing a network of understanding, support, and guidance that can assist you confidentially and professionally.

A one-year process of counseling and mediation to support each couple’s effort to understand, communicate, and “deal” with their problems will

be provided whenever they need. An investment of at least a year in a guided process will be a minimum requirement for each Blessed Couple.

Of course, a healthy spiritual life, honest and open communication, participation in community and regular relationship education can help ensure that your marriage never reaches a point of crisis. The Blessed Family Department’s commitment is to

provide such opportunities, and we encourage each family to invest in ongoing education and support. When problems arise, don't let them get so out of hand that there is no way back. If you can't find the solution within yourselves, do not hesitate to seek help as soon as you need it.



MATCHING YOUR CHILDREN INTERNATIONALLY

How to find and consider candidates living in other countries

“The best way to receive the Holy Blessing is through a cross-cultural marriage. These marriages contribute to the great task of transcending the barriers of race, culture, nationality, ethnicity, and religion, and to creating one family of humankind. In God’s sight, skin color makes no difference. God does not recognize national borders. God does not stand behind the barriers of religion and culture.”

True Father

True Father has challenged Blessed Families to transcend traditional barriers to build an original culture of heart, and encouraged international or cross-cultural matchings for Blessed Children. This path, however, is not for every candidate or family. Many candidates have attended True Parents’ matching expecting an international or interracial marriage, but found themselves engaged instead to someone from their own country or race.

Therefore, each family should prayerfully consider whether an international matching is appropriate.

The first and most important consideration is your child's heart and desire. If your child wants an international match for the right reasons, and is prepared to commit to it, consider it seriously, even if you as parents are hesitating. Your son or daughter may feel a special calling to marry someone from a developing country. If God is inspiring them to such a course, you can help them consider all of the implications or challenges they may face, but please be prepared to support them if they are truly aware and committed.

Some parents fear the challenges of language, culture, or distance, or hesitate based upon their own experience with an international match. But our children may be more prepared than ourselves. There are many countries to consider, both near and far. With webcams, Skype, and the growing era of international travel, the world is becoming truly one community. Other parents hesitate because they simply don't know how to find candidates. A variety of international networking methods are recommended in this chapter.

On the other hand, if your child cannot fathom the possibility of an international match, and is truly unprepared to go beyond their comfort zone in this area, it is not helpful to push them even though you as their parents believe it is the best course. You can discuss, educate or encourage, but you must consider and respect your candidate's desires when making your matching plan. It is also possible to

match your children with someone of another race or nationality who lives within the same country or geographical area as your family.

To assist your family in considering an international match, here are some points to consider:

True Parents' Guidance

“I want you to understand that you are the pioneers of the tradition of the future. You are making the mold for others to fit into. I want you to prepare your home and clan for every eventuality. Those of you living close with me feel more to the bone this tradition. You must be ready to learn and take over the tradition.

Almost everybody who was important in God's providence had to leave his own hometown. Jacob had to go away, and you, too, must go into enemy territory at one time or another. The best way would be to marry a person who represents your enemy. Those who marry interracially, especially white and black, are accomplishing this, and bringing together two extremes.”

The Harvest Season for God's Providence, September 9, 1982

“The Unification Church should gather the races of all five colors and establish true brotherly love. The realm of brotherhood was shattered in Adam's family; thus, we should realize brotherly love. The marriage that established the satanic lineage took

place due to the breakdown of true brother and sister relationships. We should thus realize the global blessing that transcends nation and race, where we connect life and lineage through love centering on God and True Parents, while standing on the absolute standard of brotherhood and sisterhood. This is the worldwide blessing project of the Unification Church.”

“We are at a time of a great transition point in the universe. How are you planning to face such an era? This does not mean the mere change of individuals. It’s the era of a complete turnover of the world and nations that represent the universe, races, tribes and families. You will clearly realize what position you are in. Are you in a position that sets the standard of your society, tribe, people, country or world?”

*Proclamation of the Realm of Liberation
of Cosmic Unification for the Parents
of Heaven and Earth—September 9, 1999*

Benefits of International Matching

- The most important benefit of an international matching and Blessing is the harvest of heart that can result from it. True Father teaches that our environment and experience in the spiritual world is determined by the size of our heart and the quality of our love. He said that to enter the Kingdom of Heaven we should be able to truly love three nations other than our own. He has

explained that the most beautiful, shining couples in the spiritual world are those who have developed the deepest hearts by loving each other beyond the most extreme differences. He has honored the path of international couples as unique and precious for this very reason.

- Cross-cultural marriage is God's holy instrument to heal the world's divisions and liberate the resentment of our ancestors who hated and killed one another. There is, no doubt, profound merit and meaning to be inherited from participating in this profound healing and restoration process.

He has explained that the most beautiful, shining couples in the spiritual world are those who have developed the deepest hearts by loving each other beyond the most extreme differences.

- Children raised in such an international environment will more naturally and easily be able to embrace the world, and all of its citizens
- How glorious and enriching to develop an extended family and lineage that stretches around the globe and spans the divisions of nation, race and culture!
- What better way to contribute to the ideal of "One Family Under God?"

Important Points to Consider

- When establishing your Family Matching Plan, be very sure that your adult child candidate agrees with, wants and is realistically prepared for an international match.
- Candidates must complete the Blessing application and interview process in their own district before beginning the international matching process. Because international matching requires strong faith and deep commitment, completing the application process demonstrates that candidates are more prepared and serious. It also allows each nation's BFD to communicate with each other concerning the international match.
- Be sure you are financially prepared for at least one visit between candidates, and family members if possible, during the communication period, before deciding upon the match.
- Utilize the available and growing international resources and support system available. International matching website, International PMCs, liaisons, etc. (see below).

Potential Challenges to International Matching—and Recommendations

How do we find potential candidates?

One of the best ways to find candidates is to use the international matching website: www.bcmatching.org. Parents can also attend Matching Convocations (PMCs) in your own and other countries, which include candidates from many nations. If parents cannot attend, they can still display candidates, and have a matching advisor or advocate represent them. Europe, the USA, and some other countries have international liaisons to assist the process of finding and safely accomplishing an international match. Please refer to “The Process of International Matching” section that follows for some specific tools provided by the BFD. In addition, families can network themselves and receive suggestions through spiritual parents, friends, leaders and members whom they know living in other countries.

“We don’t want our children to live so far away... We don’t want to miss grandchildren growing up... We can’t afford the travel costs to visit or invite them to visit us.”

- The couple may decide to live in your country.
- With the internet, webcams, and Skype, you can share deeply with your loved ones practically face-to-face, at little or no cost.
- International travel will become continually easier and more affordable.

- Our children can and should become more successful than us, with internal AND external excellence. With careful planning, family visits and connections can be maintained. Perhaps they will invite you once a year!

“We want to know and trust the candidate and family that we match our child to.”

This is a valid and reasonable concern. International matching is a unique realm of faith, where we are creating an opportunity for God to work beyond our comprehension. Nevertheless, we recommend a period of time and communication for every potential couple, including international matchings. Candidates can communicate deeply through Skype and webcam when possible, and we strongly urge that candidates, and their family members when possible, visit the other family at least once before deciding upon the match.

“Our international marriage was so difficult; we don’t want our children to go through that experience.”

We don’t either! Thank God that our children are standing upon our foundation, however meager, and more importantly, are born from True Parents’ lineage. If your child wants it, understands it, and owns it, don’t limit the possibility, and create the conditions for God to guide the process.

“Learning a different language is so difficult.”

Fortunately for many of us, English is spoken widely

throughout the world. In addition, many international couples have found that a limitation in one form of communication can sharpen and sensitize other ways of understanding each other. If your candidate has the heart and desire, allowing them to pioneer and become self-reliant and strong is a wonderful thing. Just be sure that they have a realistic understanding of what to expect.

The Process of International Matching

Please follow the guidelines in the previous chapter, “The Matching Process,” with special attention to the issues and concerns identified here. Matching Advisors can support you through the process. You must complete the Blessing Application process in your own community or district before beginning. This will allow the BFDs and advisors in each nation to communicate with each other and support your matching process to its conclusion.

The following tools can assist parents in finding potential matches in other countries:

International Matching Website

www.bcmatching.org

This website was established in cooperation with all international BFDs for the purpose of finding matches from any part of the world. You can go to this site and follow the tutorial to create your own account. The candidate him/herself should sign

up, create an ID and password, upload pictures and complete all the information. Once completed, the national or regional BFD webmaster will review the application, add it to the list of applicants and provide parents with a “parents password.” This will allow parents to view the list of available international candidates. On the website there are both applicants and candidates (candidates are those who have completed the Blessing application process in their nation or region). With the ID and password, parents and candidates can access, edit and update their profile at any time. Candidates’ info can also be made available or hidden by selecting “open” or “close,” or can be deleted from the website when you choose. Only parents have access to the list of international candidates with their password, which should not be given to their candidate. The site is only a matching tool and does not replace the application, qualification and communication process.

Parents Matching Convocations

In each nation or region Parents Matching Convocations (PMCs) are held regularly. Contact your BFD to find out when and where these are taking place. The PMCs are designed for Parents to meet and network with other families, learn about the matching process and find potential candidates for their child. Parents can display their candidate’s profile and photo at any PMC, with the candidate’s agreement, whether parents attend the PMC or not. American families can submit profiles for any

PMC in the USA by registering your family with the Blessed Family Association at www.blessedfamilies.org, completing the profile page at the “Matchbook” site there, and clicking “Make Available at PMC.” For other nations, consult your BFD.

For families in any country, your national or regional BFD will announce upcoming PMCs in your own and other nations. To display your candidate’s profile at a PMC in another country, complete the profile information at the international website, www.bcmatching.org, and inform your national or regional BFD of your desire to have the profile displayed at a particular PMC in another country. The BFD hosting that PMC will print out your online profile and photos and display them as you requested.

Matching Advisors and International Liaisons

Each nation and region is working to develop international liaisons that can help parents find potential candidates and communicate with parents, matching advisors or the BFD in other nations. For international liaisons and contact information for international BFDs, see the Appendix 4: Contact Information. Please feel free to ask for help and support from your district BFD.

Additional Points to Consider

- Cultural differences (extended families, parental expectations, gender roles, etc.)
- Immigration and visa issues
- The church and community support system in a particular country or region
- Special concerns in certain countries may include health, immunization, political or financial issues.

Matching Advisors

When considering an international match, feel free to consult with a certified matching advisor, especially those who specialize in international matchings. Advisors can also assist and support you throughout the matching process. To learn how to find a Matching Advisor, see Appendix 4: Contact Information.



RESOURCES AND REFERENCE MATERIALS

Online and Networking Resources

- *International Matching Website* - www.bcmatching.org
- “*Matchbook*” - BFA’s online matching site at www.blessedfamilies.org
- *Parents Matching Convocations* - several times a year in the USA and internationally.
- *Matching Advisers* - each nation and region will identify, train and certify first and second generation elders who, by spiritual gift, calling and/or experience, can support and assist parents and candidates in the matching process. To find a matching adviser, or find out how to become one, contact matching@unification.org
- *Utilizing an Advocate* - a candidate or family can identify an elder, friend or well-connected person to represent them in the matching process. They can recommend the candidate to others, represent them at PMCs or through Matchbook, and serve as an intermediary for them with other families.

Parenting Advice

- *Educating for True Love/* Chapter 21 - HSA Books
- *First Comes Marriage* - Reva Seth. Through the advice from 300 arranged marriages, she shares the importance of knowing yourself and identifying what's central in building a lasting marriage.
- *Best Tips on Matching for Parents* - True Father. (BFD-resources-Matching) website
- *Suggested Guidelines for Family-Centered Matchmaking and The Marriage Blessing Commitments* - Dr. Mose Durst/ Ken Hardman. A discussion paper on the step by step process of parent centered matching. (BFD-resources-Matching) website
- *An Outline for a Biography and Statement of Marital Readiness* - A practical, self reflective exercise to help parents and children be prepared for matching. (BFD-resources-Matching) website
- *Losing Control and Liking It: How to Set Your Teen (and Yourself) Free* - Tim Sanford. Great advice for raising teenagers by a professional counselor with focus on the family.
- *The Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work* - John M. Gottman. Based on his research with 700 couples John Gottman lays out a clear path how to build and maintain a happy marriage.

- *Five Love Languages for Teenagers* - Gary Chapman. Identifying the ways in which parents and children express their love to one another and how to use that knowledge to build a lifelong relationship.
- *Wonderful Ways to Love a Teenager* - Judy Ford. To love a teenager.
- *Hey Dad, if you only knew....8 things teens want to tell their Fathers , but don't.* - Josh Weidman and James Weidman
- *Active Parenting for Teens*, 3rd Edition - Michael H. Poplin. Provides concrete steps on how to handle family problems, honest communication and respectful discipline.
- *Launching Your Teen Into Adulthood: Parenting Through the Transition* - Hoolihan. Teaching your teenager life skills as preparation for marriage.

Education for Candidates

- *I Kissed Dating Goodbye* - Joshua Harris. Smart love looks beyond personal desire and the gratification of the moment. A “how to,” to prepare oneself for marriage from God’s perspective.
- *True Love Volume I* - True Father’s words on marriage 1979- 1989. True Father’s Advice and anecdotes from the time of many first gen blessings 1979-1989. HSA-Books

- *Tale of Two Brains: Teen Edit* - Mark Gungor (DVD). Explores the difference between man and woman in an honest and hilarious way.
- *The Gift for Life* - 2nd Gen Blessing Department Guidebook. Compiled by Inguk Seo. Includes matching /Blessing testimonies from 1st and 2nd generation. HSA-Books
- *Is it Infatuation or True Love?* - Marriage Library Archive 12-07-09. *website*
- *Can We Dance?* - “*Learning the steps for a Fulfilling Relationship*” - Susanne M. Alexander. How can we prepare for and be in a relationship that is founded on character development and growth.
- *The Meaning of the Blessing* - True Father (BFD-resources-matching) *website*
- *Cheon-Hwa-Dang: House of Heaven’s Harmony* - Hyung Jin Moon. Wonderful internal guidance on developing character and internal discipline. HSA-Books
- *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens* - Sean Covey. Applies the seven habits to the life of teens including stories from all over the world (self image, build more active goals, your goals for parenting...).
- *Lady in Waiting* - Jones/Kendall. Biblically-based marriage preparation/comes with accompanying workbook. A book about finding God’s biblically

based marriage etc.

- *Top Ten Things to Think About for Matching Candidates* - Jim Stephens (BFD-resources-matching) website
- *Guidelines for Self Improvements* - Jim Stephens (BFD – resources-matching) website
- *Five Steps to Change Bad Habits to Good Ones* - James Claiborn (BFD -resources-matching)
- *29 Critical Matching Variables* - Neal Clark Warren (BFD -resources-matching) website
- *Dae Mo Nim- Words to Second Gen* - (BFD -resources-matching) website

Building Relationships / During the Matching Process

- *Flag Page* - Mark Gungor. Helpful tool for young people to learn about themselves in preparation for matching. (BFD- resources-matching) website
- *Saving Your Marriage Before it Starts* - Les & Leslie Parrot. Points to prepare yourself for being a qualified candidate. Ask the reader 7 important questions. Through answering, the reader can gain valuable skills that help build a successful marriage.
- *Pure Gold – Encouraging Character Qualities in Marriage* - Susanne M. Alexander. Learn how to

understand and practice positive character traits in your marriage. Great for before and after the matching and Blessing.

- *Boy Meets Girl* - Joshua Harris. Practical guidance on how to switch from “no dating” to building a God centered relationship that develops into commitment and marriage.
- *What is a Healthy Marriage Anyway?* - (Marriage Library Archive 2-04-10) *website*
- *Myer/ Briggs - Personality Types at a Glance* - (BFD -resources - Matching) *website*
- *Couples Surveys* - A helpful way to learn about myself and my prospective partner: values, upbringing, communication styles, attitude toward faith, children, money, etc. “Prepare/ Enrich” www.prepare-enrich.com; “Foccus” www.foccusinc.com; “Ready/Relate” www.relate-institute.org
- *Commitment Ceremony for Matched BC Candidates* - Jim Stephens (BFD-resources- Matching) *website*
- *Five Love Languages Questionnaires* - Gary Chapman. Find out how you and your fiancé differ in giving and receiving love. (BFD – resources-Matching) *website*
- *Questions to Ask Potential Matches* - Marjorie Buessing . Great conversation starters and questions to ask potential matches. (BFD-

resources-Matching) *website*

Websites

- www.themarriagelibrary.com/archives/.htm
- www.smartmarriages.com
- BFD website: www.familyfed.org/bfd
- BFA website: www.blessedfamilies.org
- www.hsabooks.com
- For Better and For Ever: www.marriagepreparation.com
- www.successtoparenting.com
- www.LoveandLogic.com
- www.eHow.com – search for “Marriage Preparation”

Additional suggestions are welcome: e-mail us at Blessing@unification.org

A P P E N D I X 1

Suggested Questions for Learning About a Matching Candidate

Here are some recommended questions for parents to think about and use when communicating with other families and considering a potential match. First, parents can use some of these in their initial communication with other parents. They might also use some of these questions later in the exploration process when interviewing the other candidate directly. Sensitive questions should be asked with care.

1. What is your relationship with God like and when do you feel closest to God?
2. How much Divine Principle Education have you had?
3. Which part of the Principle grabs you the most?
4. What church activities have you been involved in?

5. How do you view the roles of husband and wife in the family?
6. How do you envision your future family connecting to and participating in the church community and activities?
7. What kind of community and environment would you like your future family to live in?
8. Where would you like to live while you raise a family?
9. How big a family would you like to have?
When do you think you would want to start having children?
10. Do you have any health concerns?
11. Is there any reason to think having children could be a problem?
12. Have there been any health concerns in your family history that are hereditary? Examples of these would be epilepsy or sickle cell anemia.
13. Have there been mental health concerns in your family history? For example, bi-polar condition or attempted suicide.
14. Have you ever seen a mental health professional, been diagnosed or taken medication for any mental health problem, psychological or emotional condition, learning or developmental disability?

15. Ask questions about how the candidate was raised. Ask about grandparents and great-grandparents. These are precious questions about the possible joining of two lineages.
16. How were you disciplined as a child? How would you like to discipline your children?
17. How do you manage your anger? Have you ever had a violent outburst?
18. What is your level of purity? Are you qualified to go to TF Matching? Have you ever dated or kissed? Have you ever given your heart to another person?
19. Have you ever experienced any addictive behavior? (Alcohol, Drugs, Gambling, Pornography) Is there any family history of addiction?
20. Do you have any “Deal Breakers” (issues that make it impossible for you to consider a match with someone)? Examples of these could be language, location, race, purity level, education, vices, etc
21. What are your passions and goals?
22. What is your career path and what are your plans to support a family?
23. What are your interests and aspirations?
24. Do you have any debts, such as college loans?

25. Love is a verb. It is something you do, not just a feeling. After you commit to someone at the time of the matching, what will you do to win their heart and care for them?
26. Unity and love between a husband and wife is not easy—men and women are so different. What are some things you would do to continuously grow and develop a healthy friendship and marriage?
27. How did your parents handle finances? How do you see it working in your marriage?
28. How do you see you and your future spouse solving disagreements? How was conflict and difficulty managed in your own family growing up?
29. If you were to find yourself struggling in your marriage, who would you go to for help?
30. What educational activities or supportive friendships might you choose to participate in as a couple?

A P P E N D I X 2

Suggested Questions for Matching Candidates to ask each other

(You may want to start with the last question)

1. What are your unspoken personal 10 commandments?
2. What are 10 expectations you have about your spouse and 10 about your marriage? What are 10 expectations you think your spouse will have of you?
3. What are some of the needs and desires that were never fulfilled by your parents? What were your hurts and disappointments as a child? What were your greatest joys?
4. What were your hobbies and sports growing up?
5. How did you usually get into trouble? How did you get out of trouble? How would you discipline your children?
6. What did you enjoy about school activities? Who were your favorite teachers and why? What awards and achievements did you win?

7. Who were your close friends and where are they today?
8. When did you feel closest to God? What was your spiritual life like as a child? as a teen? as an adult?
9. What are your political views?
10. How did your family celebrate holidays? Did your family have any special traditions? What was your favorite family vacation?
11. Who are the five most important people in your life?
12. What are your views on aging?
13. Where would you like to live?
14. How do you handle your finances? Do you have any debts?
15. Describe your educational and job experiences. What was your relationship to classmates, coworkers and bosses? What are your ambitions?
16. What parts of your childhood would you like to relive and why?

We also suggest that candidates
pray for each other every day.

A P P E N D I X 3

Commitment Ceremony Ideas and Recommendations

This is your Commitment Ceremony. It is the first thing you work together to create. Please take the time to create a ceremony that reflects who you are and who you want to become. Create a ceremony that begins your walk through life together by welcoming God into the heart of your relationship. Your ceremony may be simple or ornate, the important thing is you have worked together to create it and you are sincere in your commitment to God and each other.

Some Basic Components:

1. Opening Prayer
2. Few words by a parent from each family
3. Candidates speak:
 - a. What this Commitment means to me.
 - b. Why my match is the best person for me.
 - c. Vows they have written, either individually or together.

4. Exchange of gifts
5. Signing of the Matching Report Form
6. Closing Prayer
7. Share a meal and have cake
8. Photos

Other ideas some have included:

1. A bowing ceremony before True Parents, before their parents, between the candidates and between the two families.
2. Guests. This can be very appropriate and inspiring to share with another close Blessed Family or relative like grandparents.
3. The candidates may choose the order and who says the prayers and give guidance to the parents who may be saying a FEW short words about their child or the meaning of this day or the Blessing.
4. Gifts. Gifts need to be agreed upon beforehand. The parents may give spiritual gifts to the couple like Holy Salt from one family and a CIG Candle and matches from the other. The candidates may exchange gifts of similar value like nice not too expensive jewelry or a handmade blanket. The families may choose to exchange a nice gift like a small art piece from their native area or a handmade keepsake.

5. Other things that you may want to consider for your ceremony:
 - a. A banner. This can be made by siblings that want to help.
 - b. A slide show of each person growing up, their meeting and growing together to this decision.
 - c. Music.
 - d. A reading of Father's words.
 - e. Photos. This is a great chance to take photos of the couple, and family photos for each family
 - f. If there are guests from outside our church you may want to consider a brief introduction that puts our tradition of matching in a historical context.

A P P E N D I X 4

Contact Information

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8. Minneapolis, MN, Rosemary Yokoi
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10. Seattle, WA, Richard & Hiroko Stumpf
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11. San Francisco, CA, Poppy Richie
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A P P E N D I X 5

USA Blessing Fees

The Blessing Fee is an offering to be made by each candidate, as a substantial condition to receive the Blessing, and all of its historical value for their family and lineage. This condition was established by our True Parents, on whose authority and foundation the Blessing is given. The amount has been set internationally for each nation or region of the world. Spiritually, these funds belong to True Parents. Traditionally, a smaller portion of the fee is used to cover the costs of the actual Blessing events, and the remainder is used only for the education and support of Blessed Families and Blessed Children.

The Blessing Fee should be fully prepared before participating in the Blessing

- Blessing Donation for Blessed Children in the USA—\$2,000. per candidate
- Donation for USA BCs traveling to Korea for Blessing—\$1,500. per candidate
- Donation for USA BCs being re-Blessed—\$500. per candidate [If candidate paid full fee originally]