

True Peace

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DECEMBER 2016





A Pivotal Moment in Providential History

*This is an edited excerpt of the author's testimony in
Cheon Jeong Gung at the December 11 Victory Celebration.*

By Kim Dong-woo



In 1994, True Father called twelve young district pastors from Korea and sent them abroad to study at the Unification Theological Seminary in the US. I was one of them. Since then I have attended True Parents, the American providence and the world providence in America. Three years ago, True Mother called me back to Korea.

When I heard that Mother would hold an event in America to which a hundred US legislators promised to come, honestly, I thought to myself, can I believe this or not? In my heart was disbelief. I had been in America for twenty years. We had tried to do something like this for many years, and for us it seemed like a far off dream, an unrealizable dream.

The conclusion though is that after Father's seonghwa, True Mother has spoken to us and led us forward. Mother gives us a message, but even though we hear it, we cannot understand or grasp the meaning of it. Therefore, Mother has to do God's work directly, to show us. Two thousand years ago, Jesus said, "Even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father."

In a similar manner, for the last three and a half years, True Mother has spoken to us many times and tried to guide us on the right path. However, we still not only have not been able to unite in heart with Mother but because we have been unable to walk together with Mother's providence, Mother had to come to the eldest son nation, America, and directly move the providence to show this to us. I saw this very clearly. I have American citizenship. Therefore, I spent time, through the American presidential campaign until the election, trying to see and approach America from a providential viewpoint. It was at that time that I listened to Mother's speech, and I truly began to repent for many things. I had not understood Mother. We were close to Father but in heart, we had been so far from Mother.

Mother stood up in the Senate. They met in the Kennedy Caucus Room, in which a number of politicians have announced their presidential candidacy. Even in America it is a place that has political power. It is in a central area; not just anyone can speak there, but True Mother stood and spoke there. As I was sitting there in that place, symbolic of America's government and the people, because I am also an American, the experience moved me deeply. I thought, True Mother! Truly, whatever you say today will be a historic message and truly as we move forward will be a speech that influences America.

True Mother's trademark is speaking without a written speech. Honestly, I was worried. Even in a great place like that, Mother began speaking without a prepared script. As I was sitting there, I kept wondering to myself if this were real or a dream. Was it truly possible?

Please think about it, everyone: When we had events in America, how much effort did it take to invite even one legislator? In truth, it did not go well. It was difficult. However, True Mother went to the Senate, gathered the legislators and made that proclamation. I concluded that this was True Parents' proclamation of the starting point of the real construction of Cheon Il Guk.

After the Coronation Ceremony for the Kingship of God, as I attended Father in America, Father focused on three things. The first was the Abel UN, to renew the UN. The second was removing borders. The third was intercultural exchange blessings. The conclusion of my message is that apart from what Mother is saying, who at this time is doing True Father's work? The question is, Who is accomplishing the work that Father toiled to achieve?

When we look at the three things above, True Mother has connected Korea, Japan and America, and has accomplished with blood and tears, the things Father worked to accomplish. I was able to realize that Mother is working to accomplish these things now. That is why, as I listened to Mother's message on Capitol Hill, I confessed that I had not understood and had not followed Mother. Mother, I am sorry. I repent. From now on, no matter what happens I will focus on this providence and follow it with everything I have. I have made this resolution and I have begun. 

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View of the Principle of the Providential History of Salvation

*True Father delivered this address on April 16, 1996 in the US capital, Washington DC,
at the inaugural banquet of the Washington Times Foundation.*

For a son to be born on earth with this seed of God's love and life, a mother must first exist. Such a mother cannot give birth to this child in a conventional way. Conception must happen in accordance with the formula of restoration. All the cooperation between mothers and sons in the providence of restoration is a preparation and a condition for the son of God to be born with the seed of new life, free from satanic accusation. By making conditions to avoid Satan's attacks, and by subordinating the firstborn son who represents evil, mother and son restore the love, life and lineage that Satan had taken over.

The Bible, which records the providential work of God, contains many stories that are difficult to understand. For example, Rebekah deceived her husband Isaac and her first son Esau, and helped her second son Jacob receive the blessing. God took the side of that mother and son, and although they used methods that at first glance seem unjust, God still blessed them for their actions.

In Adam's family, Cain and Abel fought and their struggle resulted in the death of Abel, the second son. Then came Jacob. On the merits of many godly people who paid indemnity and sacrificed after the time of Abel, Jacob at last caught up to the level at which Satan first dominated humankind. Jacob had to deal with his twin brother, Esau. At the ford of Jabbok, Jacob set up the condition of spiritual victory over the angel, and through winning over Esau, who was in the position of the archangel. Jacob consequently was blessed as the first victor in history, and was given the name "Israel." (Gen. 32:28)

By then, however, Jacob was forty years old. Satan had sown the seed of false love within the womb of Eve, which gave birth to evil life. Therefore, God needed to purify a mother's womb from which the heavenly son could be born. That purification period of separation from Satan had to begin at the time of conception and continue to the age of forty. Even though Jacob was victorious, he made only one step toward meeting that criterion. The great mother who assumed the responsibility to meet this condition was Tamar.

Tamar had married Er, Judah's eldest son, but Er displeased God and he died. According to the custom of that time, Judah gave Tamar to his second son, Onan, that they might bear a child for Er. Onan, knowing that Tamar's child would not be his own, spilled his semen on the ground. This was a sin in the eyes of God, for which Onan died. Then Tamar wanted Shelah, Judah's third son, for a husband, but Judah did not give him to her. Judah thought that his two sons had died because of Tamar, so he was afraid that Shelah would die and end the family line.

Tamar had the conviction that she was meant to carry on the chosen people's lineage. In order to do that, she disguised herself as a prostitute and slept with her father-in-law, Judah, and became pregnant with twins. At the time of birth, one of the twin sons, Zerah, stretched out his hand from the womb to be born first. When he was pulled back into the womb, the second son, Perez, was born first, taking the position of the elder brother.

Thus, within the womb of Tamar, the first and second sons fought, and their reversal of position was the condition that separated them from Satan. In other words, this became the condition for restoration in the womb. Upon this condition, the Messiah could be conceived within the chosen people's bloodline, on the foundation of the nation of Israel, which would be able to stand up to the Roman Empire two thousand years later. The victorious foundation on the national level could then form in the womb of a mother free from satanic accusation, prepared for the seed of God's son. On this foundation, Holy Mother Mary emerged in the mainstream of God's providence.

God's first love

Mary, when she was engaged to Joseph, received from the archangel Gabriel the surprising message that the Messiah would be born through her (Luke 1:31). In those days, if an unmarried woman became pregnant she was killed. However, Mary accepted God's will with absolute faith, saying, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." (Luke 1:38)

Mary consulted the high priest

Zechariah, who was her relative and was highly respected. Zechariah's wife Elizabeth, with the help of God, was pregnant with John the Baptist. Elizabeth said to Mary, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! Why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" (Luke 1:42-43) With these words, she testified to the coming birth of Jesus.

In this way, God let Mary, Zechariah and Elizabeth know about the birth of the Messiah before anybody else. All of them had the crucial mission of following God's will and serving Jesus. Zechariah's family let Mary stay in their house. Jesus was conceived in Zechariah's house.

Elizabeth and Mary were cousins on their mothers' side. According to God's providence, they were considered sisters, with Elizabeth as the elder (Cain) and Mary as the younger (Abel). Mary received Elizabeth's help in the presence of Zechariah. Through this cooperation, Zechariah's family, on the national level, indemnified the lack of unity between Leah and Rachel in Jacob's family, and their failure in mother-son cooperation. This allowed Jesus to be conceived. For the first time in history, there could be generated on earth, free of satanic accusation and through a prepared womb, the seed of God's son, the seed of the True Father. In this way, God's only begotten son, the owner of the first love of God, was born for the first time in history.

Mary had to achieve something that through common sense was incomprehensible and was nearly intolerable under the law of those times. Mary, Elizabeth and Zechariah had been spiritually moved. They followed the revelation that came from God, and unconditionally believed that it was God's will and desire.

Although it was possible for God's son to be born on earth, he needed a wall of protection to grow up safely in Satan's world and to fulfill God's will. God had hoped that these three people in Zechariah's family would establish that protective foundation. There are many points to consider with regard to how seriously the three had to dedicate themselves to protecting and serving God's son, and how long they were to have been

The Washington Times Foundation Inaugural Banquet

April 16, 1996 – Washington, DC



True Parents at the inauguration of the Washington Times Foundation at which True Father gave this landmark speech, which In Jin Moon interpreted into English.

united with one another.

In the Bible it is recorded, “And Mary remained with her [Elizabeth] about three months, and then returned to her home.” (Luke 1:56) After that, there is no biblical record of any further communication between Mary and Elizabeth and Zechariah. From the time Mary left Zechariah’s house, difficulties began for Mary and Jesus. The family of Zechariah ought to have been the wall of protection for Jesus until the very end.

A short time later, Joseph discovered that Mary was pregnant. How great must have been his shock at that moment! Mary, his beloved fiancée, without having had any conjugal relationship with him, had become pregnant after a three-month stay in another place. It was natural for Joseph to question Mary about who the baby in her womb belonged to. What would have happened if at that time Mary had explained everything candidly? If she had exposed everything, it could have been the end of a clan. So Mary simply responded that she was

pregnant by the Holy Spirit.

Mary’s pregnancy began to show, and the people of the surrounding area became aware of it. What would have happened if Joseph had declared that he did not know anything about it? However, Joseph was a righteous man. He believed in the revelation of God and defended Mary, saying the pregnancy was his responsibility. Mary may have been ridiculed for becoming pregnant during her engagement, yet she avoided being stoned to death.

Joseph, who loved Mary, protected her in this way in the beginning. However, there was a great deal of anguish deep in his heart. Once Jesus was born, Joseph’s suspicions about Jesus’ father only increased and his heart ached. As Jesus grew older, the two became increasingly distant in heart; because of this, family problems frequently arose. Jesus was viewed as an illegitimate son, and lacking the protection of Zechariah’s family and the love of Joseph, he grew up with an indescribable loneliness in his heart.

Jesus’ three-year course

Jesus was aware of his path as the Messiah, and he lamented by himself these lonely circumstances and the serious obstacle they presented to fulfilling God’s will. The Messiah is the True Parent. To fulfill that mission, however, he needed to receive his substantial bride. Jesus had to reverse, at the very root, the false love by which the archangel had caused the fall of Eve, who was originally growing up as Adam’s sister. Consequently, Jesus, in the place of Adam as God’s son, ought to have received as his bride the younger sister of someone in an archangelic position. That bride was to have been none other than Zechariah’s daughter, John the Baptist’s younger sister. To fulfill this in a world where Satan plays the role of owner and lord, Jesus needed a foundation of protection formed by absolute faith. Tragically, the entire foundation ended up collapsing around him. 

This edited excerpt is from Pyeong Hwa Gyeong, Book 1 Speech 8, which begins on page 105.



True Mother Speaks to Young Unificationists

East Garden, December 4, 2016



Are all of you in the second or third generations? Who am I? I am God's only begotten daughter. Due to Adam and Eve's Fall, Heaven has had to endure a painful and difficult providence. Heaven has led the history of the providence of restoration through indemnity; Heaven could not help but follow this painful and difficult path. In the beginning, God created heaven and earth, and lastly God created Adam and Eve to become the ancestors of humankind and said, "This is good. This is beautiful."

However, God especially gave Adam and Eve responsibility; that responsibility consisted of them going through a growth period and becoming absolutely one with God. Adam and Eve should have grown in this way. The point at which Adam and Eve would have received the blessing would have been the point at which God became the True Parents of humankind, which was the purpose behind God's creation of heaven and earth—God's dream. Adam and Eve, who should have fulfilled their responsibilities as expressed in the Bible, fell due to the Satan's temptation. They became greedy and self-centered; they began to look towards themselves.

It is the same with you. As children

in blessed families, True Parents are your essence. You cannot fulfill the purpose of your existence separated from True Parents. Do you understand that? Having received blessings, you have a responsibility; that responsibility entails that until you have reached perfection, you should listen to your parents. More importantly, you must become absolutely one with True Parents. Wherever you may be—whether you are studying or developing your talents and abilities—you should think always in this way: I am doing this, and I would like to offer this to True Parents. What do True Parents wish for me? Is this what True Parents would like me to do? If True Parents want this, I will take responsibility for this area and be triumphant and successful for True Parents.

That kind of desire, that kind of ambition is good. However, allowing in self-centeredness will lead to anger. Do you understand? The greatest wish of fallen human beings is to meet the True Parents, to be saved through True Parents; that is their greatest wish, whether they are aware of the providence, or not. They are waiting for the absolute owner, an absolute being who can preside over creation. We can see this in the four major religions, but this belief is most prominent in Christianity, because

even though Christianity could not fully explain God, Christians believed God was their Father.

Preparing for Jesus

Originally, God's purpose for creating was to become humankind's parent. It is difficult to explain concretely, but God is our Father. At the time of the Creation, beginning with the smallest microorganism all the way to the animal world, God created everything in pairs. God created humankind in pairs too. If that is the case, God, our Heavenly Parent, is not just male. Isn't that so? During the history of the providence of indemnity, for the sake of restoration, God selected the chosen people, who in comparison to the rest of the fallen world were a good people armed with the ideology of the chosen people. God selected these people and developed them. How difficult that process must have been that it took four thousand years to develop the foundation from the individual, the family, the tribe, the people and then to the nation. Four thousand years—how difficult it must have been! It has been about two hundred and forty years since the founding of the United States. Isn't that right? It took four thousand years until God gave birth to his only begotten son in the fallen world, a son that God could call "my



- ❶ A partial view of the large crowd of second-generation members that came to see True Mother and hear her speak at East Garden.
- ❷ Spase and Catherine Kace, a blessed couple, offering a thousand origami cranes in a crystal bowl; the young people in the room had folded all of them.
- ❸ CARP and Cranes Club sponsored the event in an effort to bring young people closer to True Mother. They seated the 2016 Aloha Winter Workshop participants in the front row.



son.” How painful this must have been for God! However, Mary, who gave birth to Jesus, did not understand the providence. She did not know all that had transpired in order for her to be able to give birth to Jesus. It was the same with Zechariah’s family, Joseph’s family, Judaism and the people of Israel: All of them waited and yearned, asking God to send the Messiah, and Heaven kept that promise. Heaven sent the Messiah, but the people could not attend the Messiah properly. Their thinking was that a strong power would come and conquer everyone in the fallen world that did not belong to the chosen people of Israel. This was what they hoped for, but that was not what happened. The providence of restoration through indemnity is difficult. Why did God, who is almighty, omnipotent and can act as he wishes, let go of Adam and Eve? It would have been easier to erase Adam and Eve and make a fresh start. Why did God persist and save human beings? Because God cannot fail.

God expressed a special love for human beings, and that expression of love was responsibility. That is why the people around Jesus were unable to create a protective environment for Jesus. Mary could not fulfill her responsibility. However today, Catholics worships Mary as the holy moth-

er. They left Jesus hanging on the cross for two thousand years. How is it possible that God would prepare for four thousand years to send the only begotten son and then have Jesus not live for a hundred years but go through crucifixion at the age of thirty-three? How can you consider this salvation? I believe that this is a testament to human ignorance. God has endured so much pain and suffering, and yet he had to prepare for the future and try again.

Jesus and the Israelites

Through two thousand years of Christian history, God has worked to develop the providence. Unfortunately, Christianity still has yet to understand God fully; they have a superficial understanding of God. They see God as the Father and consider themselves servants of the Lord. They consider themselves servants; they do not understand the essence of their relationship with God. Why is the returning Messiah so important? Christians are ignorant of this truth. They believe that overnight the world will change and a new world will appear. This kind of fantasy-like thinking is not rooted in logic. This does not agree with natural order. In other words, Christians have been completely ignorant of God’s provi-

dence. From God’s point of view, the two-thousand-year history of Christianity in God’s providence has been the providence to find God’s only begotten daughter. You need to understand this point fully. As Jesus hung on the cross, he promised to come again. Why would he come again? To host the marriage supper of the Lamb. To have a marriage, you need a bride, don’t you? Jesus gave the message, the word, so that everyone would fully understand. That is why God’s only begotten daughter must appear in the Messiah’s presence. You are all looking at the person; it is I.

I would like to explain this to you using historical evidence. God has led providential history, and throughout the providence, God has been appointing central figures because human beings, with their limited understanding, cannot fully explain God. Owing to the Fall, God has to select—from among fallen people—a central figure who is better than all other people in the fallen world. If a central figure were to fail in his or her responsibility, God would forgive the person but God could not attempt to fulfill the providence through that person again. One who fails in one’s responsibility must then pay indemnity. The same is true for a nation.

The Israelites sent Jesus to the

cross. From that moment, the value of their existence as a nation was lost. You need to understand that. Even today, in America are Jewish people, who for two thousand years lived as a people without a nation.

Responsibility in Jesus' time

According to the Bible, the God of humanity has worked for four thousand years, going through so much pain in order to send the only begotten son, Jesus, so that Jesus could meet God's only begotten daughter. They would have become the True Parents, and God would have become the True Parents of humanity, but the Israelites were unable to understand this providence. Therefore, they allowed Jesus, who was to have been the True Parent, to go to the cross. This was a great sin. Do you understand? Heaven waited for this particular moment and endured many unimaginable difficulties. During the time of Jesus, the Roman Empire was such a powerful empire that people said that all roads lead to Rome. The situation in Rome at that time was that if Jesus had received recognition as the True Parent, he would have absorbed Rome's foundation. Rome would have had no choice but to accept Jesus as the True Parent. If that had happened two thousand years ago, in Jesus' time, the realization of one world centered on God, the kingdom of heaven on earth, would have followed. However, the people of Israel were responsible for this being unable to happen. You can imagine that the indemnity they had to pay was extreme.

As I mentioned before, central figures have responsibilities, and if they fail in their responsibilities, the indemnity to be paid will be great. It is the same for a nation. God's only begotten daughter could not be found at the time of Jesus, so Heaven had to restore the foundation to give birth to God's only begotten daughter. God could no longer work through the people of Israel and had to select a different people. Around that time, the Dongi tribe was in Asia. When selecting the chosen people, God must find righteous people among fallen human beings and give them responsibility. This was during the Han Clan Empire.

Between 800 and 400 BC, the Dongi tribe prospered in what is today China. Those people revered Heaven, and they developed extraordinarily advanced astronomy. They were not a nomadic people; they developed agriculture. They became the chosen people. The Han people also loved white clothes. Every time they made devotions, they would dress in white and yield to Heaven in reverence. Those people existed during the same time as other kingdoms in China. Eventually, since people in the Han Empire did not like fighting and always tried to avoid war, they fled from place to place until they reached the Korean Peninsula. They eventually came to be known as the nation of Korea. When you look at the history of Korea, you will learn that people say Korea has a five-thousand-year history.

If you look at Korea's history, you can see that a kingdom called Goguryeo (고구려) vanquished many Chinese kingdoms. That kingdom of Goguryeo endured for about a thousand years. However, after the Goguryeo kingdom, the next kingdom to rise was Goryeo (고려). They used the "go" (고) character from Goguryeo and named themselves Goryeo. After the downfall of the Goryeo kingdom, King Yi raised a new kingdom called Joseon (조선), meaning "new kingdom." In Korea's past, from among one of the earliest kingdoms, we had Gojoseon (고조선), and King Yi used "Joseon" from "Gojoseon," to name his new kingdom.

Unfortunately, Japan occupied the kingdom of Joseon for forty years. Liberation from Japan came in 1945. I was born in 1943. It was only a few centuries since Christian culture had come to Korea. Among Christian believers were many who did not believe that the Messiah would come from the clouds. Many believed that the Messiah would be born through a woman, born in the flesh. Many spiritual groups held the belief that the Messiah would be born on earth. Among these spiritual groups, were formation-level groups, growth-level groups and completion-level groups. The leader of one of these groups testified about me, revealing who I was. When I was born, Satan knew who I was and tried to kill me. Why? Through my birth, Satan's dominion

over the world would end completely. That is why Satan resolved to kill me. From Heaven's point of view, this was unacceptable. I fought with Satan and was victorious, allowing me to stand here today.

Following the downfall of the Joseon kingdom, Korea was liberated. Why, though, is Korea called "Dae Han Min Guk" [대한민국—the Republic of Korea] literally the "Great Han Kingdom"? My family name happens to be Han. The Chinese character for "han" within Dae Han Min Guk is the same as for my family name. Isn't that interesting? Because of God's protection for the Great Han Republic, people say, "Republic of Korea, Man-sei!" With the liberation from Japan, Korea divided into the communist North and the democratic South. Communism and democracy have been in conflict ever since. The culture was Christian; nevertheless, communism, which claims that God is dead, was introduced into the Christian sphere.

I was born in North Korea, far north of the Thirty-Eighth Parallel. As a child, I lived in North Korea. However, God saw that if I had stayed in North Korea, I would have been in danger; I could have even died. If that were to happen, God's providence, which had been expecting God's only begotten daughters for six thousand years, would not have been able to create True Parents. That is why God worked to help me escape.

My maternal uncle was studying pharmacology at [Japan's] Waseda University. After he finished his studies, he should have returned to his hometown, but we received a telegram saying he chose to go to the South and join the South Korean Army. At that time, many Holy Spirit phenomena were occurring in Pyongyang, and my family did not want to flee, to leave, because they believed Pyongyang would become the Palace of Eden. Nevertheless, because my maternal uncle joined the South Korean Army, three women alone—my grandmother, my mother and I, only the three of us—left North Korea and went to South Korea. God worked to help us leave North Korea and come to South Korea. Two years after we left North Korea, the Korean War suddenly broke out.



True Mother, after delivering this speech at East Garden, amidst a sea of young people that represent the future of the unification movement

Listening to the story of my life and looking at this background, I am the only person ever born like this. Do you understand? How great the value of God's only begotten daughter is! Some blessed families still do not understand the value of God's only begotten daughter, which is regrettable. Furthermore, you who are here today, you in particular, need to know the truth. I hope that you can arise and become central figures. In order for you to fulfill your responsibilities, you need to unite completely with True Parents; unite with me. Do you understand? You have such a beautiful future ahead of you. You have the potential to contribute to the providence greatly as outstanding leaders and outstanding, talented people. We have more time than we did with the first generation. Is that right, or not? Therefore, I hope that you can grow properly. What happens if you get caught in Satan's sweet and tempting seduction as Adam and Eve did? History changed because of Adam and Eve. We still have not restored this nation. I hope that you can stand in the center and become central figures who can expand this environment, so that it can return to Heaven and receive the blessings of Heaven as a blessed nation.

You can create that nation. Will you

accept this burden? Truly, Heaven has blessed all of you with support; you need not be afraid of anything. In the course of providential history, you know the truth, and it's now time for you to reveal the truth. Do not keep the truth to yourselves. There are 7.3 billion people in the world. I hear there are now 7.4 billion people; the human population is increasing exponentially. Telling every one of them that True Parents are on earth is important. If they do not know this, when those people ascend to the spirit world and realize that the True Parents were on earth, how sorrowful and regretful they will feel and how resentful against you. Please take this point seriously. I hope salvation can come to many people through you. Because you are not sharing the good news, many people do not realize that the True Parents are on earth. They can't see True Parents or come to True Parents.

Have you thought about this? Looking at today's world inspires little hope. Even in America, so many challenges lie ahead. In particular, filled with individualism and selfishness, the world's superpowers place their national interests first, but God does not want that. God wishes to have one family under God. He wishes to have one united family, but

some nations are going in a direction contrary to God's will. Superpowers like the United States, Russia, China—as well as the European nations—exude self-centered individualism. You cannot find God amid self-centeredness. Do you understand?

Your pride is your relationship to True Parents and that you received the blessing from them. That is your pride. I told you during the Aloha Workshop that you are all pure water, which requires growing up properly. You are pure water, truly pure, unpolluted water. You should grow as this pure water. Do you understand? Through you, we need to purify the world, so please arise in the proud position of an owner, as the person in charge.

For the first time in six thousand years, God's only begotten daughter, the True Parents, are on earth. You have met True Parents in person. You have heard their message and have received love directly from them. Please do not keep that to yourselves. Do you understand? The more you share your blessings, the more you extend your blessings, the better. Do you see? Young people, I would like to hear a louder response. Do you understand that that is why you are alive? Will you do that? 

True Mother's 2016 American Tour

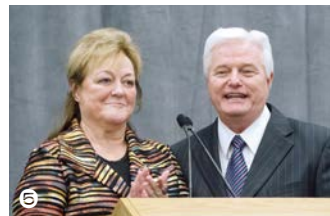
Future historians are likely to record that 2016 was indeed a year of great significance in True Parents' salvific mission. They may say that the year culminated in the Kennedy Caucus Room of the Russell Senate Office Building, in Washington DC, where True Mother proclaimed, "Someone has to achieve God's providence and God's dream, which is why fallen humankind absolutely needs True Parents, the Savior and Messiah. True Parents are the True Parents, the Messiah, the Savior.... Because they are the True Parents, they worked to save this great nation of America."

Yet, True Mother did not stop at enlightening political leaders. She spoke to more than five hundred pastors on December 3, for some of whom it was a moment of great transformation. That same night she spoke to thousands of Unificationists who had come to the Manhattan Center to be with her. On December 4, she spoke to blessed children—some now parents themselves— but many that have not yet reached the fullness of youth. It is fitting that before departing from the United States she consecrated a new museum at East Garden, a permanent reminder of True Parents' efforts to save the nation so that the nation might fully respond to God's call.



True Mother with True Family Values Award recipients and key leaders of the American Clergy Leadership Conference

True Family Value Awards (ACLC)



- ① True Mother speaking at the True Family Values Awards presentations
- ② Dr. Hollie-Thibodeaux and her husband David Thibodeaux, pastors and police chaplains in Dallas, Texas, greeting True Mother
- ③ Five hundred religious leaders were on hand to receive True Mother's message
- ④ Bishop Michael Sykes and his wife, Minister Zena Sykes, pastors of the United Missionary Baptist Church in East Orange, New Jersey
- ⑤ Senior Pastor of the Manhattan Family Church in New York, Tanya Edwards, and her husband Bishop Jesse Edwards, ACLC national evangelist
- ⑥ Famous professional musicians are aware of an album Chicago pastor, T. L. Barrett made with the Youth for Christ Choir decades ago that was re-released in 2010. Here, he plays for True Mother and his fellow members of ACLC.
- ⑦ Two young musicians playing traditional Korean drums
- ⑧ True Mother at the head table with Jesse and Tanya Edwards, Archbishop George Stallings and Sun Jin nim



Washington D.C. Victory Celebration



East Garden Museum Dedication



- ① True Mother speaking at the December 1 Washington DC victory celebration
- ② True Mother flanked by her daughter Ye Jin Moon and daughter-in-law Yeon Ah Moon praying at the dedication of the East Garden museum
- ③ From left: Dr. Kim Ki-hoon, Ye Jin Moon, True Mother and Song Yong-cheon, at East Garden
- ④ True Mother speaking during the January 1 Victory Luncheon in Washington DC
- ⑤ Branch and Naria Gaarder, a blessed couple and leaders of the Ocean Church providence in America, offered flowers to True Father and True Mother.
- ⑥ In introducing True Mother at the victory celebration in New York City, Sun Jin nim said, "She is my hero, my guru, my light! She is our liberator! Our Savior!"
- ⑦ Kim Ki-hoon, president of the North America region speaking during the victory celebration
- ⑧ True Mother encouraged the crowd by saying, "I would like to hear 'this person from this state restored the whole state.'"

Manhattan Center Celebration



Divine Health from Heaven

On December 19, Sun Jin Moon, the FFWPU international president, spoke to Japanese members staying at the Hannam-dong International Training Center and Guesthouse, where True Parents had lived in Seoul for many years. She led hoondokhae, a meditation and a Q and A session. Two people asked a question. The following is her greeting before hoondokhae and her answer to a question about True Mother's health.



It is an honor to have you all here as guest of Hannam-dong. We are grateful you could all come. We wanted to do a small hoondokhae and meditation to welcome you and to bring your heart, your mind and your soul in oneness with this holy place. This is True Parents' home; Korea is True Parents' homeland. Here, we hope you can grow deep roots of joy to become a beautiful tree and son or daughter of True Parents.... Welcome to this sacred holy ground.

This is where True Parents have secured the foundation for unity in all realms, between heaven and earth (as we see at Cheongpyeong) and in each person, between mind and body and between man and woman, parent and child and amongst all tribes and all nations, in order to fulfill Heavenly Parents' original eternal ideal of creating one harmonious, peace-loving global family. To begin, I would like to offer my deepest respect and most humble gratitude to all of you for your being filial sons and daughters to True Parents. I hope to hear from you and share after the

① Sun Jin Moon speaking to the tour group at the Hannam-dong International Training Center and Guesthouse

② This gentleman asked about True Mother's health; here, he is responding to having won, in a raffle, a personal item Sun Jin nim had received from True Parents. His wife, seated beside him, later also won something in a raffle.



- ① Sun Jin Moon and In Sup Park with a group from Japan staying at the Hannam-dong International Guesthouse. The banner indicates they are from West Tokyo and are on a tour that includes going to the Cheongpyeong Heaven and Earth Training Center
- ② The essence of unification is a heart-to-heart experience
- ③ Sun Jin nim had personally baked organic banana cake and handed it out to some of the guest. The gentleman in the foreground spoke with her in English.

hoondokhae, so that we can come together as a family and learn to support and love and give each other more strength. My hope is that you listen to today's hoondokhae and center your heart and your mind and open your heart and your mind to accept Father's words and to connect with his path, which will show you how to overcome any difficulty on your path.

Q You are always attending True Mother. True Mother and I are in the same generation. I worry about her health. The pressure and situations she goes through are beyond my imagination. I wonder how she is overcoming that. I think about that every day.

One thing I notice about True Mother is that she overcomes everything. To many degrees, before I started taking care of True Mother, since True Father's passing, I had no idea the level of burden and responsibility our True Parents have. One thing I noticed about True Mother, as well as True Father, is that nothing can explain their physical constitution or their health other than the word "divine." Because even at their age, for someone like me to follow them around and tour, my body is breaking down,

I feel cold. I asked Mother, What is your secret? How do you survive this amazing mission?

She said, the way I can overcome everything... (Because I didn't get to ask True Father when he was alive how he stayed so healthy and strong but I imagine it's the same.) True Mother said, no matter what difficulty you go through, know that Heavenly Parent loves you and if you devote your life to Heavenly Parent completely, no difficulty can sway this physical body or the spiritual body. It can be very difficult to remember to love Heavenly Parent as much as he loves you.

That's True Mother's wisdom, but every day, physically, she does do bouncing—exercising, walking. She takes very good care of her health and diet. Something she uses in Korea is called *seobseng* [Asian homeopathy]—it's like Korean *hanyak* [traditional medicine] plus *saju* [fortune], plus harmony with blood type. So she is eating food that is like medicine, very good for you.

Also, every time she is riding in the car, she listens to joyful music—bounce music, love music, joyful music. She surrounds herself with love, warmth and beauty. When I think of True Mother... If the embodi-

ment of Heavenly Parent were alive, what would his heart be like? What would that feel like? It would feel like the sun, almost—very loving warmth. In that way, when I think of True Parents, how they stayed healthy— young and so powerful, I think that Father is vertical, like Heaven— straight down. ...like lightning, Pshshst! Wake up!... OK I'm awake now! I have energy.

But True Mother's love is the complete horizontal-vertical, like arms embracing you. When you have vertical and horizontal combined in True Parents, you have this whole sphere of love, all around. So, it really is because of Heavenly Parent. When you look at them, that's why they are so young and energetic beyond all suffering. To have hope, to have vision, to continue on the path... They can, because they embody Heavenly Parent's love the vertical and horizontal, all encompassing. But they still do what is their responsibility. They take care of their health; they eat well and they exercise. We are not just spiritual bodies, here. We have to take care of our physical bodies, so we can all live long and create more victory. I learn everything from True Mother. I am still learning. ... 

A Letter to True Mother

True Mother received the following end-of-year reflection from Dr. Thomas Walsh, president of the Universal Peace Federation. True Mother later released the letter to members. Korean members heard it read aloud as the narration of a video on the first Sunday of 2017.

Beloved True Mother,

December 9, 2016, Tarrytown, NY

What an amazing year, 2016! What an amazing True Mother! What an amazing victory True Mother, through your visit to the US, the elder son nation. A year ago, I was with you in Las Vegas, and at that time, you met with Dr. Kim and several leaders who had gathered, sitting on the living room floor. At one point, you spoke to us about the importance of America, and you even said to me that although it was important to travel the world for UPF International, it was necessary to support and help America fulfill its mission, because America's role is so very important. I could feel your love for this nation and your keen sense of its providential importance. It is clear that your love for this nation is not based on any horizontal feeling, but it is based on your deep understanding of God's providence.

Beginning in February 2016, when you guided us to launch the IAPP, we could feel an awakening beginning, as though we were arising together out of the three-year period of mourning following True Father's passing. As we came to know you gradually at a deeper level than ever before, we began moving forward—just as you had pledged to True Father, saying, "Do not worry. Please rest with Heavenly Parent. We will fulfill everything." You are indeed leading us forward.

Following the amazing victory during the 2016 ILC at the time of True Parents' birthday and the inaugural meeting of the IAPP at the Korean National Assembly, you did not hesitate or stop to relax. You called us to carry out a series of Regional level ILCs, centering on UPF, with the focus on several key objectives: 1) Teach about True Parents and their vision of peace and their teachings 2) Convene parliamentarians and launch the IAPP at the regional level 3) Work to solve the critical problems facing humanity, such as climate change, extreme poverty, violent conflict, the refugee problem, and rising extremism 4) Promote True Parents' international peace highway project and Peace Road 5) Build a global network for peace and human development in order to establish one family under God and to establish the Abel UN. Based on your wisdom, guidance and leadership, True Mother, we gained inspiration, energy and determination.

In Nepal, we gathered the Asia, Oceania and Greater China regions for an Asia Pacific Level ILC, with hundreds of parliamentarians, the prime minister, the president and co-sponsorship by the Nepalese parliamentarians. Yeon Ah nim delivered True Mother's message. Hoon Sook nim and the Little Angels touched everyone's hearts. The sparks were catching fire.

The sparks then ignited Africa. In Burkina Faso, with full support of the government as co-sponsor, we gathered as the West Africa region, parliamentarians from twenty-four nations.

Then, at Westminster Palace, birthplace of modern parliaments, Sun Jin nim delivered True Mother's message to members of both houses, the House of Lords and House of Commons, as well as to current parliamentarians from throughout the Europe, Eurasia and the Middle East regions.

On to Central America and the Caribbean, where the parliament of Costa Rica assembled to for-



Dr. Thomas Walsh, a Supreme Council member and president of UPF International wrote this letter to True Mother.

mally, officially receive our ILC participants, led by Kwon Jin nim, who delivered True Mother's message. The president of the parliament and even the vice-president of the country welcomed us and offered their support.

Then to Paraguay, and the heart of South America, where True Parents had invested their blood, their sweat, their tears, their treasure, we assembled in the Parliament Building with the speaker of the parliament and parliamentarians from all over South America. Kwon Jin nim again delivered True Mother's message. The fire was lit in South America.

Then, back to the East Africa region, in Zambia, and a miraculous gathering of three hundred in the parliament house to receive True Mother's message, which Kwon Jin nim delivered.

On to Japan, following your visit to Kyushu and the site of the Korea-Japan undersea tunnel, for an unprecedented ILC victory, held at the Japanese parliament with around seventy parliamentarians lending their support, signing the IAPP declaration and listening to Sun Jin nim deliver True Mother's message. The fire was burning brighter and brighter.

It was True Mother's direction that we conclude the 2016 ILC series in Washington D.C., capital of the elder son nation. True Mother herself agreed to come to speak directly to the members of Congress. What a challenge! What an opportunity! What a victory.

The members of the elder son nation, guided by Dr. Ki Hoon Kim, and the many leaders who had been personally raised and trained by True Parents over so many decades, inspired by their love and respect for True Mother, worked from absolute determination to bring victory. And what a victory it was, an unprecedented victory. Never before had we achieved such an outpouring of support from all sectors and from all political parties. The present day is different from the past. We are on a new level. We stood not as beggars or servants or as apprentices but as the fruit of True Parents' ministry, and as men and women with a vision and message that America needs. Eighty members of the US Congress, Republicans and Democrats, rose to welcome the ILC, the IAPP and to receive True Mother's message, delivered in the Kennedy Caucus Room of the US Senate. UPF and the Washington Times Foundation worked together in unity, along with all brothers and sisters.

The night of your speech at the Senate, True Mother, was truly magical. It felt like Christmas Day... not any ordinary day. Miracles were happening. Senators and congressmen were coming in one after the other, as if they were movie stars coming to the Academy Awards. They spoke to our ILC. They were inspired to be with us. They greeted the international parliamentarians with so much appreciation and respect.

And, then the moment everyone was waiting for came. Sen Orin Hatch greeted True Mother with deep respect and in the most dignified and warmhearted way imaginable. His love and respect for True Parents was evident in every word and gesture. The Little Angels profoundly moved him. Only heaven could have scripted that day. This was a different America, an America awakened and shed-



"You spoke personally, lovingly and seriously to each one individually, underscoring each one's importance in the eyes of Heavenly Parent."
—Dr. Walsh

ding its history of mistreatment of True Parents and ignorance of their value. We were at the turning point, and the tipping point.

True Mother, your message on that day, your message to America, flowed without your having any notes and without even one pause. It flowed flawlessly, gracefully and powerfully and delivered heavenly content that was strong and truthful; it was medicine for the soul of the nation, medicine for a nation that was searching for its soul, a nation that was seeking to recover its true identity after having gone astray.

True Mother you summarized providential history brilliantly and truthfully. It was as though you were showing us the map of providential history—from Adam, through Jesus, to the present day—and pointing to our current location on that providential map, and showing us where we needed to go. You called each member of Congress, both the US members of Congress and the seventy parliamentarians from fifty-six other nations, to take responsibility. You spoke personally, lovingly and seriously to each one individually, underscoring each one's importance in the eyes of Heavenly Parent. You said, "The world needs you. Heaven needs you." It was as the Sermon on the Mount might have been. One could hear a pin drop during the speech, as everyone listened intently.

True Mother brought the flame to America, and the fire is now burning. A twenty-first century Great Awakening has begun. You continued to guide us at the Washington Times Building, at the Manhattan Center, and at East Garden. You are our True Teacher, True Parent, True Owner.

Imagine if Jesus had been able to go to Rome, to meet Tiberius, the Emperor (Caesar), and to speak before the Roman Senate (from Latin *senatus* or *senex* meaning elder or council of elders) which consisted of as many as six hundred senators at that time, as a council of advisors, but with power to install the emperor. The only begotten son and even his bride as well would have spoken directly to the senators. But, alas, this did not happen due to the providential failures of that time.

True Parents, however, did come to America, and spoke to presidents and before members of Congress. Despite much opposition, persecution and tragic imprisonment, True Parents prevailed and were victorious. True Mother's appearance at the Senate of the United States on November 30, 2016 is a transformative day for America and the world. This moment was different from past appearances. We had experienced nothing quite like this in the past.

Many of us had deep concern about the direction America has been going, not to mention Korea and Japan. Would the three central providential nations be able to fulfill their responsibilities, united together as one, centered on Heavenly Parent's will and True Parents?

True Mother, after your victorious visit to America, to the Senate, to the African American Museum, to the National Theatre, to the Washington Times Building, to East Garden, to the Manhattan Center, to the ACLC gathering, to the opening of the museum at East Garden, and on to Las Vegas, we have woken up. We are waking up from slumber. The fire is burning.



"True Mother brought the flame to America and the fire is now burning. A twenty-first-century Great Awakening has begun."—Dr. Walsh

Sun Jin nim delivered your message to the ILC with much grace and passion, supported by In Sup nim, along with Ye Jin nim, Kwon Jin nim, Hwa Yun nim and Yeon Ah nim. Their unity and support for True Mother were extremely important components of this victory.

The Little Angels are irreplaceable and the Sunhak Peace Prize announcement won everyone's respect and appreciation. The focus on refugees was right on target.

This victory came through the great unity and hard work of both brothers and sisters in America, but also the world over. For the US victory was a global victory, a victory that came through the unity among Korea, Japan and America, along with the entire world, the entire global family—every region, every nation, every blessed central family. Each ILC throughout 2016 was building toward Washington D.C. This was a global effort.

America cannot go to God or True Parents alone, but must go together with the entire world. That is what happened in Washington D.C. There was a foundation of faith and of substance to receive the Messiah, the only begotten daughter, the True Parents. Korea, Japan and America united. All regions united. Internal and external united. Young and old united. Cain and Abel united.

True Mother, we have only just begun. Like you, we are not stopping. We are not resting. God is not resting. At the Washington Times Building, you said that we should fulfill our responsibilities "Right Now." We will do that.

As you have said to us, God is busily preparing people the world over who are ready to receive True Parents' message. We are now moving forward to True Parents' birthday and an even greater victory, and onward throughout 2017, and 2018, and 2019 to victory in Vision 2020.

The providence has come alive! Heavenly Parent is alive, and conducting the central providence through our movement centered on True Mother. At the same time, Heavenly Parent is alive through our movement, brothers and sisters united with True Mother. But, although God is working directly with True Mother and our movement, God is also a very big God who exceeds our comprehension, and God is clearly working twenty-four hours a day to shape history and to prepare people in every nation, in every position and sector of power—in government, religion, academia, civil society, business, the arts...everywhere. The hearts and minds of all human beings are awakening. The original mind is coming alive.

True Mother, we each pledge to attend and support you and bring victory on a global level. In 2016 we have witnessed a heavenly awakening. But, we are only getting started. Wait until next year.

True Mother, Merry Christmas, Happy New Year. Hallelujah! Victory is near. God's nation is near. Cheon Il Guk is near. Thank you, True Mother. We love you True Mother. 

*With love, respect and appreciation,
Tom Walsh*

Encouraging Social Engagement and Loyal Citizenship



Rev. Moonshik Kim, national leader of Canada and chairman of UPF-Canada, with Islamic educator, Mufti Aasim Rashid, the leader of a mosque, in Burnaby, Canada, who naturally is deeply concerned about radicalization.

Encouraging Social Engagement and Loyal Citizenship among Disaffected Youth was the theme of the joint annual conference of Universal Peace Federation and the Women's Federation for World Peace held in the Ontario Legislature Building at Queen's Park in Toronto, Canada, on October 27, 2016. Ontario is Canada's largest province and Toronto the country's largest metropolis.

The gathering began with introductory remarks by the master of ceremonies, Mr. Daniel Stringer, and an Indigenous Welcome to Sacred

Land conducted by two Indigenous advocates and mothers—both leading representatives of their communities in Ottawa and panelists for this conference. Well-known Juno Award winning singer, Ms. Liberty Silver, sang a stirring rendition of the national anthem.

In his welcoming remarks Dr. Moonshik Kim, UPF-Canada chair, shared about the founders' vision and efforts for peace and succinctly clarified the guiding principles of the Universal Peace Federation. A brief video presentation of UPF's global activities followed.

Radicalism's beginnings

The first panel entitled "Exploring the Root Causes of Youth Radicalization" was moderated by Mr. Franco Famularo, UPF Canada's secretary general, and included four panelists. Mr. Paul Tamale, who had assisted two former attorney generals of Ontario with a report on the Roots of Youth Violence, reported that, poverty, attitudes of people in authority such as teachers and law enforcement officials were all factors, but that family instability is at the root of much of the disillusionment leading to violence in Canadian society.

Meriem Rebbani-Gosselin of the Center for Prevention of Radicalization leading to Violence, which is in Montreal, was the next speaker. In 2015, Ban Ki-moon, secretary general of the United Nations visited their center and recognized the organization's efforts as a model for other nations to follow. Ms. Rebbani-Gosselin provided insightful research that clearly shows that youth radicalization is not limited to a certain economic class or gender. She provided concrete examples of one particular cell uncovered in Montreal that committed themselves to travel to Syria to join the organization known variously as ISIL, ISIS and Islamic State.

Diverse representation

Each panel consisted of representatives from the Black, Indigenous and



Left to right: Paul Tamale, who spoke about a five-volume study done on the roots of violence following the murder of a black teenager; Franco Famularo, UPF-Canada's secretary general; Meriem Rebbani-Gosselin of the Center for Prevention of Radicalization leading to Violence; Ms. Jocelyn Wabano-Iahtail, who spoke as one of Canada's indigenous people; Dr. Jooyoung Lee of the University of Toronto, who spoke on gang violence in the US city of Los Angeles

Muslim communities. The Indigenous perspective in the first panel was presented by Ms. Jocelyn Wabano-Iahtail, a PhD. Candidate at Carleton University who has personal experience on First Nation territory with the abuse of her people. Her mother recently received an apology from the Canadian Parliament due to systemic abuse experienced through the residential school system. She shared how indigenous spirituality contributes to the healing process and through an interactive exercise with the audience put emphasis on the sacredness of each person.

Dr. Jooyoung Lee of the University of Toronto, an expert on youth gangs and gun violence emphasized the role of the promotion of the arts, music and culture as a way for prevention of youth engaging in violence. He explained the pitfalls of punitive policing and suggested a public health approach to gang violence.

Key maternal input

The second panel on the pivotal role of mothers in the prevention of youth radicalization consisted of a teacher, minister, indigenous lawyer and representatives of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police's Integrated National Security Enforcement.

Moderated by Mrs. Lilly Tadin, president of the Women's Federation for World Peace in Canada, the ses-

sion started with an insightful presentation by Ms. Sameen Affaf a teacher with a graduate specialization in social exclusion and marginalization. Affaf referred to six areas that mothers help prevent radicalization by giving recognition through providing a sense of identity; connection through a sense of belonging; intervention by nurturing their child; creating a culture of love through education; supplying validation by giving voice to disaffection and finally by providing a sense of awareness through taking notice.

Dealing with hardships

Rev. Sky Starr, a trauma specialist and grief counselor shared about her experience with victims of youth violence and with their mothers. Mothers have the added burden of continuing to nurture their families in spite of their grief.

Deniseanne Boissoneau, a representative of the Indigenous Anishinaabe and Ojibway community and a practicing lawyer explained that in her view a mother builds a child and that the criminal justice system requires reform to incorporate restorative justice.

Sergeant Mia Poscente and Inspector Don Halina of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Integrated National Security Enforcement Team provided the perspective of the National Police force through being proactive in

dealing with youth radicalization. Both Mr. Halina and Ms. Poscente explained that the police are willing to collaborate with every community in preventing youth violence and radicalization.

Islamic concerns

Mufti Aasim Rashid, a distinguished Islamic scholar and educator from Vancouver, explained the challenges of radicalization for the Canadian Muslim community. Rashid is also founder of Al-Ihsan Educational Foundation and just launched "Islam Unraveled," which is committed to educating Canadian institutions about Islam. He declared that radicalization can only be defeated from within the Muslim community. He said Muslims must find their place within Canadian society while retaining their identity. Rashid expressed his frustration with the media for reporting from a limited perspective. He explained that devoted Muslims are not extremists and that through education stereotypes and misunderstandings can be dispelled.

Each panel included a lively question and answer session and the meeting concluded with an explanation and commissioning of ambassadors for peace. 

UPF-Canada and WFWP-Canada contributed this article.

Evaluating Tragic Circumstances from True Parents' Perspective

A UPF Middle East Conference on Syria

Syria has gone through various stages of difficulty since the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire, of which it was a province, but none as horrific as at present. Since 2011, Syria has been a cauldron of warring factions fighting among trapped civilians. In August 2015, the UN Human Rights Council reported, "Civilians are suffering the unimaginable, as the world stands witness. Without stronger efforts to bring parties to the peace table, ready to compromise, current trends suggest that the Syrian conflict—and the killing and destruction it wreaks—will continue for the foreseeable future." We are pleased to bring you news of an effort to gather

greater strength in the form of a December 17-19 UPF Middle East Conference on Syria.

"This was one of the most fruitful conferences I have attended in my lifetime." These were the words of Austria's former minister of defense during the final conference session. At a time when the world had given up all hope for Syria, with repeated failures in UN negotiations and an intensified war leading to the destruction of Aleppo, UPF Middle East proposed a conference on Syria with the objective, "To bring True Parents' perspective to assist local and international efforts to find a peaceful solution to the Syrian crisis." The conference title was Opening Lines of

Communication and Soft Power Approaches to Peace.

The key element that made this conference stand out was the participation of both sides in a conference where real, respectful dialogue took place. Official dialogue in Geneva has made no progress; while other, smaller conferences have brought together different opposition groups but no representative of the government position. At this conference, participants from inside Syria included a Shia member of the Majlis al-Shaab (People's Assembly, the Syrian legislative branch) and a representative of the government's State Ministry for National Reconciliation Affairs. By the end of the conference, not only had UPF received two invitations to come to Syria to further the process of dialogue but three other groups in Europe were preparing separate visits to Syria in the coming month.

Our source of strength

That True Parents' foundation made this surprising progress possible is without doubt. UPF Middle East and the Syrian Peace Initiative, launched five years ago by Dr. Mohammed Habash, an ambassador for peace who then was a member of the Syrian People's Assembly, co-hosted the conference. Dr. Habash had attended



Experts, concerned about the fate of Syria and the Middle East



Staff members, participants and panelists at a conference that sought a realistic avenue toward the end of warfare in Syria

the special forty-day workshop at the New Yorker Hotel in 1991, together with his future wife and her grandfather, the Grand Mufti of Syria.

This was designed as a small conference that would gather international experts and sons of Syria, from both inside the country and out. In all, forty-three of us partook, including staff members (mainly from our second generation, from five nations in the region, but also one young translator from London whose father is a peace ambassador in Germany). We met in a relatively empty seaside hotel in Cyprus for just two days to take a first step in the direction of peace. Participants included a UN expert from Germany who has written four books on Syria; former ambassadors from Belgium, Syria and Lebanon; a representative from Cyprus's Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and Syrians including the former president of Damascus University, businessmen, journalists, activists and a former economic advisor to the prime minister. In addition to the representative from the ministry and the legislator, another member of Syria's People's Assembly, who was unable to get his visa in time, sent a speech to be read out on his behalf. Christian, Sunni and Shia were present.

In their reflections, participants noted the conference's calm atmosphere and the quality of the participants and contributions. Participants made at least five different substantial proposals, each of which will require study and follow up. Carsten Wieland, the UN expert [www.carsten-wieland.de] pointed out that at this conference—and indeed elsewhere—many diverse groups have called for a national conference on Syria and that the ideas presented are not very far apart from one another. He thought it might be helpful to get the proponents together and work on a common concept “in the spirit of a conference like this, where different opinions are present.”

Breaking bread together

A Syrian businessman living in Cyprus generously hosted the entire conference in his restaurant in Nicosia for a wonderful Syrian dinner one evening. Four years ago, when he opened the restaurant, he put a sign outside, “No-one who supports the Syrian regime is allowed in.” This time two from the government side joined us for dinner.

The climax of the conference came in the closing session. A sense of deep commitment to peace was present in presentations by both the UPF region-

al secretary-general and the regional president. Then, in the middle of his final remarks, after indicating his readiness to accept the invitation coming from those in Syria, co-host Mohammed Habash came up with a surprise proposal: Calling out one of the two translators, Heather Fraser Harris, from the translation booth, he proposed that she lead a delegation of Syrian girls to visit Damascus and pave the way for future negotiations (specifically related to bringing large numbers of Syrians back to live in newly safe areas in the country) and a possible conference. As Heather spoke of her desire to return to the Damascus she loves, a conference made up almost entirely of men was moved to tears. Later, in addition to reflections from two participants, a conference statement was read out, proposing to develop the Syria Peace Initiative and pursue dialogue with all sides. We closed with a sung recitation of the Koran and a prayer from a Catholic participant. There is no doubt in my mind that this conference was God's way of giving some hope to the people of Syria and indeed all of us. Now we have to move quickly to build on this first step. 

The UPF-Middle East chapter contributed this article.

Four Voices for Forgiveness, Love and Unity

A WFWP-Kenya Initiative



Chairwoman Kone, who provided the material below and whose "voice" begins the article, is in the green and wearing a traditional headress.

On the twenty-fourth anniversary of the founding of the Women's Federation for World Peace, the Kenyan chapter launched a new project, which the chairwoman of WFWP-Kenya, Mrs. Susan Kone, described in the following paragraphs.

Today is a special day for Kenyan women as we launch the Mothers Heart Peace Network Kenya Project, which is the vehicle to accomplish Vision 2020. The goal is to "uproot and eradicate ethnic and cultural divisions, gender inequality and poverty and create a conducive environment for peace, love and prosperity in the spirit of 'Forgive Love and Unite.'" This project includes educational, social and service programs in all the counties and sub-counties within Kenya. We will collaborate with all partners of goodwill to make Kenya number one as God's nation.

Kenya is now preparing for the

2017 General Elections. As mothers, we do not want a repeat of the post-election violence, which occurred in 2007–2008, when more than a thousand people lost their lives, rapists attacked women and children became separated from their families. We need to create a conducive environment for peaceful elections and continuous peaceful coexistence and prosperity after the elections.

The time has come for all women to use their God-given motherly hearts to nurture not only their families but also their communities and indeed their nations. Women are nurturers by nature and they have unconditional love in their DNA, so they need to believe in themselves and go to the front line. They need to take their rightful positions. They need to make their voices heard and use their God-given talents and skills to nurture and build peace in all levels of human existence.

Dr Hak Ja Han with her Mother's heart, which is overwhelmingly loving and kind toward humanity is our model of how to nurture and to love our communities. I believe the saying, "People who are crazy enough to think they can change the world are the ones who do." Therefore, we need to unite as women with positive thinking and a positive mind-set and alongside our partners, families and communities to create and nurture a world of peace.

I welcome all women and men of goodwill to join forces with us in this wonderful project for the victory of Vision 2020. God bless you all.

First chairwoman of WFWP-Kenya

The first woman to head WFWP, in Kenya, Mrs. Felister Kililo, also addressed the audience, which included ambassadors for peace, woman leaders from various non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, religious organizations, civil society and the county government. This is the bulk of what she said that day.

I am happy to be part of this organization and I sincerely thank our founders for their vision in establishing world peace through encouraging women to play their motherly role as nurturers and peace builders. Beloved women leaders from all over Kenya, we now carry the heavy responsibility to fulfill this vision and establish peaceful families, communities and nation.

As our founder, Dr Hak Ja Han said, "The goal of WFWP is not to

become another secular women's organization; it does not aim to be an external, political or combative women's rights movement targeting the misdeeds of men. Nor does it exist just to advocate the expansion of women's rights, gender equality and the women's labor movement. Rather, it is a global peace movement on an entirely new level with the providential significance of realizing the ideal world that was God's vision at the time of the Creation."

WFWP inauguration came at a historic moment of providential significance. WFWP has engaged in diverse activities over the last twenty years, geared to realizing the vision and ideals of pure love, happy families and a peaceful world that transcends the barriers of race, religion, language and national boundaries. This we have carried out in the spirit of Rev. Moon's founding message, which urged us to expand a model movement of true love to the whole world based on living for sake of others.

As women and as mothers, we are called upon to unite and join with all other partners to ensure sustainable peace in our nation Kenya. I am grateful to you for listening closely to me today. I pray that God's blessing will be with you, your families and with your work.

A male voice in praise of WFWP

Professor Jared Onyari, a professor and university lecture, and an ambassador for peace, also spoke. The following paragraphs are excerpted from his message that day.

I consider this event as an important opportunity to strengthen the national movement and implementation of the program of action on the culture of peace. "A Culture of peace needs the participation of women," said Lakshmi Puri, assistant secretary-general of the United Nations

The developing world has six hundred million young girls, and the global population is experiencing a youth bulge. Yet, the role and contribution of women and youth to the culture of peace is not only important because women and youth represent majority of the global population but because the women and young people are key drivers of the radical change of mindset, of institutions and

of the culture that we all seek.

Women and their empowerment are crucial in advancing the culture of peace in all its vectors: education, economic and social development, human rights and equality, democratic participation, advocacy based on true knowledge but also wisdom, tolerance and understanding at all levels in the family, community, nation, region and the world.

We must all work to increase investment in building the capacity of women's organizations and local civil society networks working in conflict and post-conflict settings in line with the Security Council Resolution 2122.

There is the issue that a culture of peace requires the participation of women and especially young girls and this project, Mother's Heart Peace Network Kenya, will play a crucial role in creating empowerment forums in which women can receive empowerment so as to play this crucial role as peace builders and nurturers in all levels in our society.

I also ask the international community and the culture of peace constituency to continue playing its leading role in fostering an international environment which recognizes and promotes women's and girls' rights by engaging women as well as men—girls as well as boys—in a quest for peaceful and non-violent societies. Let us work together to fulfill this vision of a peaceful and prosperous world. May God bless you all.

A victim turned rescuer

By Mrs. Preet Kaur, an ambassador for peace from United Kingdom, was the guest of honor at the event. Mrs. Preet Kaur has taken a strong stance as a former victim of forced marriage. She suffered through difficulty and now aids others and advocates abolition of this terrible practice. The following paragraphs are from her speech that day.

My initial meeting with the WFWP was in 2012 in the United Kingdom, where I live, through the Home Office and Mrs. Mitty Tohma the WFWP-UK president. She requested that I speak about my experience as a victim and survivor of a forced marriage and honor crime at the Houses of Parliament. Since then, I have heavily affiliated myself with WFWP

and have been awarded as an ambassador for peace.

I run a small organization that evolved through my personal experiences called "It's my Right, No forced Marriages" that campaigns against and trains against forced marriages and "honor" crimes. Recently a book about my experience has been published, it's called *Wed Locked*.

I would like start with a quote from the Sikh scriptures that has inspired me endlessly as a woman, "From woman, man is born; Within woman, man is conceived; to a woman he is engaged and married. Woman becomes his friend, through a woman the future generation comes. When his woman dies, he seeks another woman; to woman he is bound. So why call her bad? From her kings are born. Without woman, there will be no one at all."

This shows that the women are the backbone of the society. A woman's role is never-ending and we have important roles to play, whether it is nurturing families or working in the society. All our endeavors are to promote a better society that lives in harmony, peace and love. As women, we have come a very long way, especially in a very patriarchal society. We have, we are and will continue to break the barriers through intergenerational cycles of abuse and strive for gender equality. We need to create support networks for the more impoverished, through education and empowerment for example by addressing serious issues like female genital mutilation, child marriages and gender based violence, which are perceived as traditions but in reality are harmful malpractices. Therefore, awareness and education are very important. Also commercialism and the media, promote sex in all forms that exposes and encourages abuse, which needs to be tackled.

As a part of a collective society, men too need to be involved in addressing relevant issues. More importantly, we need to impart knowledge to our future generations, our children through education, raising awareness and empowerment in order for our peace building roles to evolve. I thank you all once again and congratulations on the launch of the Mother's Heart Peace Network Project. 🌸

Cleanliness is a Virtue to Heaven

A CARP Nigeria project

Nigeria is Africa's most populous country and more than 60 percent of Nigerians are twenty-four-years-old or younger. Thus, Nigeria has youthful dynamism as a national asset. Having active CARP members bodes well for the nations' future, as this article indicates.

By Bok Jin Lee



After a job well done, the students can breathe easier in the cleaner environment they have helped create on their university campus.



❶ Staff members of the University of Abuja Environmental Department accept a donation of trash receptacle from Bok Jin Lee, a youth special envoy to Nigeria, who worked with CARP to develop this service project.

❷ The efforts of the CARP members did indeed encourage the participant of non-CARP students.

❸ Desmond Edams, University of Abuja CARP president speaks the assembled members before they begin their service project.



CARP Nigeria organized their second Peace Cleaning Project at the University of Abuja, mini-campus on Friday, December 2, from 8 AM to 12 PM. Twenty-four CARP members participated in this program. We made efforts to show our sincere attitude toward improving the campus environment. The aim of this project was to show how to become an initiator, to feel a sense of personal agency over the resolution of social issues and over the creation of a good learning environment for university students. Naturally, we also wanted to help raise the students' awareness of CARP and attract them to our programs.

For a long time, students have been facing issues related to the environment around the campus. We analyzed the main reason for those issues and concluded that a sense of ownership did not prevail among the student body. After analysis, we began considering how to persuade young people to take personal initiative. We then decided to demonstrate our sincere attitude to improve the environment on the campus through this project. We believed that once we

started cleaning around the campus first, the students would look at themselves and follow our example. That was our motivation for starting this project.

On the day of the project, we met. Desmond Edams, president of CARP at the University of Abuja, opened our meeting with a prayer and then spoke about the nature of the program (which had the slogan, "Young people! Build your Ownership") and how we would carry it out.

Before we proceed with this program, we did publicity activities for the project around the campus. We handed out a hundred pens to students and a hundred flyers, which introduced how students might take the initiative in order to attract their voluntary participation in the project.

After the publicity efforts, we divided into three groups and started cleaning the campus grounds. While we were doing the cleaning, some of the students felt inspired by our project and they participated in it with us. Additionally, staff members of the Environmental Department came to us and supported our cleaning efforts.

After cleaning, we donated five trash bins to the university's Environmental Department. The staff members appeared genuinely touched by our efforts. They seemed so happy because there had been no public trash receptacles before. We placed those trash containers in the public areas on the campus.

As the project came to an end, Kabir Ibrahim, the vice-president of CARP at the University of Abuja, offered a closing prayer. We then enjoyed some refreshments together.

Through this project, we made a deep impact on the campus that remains today. Many students recognized us and made an appointment to participate in our one-day Divine Principle workshop. We will continue doing this project regularly and extending the cleaning areas to outside the campus, so that our sincere efforts will bring peace to the society and contribute to making a strong foundation for the settlement of the substantial Cheon Il Guk. We will try our best. ㄸ

Mr. Lee is a special youth envoy to Nigeria.

Moral Challenges and Opportunities

A Central European Initiative

This article covers a conference in the Parliament Building of the Czech Republic. Indirectly, it highlights the success at collaboration of UPF in the Czech Republic. To explain other European organizations mentioned in the article (where possible) to our non-European readers, some material, either quoted or paraphrased, has been added between square brackets (with links).

By Juraj Lajda



Under the auspices of Nina Nováková, a member of the Czech Parliament, an international conference on the topic “Challenges and Opportunities of Our Time” convened at the Parliament of the Czech Republic on November 25. More than fifty people attended the event, including historians, lawyers, political scientists, social activist and several students. This was the final program of a series of that included two round table discussions in Vienna and Budapest, in July and October 2016, respectively. The conference was supported by the Universal Peace Federation’s Czech chapter, the Hanns Seidel Foundation and the European Union of Women.

[The Hanns Seidel Foundation (www.hss.de/en) is a German NGO. “Political education, promoting research, policy advice and policy analysis, scholarship programs, development cooperation and international networking are what their work focuses on, in a nutshell.”] [The European Union of Women (www.europeanunionof-women.com) which has branches in seventeen countries and “works for the strengthening of peace on the basis of justice and the free cooperation of peoples... stands for the safeguarding of human dignity and freedom, the maintenance of Europe’s outstanding cultural heritage, and for social and economic progress while protecting the rights of individuals. The EUW maintains that these aims will only be realized by increasing the influence of women.”]



Dr. Lenka Šulová (yellow jacket) a specialist in clinical and social psychology led the panel that discussed the role of the family.



Jaromír Štětina, a Czech member of the European Parliament, in the bow tie, moderated the second panel, which focused on living without fear in a safe society being a human right. The author of this article is seated next to him.

Some background

Several steps led up to the conference—finding common ground between experts, politicians and civil society representatives; setting up a working group on issues of religious freedom in the Czech Parliament and expanding the initiative to neighboring Central European countries. At the round table in Vienna, a memorandum was framed that specified three topics of concern for Europe: protecting the natural family, re-affirming European cultural identity, and upholding the freedom of conscience, thought and conviction, with an emphasis on religious freedom. These three themes became the basis of the Prague event.

The fate of families

The theme of the first panel was, The Family: Obvious foundation or a controversial issue? Professor Lenka Šulová from Charles University's Faculty of Philosophy in Prague said that we need to create a society and policies that are supportive of the

family, describing current factors contributing to family breakdown—unstable relationships, easy divorce, the high employment among women and an emphasis on individualism or on increasing wealth.

Dr. Ludmila Trapková, a clinical and family psychologist, spoke of the family as a psychosocial organism. Absence of complementarity between a masculine and a feminine pole causes problems for children. Divorcing breaks a husband–wife partnership but not the parent–child relationship, she concluded. Mr. Jan Gregor, vice-president of Young Christian Democrats [the youth wing of the Christian and Democratic Union—Czechoslovak People's Party] underlined the reproductive purpose of the family, saying that society should recognize the family as a biological construct, not just as a social one. The last speaker on the panel was Mrs. Jana Jochová, director of the Committee for the Defense of Parents' Rights and an active supporter of the "Mom, Dad and Kids"

campaign, which Christian activists launched to prevent same-sex marriage in the EU. She spoke about parents' rights and responsibilities for their children's education. The state cannot be a substitute for parents, she insisted, because the family is based on bloodline.

Threats and developments

The second panel, on the theme "Living Safely, A Basic Human Necessity," was moderated by Mr. Radko Hokovský, executive director of a think tank on European values. Jaromír Štětina, a Czech member of the European Parliament, spoke about security perils in Europe, mentioning among others aspects the hybrid warfare with a disinformation component led by Russia in the region, the goal of which he said was to destabilize the European Union. He then showed participants a documentary on the war in Chechnya.

Dr. Alyn Ware, a global coordinator of the Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and



Having turned the communist-era Parliament Building (appropriately) into a museum, Czech Republic Parliament now convenes in this graceful former theater.

Disarmament, pointed out that the current conflict between Russia and the West increases the danger of war becoming nuclear. He called on European institutions to do their utmost to stop it. Nuclear war is meaningless, he concluded; since 1945, no one has used nuclear weapons. Dr. Juraj Lajda, secretary-general of UPF in the Czech Republic, concluded the panel by introducing the launch of the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP) in Korea in February and in London in September 2016.

Cultural influences

The third panel focused on the theme, "European Culture: Hope for the Future?" Mr. Jiří Georgiew from Charles University's Faculty of Law gave a concise overview of Central European history, remarking that European cultural heritage in the Visegrad Group deserved to be noted by Western European countries.

["The Visegrad Group" (www.visegradgroup.eu), also known as the "Visegrad Four" or simply "V4") reflects the efforts of the countries of the Central European region to work together in a number of fields of common interest within the all-European integration. The Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia have always been part of a single civilization sharing cultural and intellectual values and common roots in diverse religious traditions, which they wish to preserve and further strengthen. All the V4 countries aspired to become members of the European

Union, perceiving their integration in the EU as another step forward in the process of overcoming artificial dividing lines in Europe through mutual support. They reached this aim on May 1, 2004 when they all became members of the EU.]

Dr. Jaroslav Šebek, from the Czech Academy of Sciences, spoke about current affairs in Europe, underlining the influence of Brexit and the American elections on the European continent. Dr. Roman Joch, president of the Civic Institute in the Czech Republic, reviewed the five major influences that shaped European culture—Judaism, Ancient Greece, the Roman Empire, Christianity and the Enlightenment, underlining how each value system eventually shaped Europe as we know it today. Mr. Jacques Marion, secretary-general of UPF Europe, noted that the decline of Christianity in Western democracy meant that equality before God was replaced by equality before the law, leading people to focus on claiming rights and inciting a tendency toward conflicts of interest. Europe needs a spiritual revival to build an ethical society in a multicultural context, he concluded, beginning with strengthening the family.

On moral decline

Mr. Peter Zoehrer, secretary-general of the Forum for Religious Freedom Europe (FOREF) moderated the last panel, "the Role of Religious Freedom to Address Current Problems." Dr. Aaron Rhodes, president of FOREF,

began by quoting Václav Havel (1936–2011) president of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic (1989–1992) regarding modern times. "The worst thing is that we live in a contaminated moral environment. We feel morally ill because we became used to saying something different from what we thought. Concepts such as love, friendship, compassion, humility or forgiveness lost their depth and dimension." Religion should be independent from the state, but the principle of Mosaic law is that all people come under one God. Human rights are derived from natural rights. We should recognize the pre-eminence of religious freedom, he insisted. Gay marriage rights, for instance, should not interfere with the freedom of religion. Dr. Harald Scheu, from Charles University's Faculty of Law in Prague, concluded the panel by saying that religious freedom was not only an individual freedom, but was meant to guarantee the whole concept of human rights. Yet there is today a secular monopoly on the interpretation of human rights. Good and evil merely become a matter of political choice; choosing a political party makes you a good or bad person, he deplored. Each panel gave ample time for questions and comments from the audience. Evening television news reported on the conference as did Christian media outlets. 

Dr. Lajda is secretary general of UPF-Czech Republic.

Words of Life Draw Us to Eternal Blessing

In Albania, we had a very special and successful four-day Divine Principle seminar for ambassadors for peace from November 10–13. Thirty-three ambassadors for peace from Albania, three from Kosovo and two from Montenegro responded to the special invitation to attend this special four-day Divine Principle seminar, which we held under the theme, “Love God, Love People, Love the Nation.” We conducted the seminar in the touristic city of Tivat, Montenegro, on the coast of Adriatic Sea, a hundred kilometers north of the Albania–Montenegro border. Among the ambassadors for peace, twenty-seven were attending a Divine Principle workshop for the first time,

while twelve had experienced them before. This proved a wonderful combination of 70 percent of them being new and 30 percent of them having knowledge of the concepts to some degree.

Based on previous experience of seminars for ambassadors for peace organized by the Family Federation and UPF Albania, the goal of the workshop was to present the Divine Principle material to those core Abel-type ambassadors for peace who are willing to study the teachings of UPF founders, the True Parents to a greater depth.

Sharing beautiful truths

On the first day, ambassadors for

peace and staff members drove great distances, between a hundred and twenty kilometers and three hundred and seventy kilometers to reach Tivat, Montenegro, a beautiful seaside city. Ambassadors for peace from almost all our peace councils—Tirana, Durrës, Elbasan, Shkodra, Lezha, Vlora, Fier, Kukës, Prishtina and Montenegro—took part in the workshop. Even though it was late, on the first evening, we held the Opening Session, moderated by Mr. Ali Lacej, chairman of our National Peace Council. Mr. Gaqo Apostoli, chairman of UPF Albania, welcomed everyone.

To have with us the secretary-general of UPF-Europe, Mr. Jacques



Spouses of ambassadors for peace became ambassadors for peace themselves through this pivotal workshop in Montenegro, one of Albania's four neighboring countries.

Marion, who greeted all the participants, was also great. The session concluded with an introduction to the Divine Principle given by Mr. Gani Rroshi, president of the Albanian Family Federation.

On the second day, we covered three sessions; two sessions on the Principles of Creation, which Mr. Gani Rroshi presented. Dr. Niko Veizaj, one of the first ambassador for peace in Albania and someone who loves True Parents moderated the first presentation and Mr. Myzaljen Hoxha, the chairman of Fier Peace Council moderated the second. Mrs. Manjola Vasmatics, vice-president of FFWPU-Albania, then delivered the Human Fall presentation, which Mrs. Eva Cipi, chairwoman of the Vlora Peace Council moderated.

At the end of each session, the participants gave their precious contribution through their questions and comments, making the time very active and fruitful.

The Lord revealed

We covered an additional three sessions on the third day, Mr. Jacques Marion presented two sessions, the first on the Principles of Restoration, which Mr. Ali Lacej moderated. In his second presentation, Mr. Marion's presentation covered the Parallels of History, and Prof. Flamur Shehu, the vice chairman of UPF Albania moderated it. In the third session, Mr. Gani Rroshi gave a presentation on the Returning Lord, the Second Coming and Mrs. Ejona Icka, secretary-general of UPF-Kosovo filled the role of moderator.

The Second Coming lecture generated lots of emotions and optimistic feelings among the participants, which continued flowing during dinner. To see ambassadors for peace discussing passionately about the Second Coming of the Messiah and True Father, was deeply inspiring. At one point, an ambassador for peace stood up and said that we should emphasize that the Messiah at the Second Coming has reached the level of True Parents, because now we also have True Mother as the original Eve. Therefore, there is no need for a third coming.

This special historic moment

During all the first three days, rain



Gani Rroshi and his wife Marjeta guide the couples through the affirmation of the blessing vows.

fell in torrents. However, on the last day, the weather cleared. A beautiful sunny day beckoned us. We covered two important sessions as part of that final day. Mr. Gani Rroshi presented one session on True Parents' life courses, which Dr. Bilal Shkurtaj, a professor and the former rector of Vlora University moderated. Mrs. Manjola Vasmatics took responsibility for delivering the last session covered, which dealt with the blessing and True family Movement. Mr. Gaqo Apostoli was the moderator. Some ambassadors for peace were in tears during the video tribute to True Father at his ascension at the end of the first session. However, the hope of connecting to God's and True Parents' lineage through the Blessing Ceremony brought joy and hope to all, emphasizing also the special role Albania has in front of God and True Parents for being selected by them as a strategic nation in Europe.

Conjugal appreciation

Since many of them were couples, we invited all to attend the Blessing Ceremony that we had planned for December 11 and to prepare for it through studying Divine Principle and True Parents' teachings. At the closing ceremony, we appointed six new ambassadors for peace. These were actually the spouses of existing ambassadors for peace. For this reason, we asked the spouses who were already ambassadors for peace to introduce his or her partner in life and to explain why the person de-

serves to be an ambassador for peace. This developed into a deeply moving experience. Most participants showed evidence of tears of joy or of gratitude as their spouses articulated their sincere feelings in profound, tender words of appreciation from their hearts for their partners. The ambassadors for peace expressed how lucky they felt and how much they loved their spouses. One could feel the power of true love that our True Parents talk about melting all barriers and limitations we have built or inherited.

Reflections

"God was alive in the spirit of this event, in the people of this gathering, in the spirit of the lecturers and during the whole time."—An ambassador for peace, Shkodra Peace Council

"I felt honored to be able to join this seminar during these days with a wonderful audience of ambassadors for peace from all over the country! Thank you for conveying the essence of the Divine Principle from the heart. The period after this seminar will be a time to reflect on what we heard and learned. I am proud to be part of the family of ambassadors for peace."—An ambassador for peace, Lezha Peace Council

"I believe the program was perfect for allowing us to learn and deepened our understanding of Divine Principle through professional presenters and well combined topics."—An ambassador for peace, Vlora Peace Council

"The seminar, while conveying the



Dr. Pak No-hi and Dr. Moon Lan-young, special envoys to Europe with members from Albania, Europe's strategic nation, celebrating the successful Blessing Ceremony.

teaching of Divine Principle was a very deep and emotionally moving.... I suggest that high school students should receive these lectures, since they will teach them about morality, behavior, tolerance and human understanding.”—*An ambassador for peace, Vlora Peace Council*

“I am proud to be part of UPF. This four-day seminar was valuable for me. I wish UPF expands endlessly until it realizes its goals—peace, love and happiness for all the people of the world because of True Parents.”—*An ambassador for peace, Durres Peace Council*

“The seminar was of a very high quality.... This contributed to the spiritual education of people, growth in our awareness of human responsibility and to development of our families and society.”—*An ambassador for peace, Fier Peace Council*

“At this time of crises, to be part of a group of people who work and contribute to world peace has been a fortune to me. A human being has as great value as he contributes to the society.... The seminar was a great contribution that taught us how to overcome selfishness.”—*An ambassador for peace, Tirana Peace Council*

“To be part of this seminar on Divine Principle, which filled me with emotion and reflection about my life, family and the future was a special joy for me. The seminar fulfilled all my expectations. Finally, we felt that we achieved unity as one large family together.”—*An ambassador for peace, Lezha Peace Council*

Phase two, the Blessing Ceremony

December 11 was an important day for our nation. On that day, we had organized, in the coastal city of Durrës, the Family Festival and True Parents’ Cosmic Blessing Ceremony. The ceremony took place at the Ventus Harbor Complex, beside the sea, beginning at 11.00 AM on that Sunday morning. Approximately, three hundred people came, filling the hall. In 2016, we held two Blessing Ceremonies, the first having taken place on May 15 in Tirana.

Strengthening the family

The family is the first institution God created that has the main responsibility associated with the Creation—becoming good heavenly citizens. Seeing the sad reality of family breakdown and multiple problems in society today, the need for strengthening family values is simply obvious. We approached couples in this way, inviting them to attend the Blessing Ceremony. Over a hundred couples attended a one-day seminar, from which they received education on the blessing. Ultimately, sixty-four couples attended the Blessing Ceremony. Many others promised to attend at some later point in time.

Having Dr. Pak No-hi and Moon Lan-young, True Parents’ special emissaries for Europe, as officiators of the Blessing Ceremony, representing our True Parents was wonderful for us. Gani Rroshi, the national leader,

and his wife Marjeta were the masters of ceremony.

Missionary support

Being a Family Festival, the event started with a few performances prepared by the Cheon Il Guk Japanese and Korean missionaries to Albania, in their capacity, respectively, as the CIG Band and the Cham Sarang Team. Everyone deeply enjoyed their performances. Albanian blessed families also performed a beautiful song for all participants showing True Parents’ love for them.

We are grateful for the hard work of our brothers and sisters in all communities who have invested much to reach out to couples and give them the opportunity not only to receive True Parents’ blessing but also to contribute in laying the foundation for Heaven’s blessing to our nation, Albania.

We witnessed joy and happiness in couples’ faces as they went through all the stages of the Blessing Ceremony, starting with the Holy Wine Ceremony and continuing until the Indemnity Ceremony.

We wish from the depth of our hearts that Heavenly Parent’s and True Parents’ blessing may bear fruit in these beautiful families and that they may become the foundation for heavenly fortune to flow down to this nation. 

The Albanian headquarters staff contributed this material as two articles.

Witnessing to People Twenty to Thirty Years Old

The author gave this report at the October 31–November 2 nationwide pastors' assembly. He begins by explaining his district's initial work with students and then launches into his main topic.

By Oh In-cheol

When I first received my assignment to lead the Gyeongnam District, I made a goal to make our district one that specializes in second-generation education, which is a major concern of all church leaders and parents in the country. Though many difficulties remain in actually educating the youth, we have continued to examine various methods and are organizing our findings. In particular, because financing education in this area is vital, we budgeted a large amount of money to it, in order to establish effective education. Even with this budget, we are continuously expanding our efforts to raise money for educating our members' children.

I am not saying that second-generation education was possible in our district based on our having sufficient funds. We continuously tried to persuade our members about our methodology. We were transparent in how we used the money, used accurate processes and invested in reliable areas. Gradually, the members began to take interest in funding education and worked together with us.

Some good developments

I would like to report on our progress during the first half of 2016. Twenty-one churches belong to our Gyeongnam District, which is coterminous with the province of the same name in southeastern South Korea. Except for the headquarters church and four other churches, instructors for middle and high school students (seonghwa students) do not exist in the majority of those churches. Many difficulties existed in educating young people effectively. As we were all contemplating these issues, I called all the instructors of seonghwa students that we do have and held a meeting.

As a result, we established sister-church relationships in five different zones. We decided to hold joint Sunday services once a month for more effective seonghwa student activities. Our district selected base churches among the sister churches and dispatched expert instructors to lead the students. They continuously managed, educated and the connected with the sister churches, as well as the base church. Additionally, once the school semester began, the student



presidents met to create goals and action plans. In this way, the students developed a sense of personal agency toward the activities.

We employed another unique strategy this year: In the past, the middle school and high school students attended one large workshops, but this year the middle school students attended a traditional workshop while the high school students went on a pilgrimage to our holy grounds. The high school students welcomed this program. What was especially effective about the pilgrimage was that the church leaders, seonghwa student instructors, and seonghwa students all worked together to make the trip possible. The students were actively involved in planning the trip and were able to decide aspects of the camp and workshop for themselves.

Next, the Gyeongnam District established goals and themes. For the

younger seonghwa students' summer workshop the theme was "Let's unite and live in harmony," and for the winter workshop, the theme was "Let's deepen the value of our generation through teaching Divine Principle and absolute sex." Establishing these themes for the workshops allowed us to create a more effective foundation for raising future leaders.

Assistance for students' daily lives

In our district, we have consistently provided professional counseling services for the emotional and mental

① Right: A YouTube capture of middle-school-aged seonghwa students singing Christmas carols

② Below: A seonghwa student meeting: Korea has thousands of young people born into blessed families, but engaging their interest in the unification movement takes a high level of creative effort.





Rev. Oh's seonghwa student organization has made a sisterhood relationship with the FFWPU-headquarters in Bolivia, one of our strategic nations. He plans to bring adult witnessing contacts to Bolivia to work side-by-side with Korean and Bolivian members, aiding Bolivia and FFWPU-Bolivia and deepening the witnessing contacts' connection to our movement.

health of our youth. During the last workshop, we implemented the ASEBA personality test (Achenbach System of Empirically Based Assessment). We discovered that the majority of the students were in at either the moderate- or high-risk category. People who test as high risk must go to a clinic for diagnosis and receive treatment, while moderate risk people are able to overcome their difficulties through individual counseling. In this way, we are solving the issues our second-generation members are facing. In addition, these test results reminded us that the role of their parents is vital to the mental health of the students. In response, we are conducting seminars on parenting and marriage so that the students are able to practice their life of faith in a safe environment.

We are also providing study help to the seonghwa students. For the past two years, we have been training a Study Mapping instructor to im-

prove student academic abilities. This instructor leads a class on self-directed study and mind mapping. The Wonmo Pyeongae Foundation selected this program to receive funding as a field project. We hope this will improve the academic accomplishments of the students and lead to constructive changes in their lives. In the future, we plan to connect this program with our Youth Organization, which includes twenty- to thirty-year-old adults, to train instructors who can volunteer their time to a program that reaches students in and out of the church. This is likely to become an approach program for college witnessing.

Broad supportive initiatives

Another interesting development is our plan to collaborate with UN Habitat, a United Nations' affiliate. Already our middle school and high school students received a certificate recognized by UN Habitat. We plan

to use this program to approach twenty and thirty year olds for witnessing.

After the last anniversary of the founding of the seonghwa student organization on August 25, we established a sisterhood relationship with the FFWPU-Bolivia headquarters. Through close cooperation, we are preparing activities for use in approaching twenty- and thirty-year-old adults. For several reasons, we chose Bolivia for these activities. First, Bolivia is a nation where we can create activities that align with UN Habitat. Second, a group active in Bolivia, Aimar, has been teaching the Korean alphabet to Bolivians. Our college students can help with not only teaching the Korean alphabet, but both adults and students will be attracted to the idea of enhancing Korean national prestige in Bolivia. Third, we will have opportunities to visit various tourist attractions in South America. We can offer witness-



As the pastor in charge of our Gyeongnam district, Rev. Oh plans to visit Google Inc. and Tesla Motors near San Francisco with witnessing young adult witnessing contacts interested in technology and business.

ing contacts the opportunity to tour the Salar de Uyuni, the world's largest salt flat; or the sites connected with the history of the Incan and Mayan civilizations. Above all, that the majority of Bolivian members are young people makes it possible for Korean adults in the targeted age to meet Bolivian youth.

We are making plans to send a church leader and two college students to Bolivia in the near future in order to make plans for a program. The UN Habitat certificate is a good item for college students to add to their resume or for high school students applying to college.

Parental responsibility

One of the slogans mentioned among the resolutions made at the Korea-Japan Cheon Il Guk Leaders Conference was "In your roles as the Father and Mother nations, strategically support providential nations." To fulfill this resolution, the Gyeongnam

District plans to send \$1,000 to Bolivia, a strategic nation, every month to support the Bolivian headquarters (despite our financially difficult circumstances) and to make development plans for the church in both nations and districts.

Furthermore, our district is planning a project, "Hope, Dream Global Challenge" in which young people challenging themselves to fulfill their dreams can receive an opportunity to visit major corporations in the western United States. A second-generation member from the Gyeongnam District is the leader of a developmental team at Tesla Motors, an electric automobile manufacturer. Through him, we plan to visit Tesla and Google Inc., as well as Stanford University. We hope to provide this opportunity in order to foster young people's dreams. We also expect this to be a good program to introduce when approaching young people as witnessing contacts.

We are running an English café for young people. A UPA graduate leads an English café (online chat group) every Thursday. Through this program, second-generation members are able to spend time with youth from other nations.

Finally, we have sent two people to the global leadership program in Romania to raise leaders with international experience within the Unification Church. As a result, we are planning to invite second-generation members in our district and from abroad for cultural exchange programs as a means of supporting the future providence. We will do our best to insure that success in our providential vision through witnessing to twenty and thirty year olds. *TP*

Oh In-cheol is the pastor in charge of our Gyeongnam district; his article first appeared in Tongil Segye, a Korean church publication.

Witnessing is Life and Joy

By Giuseppe Cali

On November 26–27, all pastors, youth representatives and those working in our national Blessing Department, met at our property of Colle Mattia, Rome, to focus on witnessing and the mobilization during a one-hundred-day campaign. On Saturday 26, we welcomed the participation of Martine Masner, the director of the European Witnessing Department. After a short introduction from Giuseppe Cali, Mrs. Masner gave a speech to explain the purpose of her mission. Notes from her speech: “True Mother established the World Mission Strategy center with the purpose of substantially advancing providential work and raising our level. How can we witness today? How are we to leave our past behind us, and reverse our situations? First, we have to be humble and open-minded, in order to continue on the restoration course and overcome situations that are blocking us. When we see the huge Blessing Ceremonies in some countries of the world we are astonished, but we think that here in Europe this is not possible. We have to understand how they were able to accomplish it. They focused on establishing a strong foundation of faith through doing hoondokhae and putting Divine Principle into practice.

“Furthermore, we have to establish more synergy among us, as Europeans, by sharing experiences and the materials that we produce. What new material do we need to witness successfully? We have many new resources nowadays, coming from the United States and other countries. We

can study these and translate them. Dr. Tyler Hendricks gave a series of forty very good lectures. The spiritual world is ready, but sometimes we are not. True Father is working hard there to mobilize spirits. We have to develop the heart of a heavenly tribal messiah that wants to liberate people. Witnessing can change the spiritual situation and make people happy again.”

Following her talk, each city and department gave a report on the general witnessing effort and the situation of the communities. Four youth representatives reported on the circumstances of second-generation members in Italy and the efforts they are producing to establish a solid foundation and development. The national representative of the Blessing Department reported specifically on the effort they are making to support families in reaching a good level of health and commitment. A very open and deep discussion followed, as a means to evaluate the current situation of the movement, to identify the problems that hinder our efforts and the resources we can count on to solve problems and be successful.

Challenges and resources

On a whiteboard, we pinpointed, one by one, the concrete issues that affect our members and their families, which are the areas we need to deal with in our pastoral care. Just to mention some of them: We lack of time and energy due to our involvement in jobs that sap the vitality of pastors and members. We endure strong providential pressure due to

high goals, and a lack of financial resources to invest into creating a proper environment and having proper materials. We lack of strong motivation due to the disorientation and uncertainty generated recently in our movement by the destructive behavior of some groups. As members, overall, we lack strong enough collective spiritual conditions.

On the other hand, we have incredible spiritual resources and providential status. We discussed possible solutions to employ in order to elevate our families out of any current stagnation. We could support blessed family life by improving the unity of a couple and unity between parents and children. We could provide guidance to members who are seeking to develop better relationships based on true kinship. We ought to be careful that we spend time in purposeful activities aimed at enhancing the relationship—communicating, cooperating and sharing more. We could promote and improve our identity and sense of belonging as citizens of Cheon Il Guk by sharing testimonies of blessings received after hardships. We could use our time to improve our spirituality, deepen our inner peace, create in our minds a young spirit that thirsts for renewed optimism and finds joy in our lives and in our missions. We could gain strength by setting better spiritual conditions. We could improve and clarify our organization of witnessing and educational efforts to become more effective at rescuing God’s children from the darkness of the world, and cooperate more, working



Front row from left: Martine Masner, a Frenchwoman and the director of the European Witnessing Department, the writer, his wife Elisabetta Nistri, and other members at the meeting to prepare for a one-hundred-day condition with a focus on witnessing.

in groups, organizing workshops for tribal messiahs and youth to prepare them properly for the mission of witnessing and educating.

Effective first approaches

We realized, as well, that especially our first approach to the public is usually unrealistic and overly theological, not genuinely connected to people's real life issues. Recently we are experiencing new ways of teaching based on real life themes such as a couple's relationship, childhood education, bridging the generational gap, life after life, forgiveness, loneliness, the true beauty and value of man and woman, the juvenile condition, health and wellbeing. We can also introduce the life and mission of True Parents as peacemakers. In fact, nobody is doing so much for world peace as they are doing. Whenever we invite people to such events, guests fill the halls. Sometimes, we invite experts in "real life" fields to speak, but we always include the Divine Principle and True Parents' viewpoint. Having found that topics of this type work better we decided to organize evening programs in each church based on those topics.

The national leader introduced a new FFWPU leaflet and new Divine Principle lectures, which we discussed the merits of. In the evening, after showing a video of True Parents' visit to Italy in April 2011, Giuseppe Cali gave a speech on the topic, with a filial heart toward Heaven, let us be the light of the world. An excerpt: "We never represent only ourselves as individuals.

We have to develop a clear awareness that wherever we go and whatever we do, we represent Heavenly Parent and True Parents. We are never alone. At all times, as actual ambassadors of Cheon Il Guk, we represent all our brothers and sisters, the people of Cheon Il Guk and the heavenly culture. People of the world are struggling a lot these days and nobody cares to give them hope and embrace them with true parental heart. In Italy, our country, nowadays people are experience extreme suffering, due to earthquakes, floods and financial restrictions. We cannot just observe anymore, from the windows of our churches. We have to go out and rescue them, bringing them new hope and awareness, strengthening their hearts with our love and Divine Principle, giving them the highest possible gift ever: the blessing."

Invest and inherit

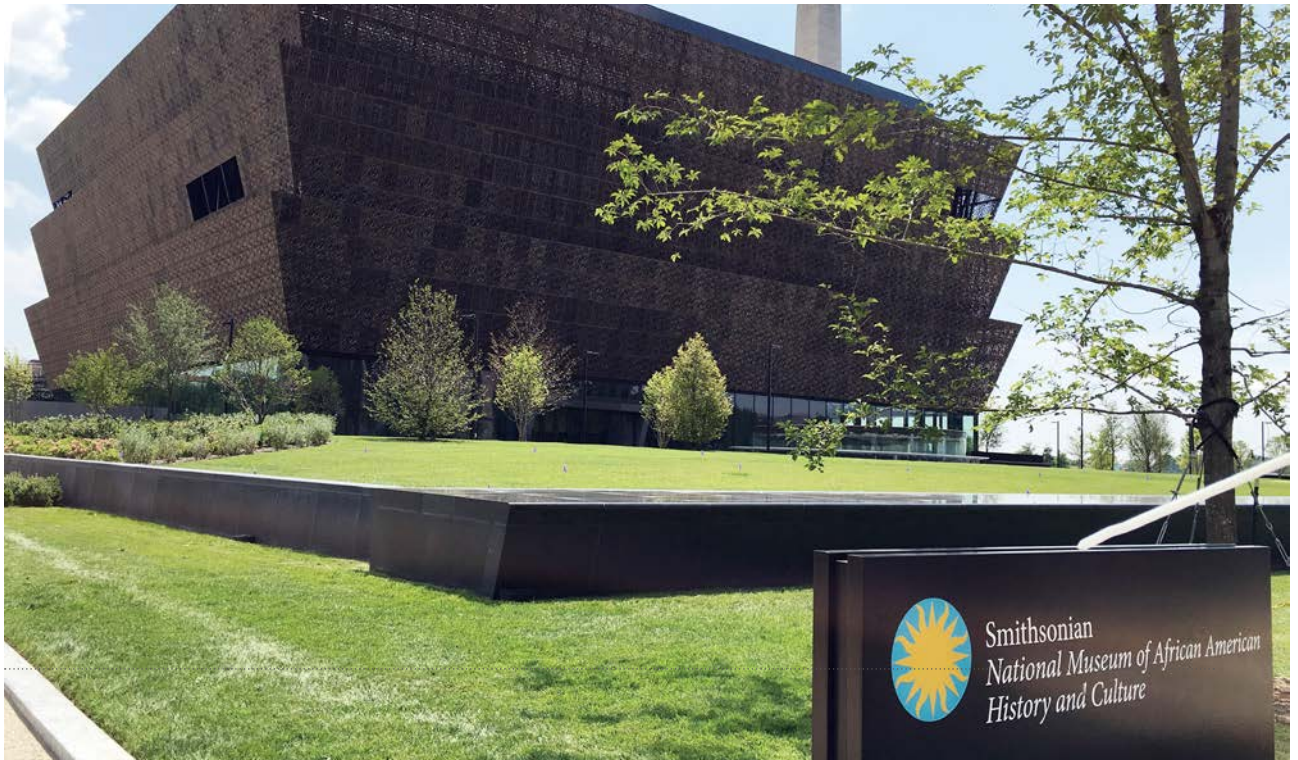
Watching a video of True Parents in Italy in 2011, we were able to recall clearly how miracles follow them. That was an impossible, but in the end, incredibly successful meeting. No one other than True Parents could have organized that event in such a short time. True Parents are already victorious and we have only to invest our lives in the field of world salvation, in order to inherit their victory completely. Our foundation of faith now consists in trusting God and True Parents 100 percent, more than we trust anybody else, even more than we trust ourselves. This will make it possible for those in the

highest spiritual realm to open the way for miracles in our lives and missions. This is the only way. We cannot win with traditional, reasonable tools, because without God and True Parents we have insufficient power to overcome the foundation established by Satan in society over thousands of years. With peaceful minds, determined hearts and unbeatable faith, let us brighten our lives and the lives of all those who surround us. Let's become miracle workers for Heaven!" We concluded the day by praying all together and singing "Urie So Wonun Tongil."

The next morning, at 6 AM we began our Pledge Service and hoondokhae, reading from *Pyeong Hwa Gyeong* the speech that True Father gave in 1992 to the "World Media Conference." We discussed the situation in the world, inspired by what Father said, which have remained true even to this day.

After breakfast, we had a final session, lasting until lunch, to organize Blessing Ceremonies and activities all over the nation until the next celebration of the Foundation Day anniversary. We concluded this amazing and meaningful meeting, full of new hope and determination, with uplifted spirits, ready to go back to our cities to mobilize the spirit and the body of our brothers and sisters and establish a much stronger providential foundation in Italy in these God-given one hundred graceful days. 

Rev. Cali is the national leader of FFWPU-Italy.



True Mother's Visit to the African-American Museum

By Zagery Oliver



Rev. Oliver

As an African-American and foremost as a blessed member who has dedicated forty years of love, heart and life as a Unificationist, to be part of True Mother's entourage as they visited the newly opened National African American Museum of History and Culture in Washington, D.C. on November 29 was an honor and a pleasure.

Sun Jin Moon, Ye Jin Moon, In Sup Park, Dr. Ki Hoon Kim, Archbishop George Stallings, Rev. Greg Carter and Christian ministers such as Bishop David Thibodeaux and Rev. Karen Thibodeaux, Dr. Denise Mitchem, Katherine Dun-

can and others accompanied True Mother. True Mother's presence and her spirit have graced America and given greater grace to all African-Americans and ultimately all people of African descent. With love and grace, True Mother toured the four floors of the museum and with great interest studied the events, great contributions, pictures and artifacts connected with Americans of African ancestry. The exhibits covered the historical journey of the African-Americans—from the arrival of the first slave ships in the early 1600s to the present time.

I felt that once True Mother



True Mother touring the museum with Sun Jin nim, Yeon Ah nim and many others; Archbishop Stallings (foreground) explained each exhibit, which highlights the suffering and undeserved abuse as well as the tremendous contributions of African-American citizens of the United States. (A cellphone photograph taken by a member of True Mother's entourage)

entered the museum, all those African-American ancestors whose life experiences were woven into the fabric of American history were rejoicing and shouting, "Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah! The day of liberation has come!"

Two security guards greeted



At the exhibit on Abolitionist leader Frederick Douglass (1818–1895)

True Mother and the entourage and escorted us on this special tour, giving us the red-carpet treatment. From our arrival until the last person in our group left the muse-

um, it was an amazing experience. Those of us, including Christian pastors, who stayed a while longer and shared lunch, reflected with tears on the magnificent benefit of True Mother's visit to the museum.

African-Americans have surmounted tremendous odds through their extraordinary course in America's history, and still the Black church rose to become the moral conscience of America. This is what gives credence to the blood, sweat and tears that African-Americans shed as a contribution to the greatness of America.

That True Mother, the only begotten daughter of God, the Mother of Heaven, Earth and all Humankind, finally gave grace and liberation to the historical heart of suffering that African-Americans have endured was a blessing and a great new beginning. This came on top of the blessing of African-Americans finally being recognized for their contributions to

humanity through the United States' federal government erecting this museum, which sits across the street from the Washington Monument and diagonally across the street from the White House. A new beginning for the healing of America surely has commenced.

This has unlocked and opened the doors for all persons of African descent to feel loved and cared for, thereby encouraging them to rise and play a greater role in helping God, Jesus and the True Parents usher in a world of peace and establish the kingdom of heaven. By joining hands with their brothers and sisters of all races, they can be part of creating a new heaven and a new earth of true love. Thank you, True Mother, for giving such unconditional maternal love to us all. 

Rev. Oliver is a public speaker and until recently pastor of the Family Church in Washington DC.

