

True Peace

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Learning Attendance from True Parents

By Wonju McDevitt



Though it seems like yesterday, five years have passed since True Father went to the spirit world. Nowhere in the universe did True Father not touch or not shed blood and tears. Everywhere we go, every step we take, like air, we breathe Father's love and heart. We remember how he led the providence until his last breath, day and night severely straining his physical self for Heavenly Parent's dream of world peace and humankind's salvation.

To leave Father as the object of glory, for three years, True Mother, as the True Mother of all humankind, offered devotional mourning, which all humankind should have offered. Mother bestowed on us the heart of filial piety, *hyo jeong*, which True Parents established toward God. They entreated us to become the


light of *hyo jeong* for the world.

As I have attended True Parents for my entire life, I feel the truth is that True Father and True Mother live in complete attendance to Heavenly Parent. That is why today, though I am lacking, I wish to speak to our respected Cheon Il Guk leaders about attendance. This is because Cheon Il Guk, ultimately, is a large, universal family where we can comfortably attend Heavenly Parent and True Parents.

What is attendance? I have had the honor of attending True Parents during my life and am attending them now too. Providentially, I have stayed by their side longer than anyone else has and I have lived a life of attendance. However if I were to honestly confess, there is still much about attendance that I do not know. This is because attendance is not about the offeror but about the person receiving attendance. For example, in a family if we are offering attendance to our parents, even if we think we have attended them well, if the parents are uncomfortable, we have not done so. On that point, the origin and base of our faith is attending True Parents.

To me this is a constant, continual state of tension. In a life of attendance, in attending True Parents, there is no end; it is continuous. Even at this moment, as I speak, I think all our senses are aimed toward True Parents, True Mother. To me, attendance is making True Parents comfortable. That principle has not changed from when I first attended True Parents at New York's East Garden to this day. That principle is engraved in me.

However, it is from True Parents that I learned everything about the attitude and motivation of attendance. After I received the blessing and gave birth to my son, even before I had completely recovered, I followed True Parents to Korea. When my newborn baby was only thirty-eight days old, I left him in my husband's care. Pushing down my aching heart, I followed True Parents. When my parents-in-law passed away, I could not even go to their *seonghwa* ceremonies and was not even able, properly, to shed a tear. I could live this life of attendance because of the tradition of attendance set by True Parents toward Heavenly Parent. This was the tradition of *hyo jeong*, which I learned. With the goal of liberating Heavenly Parent, the true parent of the universe and of finding the lost parental position, to save blind, ignorant humankind, who were stumbling around the realm of death and return them to Heavenly Parents' embrace, for this ideal, and to lead humankind, who had fallen into the state of lost orphans and needed the path of salvation, True Parents overcame unimaginable trials. We know of this life of sacrifice and true love from having seen it.

Many difficulties arise when taking the path to the settlement of Cheon Il Guk. Even greater difficulties may come. However, even if we come across these difficulties, our center and the root of our lives are the True Parents. I hope that you can all become people who have conviction in True Parents and their providence, especially while True Mother is on earth and can administer the providence directly. Even now, True Mother is pushing her body to its limits and not sleeping through the night. I hope that if we are true children, we can divide and carry that burden and go forward. I believe that is the duty of a child. I pray that we can attend True Mother as our center and become true filial sons or daughters who will advance non-stop toward Cheon Il Guk. 

Mrs. McDevitt is the chief of Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon's Secretariat. This was adapted from her presentation at the September 7 commemoration.

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God's Will and Korea

True Parents gave this speech on December 16, 1985 at the Jamshil Indoor Stadium in Seoul at the Rally for Global Security and Victory over Communism. The complete, unedited text is in Pyeonghwa Gyeong Book 8, Speech 5.



In my speech today, I want to show clearly that Korea is the focal point of God's providence and that we can find the key to the solution of the world's problems today on the Korean Peninsula. Looking at the world's situation at this time, we all feel disappointment. In spite of humanity's cherished hopes for freedom, peace and security, the world is becoming increasingly confused every day. There seems to be no hope for humankind's future. Despite leaders' constant efforts, the world's problems are becoming more complicated and more difficult to solve.

No religion or philosophy and no political ideology, whether democratic or communist, has proven capable of solving any of these problems. None of them understands God's will. Because history is God's providential history of restoration, no fundamental solution to world problems is possible without understanding God's providential will.

God is promoting his global providence by focusing on the divided Korean Peninsula. Therefore, we must understand the significance of its division. The Demilitarized Zone on the thirty-eighth parallel, which divides the peninsula, is the confrontation line between the dictatorial communist system and the free world's democratic system, between the left-wing forces on the side of evil and the right-wing forces on the side of goodness, between materialism and idealism, and between atheism and theism. From the standpoint of ideology and socio-political systems, we see that the world today is divided between the democratic world and the communist bloc, with the United States and the Soviet Union as their respective leaders.

Korea's case is paradigmatic; it presents the world's division in a condensed form. Put another way, the world's situation is an expansion and elaboration of Korea's situation. Herein lies Korea's deep significance in God's plan. God's will is first to unify the Korean Peninsula, which represents the world in microcosm, and then, by applying the same method to the world, to accomplish the ideological and socio-political unity of the whole world.

Hebraism and Hellenism

The thirty-eighth parallel is providentially significant in another way, too; it marks the separation and confrontation of two civilizations. One is the Judeo-Christian culture inherited from the Hebraic tradition of Israel; the other is the communist civilization, a debased residue of Hellenistic culture. Had Jesus been able to go to Rome, he was to have united Hebraism and Hellenism. Jesus was to have been the center for their unity, but due to his crucifixion, that center was lost. As a result, Hebraism and Hellenism have coexisted in history. They developed along parallel lines, sometimes one predominating and sometimes the other, without truly uniting. Today, they confront each other across the Demilitarized Zone. That these two currents unite on the Korean Peninsula is God's will. Understood in this light, this line of tension is of great providential significance.

Geopolitically speaking, Korea is at a disadvantage; four major powers surround it. Providentially though, Korea has the advantage, in the sense that the major powers can quickly take the success achieved here and expand it throughout the world. Thus, we see Korea's position as the focal point in God's providence. How does God intend to unify the Korean Peninsula? He will establish a central figure and will promote his providential will by putting God's love into practice. God's love starts with love of neighbor, extends to love of country and expands to love of the entire world.

God's love entails loving our enemies even on the worldwide level, transcending national interests, praying for one's enemy and if necessary willingly sacrificing one's life for the enemy's sake. Jesus, who two thousand years ago came as the Messiah, was the very hero of this love. Jesus loved his enemies even to the point of allowing his own crucifixion.

Our national level cross

As you know, two thieves were crucified with Jesus. The thief on the left accused Jesus, while the thief on the right testified to and defended Jesus, admonishing the thief on the left. Thus, the thief on the right came to represent the side of goodness, while

the thief on the left came to represent the side of evil; in this way, the crucifixion was the focal point in the confrontation between God and Satan. There is deep providential significance in the fact that Jesus, who was the way, the truth and the life and who loved even his enemies, suffered on the cross with good and evil on either side. This reveals the principle of reconciliation and unity, centering on God's love. We learn that struggling and warring sides can reconcile and unite through sacrificial love. We can also learn that if we practice God's love no matter how difficult the situation, we can lead any sinner to repentance.

We must understand that the two thieves also represent seeds that bear good and evil fruits that will confront each other at the consummation of human history. The appearance in the Last Days of the right wing, or the free world, as the side of goodness, and the left wing, or the communist world, as the side of evil, originated at Jesus' crucifixion. Moreover, this confrontation between the two thieves is the prototype of many subsequent conflicts and struggles. The designations "right wing" and "left wing" actually have their historical origin in the thieves on the right and the left of the cross.

The thief on the right, as he was dying, testified to Jesus and opposed the thief on the left. Consequently, after his death, he resurrected and entered paradise. This indicates that if the United States, as the thief on the right, maintains a strong stance against communism (the thief on the left) it will receive God's approval and will enter the kingdom of heaven on earth.

The current Military Demarcation Line across the Korean Peninsula intensely expresses the actual situation of today's conflicts and struggles, whose prototype was the opposition between good and evil at the crucifixion. Therefore, the thirty-eighth parallel represents the cross the Korean nation must bear to providentially redeem the divided world. The Korean nation corresponds to Jesus on the cross, even as it is the foundation for the Second Coming of Christ.

The Korean people are an offering

Why in working his providence did



Jamshil Indoor Stadium, capacity eleven thousand, was packed. True Father gave this speech three days after North Korea became a party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which North Korea tacitly disengaged from in 1993 and officially withdrew from in 2003.

God put the Korean nation through the way of the cross? He did so to call its people to their mission. God called the Korean people because traditionally they have revered God and have overcome long trials by the exercise of moral purity and a peace-loving spirit. God called them to become the sacrificial offering of providential significance, which is to save humanity in the Last Days.

The Korean people must realize that this simultaneously is a glorious blessing for the nation and a fearful and heavy burden. If they fulfill their responsibilities as people offering themselves as a sacrifice, they will receive a glorious blessing. If they do not, the heaviest misfortunes will befall them. A people will meet with misfortune if it is unable to fulfill its responsibilities. A mission of providential significance, to be a sacrificial offering, is on this nation's shoulders. In order to fulfill it, the Korean people need both to practice love and to know the truth of God.

Jesus, as love incarnated, said that he is the way, the truth and the life.

He embodied love and truth at his crucifixion. This means that reconciling good and evil sides, leading enemies to come together in repentance, requires love and truth. That truth is God's teachings on love, not secular truth. God's truth comes to earth as revelation through providential individuals. God's truth is the absolute, all-powerful key capable of solving even the most difficult problems.

Godism and the unity of love

Through a lifetime of prayer and meditation, I have encountered the living God and received this absolute truth. The remarkable substance of which clarifies the hidden secrets of the universe, human life and history. Applying this truth to society, solves social problems, applying it in the world, solves global problems. This truth resolves religion's unanswered questions. In particular, using it to evaluate communist theory brings communism's falsehoods to light and sets up a critique and counterproposal.

This is a principle of integration that can bring the world into unity while at the same time preserving the unique characteristics of all religious doctrines and philosophies. I have named this truth Unificationism or Godism and have initiated the unification movement and Victory over Communism activities on a worldwide scale. They are now spreading like wildfire.

So far, I have explained that the practice of God's love and truth are necessary for the reconciliation and unity of all. We will surely accomplish Korea's reunification if we embrace with love those on the side of evil, while helping them understand the errors of their thinking by means of the truth that we on the side of goodness understand.

Altruistic love

I will now speak more concretely about love. To love is to bring benefit to one's counterpart rather than to oneself. A mutual relationship between a subject- and object-partner establishes love. Love emerges from



This event occurred during True Father's first return to Korea following his complete release from prison in Danbury, Connecticut on July 4. Because of True Mother's support of him he proclaimed "the realm of ideal oneness between Father and Mother."

one's counterpart. Love cannot exist without a counterpart. God designed all created beings to benefit others. Not only human beings, but also animals, plants, and minerals exist for the sake of others. Even entities at the atomic level exist for other entities. Each of the heavenly bodies moves for the sake of other heavenly bodies. In light of their physical structure, men exist for the sake of women, and women exist for the sake of men. Likewise, parents exist for the sake of their children, and children exist for their parents.

This principle of existence for the sake of the other applies to one's school, place of work and nation. However, we must not limit love with national boundaries; people need to love the world beyond their own national borders and love their enemies on a worldwide level.

Therefore, the principle of living for the sake of others, that is, the principle of love, is the principle of Heaven or the way of Heaven. If we practice the principle of love even in the midst of hardships, the power of

the universe will sustain us and we will never perish. If a person lives a comfortable life without observing this principle of living for others, he or she will soon decline. The saying, "The one who disobeys Heaven will perish and the one who obeys Heaven will prosper" is a truth rooted in this heavenly principle.

Korea is bearing the cross on the national level. No matter how difficult uniting this nation may be, Koreans have to live for the sake of others, as individuals, as families, as a society, and as a nation, in accordance with the way of Heaven. Let us unite with the center of truth and expand this to the international level. If we do this, we will hasten not only the Korean Peninsula's unification but also the entire world's salvation. The lifestyle of Koreans must be in accord with God's providential will. Not only will this promote the unity of North Korea and South Korea but this method of unity will also become the formula for the whole world to follow. This movement of love and truth will solve all the difficult prob-

lems of the world and liberate humankind from its long nightmare of sorrow and confusion. Everlasting happiness and peace will come for all. Our homeland, Korea, has been deceived and made to suffer throughout history. There is no better way for us to go than to depend on God.

Victory over Communism

So far, the Unification Church, the members of the Victory over Communism movement and I have been making incredible efforts abroad to establish a victorious foundation on the worldwide level. Today, I have returned to this country hoping to connect this victorious foundation to Korea, so that Korea may make a great leap onto the world stage. I hope that you especially, as leaders of the Victory over Communism movement in Korea, will be on the forefront in the fight against communism. I sincerely hope that you will extend your kind cooperation to members from other countries in order to make the connections of this foundation more secure. ☯

True Parents Open Wide the Gates

On September 5, True Mother dedicated in prayer a guesthouse within the Cheon Jeong Gung complex for people of great prominence in society who come to meet True Parents. On September 6, she dedicated Magnolia Plaza, a place where public-minded members might bring witnessing guests. These are those prayers.



Cheon Jeong Gung A-Building HJ Gung

Beloved Heavenly Parent, today is 7.15 of the fifth year of Cheon Il Guk. We offer HJ Gung in an atmosphere formed by True Parents' love for humankind and Heavenly Parent's efforts. The A-Building in the Cheon Jeong Gung complex has undergone repairs and remodeling and is becoming a place that will lead and raise the providence to a higher level. True Parents have named this place HJ

Gung. The basement underwent extensive remodeling and now includes HJ Cafe, meeting rooms and other necessary facilities.

Heavenly Parent! We ask for your compassion and love, so that while True Parents remain on earth, we will realize your dream, that of one human family under Heavenly Parent, the kingdom of heaven on earth and the settlement of Cheon Il Guk, which is the dream for which all the people of the world long. Please bless us, so that the ideal of Cheon Il Guk, the kingdom of heaven on earth, which you are working to realize, can develop faster

through the prepared people whom we connect with through this palace.

Now, centered on this place, the world's 7.4 billion people will recognize True Parents' love and compassion and will not cease taking steps to come here. We are preparing this Cheonwon Complex so that they will be aware that this place expresses Heaven's glory and is where humankind realizes its wish and dream. You have worked hard for so long. Now, in True Parents' names, I pray that we will only have days filled with giving you glory. I offer this in True Parents' names. Aju!




HJ Magnolia Plaza

Noble Heavenly Parent!
 Today, as we dedicate this beautiful Magnolia Plaza to you, I feel the profoundness of what you have created. At the end of a frigid and severe winter, the magnolia announces a new spring with strength and nobility. This building, with the name Magnolia, symbolizes purity and the love of nature. It is like an oasis in the desert-like world we live in, in

which we cannot take a single step forward. This perilous world is like a desert in which people cannot move even one step ahead. Let this building be an oasis that gives joy and expresses gratitude to the people so they may feel your love.

Heavenly Parent! What is a person's purpose? Determination to be in your presence is everything. However, those living in this stained world only think selfishly. Through True Parents, a new era is opening. We built Magnolia Plaza here in the Cheonwon Complex. It is not a place for those with selfish

thoughts but a place for people to learn how to think of others. This place, Magnolia Plaza, will play the role of a house filled with true love, wherein people can learn the essence of True Parents' true love and pursue hopeful futures. This is a house filled with true love, in which all who long for and come to this place can find Heavenly Parent through their original hearts. Today as we dedicate Magnolia Plaza, I thank you for protecting it in the bad weather, and dedicate this Magnolia Plaza in True Parents' names. Aju! 



Cheonji Sunhakwon

Testimony of True Parents' love for humanity

This is True Mother's September 8 prayer at the groundbreaking for the Cheonji Sunhakwon and her victory celebration speech later the same day. The building will house museum-quality exhibits on True Parents' lives and their work as the embodiment of the word, and thus will present True Parents as models for all men and women.

Noble Heavenly Parent,
Today, we are constructing the Cheonji Sunhakwon here in the beautiful Cheongpyeong area to show humankind your dream and hope through us. Two thousand years ago, after a four-thousand-year providential course, to fallen humankind you sent the Messiah, the only son of God. However, the central figure, Mary, could not fulfill her responsibilities. Figures in Judaism and other people of Israel could not fulfill their responsibilities. Your dream was to send the only son of God to realize your vision and form the True Parents of human-

kind. However, the only son of God, whom you sent after going through tremendous suffering, went the way of the cross. The figures at that time, Jesus' disciples... The two-thousand-year history of Christianity! They did not know Jesus' essence or Heaven's providence and scattered these in their ignorant state.

As Jesus died on the cross, he said he would return. He said he would come back and hold the marriage supper of the Lamb. That was the mission of Jesus, who should have formed the True Parents of Heaven Earth and Humankind. However, those who should have united with

Jesus could not fulfill their responsibilities; furthermore, they could not preserve any evidence that Jesus had come. They had nothing that they could show throughout history. This is an embarrassment. However, with your repeated hard work and love, after six thousand years, through the birth of the only daughter of God, in the Han clan, the True Parents of humankind were born and a new history of the providence—the path for all the people of the world to advance on as True Parents' children—was established. What a miraculous and amazing truth this is! That the people of the world still do not



know, however, is regrettable. Therefore, today we are constructing the Cheonji Sunhakwon in True Parents' names so we can show True Parents' love and True Parents' providential work vividly to those who are living in the world today, but also to our descendants and to the people we must find as Cheon Il Guk citizens.

Beloved Heavenly Parent: Thank you. We feel so sorry, and we are grateful that you did not give up on ignorant people and worked hard to pull us forward. Heavenly Parent, as the True Parents who can realize your dream, we have now laid the foundation for us to be able to realize the settlement of Cheon Il Guk. Now, through the construction of this place, these people have come to a realization and we will advance to the day we can return gratitude and glory to Heaven through the heart of hyo jeong, and to the people of the world. Heavenly Parent! If you are with us, we will assuredly realize this. We will realize your dream, the dream of one human family, the kingdom of heaven on earth. This has become the beginning for that day. Father! Please

reign over everything today. I pray all of this and thank you in True Parents' names. Aju!

Celebration speech

How are you feeling? Today, at the Cheonji Sunhakwon groundbreaking I prayed that the two thousand years of Christianity is an embarrassing part of providential history. Isn't that so? Present today are leaders from around the world, especially members of the clergy from Africa and America. You must know this. Did we have to send Jesus Christ—the only son of God (found after the long, four-thousand-year period of the history of the providence of restoration and the dream that Heavenly Parent so longed for)—to the cross in that way? How could Christianity leave a wretched Jesus nailed to the cross for two thousand years and believe that was human salvation? The members of the clergy here today must reflect on this. This is the embarrassing Christian providence. However, you are lucky sons, because you

met True Parents.

You members of the clergy, alive in True Parents' era, during which repetition of the mistakes of the past have not occurred, must stand up. Moses waited for so long to enter Canaan. Yet, in the end, did he enter Canaan or was he unable to? Only Joshua and Caleb entered. All of you here today, what position do you want to be in? You have to enter Canaan, right? Thus, you must throw away your past and live lives as blessed families whose spirits experienced resurrection through True Parents. Will you all do that? This is a banquet, so if I speak too long I will regret it.

The victory toast

Therefore, while True Parents are still on earth, realize one human family under God, the kingdom of heaven on earth, which is Heavenly Parent's dream, True Parents' wish and humankind's wish. Please find the determination to lead the way and fulfill your responsibilities. When I say "Victory for 2020" please say Victory three times. Victory for 2020! [Victory, Victory, Victory!] ☯



Bring Everyone to Heaven

In 2011, a hundred and seventy-two members of ACLC came to Korea to partner with True Parents. True Mother invited those core members back to Korea as well as additional religious leaders in ACLC for a conference that lasted from September 5 to 10. On September 9, True Mother spoke to the American religious leaders at Cheon Jeong Gung. This is a translation of what she said that day.

Please be seated. We are living in a new era of the providence. The two-thousand-year history of the Christian providence has ended, and a new history, Cheon Il Guk has begun. Until now, you have said that you have understood God, but you have not been able to know him to his satisfaction. Not being aware of God's situation and the purpose of the Creation, you continued to ask for help saying, "God, help me!" or "Please help my child!" Yet there is not one person who understood God's circumstances and said that he or she would achieve that purpose for him.

Where God wished to dwell

God created all things as well as a

man and a woman, who were to become the first ancestors. He said they were good. God gave only human beings responsibility. He gave them responsibility because he cannot achieve his dream without human beings' cooperation. During their growth period, Adam and Eve should have grown up looking only to God from a position of absolute faith, absolute love and absolute obedience. Yet Adam and Eve did not do so. They became concerned with themselves and became greedy. They wanted to become like God before the time was right.

The Fall was their falling away to a position unrelated to God. God wanted to see Adam and Eve grow up healthy and beautiful and wanted

bless them to be together; God wanted to be present within them at that time. In other words, God's hope and dream was to become the substantial True Parent, residing in the first human true parents. That is God's principle of creation! God is omniscient and omnipotent. He cannot have failure. Therefore, you should know that God is not someone who sits arrogantly up on a throne, but that he has lived all this time with so much pain, sorrow and resentment.

The daughter had to be found

Even though the Fall had occurred, it is within the principle of creation for a perfected man and a perfected woman to be born among fallen humankind, receive God's blessing and fulfill



God's dream. Fallen human beings are unable to enter the presence of Heaven. In light of that, God began the providence of salvation. Within the fallen world, God established a good people, the Israelites. How difficult it must have been for Heaven to lead the providence during the time of the providence of restoration through indemnity from the stages of the individual to the people. How difficult it must have been that it took four thousand years! For the first time in four thousand years, God was able to send his only son, Jesus Christ. However, what happened? What did Mary—who gave birth to Jesus, what did Zachariah's family, and what did the Jewish people, the Israelites, do? In short, they did not fulfill their respec-

tive responsibilities. God's only son was born for the first time after four thousand years. God created both one man and one woman at the time of the Creation. Therefore, his only daughter, too, should have been found. Finding her was Mary's responsibility. Today's Catholic Church worships the Virgin Mary. Nevertheless, she did not fulfill her responsibilities and she caused Jesus to die. Jesus had no place to stand since everyone who should have helped him by forming an environment for him failed to fulfill their respective responsibilities. Hence, in the end, Jesus had no choice but to die on the cross. . . .

Loss and the cost of failure
Humankind has committed one

additional, greatly unfilial act in relation to Heaven. They drove the one person who should have become their true parent to the cross. Two thousand years of Christianity arose on top of that. People were unaware of the essence. As he was dying on the cross, Jesus said he would come again. He said that when he came, he would host the marriage supper of the Lamb.

Jesus having said that he would host the marriage supper of the Lamb indicates that he would not come again in the spirit. He needed to come again in a physical body. I can talk a long time about this, but in short, for the first time in six thousand years, Heaven brought his only daughter to be born through the Korean people.



Archbishop George Augustus Stallings Jr., an ACLC co-chairman, and Lee Hyeon-yeong, president of the Korean Religions Association, hold a trophy that they had earlier presented to True Mother, that serves to mark the occasion of the 2017 International Religious Leaders Peace Conference.

The only son and daughter, who had fulfilled their responsibilities wed and became the True Parents.

What you need to know here is that once a person or a nation, chosen by Heaven, does not fulfill the requisite responsibilities, that person or nation is not used again. This is because that person or nation now has indemnity. Indemnity! We know this from history. The Israelites wandered for two thousand years as a people without a country.

Dealing with new truth

All of you, as spiritual leaders, are people who need to know this truth in front of fallen humankind. However, you should also be aware of the timing. When winter comes to a country where there is only hot weather, you would not wear summer clothes. You would freeze to death. In the Bible, there is a verse that says, "New wine must be put into fresh wineskins" [Luke 5:38]. Since the Israelites were nomads and did not settle in one place, they might have done this because of their environment. However, you who are spiritual leaders, armed with the

truth, need to take off everything you wore in the past and put on the new words of truth. Do you understand?


A state of suffering

Nature, which did not commit the sin of the Fall, continues to flow according to the laws of nature that God created but is also suffering because of fallen human beings. All over the world, natural disasters are happening. China sustained a lot of damage, but America is also suffering. Why is this happening? You should learn to fear God. You need to understand him. You should not lead people any which way you please under man-made systems. Think about this.

Do you know about monarch butterflies? Their wingspan is only 8 centimeters but they migrate more than five thousand kilometers from Canada to Mexico. Who taught them that? This is the truth. It is the law of nature. Yet human beings are the only ones who are ignorant. We need to return to nature and understand God.

Making heaven on earth

Due to True Parents, we are living in a new era, Cheon Il Guk. The

owner of the universe is God but the reason he cannot manage everything is that human beings need to understand our Heavenly Parent and go back to him. Only then can this earth and human beings have eternal life according to the laws of nature. We talk about heaven in heaven and heaven on earth. Our ultimate destination, to which we must go, is heaven in heaven! However, we have to live our lives on earth before we go there. This indicates that your life here on earth is important. Only when you live a good life on earth can you have eternal life as children receiving God's love in the eternal world, heaven in heaven. To live a good life on earth you should unite with True Parents and fulfill God's dream and humankind's hope. This dream is to build heaven on earth, a world with no war and a world in which all people attend True Parents and Heavenly Parent, the true owner. It is a world of one human family, which humankind longs for! May you become ministers who guide others to that path and may your names go down in history. 



Strategic Nations and all Others Must Arise

True Mother delivered this message at True Parents' Special Luncheon for Leaders of Key Strategic Nations on September 12 at Cheon Jeong Gung.

Through three days of meetings and reports, I am sure you've learned and decided how you will move forward. People who are alive need to eat, right? We, being in charge of the providence, must take in two kinds of nourishment. On the last day of the conference, I wanted to nourish you physically. You must be full of spiritual nourishment from all you have learned. Looking at the regional group chairmen, I see all their stomachs are large. They have eaten a lot. What must you do, then? You have to run hard, right?

Work with intensity

This satanic world! It resembles a battlefield, so I will give you armor. In this age of instant communication, the

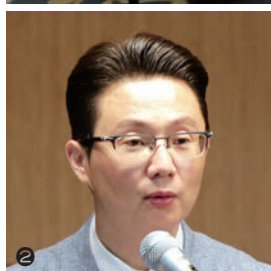
providence cannot miss even one minute or one second. Do you understand? Heavenly Parent's dream, True Parents' dream is one family, the kingdom of heaven on earth. Isn't that so? The center of that kingdom of heaven on earth is the owner, True Parents. While True Parents are still here, you must fulfill your responsibilities. Do you understand? So from True Parents, you have to be able to hear that you worked hard, that you fulfilled your responsibilities. You must receive that blessing. When I am no longer on earth, there is no one to bless you. Is that so or not? During your life, the most glorious position is one of receiving the blessing from True Parents.

If we go back to when Heavenly Parent created the universe and

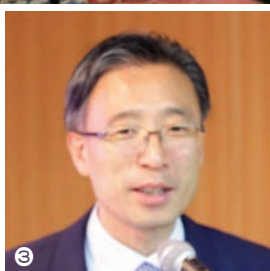
created Adam and Eve, God gave particularly Adam and Eve responsibilities. The time for them to fulfill their responsibilities was the growth stage. They should have grown well and realized God's dream and then received God's blessing. It was God's wish and dream to become humankind's visible true parent. He created the first man and woman, who could realize that dream. That is in the principle of creation. The world of all things did not fall. The world of all things moves according to a law of circulation, automatically without anyone having to tell it what to do. However, nature is being destroyed because of people. People have to repent. They must look at the nature and apologize.



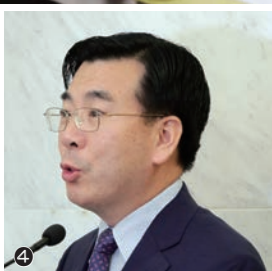
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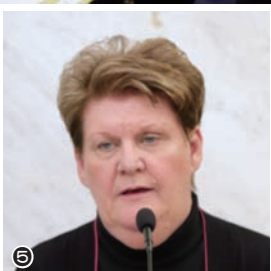
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- ① As True Mother speaks to the attentive leaders of key strategic nations, a peaceTv cameraman records the event for posterity.
- ② Secretary-General Yun Young-ho was the master of ceremonies for this event.
- ③ Director-General Cho Sung-il prayed to begin this important meeting.
- ④ Yong Chung-shik, chairman, Asia Regional Group
- ⑤ Kathy Rigney, President, UPF-Africa
- ⑥ Saito Hajime, President of FFWPU-Cambodia

Natural disasters as consequences

Right now, the power of people cannot solve the phenomenon happening around the world. Even more clearly, the power of people cannot do anything about natural disasters. While True Parents are on earth, Heavenly Parent's dream, humankind's wish, has to be realized. However, because we have been unable to do that, Heaven is punishing us. We are receiving Heaven's judgment. Why is America receiving so much damage? In Asia, China is also receiving much damage. The reason Heaven chose America was

so that Americans could make the environment for the returning Lord to realize Heavenly Parent's dream. True Parents forgave and awoke America many times, but because they are not responding, they are receiving punishment. Can you deny this?

How long has God waited? Not just the six thousand years as indicated in the Bible, but all of human history! How difficult must it have been to walk through that dark tunnel in order to raise an individual, clan, tribe and nation? Finally, a light was visible, and after four thousand years, God sent his only son; yet what happened? The people around him, those who taught Heaven's grace and heard the sound of angels, did they attend Jesus? They could not attend God's only son. He was called the son of Heaven, but he was not treated as God's son. Not only that, but they sent him to the cross.

A call to Europe

Europe must awaken. Christian culture began from Europe, so Europeans must fulfill their responsibilities. Out of all those countries, only one nation, Albania, is a strategic nation. You are falling behind Africa. You are falling behind Asia. The same is true of America. You have to wake up. You absolutely must realize the objectives you resolved to achieve this time. Do you understand? Then you must show me. The people that unite with True Parents and go forward receive these blessings from Heaven. You must demonstrate this to the world. Will you do that? This should not end with your answer alone. You must put your life on the line and decide to take responsibility while True Parents are still alive, as blessed members and more so as leaders. I have given you spiritual nourishment and armor so you must not end up as defeated soldiers. *TP*

In Memory of True Father

During the main event, Sun Jin Moon, international president of FFWPU, read (at True Mother's request) a poem she had written to True Father. Her niece, Shin Yuh nim, the daughter of Hyo Jin nim and Yeon Ah nim, had provided a segue by singing Bokopa (I Miss You So), the song Sun Jin nim refers to in her poem.



Beloved True Father and True Mother, I was listening to your beautiful granddaughter sing this song, the song True Father lovingly asked True Mother to sing all these years. To hear the voice of the purest true soprano to lull your aching heart back to complete peace and joy, to see you close your eyes and move your fingers in tune, hearing your granddaughter today sing "Yearning for Those Days," my heart of yearning for you feels so strong.

I too, Yearn for Those Days. To hear the voice of your true love, remembering the simple life of your hometowns, the pure innocence of children, a time of joy and wonder of all life's possibilities, an idyllic snapshot of time, an ordinary life—Oh, I too, yearn for those days.

And then your extraordinary path of indemnity, a harrowing course inundated with blood, sweat and tears. In the beginning, we tasted God's devastating tears, Jesus's forlorn tears, True Parents' suffering and enduring tears, and all of human history, a collective ocean of woeful tears, the floodwaters of your broken hearts, ceaseless lamentable tears, this endless ocean of sorrowful cries consuming all the land—adrift, separated, displaced.

A thousand miles from your hometown, I hear in this song your longing to return to joy, your longing to return home. How you must long for unity and peace in our homeland!

True Father, how True Mother longs to complete your dream! As she plays this song, as we remember and listen to these words, True Mother sends our prayers and her infinite love to all the lives in turmoil, tragedy, loss, separation and devastation.

We pray that your sun will rise and the light of truth will evaporate all suffering from the earth. We pray that your peace shall be restored and all life will be returned to balance with the power of true love.

Father, today we celebrate your eternal life. We immortalize your legacy of true love and living for the sake of others. This legacy shall forever be passed down from generation to generation.

Father, we rejoice on this day remembering your life with pure joy and complete eternal love and gratitude. The world mourned your passing for five years but you never passed. Remembering your life and achievements, today, we shed tears of joy.

Seong Hwa means to return to your true home. You are in everything; you are with us every moment. There is no place in the universe that is not blessed by your breath.

Father, you are my sunshine. You are everywhere I look, in rainbows and every living thing; you answer every prayer, you comfort and fill my heart with such love and immense gratitude. Today, I truly long to see your beautiful smile.

Last night as I looked up into the infinite array of diamonds sparkling in the heavens, missing you, I cried and tears dripped down like rain. You answered in the almond shaped moonlight. It reminded me of your glowing piercing eyes, and you answered in this glow of luminous smile. No more tears.

"Da hana dwe ya de" [다 하나 되야돼], you must all become one-one family under God. Four simple words, I've heard my entire life, but never understood until tonight. No more tears.

When we all become one, one with Heavenly Parent and True Parents, "Yearning for Those Days," the song of God's original homeland shall resound. And, wishing to return to the beginning of creation, his original dream of true joy, true love and true peace, as filial sons and daughters True Parent and Heavenly Parent, we pledge on this holy fifth anniversary Seong Hwa day that your dream will be realized on earth and in Heaven.

No more tears; we shall be one. This we promise with our lives.

Eternal love and gratitude, Sun Jin Moon



On Hyo Jeong and Hyo Jeong Shim Chung

To commemorate the fifth anniversary of True Father's seonghwa, Universal Ballet performed a work based on a Korean folk tale that is as famous in Korea as Cinderella is in the West. The theme of the story is true filial love. Mme. Adrienne Dellas (118 couples) conceived of adapting the story and created the ballet. Kevin Picard (2,075 couples) composed the music. What follows is an edited translation of the introduction to the ballet on September 7.

By Julia HJ Moon





Respected guests, blessed families from around the world, ladies and gentlemen, how are you? First, I would like to give my sincere congratulations to the beautiful brides and grooms who received the precious blessing today. I pray that you will form eternally happy, ideal families who receive Heavenly Parent's and True Parents' true love. We have heard many songs so far. I too, am a fervent Insooni fan. However, are you ready to enter the elegant world of ballet?


I am very happy and grateful that Universal Ballet is able to offer this small expression of our sincerity here in this place, where Unificationists from around the world have gathered, longing for True Father, during the fifth anniversary of his seonghwa. It is a great honor that we, Universal Ballet, can perform Hyo Jeong Shim Chung for all the members here and for all the members around the world watching through the live broadcast as the meaningful finale of the culture festival.

I offer my infinite gratitude to True Mother, who gave us this opportunity to stand on this precious stage. The True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind, substantially attend Heavenly Parent and have perfected the model heart of a true child, true sibling, true husband and wife, and true parents. They achieved hyo jeong, the perfected heart of a child toward Heaven. Hyo jeong is the greatest duty that humankind can fulfill and offer to Heavenly Parent and the ultimate spiritual and heartistic plane that we must perfect. This hyo jeong is expressed specifically in South Korean culture, rooted in the ideology of filial piety found in Heavenly Parent's fatherland. True Parents have noted from early on that Korea's ideology of loyalty, filial piety, and chastity awaken people to their original nature from the origin of creation.

Finally, in True Parent's messages, True Father spoke about the filial daughter Shim Chung, the virtuous woman Chun Hyang, and the loyal subject Lee Sun Shin. True Parents wished for the creation of cultural materials based on filial piety in order to awaken and give rebirth to all people of the world through culture. Accordingly, Universal Ballet, which True Parents founded as a memorial project to Heung Jin nim in 1984, has been performing Shim Chung, a ballet piece we created, which shows the spirit of filial piety through a child who offers her life for her parent. We performed Hyo Jeong Shim Chung for the first time during the Asian Games Cultural Festival in 1986. Since then, we have performed it two hundred times in forty cities in eleven countries. It has established itself as a ballet piece recognized by the world as a representation of Korea. In 2016, we celebrated the thirtieth anniversary of the creation of the piece and gave a performance in the Seoul Arts Center's Opera Theater. This year, during the third Seoul Arts Center Awards, Shim Chung received not only the grand prize in the performance category but also received two more awards overall. Thank you, True Parents!

In fact, Shim Chung is the first piece ever given two awards. True Parents have supported the ballet since its inception, and when True Mother heard this report, she wished to share this joy with the world's members and gave us the blessing and grace to be able to perform this ballet during the Seonghwa Festival. The performance you will watch today is a highlight performance, which has condensed Shim Chung into one hour. I feel that Shim Chung, which premiered thirty-one years ago, was a prescient performance, which allowed the world know about hyo jeong culture from early on. I believe Hyo Jeong Shim Chung is not simply a story about a daughter trying to make her blind father see but it expresses True Parents' sacrificial lives in working to liberate Heavenly Parent, who had fallen into endless sadness because of having lost his children.

True Mother has said the completed stage of faith is not belief but attendance. After True Father's seonghwa, Mother has been fighting each minute and second with an ardent heart as she works hard to lead the providence in order to absolutely establish the nation of Cheon Il Guk.

The story of Korea's Shim Chung, passed down for many years, is a revelation. The filial daughter Shim Chung's life of sacrifice depicts True Mother's life of hyo jeong toward Heavenly Parent. As we commemorate the fifth anniversary of True Father's seonghwa, let us do our best to become the light of the world as sons and daughters who fulfill their duty of hyo jeong toward Heavenly Parent and True Parents. I dedicate this performance of Universal Ballet's Hyo Jeong Shim Chung with our love, respect and gratitude to True Parents. Thank you. 

Julia HJ Moon, whose middle initials refer to her husband Heung Jin nim, is general director of the Universal Ballet.

Major Events

The Seonghwa Festival Commemorating the 5th Anniversary of the
Ascension of Sun Myung Moon,
the True Parent of Heaven, Earth and Humankind

2017 Hyojeong Cosmic Blessing Ceremony Officiated by the
True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind



Seonghwa Festival Morning Hoondokhae



- ① Lighting the Holy Candles
- ② True Family members attending True Parents at hoondokhae
- ③ True Mother was radiant as the eventful day began.
- ④ Mrs. McDevitt read the scripture text, Ryu Gyeong-seuk was the master of ceremonies, Hwang Sun-jo gave the invocation prayer and Park Sang-gwon gave a report
- ⑤ Seuk Joon-ho led the audience of loyal, elder members in three cheers of Eog Mansei.



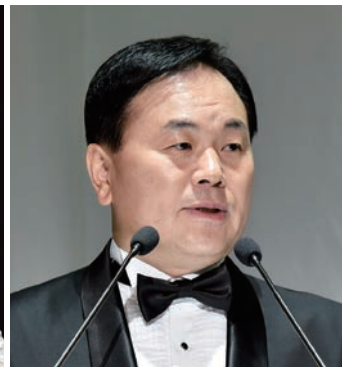
Seonghwa Festival



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- 1 This is the moment during which True Father's voice is heard throughout the hall giving True Parents' blessing prayer over the couples in Korea and many other nations.
- 2 (Left to right) Sun Jin Moon gave a speech in memory of True Father; Wonju Chong McDevitt recited a commemorative poem; Ryu Kyeong-seuk, FFWPU-Korea president, was the master of ceremonies and Kim Ki-hoon, chairman, North American Regional Group, prayed.
- 3 Vocalist Seiko Lee opened the Seonghwa Festival Commemorating the 5th anniversary of the Ascension of Sun Myung Moon, the True Parent of Heaven, Earth and Humankind



3



2017 Hyojeong Cosmic Blessing Ceremony



2017 Hyojeong Cultural Festival



- ① True Mother leading through their vows brides and grooms from many blessing groups: single first- and second-generation members, married couples, registration blessing couples and ancestral couples
- ② Representative couples received rings from True Parents
- ③ True Mother and Sun Jin Moon wave to the blessed couples
- ④ Confetti rains down on the couples, like blessings from heaven.

- ① A section for True Family members attending the Seonghwa Festival
- ② True Mother joins the audience for the Hyo Jeong Culture Festival
- ③ *Left to right:* Yun Young-ho, president of the Hyo Jeong Cultural Center, was emcee. Cho Sung-il, director-general of the FFWPU International Headquarters, prayed before the meal ; Song Yong-cheon, chairman, FFWPU-Japan, led the three cheers.
- ④ The Sun Hak Choir performing
- ⑤ True Mother and everyone on hand giving cheers of Mansei to conclude part one of the cultural festival



Celebrating Victories: The Seonghwa Memorial and Blessing Ceremony



- ① A cake to celebrate the success of all facets of the Seonghwa Festival
- ② Rev. Ryu Gyeong-seuk and his wife present flowers to True Mother
- ③ A gift presented to True Parents by (left to right) Song Yong-cheon, Ryu Gyeong-seuk, Wonju Chong McDevitt and Kim Ki-hoon.
- ④ Left: Park Sang-gwon presenting smaller sized versions of our complete holy scripture books; Right: Kim Young-hwi presenting a four-volume set of quotations from True Father about True Mother.
- ⑤ True Mother speaking during the Victory Celebration
- ⑥ Our radiant True Mother!
- ⑦ True Mother and the FFWPU International president, Sun Jin Moon and the recently appointed chairmen of regional groups.
- ⑧ The Little Angels Dance Troupe delighted the audience.
- ⑨ Clockwise from top left: Cho Sung-il, director general of the FFWPU IHQ, prayed; Yun Young-ho, president of the Hyo Jeong Cultural Center, was emcee; Kim Seog-byeong, chairman of the Hyo Jeong Global Unification Foundation described the Hyojeong Cheonwon Project; Pastor T. L. Barrett reported on the ACLC conference; special emissary Kathy Rigney, described African success stories.





Exhibition of True Parents' Lifelong Achievements



Summer 2017 Hyo Jeong Cheongpyeong Great Works



Hyo Jeong Café



- ① On September 9, True Mother dedicated the Hyo Jeong Café and Sunsuwon, with a water purification plant below and offices of providential organizations above.
- ② Director Bae Dong Kwan and Team Leader Hong Yeong Seon offered flowers.
- ③ True Mother spread Holy Salt during the dedication of Hyo Jeong Café.



HJ Sunsuwon



Our Great True Parents and Our Path Forward

This is a translated excerpt of a presentation delivered on September 10 in the Cheongpyeong Training Center on the final day of the 2017 Cheon Il Guk Leaders' Assembly.

By Cho Sung-Il

At this moment, True Mother is participating with us by video from Cheon Jeong Gung. During the opening ceremony for the Cheon Il Guk leader's conference, Sun Jin Moon, our International President talked deeply about hyo jeong. Centering on what she said, we listened to best practices from the field for two days. First, there was the fifth anniversary of True Father's cosmic ascension, and then the 2017 True Parents of Heaven, Earth, and Humankind Hyo Jeong Cosmic Blessing. Over thirty-five events took place during that time. We became one centered on True Mother in front of Heavenly Parent and Father, allowing for a victorious offering.

Additionally, there were so many moving moments as we celebrated the anniversary of True Father's ascension and the blessing. At the center of these events was Sun Jin nim's and her husband, who acted as the organizational chair of the whole event, International President Yeon Ah Moon, and President Hoon Sook Moon. Also, this time Shin Yuh nim and Shin Wol nim played significant roles. So you can see that this event

was done together with True Mother and the True Family...

True Parents will bless the world

As we held the seonghwa blessing and marriage blessing together on the anniversary of True Father's ascension, True Mother said we must consider what Father desires the most. It is to bless all 74 billion people on earth. Through blessing all people, they can receive Heavenly Parent's true love, life and lineage. We must restore the nation through this. Therefore, through having the blessing ceremony, which is the greatest achievement of True Parents' lives and the most essential, on the fifth anniversary, we can restore the nation and world and establish the settlement of Cheon Il Guk.

Participants of this last blessing included second-generation couples, regular couples, married couples, those receiving the registration blessing, and even our ancestors in the ancestral blessing ceremony. This resulted in the complete unity of True Father in the spiritual world and True Mother on earth, allowing for new progress in the providence. As we witness these providential changes,

we must ponder what is important for national and global restoration. The answer is to increase the number of blessed families through tribal messiahship blessing activities, as True Parents have explicitly said. I realized that there must be more blessed families and national restoration is only possible when the church progresses. Now that we have made this arrangement, Mother has made a providential trend where we can send a greeting to Heavenly Parent, True Father and True Parents every year at the blessing.

True Mother's focus and leadership

True Mother checks every day to see how many days are left until Vision 2020. Today, at the closing ceremony, there are 879 days left. Already five years out of the seven year course until Vision 2020 has passed. Already five years. And now we have two years and six months left. We shared our best practices and discussed our vision and strategy. However, I believe that we can establish the substantial settlement of Cheon Il Guk in each of our assigned nations and regions through following True Mother's example. I would like to take

a moment to explain what kind of an example of a leader True Mother is.

Mother is audacious

Yesterday, proclaimed the truth in front of 220 ACLC leaders. She does not compromise. She is not vague. Mother in particular declares True Father and True Mother are the perfected only son and perfected only daughter of God. She says that they have appeared after six thousand years, and that unless you receive the blessing from True Parents, you will not enter heaven. She also says that national restoration will be possible through the blessing. Through the first half of this fifth year of Cheon Il Guk, Mother has set the example. Of course there are the national presidents in the field, as well as the continental director and the headquarter leaders. Under the special direction of True Parents, they established eleven Cheon Il Guk Special Speakers on tour. They went to Japan, the mother nation, for 21 days. What they did was this: There are about 290 churches in Japan and they visited 210 of those churches. Some days they would visit up to three churches in a single day. They explained to the core blessed families of the nation the significance of True Parents. They explained why True Mother is the only-begotten-daughter of Heavenly Parent. They gave Mother the ability to declare clearly how the global providence centering on True Parents was progressing. Through this course, centering on the national leaders, and President Tokuno, Director Seongman Lee and other leaders, they were able to become one and kindle the fire there. True Parents have led this type of providence.

Mother is the same. No matter whom she meets, she declares the truth. To the five hundred Cheon Il Guk leaders here, I would first like to emphasize the importance of not hesitating to share to others that True Mother is the only-begotten-daughter, that salvation is only possible through True Parents, that only through the blessing is entering heaven possible, and that only this path will save the nation.

Mother is desperate

Mother never forgets to ask about the



Director-General Cho Sung-il, who sees True Mother quite often, invested himself in this presentation helping leaders from many nations gain a deeper connection to True Mother's heart and unceasing efforts.

leaders. A while back, Mother mentioned that she can never sleep through the night because she thinks of the leaders experiencing hardship on the other side of the world.

With this heart of desperation, Mother has never even been able to rest to even cry after Father ascended to the spiritual world. She has only looked forward. That is why Mother always talks about marching forward without stopping. In one sense, she is holding her desperate heart to fulfill the wishes of Heavenly Parent and Father in her right hand, and in the left hand is her desperate heart to not give up on a single person of the 7.4 billion people of the world.

One time, President Jeong-ro Yoon said something interesting. True Parents were telling a story about something that happened thirty years ago. He did not remember it, but True Parents remembered it very clearly. He asked them, "How can you remember that so well?" They answered, "It was because we were so desperate." I believe that True Parents are desperate to bring the settlement of Cheon Il Guk. Unless we can inherit this heart now, we cannot bring victory in the remaining time.

Mother is precise

She is never unclear. This time she was just as detailed as she checked the HJ Palace, Magnolia, the Cosmic Sunhakwon, the Hyo Jeong Garden of Scholarship, the Hyo Jeong Cafe, and every aspect of the event.

Just as Won-Ju McDevitt always says, Mother even checks the placement of the toilet paper. She truly prepared for this event with intense devotion. I believe that if Heavenly Parent and Father have made the blueprint for national and global restoration, then Mother has now shown us a to fill out the rooms in the plan so that the leaders and members of the Unification Movement and all people can see an undeniable Cheon Il Guk. Mother is leading a very detailed providence. That is how I think. It the same for national restoration. True Parents have a detailed plan of action for the providence, which involves witnessing, the creation of a witnessing environment, and the cultivation of leaders. We must maintain a good balance between these three areas and bring restoration to the regions, nations, or continents we have been assigned. Please keep this in mind. True Parents



True Mother with attendants before the Holy Water portion of the 2017 Hyojeong Cosmic Blessing Ceremony

desire for the whole to become united. It started around last July. When we consider HJ Cheon Won and attending True Parents, we must not only attend them in the external sense. All of the leaders in HJ Cheon Won must understand the providence, identity, and stature of True Parents. That is why we hold educational gatherings on the first day of each month.

Do we know them?

When we first made this Cheon Seong Royal Palace, True Parents asked us this: "Do you all believe me?" Everyone said yes. Then Father asked, "Do you know me?" No one could answer. Do we truly know about True Parents? How deeply do we understand them? However, Mother has educated us by specifically showing us one thing at a time. And so, this year, she has asked us to rush to the field. Just as Secretary-General Yun

Young-ho reported, through having regional gatherings, the field and the headquarters were able to unite and discover important issues for restoration in each region and for the world. Through reporting these things with True Parents, they are creating a strategy that True Parents confirm and sanction.

Growth is essential

In that sense, I believe we should carry the same attitude towards the Cheonji Sunhakwon. I have been reporting about the tribal messiah academy, and I want to say that we truly can create a good atmosphere through the creation of witnessing environments during the last two years and six months. However, just as Mother has said, the most important thing is that the number of blessed families must increase and the church must grow. I believe that is the

way to establish a substantial and undeniable national restoration for the settlement of Cheon Il Guk. Heaven has already prepared many things for us and continuously gives us words through Mother's lips. Recently, she talked about how the Divine Principle states that God has 95 percent of responsibility and that humans have 5 percent. That is how the will can be achieved.

Spiritual support

In 2012 True Parents gave us something new. They told us that True Parents have 97 percent of the responsibility and blessed families have 3 percent. However, according to Father's words from 1979, once Father goes to spiritual world, the Unification Church will not collapse but will gain ten times, a hundred times the spiritual power as he works with us. Currently, we have heard many stories of leaders and members having dreams and revelations where Heavenly Father, and especially Father, Heung Jin nim, and Hyo Jin nim wish for us to help Mother. Just as Mother said during the closing ceremony of the Special Strategic Nations Conference, if there is a Heaven and Father works with us, then won't they be with those leaders who are constantly working for national and global restoration and the settlement of Cheon Il Guk? She has clearly stated that for us.

Then, all of you five hundred Cheon Il Guk leaders from around the world, if we inherit the spirit of hyo jeong just as the international president said during the opening ceremony, we can represent True Parents—especially True Mother. If we go all over the world in this way, then we will be able to restore the ideal in at least seven nations during the two years and six months—890 days. We will be able to attend True Parents in glory upon that foundation in 2020. I hope you go to the field with the thought that this is the only way True Parents can maintain their honor in front of Heavenly Parent. These are all things that I have been feeling and I thought that it would be good to share with all of you. *TP*

Rev. Cho is the director-general of the FFW-PU International Headquarters.

Blessing Testimonies from Japan

The following are testimonies from two second-generation members who participated in the Hyo Jeong Cosmic Blessing, which formed an important part of this year's Seonghwa Festival.

A Japanese bride in a second-generation blessed couple (Kita Hiroshima District)

During these past four days, I realized that receiving the blessing during the 2017 Hyo Jeong Cosmic Blessing is precious. I learned why the blessing ceremony title had "hyo jeong" in it for the first time and realized the ceremony was Father's wish, which mother had been working to realize. The ceremony took place on True Father's seonghwa anniversary because Mother wanted to give Father the greatest joy. I learned that Mother's heart of wanting to give Father the most precious, valuable gift. I thought there could not be a more precious thing than if we, as True Parents' children, could offer True Parents even the smallest amount of joy.

True Mother with love toward Father and hyo jeong, gave special attention to the seonghwa commemoration, the blessing ceremony and entertainment, even to the smallest details such as selecting and giving the grooms purple bow ties. I felt that all of this showed Mother's love for Father and a Mother's heart toward her children.


Through this blessing ceremony, we could sincerely feel that True Parents are our parents and we are their children. I pledge that as True Parents' children we will form a blessed family that gives joy and happiness to Heaven.

A Japanese groom in a second-generation blessed couple (Minami Aichi District)

During the commemoration of the fifth anniversary of True Father's seonghwa, as I held my spouse's hand and watched the memorial video, suddenly I couldn't help crying as I thought of True Parents. Many thoughts went through my head. "Why did Father have to go through all this suffering? Why did Father have to go to prison?" I then heard Heavenly Parent and Father's voice from inside my heart. "You have to do well." I had never experienced such overwhelming love. I shed endless tears—a shocking experience for me. At that moment, I felt strongly that I have to receive the blessing and grow together with my spouse centered on Heaven.

When we bowed to True Mother at the end, my heart was bursting with deep gratitude toward True Parents. I strongly determined to form a happy family centered on Heavenly Parent and True Parents and absolutely to be a family that gives joy to the people around us.

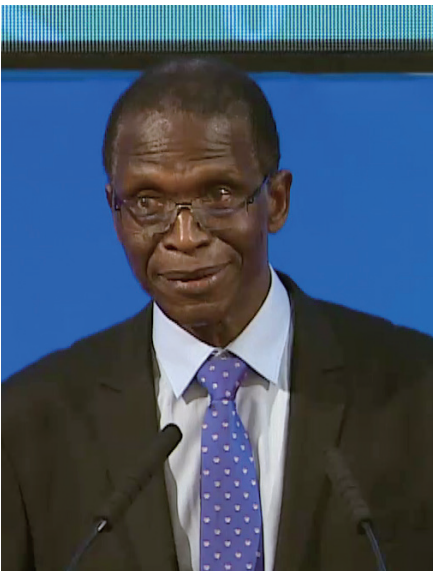
For the twenty years since I was born, I have received Heavenly Parent's, True Parents' and my parents' love. Now I wish to form a beautiful family that returns joy to them all. I hope to form a blessed family that gives joy to the people around us, too.

I was happy to spend these last four days with my wife. Numerous other couples looked truly happy. I pray that all the couples can form beautiful, happy families who will Heavenly Parent and True Parents happy. 

Africa and True Parents' Touch

This is an edited excerpt from a presentation given on Saturday, September 9, during the 2017 Cheon Il Guk Leaders Assembly.

By Bakary Camara



Nigeria (2010–2015) attending True Parents. African tribal leaders also uplifted True Parents as the king of king for all of Africa. Because they have touched those leaders, to testify about True Parents has become easy. True Parents even sent Dae-mo nim to bless Africa, to get rid of evil spirits, to multiply absolute good spirits, which laid the foundation for building our churches. What I'm talking about today didn't start today. I did not start it. Our beloved brothers and sisters, who work very hard, did not start it. Every single thing started from True Parents' love, blessing and inspiration.

National restoration

Zambia has become a special case. I did not decide to go to Zambia. True Mother sent me there. How did this happen? Just a little background: Regional chairs, do you remember when True Mother asked us how we are going to restore a nation? I was expecting to receive the question last, so I could find inspiration in the regional presidents' answers and make my own, but I was the second person asked.

Mother asked, "Bakary, how are you going to restore a nation?" In front of True Mother, I could no longer imagine making something up. I had to talk directly from my heart. I said, "True Mother, you have taught us. I

believe what you are telling us; through heavenly tribal messiah activities, we can restore a nation." So, she said, "How many countries?" I said, "One." She said, "No, that's too small—three." Goodness! "And how are you going to do it?" I said, "Through heavenly tribal messiah work, raising young people and making a good environment for witnessing, which Mother is teaching..."

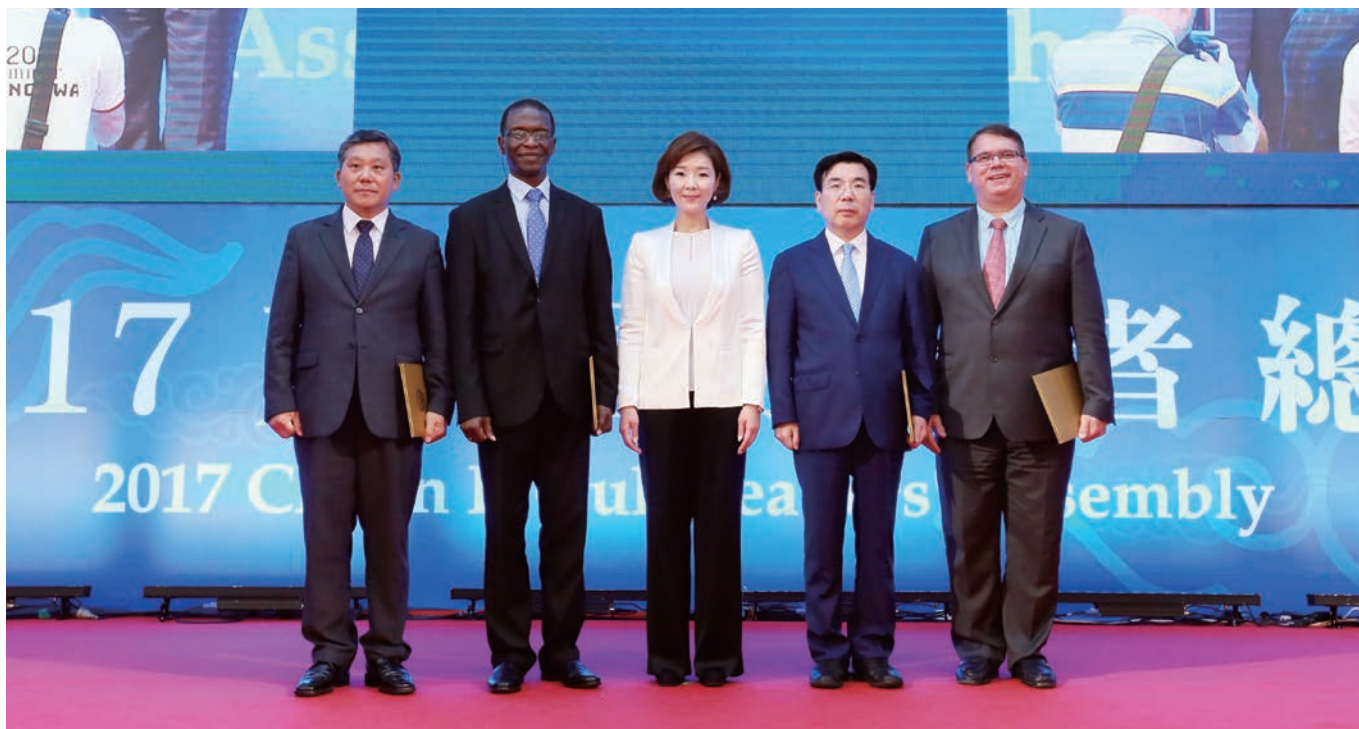
Visiting Asia

Mother said it's good to learn from those who are successful. I decided to go to Asia to see what is going on with heavenly tribal messiah activities there. I had scheduled to stay for at least twenty-one days, but after three days, the Holy Spirit touched me. I saw how they do it and brought that to Zambia, but that wasn't enough. Through True Mother's guidance, I invited Asian leaders to share directly with African leaders. That happened two years ago.

Imported method, local success

Nevertheless, we had to provide an environment. [In the past] True Mother was welcomed in Zambia, met many dignitaries, former presidents and vice-presidents and made many connections with Zambian people. I believe, because of that, preparing the environment for

As you know, this is on "best practices." I would like to describe one of the best practices: True Parents' touch. Because of that, uniting with heart and strategy and feeling, we can move ahead and try for national-level restoration. Why do I say, "True Parents' touch"? Africa has received love and blessings, beginning with True Parents sending missionaries in 1975 from Europe, America and Japan. On that foundation we stand. True Parents have visited many countries in Africa. [Referring to slides] Here is Zindzi Mandela, a daughter of Nelson Mandela, attending True Father and Goodluck Jonathan, president of



Our international president, Sun Jin Moon, presented new regional group leaders with their writs of appointment. They are (left to right) Kim Sang-seuk, Latin America; Bakary Camara, Africa; Yong Chung-shik, Asia; and Michael Balcomb, Europe.

witnessing became easier.

Actually, I am not teaching you anything you don't know: Meeting True Parents changed our lives. It is the same for others. Anyone that had the chance to meet the Messiah, it was not for nothing. Anyone in your area who has been touched by or who met True Parents, go to them. They have something. True Parents saw it in their hearts. That foundation made our work easy. That was True Parents' touch for Africa, touching all leaders and even heads of state. On that, our PR activities grew.

That's why, from 2002, international conferences started and led to the IAPP inauguration in Zambia in 2016. All this happened from True Parents' grace. I think you know, but I did not know from the start. By myself, I cannot move anything, but with a connection to True Parents' love, grace and heavenly fortune, we connect to others and they naturally react. We are lucky people. We have a source of almost infinite energy; if we are able to touch people on that foundation, things move. That's why, through the International leadership Conference in Zambia in 2016, all became easier.

The parliament started reacting. How? The foundation made with Peace Council members attracted other VIPs, while we were working

with traditional chiefs. We invited chiefs to be part of that great Zambian conference, directly guided by True Parents and the international headquarters. The chiefs were so inspired and said we need an international association for tribal chiefs.

Tribal chiefs' value

Chiefs have more power. They have land. They have people. They have the tradition. If we hold a conference at their level, easily we can make positive changes in Zambia.

Almost a hundred chiefs came. Beforehand, we told them they'd first need to do a three-day workshop. Inviting the chiefs to a workshop was not easy. The government cannot mobilize chiefs because the chiefs think that chiefs should have nominated the government. For us, getting the chiefs to participate in a three-day workshop all in one place was a miracle.

The chiefs coming to the workshop inspired the parliamentarians because without the chiefs' support, they cannot get votes. Following our workshop with the chiefs, the parliamentarians decided they wanted to launch IAPP in Zambia quickly. We said, well, you can launch it but after making it, you have to have a focus. To do that, you also need a three-day workshop. Almost forty parliamentarians

participated. That, briefly, is the UPF foundation True Parents made in Zambia. Not only in Zambia but in almost all areas of Africa.

Action imbued with heart

We are also working with the Women's Federation. Women's Federation members work with their hearts. The Women's Federation activities in Africa are quite visible. They make True Parents' hearts visible. They take care of people, vulnerable people, young people, whom they raise as parents would but also guide to become true sons or daughters of God. They are working in almost all parts of Africa. They provide education and care physically for people by giving medication and food and eventually, moral education.

Newsmakers

We're working with chiefs, so parliamentarians come in. Working with parliamentarians, the media wants to get involved, because they like sensation. They want to write about it. I said, if you want to write about our event, you need a three-day workshop. That's it! After they became involved, we established an international media association.

Heavenly tribal outreach

On the foundation of ongoing social



Second-generation members throughout Africa are stepping up and taking on greater responsibility; many have recently agreed to take a year off from their studies in order to do work as missionaries.

activities, the heavenly tribal messiah mission becomes clear. Heavenly tribal messiah outreach begins one-to-one, and then we reach a family, one ordinary family. We had to start somewhere. That's what I saw in Asia. The family took us to the village. The villages took us to the village heads and the village heads took us to the chiefs.

More on the chiefs

As soon as the providence of chiefs' restoration started, we had no more time to rest. Chiefs want the blessing. Chiefs want restoration. Chiefs have a problem and they think the Family Federation's blessing is the solution.

A chief from Kanunda received the blessing with his wife. His mother was there. She said she wanted the blessing. During the blessing, the chief's first son was outside crying, "I want to be inside also." We blessed three generations. To date, forty chiefs have received the blessing and gone through a forty-day separation and three-day ceremony.

What to do with the chiefs? We had to develop a partnership because it is an issue of national restoration. We had to develop a strategy with the True Mother's guidance, international support, and the international headquarters' support.

We have to educate them. We had to not only provide external organization but also be sure they understand the fundamental principles of peace from our True Parents. We are preparing a plan to educate the chiefs throughout Africa. If you are leading people, you have to deal with their problems. To solve problems, you need true solutions. Otherwise, it just comes back or backfires.

At the same time, we gave them some additional benefit. They don't yet know yet the value of the Principle, but we sincerely want to help them develop their chiefdoms. True Mother provided them practical knowledge through Sae Ma-ul Undong (New Village Movement). We told them we will try to help them develop through agriculture, through saving energy and through taking care of the environment. If they align with us, a chiefdom will definitely not stay a chiefdom; it may become a kingdom of God.

The chiefs accepted this. They came to a workshop, to which True Mother sent a specialist from Korea, Dr. Woo. He explained the Korean exemplary way of raising themselves, not only as a chosen nation but as a powerful nation. Their foundation grew from nothing to what it is today. This began with the New Village movement.

When the chiefs learned this providence and learned Korean history and the strategies, they chose to become motivated. They want to come to Korea to learn themselves. The chiefs are determined not only to get the blessing but to give the blessing to their people.

Toward a shining continent

We are planning to make an international association of chiefs for all Africa, actually, the world if necessary. We finished an African chiefs' conference in Zambia. Many came from other countries. The government was very interested in that conference. Senior chiefs came, eighty-two from around Africa, from DR Congo, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. They trust us, they are dedicated and they want to be part of this global movement.

They made a declaration. They want all African traditional rulers to make a foundation for Africa to be a safe place to live, which is what True Mother also wants, to make Africa a shining continent, a successful continent, a continent raised to become the heavenly kingdom. *TP*

Rev. Camara is chairman of the Africa Regional Group.

Heads of African Religions

An Interview of Sheikh Mansour Diouf

Three African religious leaders, who have connected to our movement and met True Mother personally at East Garden in the United States, came to this year's Seonghwa Festival. Among them was Sheikh Mansour Diouf, head of the Murid Brotherhood, a Sufi organization with four million followers today, concentrated mainly in Senegal and The Gambia.



You are one of the leaders of the Murid brotherhood. Please tell us about the organization.

Sheikh Ahmadou Bamba, a Senegalese (1853–1927) created the Murid Brotherhood. By profession, I am a finance engineer, currently working for the government of Senegal. I am the finance and accounting officer of the Senegalese agency for rural electrification, where I represent the Minister of Finance.

In the Murid Brotherhood, what is your spiritual role?

I am a religious leader with disciples who depend on me. Many people have pledged their allegiance to me and follow me everywhere. Their destiny, thanks to God, is in my hands. Everything I tell them to do, they do; anything I forbid, they refrain from it. This is based on the precepts of Islam.

It seems rather uncommon in Islam that a religious figure is involved in professional and political life.

It's a blessing for me. The religious side comes from my blood, my lineage; it's a legacy of my family. Perhaps by accident, I had the chance to go to school and succeed, more or less, and become a civil servant. Since I was given this opportunity, I do my best to combine the two. The very basis of Muridism is to worship God, to follow God and to honor him through Islam and work. If my occupation allows me to better exercise my religious responsibilities and vice versa, I can only rejoice.

Regarding Muridism, Sheikh Ahmadou Bamba is unfortunately an unknown great figure, though he has sacrificed himself for humanity.... His father was a religious leader and many people came to the house to learn the Qur'an and theology. His mother died very early, at the age of thirty-three. When his father died too, he had a revelation. He suddenly stood up, and said, "All those who had come once to learn, I set them free. But all those who have come to follow the way of God, come with me."

People did not understand him. Many left. They had been hundreds

but only forty remained. Now he was following the path traced by the Prophet. One day, he said that Prophet Muhammad came to see him. It was a real meeting, after creating a city, the present big city of Touba, where there had been only a forest. Actually, when I came here, I had goose bumps, because it reminds me of his story. He was hiding in this forest, nobody saw him. When people found him, he made them understand that if there is one thing he loves on earth, it was where he was, that city. He stayed seven years. During that period, Prophet Muhammad found him there and told him that God had raised him to the rank of *hout bou samane*, the person who decides everything, who has the mastery of the destiny of men. Even before a tree leaf falls, it should ask his permission before it falls. He replied to Prophet Muhammad, "Thank you, I think all this is good, but I did not come for that." "What did you come for?" the Prophet asked him. "I have come for the good Lord to allow that whenever I pray for someone, that person goes to Paradise." Ahmadou Bamba replied.

Prophet Muhammad said to him, "It is not possible. In any case, if you want to obtain this, you will undergo many painful hardships. You know when it starts and you do not know when it ends. Even I cannot intervene, it's between you and the good Lord."

He said, "I can endure. In any case, my desire to save humanity, to save all populations gives me that strength and that courage. Shall I die or live? Only God knows."

The prophet took note and immediately afterward, the trials began. The first thing is that he had to leave that city, which he loved so much. They deported and took him to Gabon in 1895, to a forest. All the people deported there were dying. He stayed seven years there.

This was during the French colonization. Did the French perceive him as a rebel?

They did indeed see him as a rebel; whereas, he was a peacemaker, who never used weapons. Every time the authorities would call him, he would respond.

They locked him up; he accepted it, but he was praying all the time because he said it was a pact he'd signed with God, to suffer for humanity. After a day in August 1895 when he left Touba, he returned only thirty-two years later—after his death. He'd been deprived of everything he loved. He suffered, as did his family, his wives and his children. They took him to Gabon and then to Mauritania before placing him under house arrest. Seven years in Gabon; three in Mauritania, fifteen more under house arrest, which meant that from 1895 to 1927, the year of his death, he was not at home, and he was not with his family. He said it was the price to pay for humanity. One can see that he was a man who had sacrificed himself for humanity and thus, without knowing why, people follow him and revere him. They follow we who are his descendants because of this. I have no merit, all the merit is his. It is his legacy, which we have to keep.

In light of this legacy, the course Rev. and Mrs Moon followed probably strikes a chord in you. They have also gone through much persecution.

I had thought there was no one on earth like my guide. When I met Mrs. Moon and heard her story, the image of my revered leader came to me. These people have sacrificed themselves, have exhausted themselves, have been imprisoned. Nevertheless, they could hold on, peacefully, they did not try to take up arms. They did not try to take revenge and all they have is available for all humanity. Therefore, I say these are people like my leader and fortunately, they are still on earth. Fortunately, there is another sheikh Ahmadou Bamba, another woman like his mother. That's what I feel through the Moon family. When I came here, I was impressed.

This is your first trip to Korea and especially to the Hyo Jeong Cheonwon complex. You first met Ms. Moon in the United States.

That was the first time I met her, and her staff and the first time I had real insights into this orga-

nization, with which I share many values—peace, living for the sake of others, giving one's life to others. These are values that I share. I deeply respect this family and this community.

How do you feel being in the fatherland of the Moon family, and to be in their residence?

I always feel God through them. I feel God because, behold! These are people who have taken refuge in the forest, and who have transformed this forest completely. They have transformed it into a haven of peace. Being here makes me feel humble and modest. Being here also gives me the will that generates courage. When I see Mother Moon, all the strength in her, in contrast with the tranquility, humility and modesty of her approach, reminds me of the Qur'an saying, "And they do not comprehend anything of his knowledge save what he wills." (Qur'an 2.255) He who knows that from the knowledge of God, one embraces only what he wills, is modest. The fate of men is in the hands of God. He who knows this is humble. In her, I see humility and modesty.

I also see, in her husband, whom I unfortunately could not meet, the courage and the will. When I heard about the path that he has traveled and see his faith... This environment inspires me with a sense of spirituality, which makes me think that it is a place where it is impossible for God not to fulfill a prayer, because of the wisdom here, because of this symbiosis of light, green lush and beauty, but also human warmth and self-giving. Since I have been here, I have spent my time praying for humanity, for my guide, but also for Rev. Moon, so that he may be at peace where he is. I am sure he is in peace.

When you are in Mrs. Moon's presence, how do you perceive her?

I see in her the great scholars of Islam, the feminine aspect. The Qur'an often recalls Muhammad's first wife Khadija, who was wise, who helped him, supported him, understood him. She was not an

ordinary person. When I think of Sheikh Amadou Bamba, I think of his mother, Mame Diarra Bousso, who sacrificed herself for him, for humanity and who gave her life. She died at thirty-three, the same age as Jesus. When I see Mrs. Moon, I also think of the Virgin Mary. I think of all those great women in the Qur'an whom God praised. They have laid the foundations of a pure humanity, a healthy humanity. Seeing Mrs. Moon, that's the kind of person I see. All that she does Islam prescribes.

Unfortunately, Islam remains unknown. It is a religion of peace that demands one loves one's neighbor, that we sacrifice for the sake of others, that we see others as better than ourselves. This is what she does—helping people, sacrificing, giving herself, praying for them, and so on. For me, she is a true leader for Islam. I take this opportunity to say that today Islam needs it. If I understand correctly, she did not come for a religion, she came for everybody. Since she came for everybody, I want her to know that Islam is part of this everybody. Islam has a bad image, which everyone knows, the image of a religion of terror, war and terrorism. No, this is not Islam. The true Islam of the Qur'an, dictated by Prophet Muhammad, is Islam that advocates peace, development, the communion of hearts with God. Today, I believe that the action she has taken other communities must also carry out. I see all the communities here—yellow people, black people, white people, Catholics, Protestants. I think this is the moment to think of Islam. She should help the pacification of the Islamic world.

Mrs. Moon feels something for the African continent. She will be in Dakar at the end of the year. It will be an opportunity for her to see the peaceful Islam you are defending. How do you see the organization of this summit? What will it represent?

This summit means much for me, for Senegal, for the African continent, and for humanity.

What will the theme of the summit be?

The theme will be Africa united in peace. Africa needs this unity, needs this peace. I need not go into details; everyone knows what is going on in Africa. The mere fact that the continent remains poor, even though it is endowed with a great deal of wealth, speaks volumes about the need to save Africa and to support it. As Reverend Moon and his wife have brought changes, wherever they have passed, I believe that they will bring transformation, at the summit of Dakar, when they come.

Religious leaders, political leaders, civil society representatives will be at the summit....

It will be a summit of a thousand people, with the heads of state of the African Union. Fortunately, the president of the Republic of Senegal, Macky Sall, after receiving a delegation from UPF, decided to invite the presidents that we would like to have at this summit. He also decided to get involved and participate in it. He quickly perceived the importance of this summit and the benefits it can bring to Dakar, Senegal and beyond. At this summit, Dakar will be the hub of peace in Africa and perhaps even in the world. For this reason, I appeal to all contemporary humanity to see the great importance to this summit, which must be one of peace, not only for Africa but for the world. Hence, I think of giving a wink to Saudi Arabia to see the possibility of their participation in this summit. Islam needs this event now more than ever. Through my interpersonal skills in the country, we will try to get in touch with all the great Muslim dignitaries. That Mrs. Moon and UPF help us in this direction would be good, so that Islam has a place, can send a message of peace and can show to the world that through Mrs. Moon, through the UPF, we have interreligious cooperation, which can bring peace all over the world, and especially in Africa. ☞

A TPmagazine staff member conducted this interview at HJ Gung, the Cheon Jeong Gung guesthouse.

Heads of African Religions

Interview of a South African Prophet

To this year's Seonghwa Festival came three African religious leaders, among them was Prophet Samuel Radebe, the founder of the Revelation Church of God in Johannesburg, South Africa, which has branches in Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe, serving four million people.

Prophet Samuel Radebe, please tell us about your interaction with the Family Federation in South Africa.

I met the organization, UPF, and I think the issue of peace attracted me, because we all need peace. Universal peace, I think, is a common language. I started to work with the organization, with Rev. Camara, and we started to spread the word of peace.

What was your impression of the event that happened yesterday?

I am moved most by the vision. I was moved. When you are a visionary, the vision is what attracts you. That was the greatness. Looking at the event, one could only say the sky is the limit. Although others say that the sky is not the limit. The event was big. Everything was big. Looking at the event, you can see that the people behind were visionaries. In this case, Mother Moon, she is a visionary. Nothing was small. Nothing was left behind.

What was your impression of the blessing ceremony?

It was good. I saw our commonalities. I also do mass movements, according to my calling. I believe the first human school is the home. Before you go to crèche, or any institute, the home is your school.

So, you can never build a strong community without building strong marriages. It always excites me to see the marriage blessing. I think yesterday's event was even greater because it had many young people. I could see that this movement and Mother Moon have a vision for the future and for the world because if you invest in youth it shows you really have an interest not in your own future but in the future of the world, which depends on the youth.

Our view is that the blessing removes original sin and brings God into the family itself.

Another way to say that is that it is a way to repair and to restore humanity. You cannot start on the society level. You need to begin at home, having good marriages, cleansing marriages, and having a good foundation. That is how you are repairing the world. This is great. It is the way of restoring the world, in simple terms, fixing the world—true families and cleansing marriages.

In my time, the spouses did not always know each other. Many didn't speak the same language, but somehow managed.

That's actually similar to our African culture before. We used to have organized marriages,

which lasted longer than marriages nowadays. Nowadays, you have more of what I would call emotional marriages. Obviously, love is an emotion but when a marriage is based on only emotional love, it does not have a strong foundation. When you talk about marriage, you need to know each other; that is when true love begins and that is not emotional love. That is true love. The emotional love that the world practices, based on looks, on race and all that, won't last because it is just emotions, and when those emotions finish the whole marriage finishes. Marriage is diminishing throughout the world. Young people no longer have interest in marriage because they can see the example of their parents.

What the Unification movement is doing is not new to us as Africans. It forms part of our culture and tradition. Our ancestors had long-lasting marriages, not like what is happening today.

Another aspect of the event yesterday celebrated the life of our founder, Father Moon. South Africa had Nelson Mandela, who sacrificed for his nation. How important are such figures?

They're very, very important, especially in the days that we live in. It's important that we inculcate values in our youth, be-



cause they don't have hope. They only look at actors and celebrities on TV, most of whom, unfortunately, are people who live only for themselves. To have such figures is important for the future, so that young people have role models and see that life does not center on itself.

When you sacrifice and live for others, that is when you find true joy. Many people on earth are not happy. They pretend to be happy, especially the selfish people. Some are so rich. They have everything that money can buy but deep in their hearts, actually they are stressed. They are unhappy. When you live for others and you sacrifice, you live a happy life. When you lay your life down and live for others, happiness comes. We need more figures like that; they are an inspiration. The life of Rev. Moon, yes, I did hear about it. It is a life of inspiration and more people should aspire to live such a life. Actually, Jesus Christ taught us to live such a life.

And sacrificed his own life.

Exactly, to save the world, and yes it is great.

We often talk about world peace. You don't hear much about that in society. Do people in South Africa have this vision or is it perhaps

something people do not feel much hope for?

I really have to be truthful—no, I think no; people probably do not. What is important, I think, is that you need to bring hope first to people. For people to bind to any vision or any dream, you first need to give them hope that it is possible. In South Africa, no; I can't lie. People do not have that hope. People only talk of peace; people don't have hope that it is possible.


Nowadays, some good news is coming from Africa. We hear that twenty-five fastest growing national economies are in Africa. Do you see Africa as moving forward in the spiritual sense?

Ummm... Yes. Africa needs more spiritual-leaders. Actually, we always say that for Africa to be liberated, key people have to meet. Key spiritual people need to come together. So there is hope, because I can say that I am doing my part. I am meeting real spiritual people in Africa. We are meeting; there are talks. Personally, I have hope because we are praying. We are meeting and God is showing us that hope. Yes. We are moving spiritually, and I am part of that movement, and because I am part of that movement it was a bit hard to answer.

I read a description of someone who attended your church service. It seems there is real spirit there. People are alive internally.

Yes, yes, yes. There is movement and only through the spirit will Africa be restored, because we must always remember that everything comes after that. Africa cannot be changed by politics. It must first be changed spiritually and then the spiritual part will drive the politics and Africa will change.

A final question: Was this your first visit to Korea? What kind of impression have you had of the country?

No. I think it's my third. To be quite honest, I have not moved around much. I came to UPF events. To me, it's like Africa. I most like the respect. I believe in respect, so I can say that Koreans practice a lot of respect, which reminds me of Africa. We are known for it, for respect. Korea is a very calm country and very quiet. That is mostly what I have seen and what attracts me and what I like. 

A TPmagazine staff member conducted this interview at HJ Gung, the Cheon Jeong Gung guesthouse.

Heads of African Religions

Seeking a Blessing for the Nation

An African religious leader from Zimbabwe, the president of the Apostolic Christian Council of Zimbabwe, Archbishop

Archbishop Ndanga, please tell us about the Christian blessing ceremony you held in Zimbabwe.

That's correct. It was more like a launch. We are still launching. We launched with 243 couples. Around the end of this month, September, we should be having a blessing for around three thousand bishops, who are couples. We want to start with them. All the bishops lead a church and their churches are independent of one another. I happen to be the president of an umbrella board.

To me, with the second launch, we will have now ignited the entire nation, because after the bishops have received the blessing themselves, they can go out to their churches and hold the blessing. That will cover the entire nation.

How did you persuade the bishops?

I did not persuade them. What happened is I was convinced that marriage is the first institution that God put together in the very first place. It is biblical and the philosophy, the principles, the teachings of the True Parents, all their concepts are biblical. It was confirmed also to me that this is biblical and the True Parents are not ordinary human beings as people might think. An

ordinary person would not teach against infidelity, so to me they are god-sent, they are God's messengers, extraordinary people, spiritual people. The True Mother is carrying all that duty now five years after True Father's demise. So it is our responsibility because we also accepted to become global citizens. I don't belong to Zimbabwe as a country anymore. I don't belong to Africa alone. I now belong to the whole world. This is why I am here in Korea today, because I offer myself to become a global citizen, a responsible citizen, an ideal person. Having accepted the teachings and having realized they are biblical, as a responsible citizen and as a leader, I took it upon myself to educate others, so that we can together share the blessing. As we share the blessing, God would view it as an act of restoration. As the True Parents have taught, it's an act of restoration, a return to the garden of Eden.

God initially wanted us to live in peace with ourselves, peace with the environment, peace with or neighbors and everybody, but Adam and Eve, our first parents, went against that and eventually were chased out of the garden of Eden.... The original sin was a sin they committed on the behalf of the entire universe. We all took part in that sin and the

coming of the restoration gospel is acceptable. There is no option; we just have to take it, because we need to live in peace.

I understand you had tents where people went through an education process.

Correct... Rev. Camara asked me, "Could you plan the blessing ceremony?" I said, OK. We had forty-three couples one week and two hundred couples the following week. Each took three days; the first two were to educate the people, because people need to do something from which they understand that they are going to get a blessing, God's providence. Everybody is keen to receive the blessing. Even now, we actually need to prepare for the big one, near the end of this month.

Will you hold it in the same place?

No; in the Apostolic Christian Council of Zimbabwe (ACCZ), of which I am the president, we divide the country into two regions. The northern region has five provinces and the southern region has the other five. We did the blessing in the northern region and will now go to the southern region, where we are going to hold a bishop's congress, so every-



body is going to come. We need to be able to educate them properly so they know what the marriage blessing is. The capital city is in the southern region, the city of Bulawayo; that is where we are going now.

Have you heard any feedback from the couples?

Yes. Just about five couples failed, the test, especially the separation period. Five out of the 243 failed, but they are keen to restart.

Do you see this beyond Zimbabwe as a blessing movement?

Zimbabwe is going to be one of the big centers, probably for the African continent, if the True Mother supports it, we will be able to set up a permanent blessing center in Zimbabwe.

Does the Apostolic Movement extend beyond Zimbabwe?

Yes. We are all over the world. I have received a new assignment to set up a separate structure for UPF, the Family Federation. We need to set up a separate structure within Zimbabwe and we will do the same throughout the continent. We do not want to be dependent on the ACCZ all the way.

We want the Unification family to do its own work on its own now that we have become part of it.

Were the lecturers and those doing the education during the three-day blessing preparation Unificationists?

Yes, now that we have a number that have been blessed, with the True Mother's support, we will be in a good position to train people that carry out the process within the country.

We see the blessing deals with original sin but also collective sin. How do you see the influence of this globally or on a wider scale?

In fact, we have engaged even the government of Zimbabwe in as far as the collective sin is concerned, because we have to ease the serious tension between the two regions. The southern is Ndebele and the northern is Shona. ...

They say that [a thirty-five-year-old episode] is a closed chapter now that two political parties have reconciled and agreed to work together, but after going through the four categories of sin—original sin, ancestral sin, collective sin and personal sin—I decided to settle on collective sin, especially looking at the situation in Zimbabwe.

We hear about economic growth in Africa, but how do you see in Zimbabwe and Africa in spiritual terms?

One of the reason we came to Korea is to come and get the blessing for the nation, not my personal blessing. Zimbabwe hasn't got its own currency at the moment; we are using the US dollar. I know the whole world is under pressure insofar as the economy is concerned. Our situation is worse. Even in the banks, there is no money. People living in the rural areas do not even have bank cards. So I have come here to collect the blessing from True Mother. If the blessing is pronounced on the nation, I am sure it will heal. We have so many natural resources—minerals, gold, platinum, chrome, diamonds, we have everything. Just a few people exploit these resources, because we haven't got the blessing.

I am optimistic that once we receive the blessing as a country, as a continent all those problems are going to go. Once the blessing is pronounced and the investors come, Zimbabwe can get back to its feet. *TP*

A TPmagazine staff member conducted this interview at HJ Gung, the Cheon Jeong Gung guesthouse.

