

True Peace



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AUGUST 2018





The Significance of the Sixth Anniversary of True Father's Seonghwa

Becoming the light of the world through a filial heart toward Heaven

By Lee Gi-seong



Six years have already passed since the ascension of the True Father of Heaven, Earth and Humankind, the King of Peace and the Holy Emperor of Cheon Il Guk. True Father concluded, completed and perfected the cosmic level victory through his life as Heavenly Parent's only son, the Lord at his Second Coming and the True Parent and proclaimed, "I have accomplished everything" and then rose to heaven.

True Mother on earth, united in heart, body and resolve with True Father in heaven, offered a mourning period of three years after the Seonghwa Ceremony. At the third anniversary of True Father's Seonghwa, Mother promised to accomplish all the responsibilities related to Heaven's growing concerns, and after her greeting and wish of freedom to True Father, she began the era of heavenly tribal

messiahship.

On the fourth anniversary of Father's ascension, Mother began a new era in the revolution of the culture of heart by emphasizing the culture and traditions associated with *hyojeong*, the heart of filial love, whereas, she graced the fifth commemorative anniversary with the precious Cosmic Blessing Ceremony. These traditions remained in the sixth anniversary Seonghwa celebrations as well. Not only did first-, second- and third-generation members inherit *hyojeong* traditions in the physical world but also ancestors and unmarried spirits did so in spirit world. Through the Cosmic Blessing Ceremony, everyone achieved rebirth as true children of God.

Upon the proclamation of Foundation Day on February 22, 2013 (1.13 of the first year of Cheon Il Guk), True Mother compiled the *Cheon Seong Gyeong*, *Pyeong Hwa Gyeong* and *Cham Bumo Gyeong* as the foundation of Cheon Il Guk. She also administered the three great strategies—witnessing, creating a witnessing environment and cultivating talented young for the future—as the main goals of Vision 2020 to the worldwide providential movement.

In re-creating the realm of Cheon Il Guk centering on HJ Cheonwon, True Mother directed some surprising changes. She proclaimed the truth of history and the manifestation of God's only daughter, the True Mother, before all people; thus the force of the Holy Spirit passed over HJ Cheonwon to enable the establishment of heavenly nations, heavenly continents, a heavenly world and a heavenly cosmos to attend our Heavenly Parent. Finally, she began a new era of hope for the advancement of a united world.

True Mother declared, "There is no failure for us. There is only victory." She said that if we go forward and unite with True Mother, who is God's only daughter and the substantial Holy Spirit, there is nothing we cannot accomplish. As Mother said they would, miracles have occurred in the first half of the sixth year of Cheon Il Guk. The fire of the Holy Spirit and the truth is expanding all over the world from Heavenly Africa, Heavenly Europe, Heavenly Korea, Heavenly Japan, Heavenly United States, to Heavenly Latin America.

Grace from the Cheongpyeong Special Great Works reached 63,000 total participants. *Hyojeong* Wish Papers, *Hyo Jeong Won* (homes for ancestors) and devotion from the special vigil prayers is spreading throughout the entire country to all Family Federation for a Heavenly Korea churches. From September 9, 2018, 934 families have proclaimed victory in completing the blessing of 430 couples for their heavenly tribal messiahship. The wave of blessings is transcending the Family Federation and including other religions, such as the Sungkyunkwan Headquarters, the Tenrikyo religion, the Buddhist Taego Order and Christianity.

Family Federation for a Heavenly Korea has absolutely united with True Mother, who is leading the providence on earth. Not wanting to miss our golden time in life, we are dashing forward with one heart and with resolve to complete Vision 2020's objective of restoring nations for the providence. We will go forward to the goal by pledging once again to be the light of the world and the hope of all nations and bring joy, glory and victory to our Heavenly Parent and the True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind. *☩*

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CONTENTS



ARTICLE ONE

- 02** The Significance of the Sixth Anniversary of True Father's Seonghwa

A TRUE CHILD'S MESSAGE

- 15** Seeking Pure Gold

PICTORIAL SECTION

- 18** Major Events
The Seonghwa Festival Commemorating the Sixth Anniversary of the Ascension of Sun Myung Moon, the True Parent of Heaven, Earth and Humankind

EXALTING TRUE PARENTS

- 26** A Letter to True Father

INTERVIEWS

- 28** An Experienced Unifier
An interview with Jose De Venecia
- 31** How UPF Can Serve a Nation

TRUE PARENTS' MESSAGES

- 04** The Messiah and True Parents
- 08** The 2018 Hyojeong Cosmic Blessing Prayer
- 10** Forming One Global Stream
- 12** Unity, with the Finish Line in Sight

INTERRELIGIOUS OUTREACH

- 33** Approaching the Muslim World with True Parents' Thought

REGIONAL NEWS

- Burundi**
- 38** Presentation of the Heavenly Africa Package in Burundi

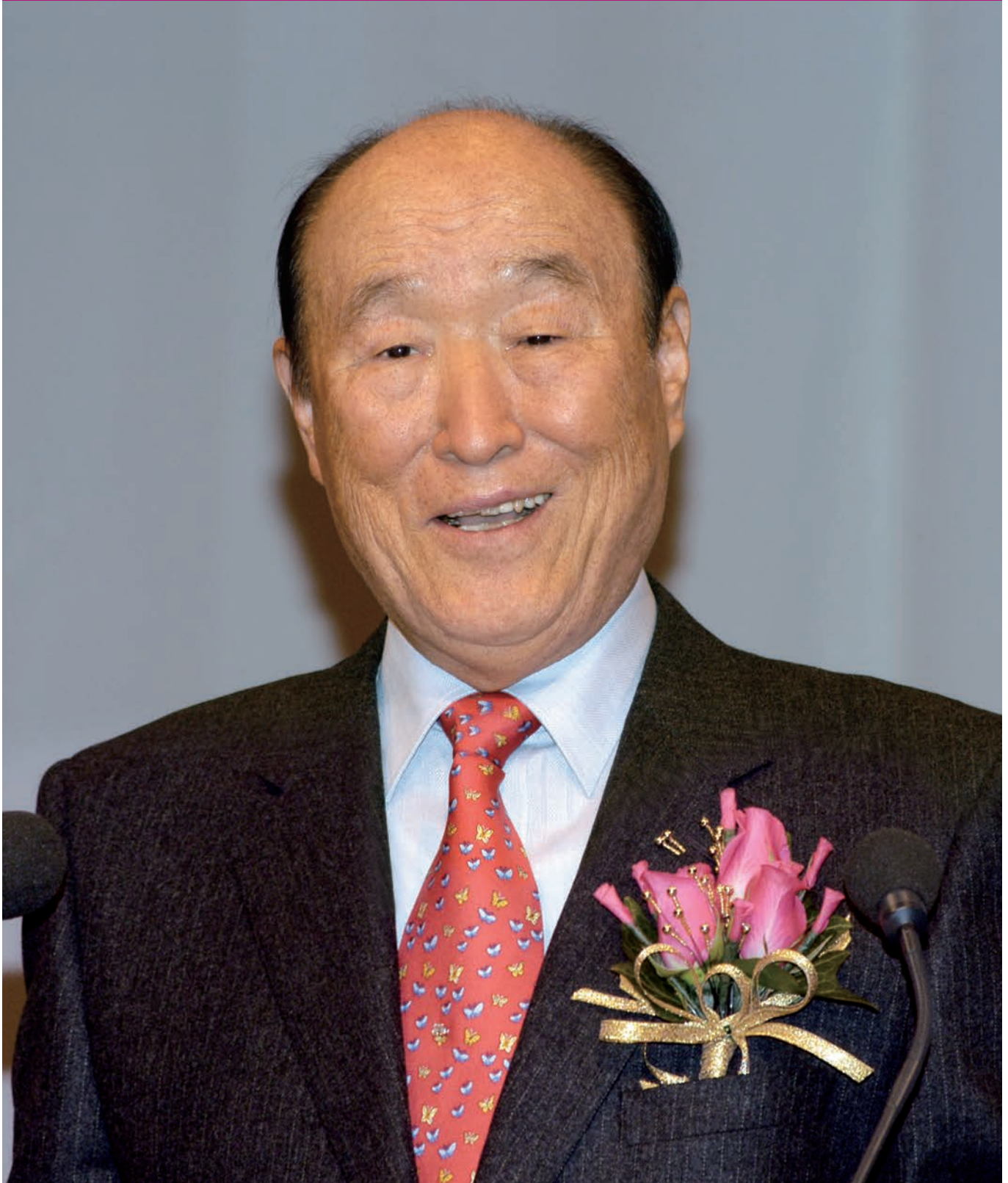
TESTIMONY

- 41** The Art of Being Grandfathers



The Messiah and True Parents

True Father delivered this address at the Shilla Hotel in Seoul, Korea, at True Parents' Birthday Celebration Banquet for participants of the World Summit on Leadership and Governance on January 27, 2004.





On the same day that Father gave this speech at the World Summit on Leadership and Governance, True Parents public birthday celebration took place at the Jamsil Indoor Stadium in southeastern Seoul. Then President Roh Moo-hyun of Korea sent his congratulations. Then president (and the current president) of Palau, Tommy Remengesau spoke from the stage about True Parents. Here, Father is speaking after receiving a peace award from then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of the Philippines.

Distinguished leaders from around the world, respected dignitaries, ladies and gentlemen:

This banquet was prepared to celebrate my eighty-fourth birthday and the birthday of my wife, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon. Instead of receiving congratulations on our birthdays, though, the two of us would prefer to offer this banquet to the saints and sages in the spirit world who are present here now, to blessed families in the spirit world and to the participants of the World Summit on Leadership and Governance.

Humanity inherited false love, false life and a false lineage

I understand that you have been engaged in discussions and meetings during the past few days on the theme, "Good Governance for a World in Crisis." I know that your hard work and passion will combine to create the opportunity to plant new hopes and dreams in a world that slides deeper into crisis with each day.

I would like to express my most sincere gratitude to each of you again for coming to my homeland, Korea, to join me in beginning the fourth year of Cheon Il Guk, the kingdom of peace and unification. This is a new year of great hope. Throughout my life of more than eighty years, I have maintained a tradition of speaking only Heaven's will. This evening, in keeping with this tradition, I would like to convey to you Heaven's message entitled, "The Messiah and True Parents."

In the beginning, God created human beings as his children. They were destined to grow to maturity, form families with his blessing and multiply his descendants for endless generations in a lineage of goodness unstained by sin. The first human ancestors, Adam and Eve, were to have attended God as their vertical True Parent. Then with the True Parent God as their axis, they were to have become the substantial, horizontal True Parents. In such a world, the word "messiah" would never have

come to exist. Their family would have been the ideal family reflecting God's ideal of creation, and the world would have been the kingdom of heaven on earth, where God's ideal of creation would have been completed. After living out their lives in this world, registration as citizens of the kingdom of heaven in the spirit world, where they would have lived eternally in freedom, peace and happiness would have been automatic.

Perfected Adam and Eve would have communicated directly with God using their five spiritual senses; at the same time they would have worked freely with the physical creation using their five physical senses. They would have lived as true owners, true parents, and true king and queen representing both the spirit world and the physical world. However, with the Fall, all humanity descended into a hell of hopelessness from which their efforts alone would never free them. Their five spiritual senses became paralyzed. They fell into a state similar to that of a blind

person. Their eyes appear to be normal yet do not function at all. Forced to live with just their five physical senses, they were only half human. They could not see God. They could not hear his voice or feel his touch. How could they experience his love as their own parent or understand his suffering heart?

The Messiah is the True Parent of true love, true life and true lineage. Satan forced his way into the parental position that rightfully belonged to God, pretending to be the parent. He placed humanity in complete bondage, making them his slaves. For this reason, the love, life and lineage that we possess today is false. That exact false love, false life and false lineage first planted in Adam and Eve persist in us today. What great pain God must have felt as he watched human beings, born to be his direct lineal children, receive Satan's false lineage and descend to the position of servant of servants! Because God is a God of principle and law, he would not reject the principles by which he created, nor violate the ideal of creation that he established. So he has had to wait tens of thousands of years before introducing the Messiah to the course of salvation. Different religions refer to this person by different names, such as the *Maitreya*, the Man of the True Way and the returning Savior. However, the person human-kind needs to open the path, and the person sought by God, is one and the same person, the Messiah, who is the True Parent.

Who, then, is the Messiah, and what is he like? He is the owner and substantiation of faith, hope and love, for the individual and also for the family, tribe, society, nation, world and cosmos. The faith and hope that remain on earth will finally bear fruit only in an age when humanity attends this person as the Messiah. This fruit contains the life and breath of human history.

Jesus came as the True Parent

Ladies and gentlemen, Heaven sent Jesus to earth two thousand years ago as the Messiah. Jesus was none other than the one who came to embrace the children who had lost their parents and to restore them back to the original ideal of Heaven. He was the True Parent. Through the Fall,

Adam and Eve lost their positions as True Parents. They were unable to receive God's blessing and so could not form a union as a true husband and wife and could not produce true children. Their mistake meant God could not embrace a lineage of three generations, including his grandchildren. So God tearfully made preparations for a period of thousands of years, establishing the nation of Israel as his chosen people. He then sent Jesus, the Savior and Messiah, through the lineage of Abraham. Jesus came as the leader in the struggle to establish, for the first time in history, the sovereignty, land and people of the one nation of God. On that foundation, he could have changed the whole world from Satan's false bloodline to God's true, good bloodline.

Tragically, the people of Israel whom God had chosen did not receive Jesus; as a result, he was put to death unjustly. This prevented the Messiah, Jesus, who could have restored the position of True Parents, produced true children and risen to the position of king of kings, from establishing even the position of a true husband with God's blessing. Because of this, he could not establish the position of True Parents or multiply true children. Instead, he died on the cross.

The marriage of the Lamb of which the Book of Revelation in the New Testament speaks is none other than the ceremony by which the Messiah receives his bride and forms the union of true husband and wife. If Judaism had received and attended Jesus at that time, realization the world of God's earnest desire, the world of his original ideal of creation, the peaceful kingdom of heaven, would have been on earth at that time through Jesus' descendants.

Receiving the mission of the True Parent

Heaven gave its blessing by sending the Messiah at the Second Coming. He appears on the foundation of the spiritual restoration Jesus carried out throughout the two thousand years of Christian history. The returning Messiah comes with the incredible burden of completing the mission of True Parents. To accomplish his mission, he must first achieve victory

over Satan's realm. He then needs to go on to achieve victory in the spiritual realm as well. He has to fully engage both realms, neither of which can be sensed with the five physical senses, and be victorious in the life-and-death battle to subjugate the devil, Satan. Additionally, he has to win over the religious and philosophical leaders who are in the spirit world. He can accomplish none of this, however, by means of force. Centering on God's character of absolute love, he has to convince them by revealing the universal principles of religion and the universe and in this way bring them to a natural surrender. Rev. Moon, who stands here before you, is the one who has appeared in this world bearing this incredible mission of the True Parent.

The position of True Parents carries with it the vertical missions of Savior, Messiah and returning Lord, opportunities that have never been fulfilled in history and will never visit us again in the future. For this reason, people still affiliated with the fallen realm have to fulfill a number of conditions in order to attend the True Parents and accomplish Heaven's will.

First, they must participate in and complete a revolution of indemnity. This means they need to cast everything aside and follow the True Parents. They have to follow the True Parents above friends, teachers and even their parents. Only when we have cast aside everything and reached the standard of a total living offering can Heaven bestow blessings and grace upon us. This means that all people need to steadfastly separate from Satan's world, showing not even the slightest attachment, and return to the zero point to mark the dawn of a new creation.

Second, they need to complete a revolution of conscience. This means that they have to maintain a tradition of true love, true life and true lineage in accordance with the predisposition of the original mind and conscience endowed by God. They need to do this without compromising with any worldly sovereignty or philosophy they may encounter. They have to live a life of "high noon settlement," in which they neither cast shadows nor carry a speck of shame in the



Wishing True Parents a happy birthday and presenting a gift is Kim Chung-seok, the mayor of Yeosu, where True Parents hosted many marine activities from their seaside residence, Blue Sea Garden.

presence of the spirit world and physical world. We complete the revolution of conscience when we reach a harmonious state of one mind, one body and one thought. Thus, they will establish the realm of pure love and pure lineage as an eternal and unchanging tradition. In it, the age of unity and harmony will blossom.

The third condition is a revolution of heart. This means that all people will establish a world of true love, in which God will want to come to us, consult with us and reside with us. The revolution of heart is a revolution of true love, of living for the sake of others, practicing unchanging, sacrificial love. Think of what it would be like if we each lived for the sake of others more than for ourselves. God, the root source of true love, would reside within us and would live for our sake. What greater joy and glory could there be? Where the revolution of heart has been completed, there will be no such thing as family breakdown, racial strife, international disputes, friction between religions or

any other vestiges of Satan's world.

Indemnity, conscience and heart

Respected guests, in 1996, my wife and I declared an end to the Unification Church and made a new beginning as the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification to fulfill the heavenly command to build a world of peace on earth.

Heaven's will resides not in the progress of any particular church or religion; it resides in world peace through true families. During the past decades, we have carried out countless interreligious and international activities. On this foundation, we founded the Interreligious and International Peace Council, that is, the Peace UN, in New York City on October 3, 2003. This was a substantial beginning toward realizing a world at peace.

A movement to remove crosses from church buildings, in accordance with my declaration, is spreading in many areas of the world. Thousands of clergy members have journeyed to

Jerusalem, the epicenter of strife in the Middle East, to participate in interreligious and international peace rallies. On December 22, 2003, Jewish, Christian and Muslim clergy members took each other by the hand, sang praises of peace and performed a ceremony to crown Jesus as the king of kings. It was a miracle performed in Jerusalem's Independence Park before a crowd of some twenty thousand people. This day resolved Jesus' grief and declared True Parents' victory to all of heaven and earth.

Ladies and gentlemen, in the same way that the mission of True Parents, to which my wife and I have been called, is a matter of heavenly destiny, your mission before Heaven is to join hands with us in building a peaceful kingdom of heaven on earth. Heaven's time has now arrived. I pray that you will return to your communities and work passionately as messiahs and true parents yourselves, in the effort to bring about world peace. ☯



The 2018 Hyojeong Cosmic Blessing Prayer

This is a translation of True Parent's Invocation of the Blessing, which True Mother expressed for the 2018 Hyojeong Cosmic Blessing Ceremony on August 27 at the Cheongshim Peace World Center, thereby binding men and women in eternal holy matrimony.



The fruits of blessed family life attracted thousands of young people to participate in the Blessing Ceremony, taking their first step toward the dream of one human family free of the Fall, free of the darkness, enmity and sadness that has marred earthly existence.

Our awesome Creator, God, our Heavenly Parent, the owner of true love! How you have steadfastly longed for this day to come! To fulfill your dream, you created all things and the first ancestors of humankind, Adam and Eve, whom you hoped would become the True Parents. However, due to the Fall, our Heavenly Parent had no choice but to carry out the begrudged providence of restoration through indemnity.

Your sorrow and toil filled the providence of restoration through indemnity. You struggled to establish a people and through them, you finally sent Jesus Christ, your only son, for the first time. Yet, human beings, ignorant of Heaven's providence, anguished you once again. Central figures who had given birth to Jesus did not fulfill their responsibilities and Christ had no choice but to die on the cross. He left behind a promise that he would come again and hold the marriage supper of the Lamb.

The Christian Church began based on earnest hearts, revival by the Holy Spirit and the desire to await the Messiah, who had said he would


return; yet, Christianity was not attuned to his essence and to Heavenly Parent's miserable providence. This is the reality of Christianity today. Heavenly Parent, you have worked so hard! In front of you, regret and remorse fill my heart.

After the long period of two thousand years, you succeeded in sending your only daughter through the [Korean] people. Then in 1960, your only daughter met your only son and they rose to the position of the True Parents. However, Christianity failed to provide an environment, leaving the True Parents to start from the very bottom with the blessing of three couples.

Fallen human beings cannot enter into your presence without going through the True Parents. True Parents know Heavenly Parent's circumstances and they know humankind's wish. Therefore, from that time on, for fifty-eight years, True Parents have given birth to many blessed couples and through those couples, children in their second and third generations are here today to receive the blessing as good brides and good grooms.

Heavenly Parent! How deeply you have longed patiently for this day! Although we are unworthy, we know that through True Parents, the path to enter into your presence, Heavenly Parent, has opened as well as the way to Cheon Il Guk, which is the beginning of a new era and a new history. Today, in this moment, we not only have those who are receiving the blessing here, but we are together with blessed families who are participating all over the world.

We pledge centering on Heavenly Parent, together with all 7.6 billion people of the world, to fulfill our responsibilities by achieving your dream, True Parents' hope, and humankind's hope, which is to build heaven on earth as one human family with absolute faith, absolute love, and absolute obedience as filial sons and daughters, loyal subjects of Heaven.

Heavenly Parent! Please receive this prayer with joy. We are undeserving, yet we promise that until the day we leave earth, we will advance without ceasing to achieve your dream. I pray and proclaim this in the name of the True Parents. Aju! 



Forming One Global Stream

On August 28, 2018 at Cheongpyeong Heaven and Earth Training Center, this was True Mother's message at the Victory Celebration for the sixth Anniversary of True Father's Holy Ascension, the 2018 Hyojeong Blessing Ceremony and the Cheon Bo Won Dedication Ceremony.

Do we have hope? [Yes] Do we have dreams? [Yes] Can we do it? [Yes]. Then, that's it. The issue is, however, that we are not in the era of the complete realization of Heavenly Parent's dream, humanity's wish and True Parents' dream.

We are in the era of marching toward that. We are in a new stage of the providence. True Parents began the Cheon Il Guk era and blessed families and other Unificationists throughout the world are marching toward the firm realization of Cheon Il Guk through fulfilling their responsibilities as heavenly tribal messiahs. Our goal is clearly defined.

I am sure you saw the video about Iguazu Falls yesterday. Hundreds of rivulets combine to form a giant waterfall and stream. When you look

at blessed families in the Unification movement—specifically at the number of families that have completed their heavenly tribal messiah responsibilities—it comes to about seven hundred thousand, I think. However, each year, the population of the world increases.

I am sure you saw the video about Iguazu Falls yesterday. Hundreds of rivulets combine to form a giant waterfall and stream. When you look at blessed families in the Unification movement—specifically at the number of families that completed the heavenly tribal messiah responsibilities—it comes to about 700,000, I think. However, each year, the population of the world increases. Not long ago, I heard that the population of the world was 7.5 billion, but Dr. Kim Ki-oon says that it is 7.6 billion.

Indeed, since this information comes from America, the democratic nation at the center of the world, I think it is accurate.

If that is the case, how can 7.6 billion people become one stream? How many years will this take to reach them? All of you must reflect on this. We speak of “being united as one” far too easily. This phrase encompasses oneness of heart, oneness of collective desire and oneness of action. However, when you look at your substantial self, you can see that your mind and body are at odds. The mind wishes to do this but the body refuses to listen. Is that true or isn't it?

How can mind and body unite within oneself? For this to happen, one must let go of everything. [Someone might say] In the past, I did this and that. I am doing such and



- ① True Mother at the overall victory celebration for the momentous developments and celebrations that marked the sixth anniversary of True Father's Holy Ascension
- ② Ye Jin Moon and Sun Jin Moon, on behalf of the True Family, present a gift to True Mother.
- ③ From various nations, twenty-one couples that had either blessed 430 couples or had liberated 320 generations of ancestors presented a gift to True Parents.



such right now. My level of intellectual thought is here, or there.

You must let go of all such considerations. You must strive to achieve unity of mind and body from a state of nothingness and march forward in a state of unity.

A change of direction

After today's program, you were to go to the Leaders' Assembly. However, beginning now and regardless of whether they are high or low, all leaders must let go of everything and spend the next three days in a special workshop. [Applause] Your goal must be to learn how conflicting minds and bodies can unite with God's only daughter, True Mother. You must make greater effort.

True Parents' thoughts are for the greater whole. When True Parents

decide to do something, the leaders' thoughts must be in pursuit of understanding True Parents' expectation. There can be no room for personal thoughts. When I give a directive, all leaders must align with the heart of investing everything.

Do you understand what this means? You must let go of all self-centered elements, become one again with True Mother and properly invest yourselves in the workshop, thinking of how you should act and what you should do to realize national restoration victoriously by 2020 and then world restoration.

Therefore, if you all properly reset your mind and body and are in a state of unity, I shall provide you the determination and the answer regarding the direction to take to advance and to realize victory. Until

then, with whom should you unite? [True Mother!] Exactly. You must spend the next three days emptying yourselves of everything and uniting with Mother. Do you understand? [Aju!] [Applause]

I am sure you felt many similar things in yesterday's musical. I am the Mother. This is the Last Days. It is written in the Bible that going against the Messiah is forgivable but going against the Holy Spirit is unforgivable. This is the last chance. With regard to your lives, with regard to history, you must unite with me. Anyone who has thoughts that impede unity with me has no hope. Do you understand? [Aju!] [Yes!] [Applause] During this period, I hope you become spotless and pure gold. Do you understand? [Yes!] [Applause] 7



Unity, with the Finish Line in Sight

These are excerpts from True Mother's speech on August 30 to members from around the globe attending the Special Hyojeong Assembly for Cheon Il Guk Leaders Hosted by True Parents. She spoke to them at Cheon Jeong Gung following their three-day experience at a Cheongpyeong-style workshop.



The chief of staff of True Mother's Secretariat, Mrs. Wonju Chong McDevitt, and FFWPU regional chairmen led everyone present in reciting the three parts of the Resolution Toward Vision 2020.

Did you offer a lot of devotion and receive heavenly grace the past three days? How long has Heaven believed in and waited for you? Has the rainy weather been helping you to remember that Heaven has longed for you? I said to cease everything and start anew. The weather has been with us on our journey to wash away anything that could become an obstacle or flaw.

You are happy people. The providence of restoration has lasted six thousand years. How sorrowful and miserable was our Heavenly Parent to believe in and wait for humanity, only to experience betrayal once again? Even so, God worked wholeheartedly and loved without any reserve so that today, you could come to know the heart of God, your Heavenly Parent, through True Parents.

I have been thinking about this for a few days. In order to be the homeland of the providence blessed by God, this country had to go through much preparation. The difficulties that we have overcome and the good ancestors we have become mustn't be forgotten. Even before Heaven chose it, this nation developed a refined culture that worshiped Heaven, loved nature, and hated war. Due to this, people focused their lives on heaven and on God's will and they worked hard. However, for two thousand years, the Korean people experienced much

suffering. Korea had a brilliant civilization, but this country paid indemnity until True Parents could manifest through the appearance of God's only daughter. ...

Moving through danger

Korea liberation came in 1945. I was born in 1943. With liberation, Korea divided into South and North. The North implemented a communist system and the South, a democratic system, but the communist North progressed faster. At that time, I was in northern Korea. Christianity had only entered the country a hundred years before. Some groups believed that the returning Messiah would return in Pyongyang, which is why my family did not think of leaving our hometown. Yet heaven knew that I needed a period of growth as God's only daughter, and since I could not grow properly there, Heaven guided me to head south. I was six years old at the time. If you calculate the direct distance between Anju [True Mother's hometown] and the 38th parallel, it is about two hundred kilometers and there weren't any direct roads then.

Therefore, for some days, my family walked southward at night and at the point where the 38th parallel came into view, I caught a cold. I wanted to drink some water. My grandmother went to fetch some from the locals, and as I was drinking the water, we were caught. A young woman ran as if she was running

from death and crossed the border, but our family could not run like that because I was only six years old. Thus, we were caught. We were just women, so the officer said, "Go back to your hometown." As you know, we could not just return home. So that very night, we crossed the 38th parallel. It feels just like yesterday, but that was seventy years ago.

Revival and dream seeking

When we look at the providence today, the status of True Parents must start from a foundation on the national level. However, Christianity could not establish a foundation. Several people were prepared, but they could not act. Many of their ideas were human-oriented and unrelated to Heaven's providence. That is why, in 1960, we came to the position of True Parents but we started in an environment without any foundation laid.

The manifestation of True Parents revives and resurrects fallen humanity through True Parents to fulfill God's dream. Those who are not reborn again cannot enter into God's presence. Due to that, we call True Parents' work "blessing." In the early days, True Parents continued to bless from three couples to thirty-six couples, seventy-two couples, a hundred and twenty couples, four hundred and thirty couples, until seven hundred couples. ...

This year marked the fifty-eighth



True Mother speaking to the audience of leaders who had come on the occasion of the sixth anniversary of True Father's Holy Ascension to reconnect with True Parents and return to their mission fields with the fire True Parents' spirit rekindled in their hearts.

anniversary of the Holy Wedding. Almost sixty years have passed. Particularly during the Seonghwa Festival, when True Parents are planning to host the Blessing Ceremony, all of humanity needs to know they must be reborn with new life once again through the blessing bestowed by True Parents. These seven billion people living at the same time as True Parents do not know who True Parents are. They were not even able to hear the term "the blessing." Why does fallen humanity not know that they are living in the time when they can return as Heavenly Parent's children? Why could they not participate in the blessing?

How many human beings will go to the spirit world still harboring resentment? When you think about it, you cannot just pretend that you have fulfilled all your responsibility for today and sleep. You can't be satisfied with that. If so, what should we do? Be responsible! True Father's wish until his ascension was for everyone to fulfill his or her responsibilities as tribal messiahs. I started the fire of tribal messiahship a long time ago, but not all of you could internalize it. However, is this year, 2018, different? Or is it not different?

The homeland of faith, starting from Korea, has changed! During that time, I revealed several times the truth of the great works and the providence and you replied incoherently. You did not feel desperate. It took six years [for you to feel desperation]. Do you know now? Do you not know? If you know, you must fulfill your responsibilities.

Ascend the peak

The finish line is right before your eyes. Reclaim victory for the day that this country can be nationally restored and the Cheon Il Guk flag can wave. Do you understand? Now, we have promised in Heaven's presence to be victorious by 2020 and not even two years remain. I will believe in you once again and hope earnestly to see that day of victory. I also will not stop to rest! The mission headquarters divided Korea, Japan and the United States into five districts. I ordered that to spur a sense of responsibility toward tribal messiahship. Now, only six months remain [before the anniversary of Foundation Day].

I heard over eight hundred families in Korea have completed their tribal responsibilities. I would like the five appointed sub-regional

leaders to strengthen their sub-regional management to support people who have proclaimed victory as tribal messiahs in assuming greater responsibility. I will leave the methodology to the discretion of the sub-regional leader. Do you understand? I hope not a single member will be left behind and all will be victorious as tribal messiahs for the Family Federation for a Heavenly Korea, Japan, United States and others. I have already instructed that Heavenly Europe, Latin America and Africa divide into five subregions with a leader to renew and strengthen the organization. It is also the same for Asia. Not one person or tribe should fall behind, so everyone should make effort to become citizens of Cheon Il Guk whom Heavenly Parent can embrace...

United with me, you have participated in the completion of this immense providence and its various aspects. Through that, you can become central figures, and register as good ancestors of humankind at the Cheon Bo Won Genealogy Center. True Parents have given you this great blessing. Will you fulfill your responsibility or not? I hope you will lead lives with no regrets. Do you understand? ㄹ

Seeking Pure Gold

Sun Jin Moon, international president of FFWPU International, spoke to leaders on August 28 after a chanyang [praise] session that ended the first day of the August 28–30 Special Hyojeong Cheongpyeong Workshop Hosted by True Parents for Cheon Il Guk Leaders.



天地人참父母님 主管
天一國 指導者 孝情 清平特別修鍊
SPECIAL HYOJEONG CHEONGPYEONG WORKSHOP
HOSTED BY TRUE PARENTS FOR CHEON IL GUK LEADERS



In lieu of the Leaders' Assembly, True Mother had everyone go to the Jeongshimweon (literally, The Place of Pure Heart), which is the Cheongpyeong prayer hall, for an intense Cheongpyeong-style workshop.

B *an-gap-seummida!* Welcome, Cheon Il Guk leaders! We were surprised not only by the Seonghwa anniversary and the amazing series of events and all your hard work leading up to these events in 2018. We were also surprised tonight by True Mother giving us the chance to come together all as one family and to be in this wonderful Cheongpyeong workshop.

We heard True Mother's speech this afternoon, and I have been trying to reflect on her words. She has made a point of saying that we are marching toward the goal of True Parents and Heavenly Parent's dreams. We often say that we are one, but that oneness is not often realized in our own lives, in our own minds and bodies, in our own families, in our own couples, in our own children, or in our own communities, churches, or the outer society at large.

As True Mother stressed this time, there are 7.6 billion people in the world—according to Bishop Kim, who gave her the proper number! I think I was saying 7.5, but we learned that there are 7.6 billion people in the world who have yet to come to understand True Parents' dream and heart.

She also stressed that despite our learning, everything that we have learned, everything that we have accomplished in life and everything that we think we know, we have many things to learn, especially about True Mother and our True Parents' complete history.

United in restoration

Something Mother said earlier today and kept repeating, is: "We need to empty ourselves and to let go of self-centeredness." In many speeches I have heard her say the root of all problems in human history is individual self-centeredness and greed. When we start looking only at "me," we lose sight of "we," as the collective, all together.

I was trying to understand, because the Cheon Il Guk Leaders' Assembly is for all of you. We know that throughout all these years, as many of you—our elder brothers here—have served (not only under True Father), more than anything you have probably gone through every kind of mind and body training known to man. To be doing this in True Mother's home, in her workshop, did you have a different feeling in your mind and body, this time?

Did you liberate something, or feel something like a lifting off from your shoulders? (Or somebody smacked it out of your back?) I don't think anybody in this room was separate from the speakers and the sound and the drum in our ears, right? We were all one in that sound and slapping. In that one hour you couldn't do anything but just try to follow along and get into this motion and spirit.

Spirit of the mother nation

Rev. Tokuno was sitting right behind me and giving me a wonderful, holy massage. [Laughter] I see Rev. Tokuno, and I have worked with him many times; but he had never physically laid his hands on me. And I was thinking, Oh, this is not just a simple slapping; he is putting all his energy into it. Ah, so this is a true love of the mother nation!

So, thank you, Rev. Tokuno. I think there was something definitely liberated or shifted in this exchange!

As you all know, I do yoga and it is a very silent practice, a very peaceful emptying of the mind, body and soul, with only the silence of the breath, brought down to the lowest level. But in tonight's training, it was the polar opposite, like night and day. So in many ways I understood that whatever we are thinking, however we find peace, there are many other ways, there is a whole other half, a whole other side we have yet to realize. Maybe this is the potential of tonight's exchange and of the next three days. As leaders, we may come to realize the greater whole.

I think all of you here were definitely vertically trained by our True Father and I see many of you as my elders and the spiritual pillars of our movement. Working with you in this time with our True Mother on earth and True Father in heaven, I am re-meeting all the great spiritual pillars in our movement.

So, not to take too much of your time, because I think this was supposed to be two minutes, but I think this is an area where True Father is looking down at us, from high noon, where there can be no shadow. We always have to think about True Parents and about True Mother having asked us to go to this workshop at this time—about how many things must be on her mind and in her heart when she thinks about the state of the world today.


But in the same light—I think it is light—God is telling us, True Father is telling us, True Mother is asking us, to be completely be one with her and Heavenly Parent and True Parents. And when we absolutely unite with our True Mother in mind, body, spirit and experience, miracles will happen. Aju! Yes and the last thing she said is “I hope during this workshop you can come to understand True Mother's heart directly and closely and center your heart on hers, become completely one with her, become spotless, without shadow and become pure white and pure gold.” So these are the hopes she has for each and every one of us in this room.

Rebirth in a hallowed place

I am looking at this workshop not as, What's happening? There are big plans, something big is happening in our movement, to our leadership, but I am instead looking at it as if True Mother is giving us the chance to be reborn—that whatever spots you have, whatever things you couldn't do, goals you couldn't achieve, whatever kinds of oneness you couldn't have directly with Heavenly Parent, True Father or True Mother, or the providence, or doubts, this is the chance to cleanse and let go, empty yourselves of everything and start anew, with a new life and with rebirth. So I hope this time, when you wake up tomorrow you will feel reborn, and we will gather here again for another round of some out-of-this-world mind and body training.

Being in this room actually... This room is a place of prayer and remembrance of our ancestors. [Sun Jin nim speaks on the edge of tears] We have [Hong] Halmoni, Hyo Jin Oppa, Heung Jin Oppa, and True Father as well as True Mother in spirit here. This is a very holy place where we remember the lives of family members and others who have gone before us that had sacrificed everything. But I think the most poignant thing is for True Mother to give us the chance to gather here while we are alive, while she is alive. This is the chance for us to really take into account how each and every life in this room is so precious.

Many times we only appreciate people when they pass away. And when I think of all the people on this wall [indicating the portraits of ascended True Family members], how many of them, in their lifetimes, weren't given an ounce of the dignity they have now, what a thankful, great moment this is that True Mother actually has brought not only all of our ancestors but created the ancestors' Cheon Bo Won [genealogy center], where all of your ancestors will be forever recorded on earth and in heaven. So when we think about heaven on earth and Cheon Il Guk and how we are always one, we have to consider that importance.

And while, not only True Mother... As every one of you are True Parents' true sons or daughters, I want you to realize how important each life in this room is, because we are not just sons and daughters, we are Cheon Il Guk leaders. So tonight, now that you have all spiritually slapped each other, I want to try another exercise. One last exercise before we retreat to bed! It is the one where you all turn around to the person who was slapping you and hug that person tonight. Please all find your partner sitting behind you, who liberated you. (Rev. Tokuno, please come up.) Please offer them a big hug. *Ana chuseyo. Saranghamnida. Kamsahamnida. Chambuno nim seungri hakessumnida!* [Let's share a hug. I love you. Thank you. True Parents will be victorious!] 

Major Events

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

2018 Hyojeong Cosmic Blessing Ceremony Officiated by the
True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind



Pledge Service for the Sixth Anniversary of True Father's Holy Ascension



1



2

- ① True Mother, with Sun Jin Moon attending her, lights the candles on the offering table at the Seonghwa Festival morning Pledge Service.
- ② Mrs. Wonju Chong McDevitt, Chief of Staff of True Mother's Secretariat read hoondokhae; Lee Gi-seong, president of FFWPU, Heavenly Korea was the master of ceremonies and Kim Ki-hoon, regional president of North America Region One and chairman of the North American Regional Group gave the invocation prayer.
- ③ The members that attended came from nations all over the world and represent True Parents' legacy on earth, through all stages of True Father's and True Mother's life courses on earth and in heaven.



3

Seonghwa Festival



- ① True Mother about to lay a flower on the altar below Father's image
- ② Singing near True Mother in the musical were Hyo Jin nim's children (left to right) Shin-wul nim, Shin-heung nim, Shin-yuh nim and Shin-chool nim
- ③ Sun Jin Moon gave a poetic Commemorative Address; Wonju Chong McDevitt, chief of staff of True Mother's Secretariat, read a Letter of Remembrance; Rev. Lee Gi-seong, president of FFWPU for a Heavenly Korea, offered the opening prayer; Yun Young-ho, secretary-general of True Mother's Secretariat and of the International Headquarters was the master of ceremonies.
- ④ Paul Potts sang Celine Dion's "My Heart Will Go On" in Italian (*Il Mio Cuore Va*) and with the Little Angels sang "O sole mio." in Korean, he told a smiling True Mother, "True Parents of Heaven and Earth and Humankind, I congratulate you on the Seonghwa Festival and the Hyo Jeong Blessing Ceremony. I love you. Thank you."
- ⑤ True Mother leading the couples through their blessing vows
- ⑥ True Parents bequeathing rings to representative couples
- ⑦ True Mother casts holy water over nine prominent couples.
- ⑧ Universal Peace Academy cadets and actors in a scene from the musical





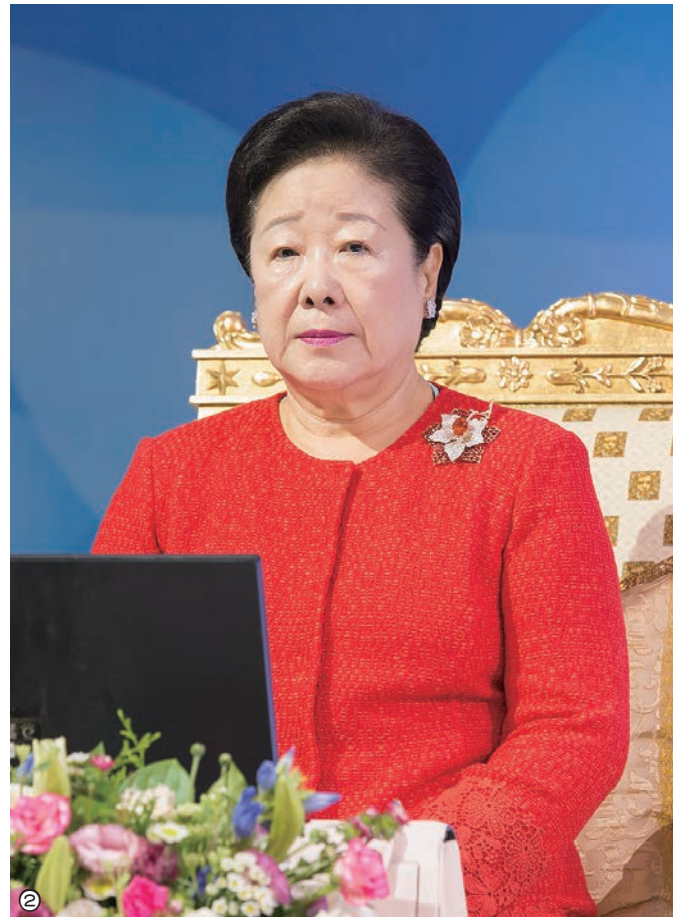
2018 Hyojeong Cultural Festival



- ❶ This year's Yut Tournament to Promote Unity and Harmony took place on an HJ Cheonwon scale! Yut sticks (*jang-jak*) are usually 17.5 centimeters (6.8 inches) long.
- ❷ Team representatives pledge to play fairly.
- ❸ *Hwa Hap*, the FFWPU, Heavenly Japan team, with President Tokuno in the center, focused their spiritual energy and let the sticks fly.
- ❹ Hyo Jeong (Korea's subregions 1 and 2) came in first place; tied for 3rd place were Hwa Hap (Japan); and Cheonwon (Korea's subregions 3, 4 and 5); Tongil (all other nations) garnered second place.



Celebrating Victories: The Seonghwa Memorial and Blessing Ceremony



- ❶ True Mother with the FFWPU-international president attending her, lights the candles on the celebration cake at the Cheongpyeong Heaven and Earth Training Center.
- ❷ True Mother during the victory celebration that immediately followed her dedicating and holy salting the Cheon Bo Won.
- ❸ All the group chairmen, representing members worldwide, offer a gift of the model of Cheon Bo Won, symbolizing our determination to accomplish our heavenly tribal messiah responsibilities.
- ❹ Among various performances, with the backing of Apple Heaven USA, twenty youth missionaries from FFWPU for a Heavenly United States sang a favorite song of True Father's in Korean, roughly translated as "A Free Heart on Earth and in Heaven," and with fifty young back-up dancers, a raucous version of the Holy Song "Unite Into One."
- ❺ The main hall of the Cheongpyeong Heaven and Earth Training Center was full with senior members seated in the front row.



Exhibition of True Parents' Lifelong Achievements



- ❶ Perhaps these pictures evoke poignant memories of True Parents' forced separation during Father's incarceration, representative of the sacrificial lives our True Parents have offered to Heavenly Parent.
- ❷ Global Top Gun Youth and national and regional leaders exult at seeing True Mother, as Director Jeon Jeong-cheol of PeaceTv sprints into a better position with a camera.
- ❸ True Mother with Yeon-ah nim



Dedication of the Cheon Bo Won



Hyojeong Special Gathering of Cheon Il Guk Leaders



- ① Instead of holding the leaders' assembly, True Mother had told the leaders, "Beginning now and regardless of whether they are high or low, all leaders must let go of everything and spend the next three days in a special workshop." This special gathering came at the conclusion of those three days.
- ② Leaders of the Cheon Jeong Gung Headquarters and the seven FFWPU regional chairmen offer all the public officials' signed Resolution toward Vision 2020 Pledges to the True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind.
- ③ At this meeting, Mrs. McDevitt, chief of True Mother's Secretariat read True Mother's instructions regarding reorganization and other matters; Yun Young-ho, secretary-general of the Cheon Jeong Gung Headquarters was the master of ceremonies and Tokuno Eiji, president of FFWPU of Heavenly Japan led the cheers of mansei.
- ④ The assembled leaders in Cheon Jeong Gung
- ⑤ True Family members and key leaders in True Mother's Secretariat are in the front row during a *chanyang* session, in the Jeongshimweon Prayer Hall, within the Cheongyeong Training Center complex.

A Letter to True Father

This letter, which the writer read aloud on the sixth anniversary of True Father's Seonghwa, resonated with many in the audience.

By Wonju Chong McDevitt

FATHER, TRUE FATHER, WHOM WE MISS!

After your Seonghwa, I buried the commonplace words "I miss you" in the deepest part of my heart. I was afraid that the moment I said the words, "I miss you," the bolt holding back the door to my tears, welling up in the depths of my heart, would fly undone and I would not be able to stop the tears pouring down.

Yet, there were moments when thoughts of you came unbidden to my mind and I felt overwhelmed. At such moments, I gazed at the heavens and tried to think joyful thoughts. However, in every one of those joyful thoughts I had in order to avoid missing you, there you were. Your bright smiling eyes, your tears, your sweat, your voice that we longed to hear, you were there in every part of my life. Dear Father, I miss you so much.

Dear Father! Do you remember this?

It was a very snowy winter, and I had not long since begun attending True Parents in East Garden, still in the flower of my youth. Father, you asked me to read the *Tongil Segye* magazine aloud! I cannot even remember how I read it, because I was so scared that I was shaking in my shoes. At the time, you smiled at me brightly and said, "Read a little more loudly." My life of hoondok began right there and then.

Then, when I had my first child, even though less than a month had passed since the birth and I could barely look after myself, you asked me to come with you. Fearlessly, I set out with True Parents right away. I cannot fathom how I mustered up the energy to do that. In fact, I was so anxious about losing sight of you or being left behind that I followed you almost barefoot. Father, when I now reflect upon this, I realize that that was the true love and the true heart of which you had spoken.

Father! Do you remember that time? Though we were in the summery island of Hawaii, you told me to prepare winter clothes and headed for Beijing, and I still did not know where you were going. In the pitch dark, winter night, you held hands with True Mother and walked around the vicinity of the guesthouse in Hamhung, praying all the while. At one point, you said to me, "Wonju, sing for us," and I continued to sing as I walked even though it was so cold that my lips were almost frozen and I could barely pronounce the words.

Father, you were offering devotions and prayers for President Kim Il-sung, whom you were scheduled to meet the next day. You were engaged in a life-or-death struggle, having staked your life for the unification of South Korea and North Korea. This remains for me a precious, unforgettable memory.

Father, do you remember this, too? Do you remember the time you began the providence to save South America, humankind's treasure house, and to create the garden of Eden that our Heavenly Parent desired to see? Under the scorching sun that was so hot that it was difficult even to breathe, covered in dust and wiping sweat that flowed freely like rainwater, you continued to cultivate the land of South America without resting, your body torn by terrible mosquito bites. You said that one can only build the kingdom of heaven after experiencing hell.

You even immersed your body up to your chin in a river filled with alligators and flesh-eating fish, and you ate only a sandwich to stave off hunger as you endeavored to create the Eden of new hope in South America. I can remember your darkly tanned face, and that face, so tanned that it was almost



Mrs. McDevitt, chief of staff of True Mother's Secretariat, reading a personal letter to True Father that expressed the longing and moved the hearts of members the world over

black, was the face of God who loves humankind, the face of a holy son.


Father, I am writing to you for the first time in six years, and I have so much to say to you. When you were on your sickbed, as soon as you had woken up from the anesthetic after a serious operation, you asked for True Mother and held her hand as you prayed. Even while suffering bodily pain, dear Father, you thought of Heavenly Parent's heart first! Father, not one moment of your life was lived for yourself! Dear Father, you even sat up straight and held hoondokhae when it should have been impossible for you to sit up at all. I can vividly remember that we read from Volume 56 of your sermons even at the moment when they were rushing you to the hospital. Even as you were gasping for breath, you put your hand on the book and prayed for Heaven and for humanity.

Father, I can never, ever forget those moments.

Dear Father, after you passed on into the eternal kingdom, True Mother personally observed a three-year period of mourning on behalf of all humankind. Every evening, she looked for the rising moon and welcomed it, and she conversed endlessly with you because she missed you so much. Seeing her doing so moved me so much that numerous were the times when I had to hold back my tears. Yes, Father, True Mother missed you so, so much and to her, you were everything. I thought that I missed you more than anyone else did. However, the person who missed and loved you more than anyone else did is True Mother.

That is why, after you ascended to heaven, her pain was the greatest and her sorrow the deepest. Even so, Mother was unable to shed even one tear. She was unable to say even once that she was hurting. Instead, she embraced all of us, we who were wallowing in despair with drooping shoulders, immersed in our own sorrow and hurt over losing our True Father. Swallowing her tears, True Mother said to us, "I am still here. Let us work together to complete True Father's unfinished work," and gave us an encouraging smile. After your Holy Ascension, Father, Mother declared, "I will bring Cheon Il Guk to settlement before I breathe my last." Her words expressed her love and longing for you, Father. Yet we thought that we were the only ones suffering in sorrow. We failed to ease True Mother's hurt and sorrow. We are so sorry for failing you both, and this failure weighs on our hearts like a stone.

True Mother has opened the gates of Cheon Il Guk, boldly proclaimed that she is God's only daughter of whom you had repeatedly spoken and striven onward to neatly complete your unfinished work. All the providential work that True Mother has carried out since your Seonghwa embodies her love for you and her promise to you. It is only after six years that I have come to realize this simple truth. I am truly and deeply sorry.

Father, I am missing you so much today. I miss you so much that if the love in my heart were spread out, it would more than cover this entire world. Even now, it feels as though if I were to turn around right now, you would be there and you would call out to me, "Wonju!" with a bright smile. Father, thank you so much for the love you gave me while you were here. I am truly proud and happy for having led a life of attending you. No matter what hardships and difficulties come my way, I will continue to serve True Mother on earth and bring victory. Father, dear Father, my love for you will never end. It will never end. 

Mrs. Wonju Chong McDevitt is the chief of staff of True Mother's Secretariat.

An Experienced Unifier

An interview with Jose De Venecia

This interview took place during the Universal Peace Federation's International Leadership Conference (ILC 32), which ran from August 26 to 30 at the Lotte World Hotel in Seoul.



You were a Speaker of the Philippines House of Representatives and president of the most influential political party in your nation. What is it about UPF that you have invested so much effort into the organization while in government and even in your post-government years?

I was invited by my friend Dr. Thomas Walsh and by my even closer friend, Rev. Moon, whom I met during his first visits to the Philippines, and Mother Moon. They invited me to the Universal Peace Federation and other organizations related to UPF. I found the movement to be genuine, to be positive and to be helpful to the lesser of our brothers and sisters in the community. So from that time on, I decided to become a supporter of the Universal Peace Federation, working with friends like Thomas Walsh and my colleague in Parliament, Dan Burton, formerly of the US Congress. I served as speaker of the Philippines Congress five times and throughout the years, I have been a supporter and friend of Father Moon and the Universal Peace Federation with their initiatives in Asia, in Africa, in Latin America and in other parts of the world.

That you held dialogues with the Communist Party of the Philippines as well as Islamic separatists is admirable.

I negotiated the Peace Agreement with the Moro Liberation Front successfully. We signed a peace agreement with the MLNF and the wars with them ended. They have integrated within Philippine society. As to the other faction of the MLNF, which is another major grouping of Muslims in the Philippines, I also helped negotiate the first two annexes of the agreement with them, which were successful, but the last remaining agreement remains unfinished. By that time, I had retired from my fifth term as Speaker of the House of Representatives. But now, this peace movement with remaining Muslim group in the Philippines has been successful and perhaps the final agreement leading to the

establishment of a Muslim—not a separatist republic but a regional government within the Republic of the Philippines—has been concluded and is about to be implemented. The other peace agreement that we are now working on is with the Communist Party and with Filipino Communists, which has been going on now for almost fifty years. I negotiated the first portions of that agreement. They were successful. Now the final leg of this agreement should—with God's benediction—be complete in the next year or the next two years. This problem has been going on for fifty years! There have been too many murders, casualties, injuries and displacement of populations in villages, in barrios and in townships, so I think that with God's blessings, this will also come to an end.

From your experience, how do you gauge the North Korean–South Korean relationship and what is going on there?

I have been working on this as well. In 1990, the founder and the first president of DPRK, the People's Republic of Korea, North Korea, invited me to North Korea. I had a very good meeting with President Kim Il-sung in Pyongyang, where I visited for almost a week. I requested from him and he gave me an official letter addressed to the Communists in the Philippines, which was very useful. Many of them surrendered to government forces because of the letter from President Kim Il-sung. During my five-day visit to North Korea, I invited the number two man in North Korea, the Deputy Prime Minister, Kim Dahl-hyun to visit the Philippines. A week after I arrived in Manila, he arrived in the Philippines. As a result of his visit, we completed formal diplomatic relations between the Philippines and North Korea.

We had Philippine diplomats accredited to Pyongyang via Beijing and North Korean diplomats via Bangkok. It resulted in something concrete and very positive between the Philippines and North Korea.

That must have been an early exchange of diplomats for North Korea.

Yes. I visited North Korea with one of our congressmen (who has since passed away) as a result of which other successful visits ensued. A political leader in Japan, Shin Kanemaru, visited Pyongyang six months after my visit. They started informal and formal talks between Japan and North Korea and a few years thereafter a former US president, Jimmy Carter, flew to Pyongyang and had important, groundbreaking talks with the North Korean government.

I am reminded of the reception Father Rev. Moon received when he visited North Korea. As you know, he is from North Korea, born in Pyongyang, as was his wife, now Mother Moon. As a result of their work and their successes, you know, Father moon built an automobile factory and a hotel in North Korea, because he wanted to develop positive relations with the North Korean government with the view to contributing to the possibility of unification.

Do you know what he did? He donated his automobile factory and his hotel to the North Korean government and the North Korean people. I am mentioning to you some of the events that happened after my visit to North Korea and events and stories related to me by no less than Father Moon and Mother Moon and also by officials of the North Korean government.

I treasure my talks with the founder and first president of North Korea, Kim Il-sung. I received an invitation last week from the grandson, the present leader, Kim Jong-un, for their seventieth anniversary, next week on September 8. I'm seriously considering making the visit with my son, Congressman Christopher De Venecia, to see the new developments that have happened since my last visit in 1990, twenty-eight years ago.

I'm still working, up until now on the possibilities of peace on the Korean peninsula. I am hopeful

that at some point, we will have unification on the Korean peninsula—difficult, even far-fetched, but not impossible. There have been so many critics of the American president, President Donald Trump, in my several speeches and columns, including in my speech today in Seoul, I praised and complimented the American president for making the journey to Singapore and meeting the grandson, the young leader of North Korea. They had a good, positive meeting a few weeks ago, which was quite successful and which I hope will lead to a series of small but progressive agreements, until the denuclearization of the peninsula is achieved. I think this process, however, might take five to ten years—not six months or one year. It is good to be very accurate about our predictions in order not to mislead governments and the people of the region, especially Japan and China and North Korea and South Korea—the people of Asia who are looking forward to a final peace on the Korean peninsula. I am optimistic that at some point, perhaps, a confederation can emerge between the two Koreas, where a government or a republic will emerge in the North. You now have an existing, positive, modern republic in the South. A series of presidents have contributed to the modernization and growth of South Korea after the ravages of war in the 1950s. We have now a successful Korean president in the person of President Moon Jae-in, who has been quite a successful, competent, dynamic president, who made, I think, two trips to the demilitarized zone and in a sense, helped bring home the bacon. Now, we have to move forward. This could lead to a final unification, which of course will take time—maybe five years, ten years or even more, but at least the movement for peace on the Korean peninsula is moving forward.

The other large question is was some breakthrough achieved by President Trump and the young leader in Singapore (which was

very positive) with continuing talks at a lower level perhaps at the level of foreign minister. Secretary of State Pompeo is working hard on this visit and I predict, with God's benediction, there could be a final peace between North and South and further, with God's blessing, a unification, like the unification of the two Germanies and the two Vietnams, which were deemed impossible, but in God's own time took place. Now you have a unified Germany; now you have a unified Vietnam. This could also happen on the Korean peninsula.

I have one final question: You spoke at Father Moon's ascension ceremony six years ago, on this anniversary, could you comment on your experiences with him?

Rev. Moon was a modern prophet and both a religious and a political leader. He looked forward. He looked toward the great future and did not just talk about it but did something about it. His movement has spread from North Korea to South Korea, from Seoul to Japan and the entire Northeast Asia and Southeast Asia and parts of Central Asia. He moved towards the United States. He was not afraid to spread his views among the American people. At first, he was not well received, but finally he was well received in America. He was received in the White House, was received by Democrats and Republicans and by governors and mayors and congressmen. I think there is a fairly large population of members of the UPF movement in the United States of America. Then, he brought his movement to South America, to Latin America. He has branches in Europe. He has branches in Africa. He has branches in Australasia. You have to give credit to Father Moon and Mother Moon and the leadership of the Universal Peace Federation. There are Americans. There are Koreans—South Koreans and some North Koreans. There are Filipinos. There are Indonesians. There are Burmese. There are

Thais. There are Cambodians and French and Germans and British and East Africans and South Africans and West Africans. They are from all over the world. The Universal Peace Federation has spread and grown by leaps and bounds, propagating the philosophies and work of Rev. Moon, which is quite close to the work of the Catholic Church and of the Christian churches and of the other great religions of the world. Father Moon was a unifier. UPF is a unifier.

This is something great and very positive. Their work is appreciated by many people. That is why you don't see resistance to the work of UPF. Before, there was some discrimination, some unreasoned fear, because they did not understand, but over the years they have seen that the work of UPF is concrete, simple, humane and positive. Many, even among the sophisticated people of America and Europe and Asia, now embrace the Universal Peace Federation. It is not a negative force, but a positive force, useful to governments, to nations, to communities and families. So, there are more and more adherents. Nobody is forced to contribute. Nobody is forced to abandon his religion. I am a dedicated Roman Catholic. Nobody asked me to become a non-Catholic to join UPF. My wife and I appreciate our work and our fraternity with the Universal Peace Federation. Dr. Walsh is our friend. My fellow congressman, Dan Burton, and I work together closely. He was a congressman for thirty years in the US House of Representatives. I get to be interviewed by the *Washington Times* one of the great newspapers of America from time to time.

We have the UPF movement in the Philippines, with maybe fifty to a hundred thousand people. So, UPF is a positive force. It is a good neighborly association. There is nothing negative about it, so I encourage friends and relatives to join it and contribute to its work in the Philippines and other parts of the world. ☮

How UPF Can Serve a Nation

This interview, with Member of Parliament Chitra Lekha Yadav of Nepal, who has also served her nation as the Minister of Education, took place during ILC32, in Seoul, Lotte World Hotel on August 29.



Please tell me your impression of the conference so far.

The conference is very useful and fruitful because of the way it talks about peace and love, faith and hope. I think it is very encouraging and inspiring for all of us, because what we know and what is a fact is that without peace, no development can take place. So, peace is very important and it is very urgent to all of us, so it is very fantastic and wonderful.

As a member of parliament, how useful is it to you to meet people from such diverse backgrounds?

The responsibility of parliamentarians is to address the problems of the people and the nation and the globe as well if possible. If we can coordinate and cooperate with all. So in that sense, to meet and have interaction with

parliamentarians from more than eighty-seven nations is itself a very meaningful and my opinion is the way we talk about the responsibility of parliamentarians regarding peace and development, I think the first and foremost thing is that every parliamentarian should be able to irrigate themselves with the special feeling we call spirituality and morality. Many of the friends yesterday were talking about theology. Here, I would like to say that every religion has two parts: one is theology and the other is spirituality. Theology may differ from religion to religion, but spirituality is the same and the central part is humanity—to be human. All of us if we just start living for the sake of others... Humanity means not living for the sake of yourself. Parliamentarians, when they are elected, when they campaign, they

always say, We don't stand for ourselves; we stand for the people. Whatever hardships the people are facing, that's the core responsibility of the parliament to address. Here, at this conference, regarding the responsibility of parliamentarians, I think, the way we discuss and learn has been very fruitful for the members of parliament.

The Korean North-South relationship is an extreme case of social disunity can you speak to efforts by parliamentarians to instill respect for human values and safeguard national and social beliefs?

I appreciate the endeavors of UPF to solve the problems of North Korea and South Korea. I have been coming to Korea for a long time and talking to people of North Korea and South Korea. I have the feeling that all of the people feel love and care for one another, but since the problem is still there, I think the role of parliamentarians should be considering how to unite them. Always, the responsibility of parliamentarians is to regard and consider the demands of the people. The demand of the people is, We waiting for the day when they will come together, when we will work together, will play



Chitra Lekha Yadav's father went against the trend in having his daughter educated. She went on to become deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives and Nepal's education minister. She now serves her nation as a parliamentarian.

together. This is the feeling. At this conference, we have been discussing a lot about the conflict and how to resolve the conflict, how to reconcile. It has been one of the founding principles of the Universal Peace Federation, so stance taken by UPF is very much appreciated and I hope in the near future with the efforts of this kind of conference, not just people from political life, but people from all walks of life participating in this type of august conference all of us together will be able to address the hopes of the North and South Korean people.

Could you speak a bit about the work of UPF in your country, Nepal?

UPF has been doing a lot of work to address the problems of the people. These days, we see that people everywhere say they want peace; they also say they want to live in peace. UPF is doing a lot of activities generating hope within the people regarding peace, but it doesn't mean that just by listening, just by learning you are going to

have peace. You need to practice peace yourself. You need to care for the feelings of others. You have to think if your words are going to hurt the person sitting beside you if so your activities will not bring peace. The very aim of UPF is to bring lasting peace throughout the globe. Nepal UPF is doing a wonderful job

Lastly, I will tell you a small story that will reveal the work of UPF. Four candles were burning in a room. They were talking. The first candle said, "I am peace, but now I find people are full of anger and fighting everywhere, so it doesn't make sense for me to keep lit here so now I am going out." By saying this, the flame of peace went out completely.

The second candle said, "I am faith. I am no longer indispensable, so it is better that I go out, and then the flame of faith went out completely.

The third candle said, "I am love but from what I see people are not practicing pure love. They are very selfish; they are not practicing

selfless love. It is better that I go out." The light of the third flame, the light of love, then went out completely.

The fourth candle was burning when a little child came into the room. When the child saw that only one candle was burning, he cried and he said, "You were all supposed to stay lit until the end. Why is only one candle burning?"

Then the last candle said, "I am hope. Don't worry. You can light all three candles with me." The little child lit the three candles and four candles were burning. Then, the fourth candle said, "Look, if there is hope—with hope—love, faith and peace can be revived.

So the important thing is that: Let us have a positive attitude and let's work together. Never lose hope. If we lose hope, everything will be lost. In Nepal, what we see is that UPF is generating hope in the minds and hearts of people. Through that hope, We have been able to revive many things in Nepal—peace, faith and love. Thank you. ☸

Approaching the Muslim World with True Parents' Thought

The author compiled this vital information in a paper for the PWPA and Cheon Il Guk Academy Joint International Academic Conference Commemorating the Sixth Anniversary of True Father's Seonghwa.

By Marilyn Angelucci

There were 1.8 billion Muslims in the world as of 2015—roughly 24 percent of the global population—according to a Pew Research Center estimate. While Islam is currently the world's second-largest religion (after Christianity), it is the fastest-growing major religion. This may scare some people but as Unificationists, we should take this fact very seriously. True Mother proclaims that she will fulfill her mission before she goes to the spiritual world. That mission is to give the blessing to all the people of the world. Islam comprises roughly a quarter of the world's population and is growing every day. Therefore, it is essential that we, as the filial children of our True Parents, find a way to reach the Muslim world.

My husband and I have been working in the Middle East since 1996 and have found that most Muslims are very tolerant and open-minded. They have a deep love for God and believe that religion should play an important role in people's lives. They follow God's word and traditions and are deeply conservative. Because of

this, they have little respect for the Western world, which has lost its religious values and is becoming more secular every day. They become deeply disturbed when they see how Western values are influencing their young people. Because of the lack of values in the West, some Muslims see the West as the enemy that is promoting a sinful lifestyle and should be stopped. Most people like to maintain this image of Islam.

But the reality is that the Muslim world is more open to Unificationists' values and principles than is the Western world. They have a great deal in common with the world of Unificationists. They are desperate to preserve their families and family values. They honor purity and marriage. They understand the value of a relationship with God and religious tradition as a cornerstone for the community and society. Sharing our values and principles with the Muslim world is not difficult on a personal level, but because of political and religious control, we have to be sensitive and adjust our approach to meet the current situation of Islamic

nations.

A foundation for outreach

Some Unificationists have done great work to explain the Divine Principle from an Islamic perspective. In 1980, when the missionaries were in the field, HSAUWC USA made a study guide to help those in Muslim nations. The title was *An Introduction to the Principle—an Islamic Perspective*. This study guide covered the Principle and used quotations from the Quran to support the text rather than quotations from the Bible. In 1993, Thomas Cromwell wrote a book entitled *Essentials of the Unification Principle*, which attempted to explain the Principle in a way acceptable to the Muslim world. This book did not use scriptural quotations, but it did add some chapters that pertained to the Prophet Mohammed (Peace Be Upon Him) and the providential history of Islam. Both these texts were written by a Unificationist from a Christian background, so although they were well researched, there are limitations to their understanding.

Other work has been done by



The conference that this article was read at took place at the Universal Peace Academy Graduate School. Marilyn Angelucci is sixth from the left in the front row.

Abdalmoumin Ibrahim Ahmed, who wrote *United Visions: Islamic Perspective*, which is a study of the Divine Principle from an Islamic perspective using quotations from the Quran to explain our principles and their application. This is in Arabic and English and has proven to be very helpful in teaching people in the Arab world. In addition, Abdou Gaye did his UTS thesis on the topic of giving the blessing to the Muslim world, which is a very helpful tool for us to spread the blessing. Both Unificationists are from a Muslim background, which gives them more qualification to write such texts. Together with this material, we need to make a comprehensive education system that we can use to share the Divine Principle with the Muslim world.

Concerning the task of approaching Muslims with the Divine Principle, the first thing I would like to say is that it is important to understand the Muslim world, the religion and the culture before we start to share our ideology. This is important especially if we are not from a Muslim background. We may easily misrepresent our True Parents if we approach this task from a Judeo-Christian

perspective, which non-Muslims tend to do. We must understand the Islamic religion, culture, values and lifestyle in order to be qualified to share our principles with the Islamic world.

In reality, the only way we can truly embrace the Muslim world is through a heart of service, piety, sincerity and love. This is the heart of a true Abel. Historically the Muslim world is in the position of Cain and they have suffered greatly from abuse and misuse in wars over land and power. Our approach must be one of humility. We have so much to learn from them, and we have so many resources to share with them. This must be the foundation of our work. They must see us as an elder brother that is protecting and nurturing them to be prosperous and successful.

Another important point to consider is that in some interpretations of Islam, to convert to another religion is forbidden. A number of countries expressly have made apostasy a capital offense. However, only a small number of cases have applied capital punishment. Mostly, modern Muslims do not hold this belief because the Quran does not

clearly support it. Although this law is currently unenforced, the family, relatives and community of a Muslim converting to another religion would completely ostracize him or her.

Because of this cultural pressure, it is important that when we do outreach in the Muslim world, we do not do so as a religion. We cannot use religious terms such as “reverend” or “church.” Working through the Family Federation for World Peace, Universal Peace Federation, Women’s Federation for World Peace or Youth and Students for Peace is essential when working in the Islamic world. Any of these associations works well. We are not converting people to our understanding, but we are sharing with them how to live a good life, how to apply principles from God in their lives and how to become true believers. They must not feel we are trying to change them but are only trying to enhance their own faith and helping them to fulfill their own desire to live with God and become godly people.

Our goal in doing outreach in the Middle East, and we believe it should be a common point in all places, is to connect the people to our True



Parents and eventually to support them to become true parents themselves. Of course, they need to learn and apply Divine Principle, which is the way to become true parents and receive the blessing. In teaching Divine Principle, we need to revise our current format, because it was written for a Christian audience. We need to make it acceptable to a Muslim audience. In order to make the proper adjustments, it is necessary to know which parts of the Divine Principle are acceptable to the Muslim world and what concepts are not acceptable, of which we should be aware.

Divine Principle Part I Chapter One

As we examine the Divine Principle in relation to the Quran, we find that most of the content of Chapter One is compatible. We can find quotations in the Quran to support many aspects of Chapter One. The Principle of Resemblance: "He is God, the Creator, the Maker, the Shaper. To Him belong the Names Most Beautiful. All that is in the heavens and on the earth magnified Him. He is All-mighty, the All-wise." (Quran 59:24) The Principle of Duality: "And

We created you in pairs." (Quran 78:8) The Purpose of Creation: We can see in the Quran many quotations that help us explain the purpose of creation, describing the closeness of God and the first blessing; the Quran states, "We indeed created man, and We know what his soul whispers to him, and We are nearer to him than the jugular vein." (Quran 50:15-16) The following quotation helps us to bring in the concept of re-creating the first Adam: "truly the likeness of Jesus, in God's sight, is as Adam's likeness." (Quran 53:59) Family unity is so important in Muslim society and is supported in the scriptures. "Lord, give us joy in our wives and children and make us models for the God-fearing." (Quran 25:74) "Thy Lord has decreed... that you be kind to parents. Whether one or both of them attain old age in your lifetime, do not say to them a word of contempt, nor repel them, but address them in terms of honor. And out of kindness, lower to them the wing of humility and say, 'My Lord! Bestow on them Thy mercy even as they cherished me in childhood.'" (Quran 17:23) Describing how God created everything for man: "And

God has laid the earth for you as a carpet." (Quran 71:18)

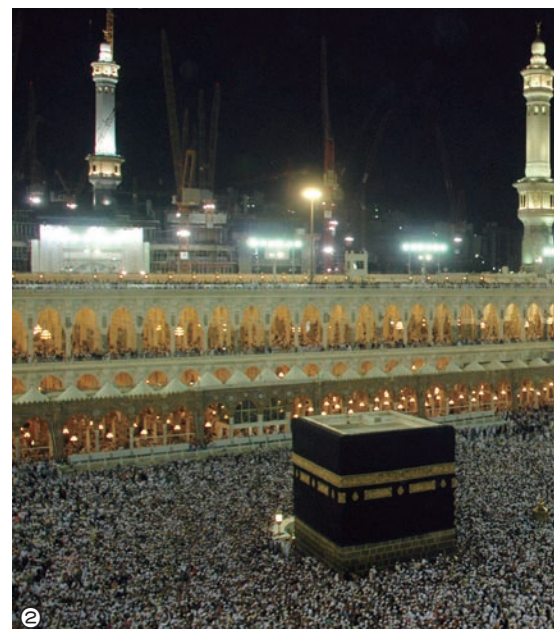
The other parts of Chapter One are completely acceptable, although there may not be clear support from the scriptures. Especially, Muslims have a clear belief in the spiritual world and the explanation in Chapter One is enlightening for them.

Points not compatible

One aspect of Chapter One that is not compatible with Islam is the concept of God as our Father and therefore Heavenly Parents. Actually, the Quran speaks against this concept strongly. From *An Introduction to the Principle—an Islamic Perspective*: "Islam scolds those who believe that God can have literal children: 'What, has your Lord favored you with sons and taken Himself from the angels female? Surely it is a monstrous thing you are saying.'" (Quran 62:42) this attack is against those (such as many pre-Islamic Arabs) who believe that gods or God can literally have children. Muslims consider God to be above this, so that God bore physical children is not possible.

Although these words are in the Quran, some great Muslim leaders, such as the late Grand Mufti of Syria, taught that we are the children of God. Muslim do accept that man was created with the spirit of God, but the point they reject is that we are the physical children of God. Their concept of God is a God of power, might and mercy. If God were to be close to man, it would make him weak and vulnerable, so the Quran tried to distance God and man as much as possible. Nevertheless, they do accept that we were created from God's spirit. "When I have shaped him and breathed my spirit in him." (Quran 38:73)

However, in the Sufi interpretation, God is a very personal being and they relate to Him as a loving God. They also teach a concept called "*fanaa*," which is a process of gradually coming closer to God until becoming completely one with the beloved. In the following quotation we can see that God was so dear; even followers are to love God even more than their own fathers: "...remember God, as you remember your fathers or yet more devoutly."



Chapter Two

The Quran is not written chronologically; it is organized by the lengths of the chapters. Therefore, the whole story of the Fall is not found in the same chapter as it is in the Bible. However, the story in the Quran about the fall of Adam and Eve is very similar to the story we use in the Principle: Allah says, (an interpretation of the meaning) "And O Adam! Dwell you and your wife in Paradise and eat thereof as you both wish, but approach not this tree, otherwise you both will be of the *Zaalimoon* (unjust and wrongdoers)." (Quran 7:19) "Then, *Shaytan* whispered to him, saying, 'O Adam! Shall I lead you to the Tree of Eternity and to a kingdom that will never waste away?'" (Quran 20:120) "So he misled them with deception. Then when they tasted of the tree, that which was hidden from them of their shame (private parts) became manifest to them and they began to stick together the leaves of Paradise over themselves (in order to cover their shame). And their Lord called out to them: 'Did I not forbid you that tree and tell you, Verily *Shaytan* is an open enemy to you?'"

As you can see, the story contains Adam and Eve, Satan, and the Tree of Eternity, and after they ate the fruit, Adam and Eve covered their lower parts. Using this story, we can also explain the Fall and it is acceptable to a Muslim audience. Additionally, according to the Quran, the fall of the

angel was clearly explained. The following verse gives support to explain the process and motivation of the Fall: "And when We said to the angels 'Bow yourselves to Adam,' so they bowed themselves, save *Iblis*; he refused. Then We said, 'Adam surely this is an enemy to thee and thy wife. So let him not expel you both from the Garden, so that thou art unprosperous.'" (Quran 20:115–116)

Adam and Eve confess

Adam and Eve admit their mistake and God sends them out of Paradise and creates enmity between them. They said (straightaway) "Our Lord! We have wronged ourselves, and if You do not forgive us and do not have mercy on us, we will surely be among those who have lost!" (Quran 7:22)... "Nor do I absolve my own self of blame; the human soul is certainly prone to evil unless my Lord does bestow His mercy." (Quran 12:53)

There is also support for the possibility of sexual intercourse with a spirit. Here a *jinn* refers to the spirits that stay on earth and disturb humans. Different from angels, they are spiritual beings made from fire. "...therein maidens restraining their glances, untouched before them by any man or *jinn*." (Quran 60:56)

Fornication is a major sin in most religions and especially in Islam. "...neither fornicate, for whosoever does that shall meet the price of sin... doubled shall be the chastisement for him on the Resurrection Day." (Quran

22:68–69) God's messenger said, "Do you know the thing which most commonly brings people into Paradise? It is fear of God and good character. Do you know what most commonly brings people into hell? It is the two hallow things: the mouth and the private parts." (Hadith of Tirmidhi and Ibn Majah)

The Prophet said, "When a man commits fornication, he is not a believer; when a man steals, he is not a believer; when a man drinks wine, he is not a believer; when he takes plunder on account of which others raise their eyes at him, he is not a believer; and when a man defrauds his neighbor, he is not a believer; so beware, beware!"

Dominion of Satan

There is much evidence of how Satan (*Shaytan*) is influencing humans and how it is the humans' responsibility to resist the temptation of Satan and follow the word of God. "Said he (*Iblis*), 'My Lord, for Thy perverting me, I shall deck out all fair to them in the earth, and I shall pervert them...'" (Quran 60:38)

"Satan said, 'I will take of Thy servants a portion marked off: I will mislead them, and I will create in them false desires; I will order them... to deface the fair nature created by God.' Whoever, forsaking God, takes Satan for a friend, has of a surety suffered a loss that is manifest. Satan makes them promises and creates in them false desires; but Satan's



- ❶ Some adherents of Sufism, Islamic mysticism, whirl, almost as meditation. Sufis are comfortable with the idea that we are God's children. This article points out that other Muslims generally are not.
- ❷ Nearly a quarter of the world's population is Muslim; Here, pilgrims in Mecca circle counter-clockwise around the kaaba, ("Sacred House," even "House of God.") within the Sacred Mosque in Mecca. Last year, 1,752,014 foreign pilgrims joined 600,108 Saudi Arabian pilgrims in coming to Mecca.
- ❸ An Afghan Muslim praying

promises are nothing but deceptions." (Quran 4:118-200)

Collective sin

When God causes punishment to descend on a people, those righteous ones among them will be smitten by the punishment, but afterward they will be resurrected according to their deeds. (Hadith of Bukhari and Muslim)

Points not compatible

The only problem we have with the Human Fall and Islam is that they don't have a concept of original sin. At the time of the Fall, according to the Quran, God forgave Adam and Eve and the sin they'd committed was not passed down to their descendants. The Quran says that Satan tempts all people according to their lives; if they live an evil life, Satan can influence them; if they live a good life and follow the will of God, Satan has no control over them. There is also no concept of inherited sin in the Quran. The remainder of Part One of the Divine Principle is written for a Christian audience. Some of it, such as Christology, is not relevant to a Muslim audience. Yet, Predestination, Eschatology and Human History (Last Days) is well documented in the Quran. For Muslims, resurrection is a concept having to do with that time. Like the Bible, the Quran speaks of those times in symbols, so a clear interpretation is necessary, which can be given through the view

of the Divine Principle. The Mission of Jesus could be discussed effectively because they understand Jesus to be a special prophet; they even call him "Messiah," prepared by God and understand that the crucifixion was not necessary for salvation. Actually, they strongly believe that Jesus was not crucified.

Divine Principle Part 2

Not all aspects of the Divine Principle can be correlated to the Quran and should not be. The Divine Principle is a new expression of truth for our new age. We should not say "revelation" because of the Muslim belief that the Quran is the last revelation. Having said this, the Quran does say, "And if whatever trees upon the earth were pens and the sea [were ink], replenished thereafter seven [more] seas, the words of Allah would not be exhausted. Indeed, Allah is Exalted in Might and Wise." This shows there is the understanding that all the truth of God has not been revealed yet, since it is limitless; therefore, they can accept the concept of a new expression of truth.

The Quran mentions all of the stories of the Providence of Restoration with little differences and the prophets Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses and Jesus are all honored in the Quran. In sharing this part of the Principle, it would be important to mention the providential significance of Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) and the history of Islam if possible.

The Messiah's Second Coming

Of course, the most important part of the Divine Principle is the announcement of the Second Coming of the Messiah in our True Parents. Islam does have a concept of Messiah, in the sense that they believe that Jesus was a Messiah and will return on the Day of Judgment. When the Messiah comes again, they also believe him to be of a Muslim background. In light of that, we have to approach this in a different way. Introducing someone who has a higher position than the Prophet (PBUH) is ultrasensitive.

In our experience in the Muslim world, we would introduce our True Parents as the King and Queen of Peace. This was very effective, especially through teaching our True Parents' life courses. Through their life courses it is clear that there have been no other people in history that have done as much for peace as our True Parents. We also give an overview of our movement and explain how our True Parents are building the ideal world in this day and age.

We do not ask people to leave their religion; rather we ask them to join our organizations and to help build the ideal world as a true Muslim or a Muslim-Unificationist. We encourage them to develop their own personal relationship with True Parents as their parents and follow True Parents' examples.

Conclusion

We need to proclaim the coming of our True Parents to the entire world, not just the Judeo-Christian world. In this era, the world consists of Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, etc. We cannot ignore this fact. We need to find a way to share this great news with all the people of the world and at the same time remain sensitive to their belief systems and cultures. As we approach Cheon Il Guk, I would like to suggest that we spend more time and resources on creating educational materials with this goal in mind, to make our True Parents' great teachings acceptable to all people of the world. *☞*

Marilyn Angelucci and her husband Umberto are the leaders of our Middle East Region.

Presentation of the Heavenly Africa Package in Burundi

Bujumbura June 24–26

By Paterne Zinsou

June 25 turned out to be a special day for Burundi's providence in relation to Vision 2020. Several events happened that day as part of UPF's tour for a Heavenly Africa. The delegation comprised Dr. Thomas Walsh, UPF's international chairman, and me as sub-regional director of UPF for West Africa. The president of the Republic (2005–) Pierre Nkurunziza received us and a few moments later we met the Speaker of the National Assembly, Pascal Nyabenda. We would go on to found the official Burundi chapter of the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace.

Within this providential context of expectation and renewed hope for Burundi, a blessed child was born to the wife of the late national leader of Burundi, Ismael Ntawigiri. (He had ascended to the spiritual world during the period of the World Summit in Dakar.) This birth inaugurates a new era, begun by Our True Mother, who through her deep love and precious blessing bestowed upon the African continent, is the driving force of the present tour for a Heavenly Africa.

I was grateful to take part in this tour for a heavenly Africa, because we

receive True Parents' grace and can use the protocol and security services of the office of the president and of the Parliament. Two houses comprise Burundi's Parliament, the Senate, which is the Upper House of Parliament and the National Assembly, the Lower House.

Reconnecting with the president

While we were expecting an audience at the National Assembly (the lower house of Parliament) early on the morning of June 25, as events transpired, the president of the Republic of Burundi received the UPF delegation first. The president met with Dr. Walsh and I, accompanied by the second vice-president of the *Inama Nkenguzamateka* (the Senate) Anicet Niyongabo, whom the president of the Senate had appointed to oversee the IAPP-Burundi session. The reception was warm. With an affectionate smile, Pierre Nkurunziza, president of the Republic of Burundi, welcomed the UPF delegation that he had been awaiting with fervor.

It was a reunion. When Dr. Walsh reminded him of his participation in the UPF inaugural meeting in New York in the United States in 2005, he admitted to being one of us. He expressed his keen interest in the peace

advocated by UPF. Burundi is open to our movement and thus to our True Mother, he told us. He thanked True Mother and UPF for the Heavenly Africa Package projects. He hoped that UPF could support the ongoing development process in Burundi.

He added that he would arrange for the signing of the MOU. He expressed his concern for building a nation of peace and unity and spoke about the interreligious meetings for unity and social cohesion in Burundi. While we were with President Nkurunziza, a battalion of the Burundian Army was training around the presidential compound. From the Presidential Palace, where we were, the sound of drumbeats was audible. He told us that they were preparing for the celebration of the anniversary of Burundi's July 1 Independence Day. The president appeared happy and open during our talk. We enjoyed the time with him. He wished us success in our activities in general and in the launch of IAPP-Burundi in particular. He told us to visit Burundi regularly. He finally reiterated his attachment to the vision of UPF, with which he hopes to cooperate. The meeting ended with a group photograph, first with Dr. Walsh and then with all members of the delegation.



A concluding photograph after the formation of IAPP-Burundi, *front row from left*: Pateme Zinsou, author of this series of articles; Pascal Nyabenda, Speaker of the National Assembly; Révérien Ndikuriyo, president of the Senate and Rawasa Agathon, vice-president of the National Assembly

The president of Parliament

After the audience with the president, we headed to the Parliament Building in Bujumbura where the president of the Parliament, the two vice-presidents and other members of the Bureau of the Parliament of Burundi were waiting. Two other members of IAPP joined our delegation. (See the picture).

The second vice-president of the Senate and president of IAPP-Burundi introduced the purpose of the visit and presented the UPF delegation and the two other members of the National IAPP Committee before inviting Dr. Thomas Walsh and I to speak. We gave in-depth presentations on True Parents' vision and summarized the material in the Heavenly Africa Package projects, including the inauguration of the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace.

Pascal Nyabenda, Speaker of Parliament followed with great interest the many explanations and agreed in principle with regard to his membership and his involvement. He said he was available to work with UPF and ready to support the development of IAPP Burundi.

He would reinforce his support by attending the inaugural IAPP Assembly scheduled for the following

hours, in the afternoon. Though he was in parliamentary session, he said he would attend. He would also try to take part in international meetings and conferences organized by UPF.

As he saw it, all parliamentarians would join IAPP once they understand the objectives and vision of this important branch of UPF. He mobilized about a dozen journalists who were waiting for the end of the meeting for interviews with Chairman Walsh and the Speaker of the Parliament, Pascal Nyabenda.

A parliamentarian, member of the IAPP Committee, who was in Dakar and who is certainly a fervent believer explained to me that the name Burundi consists of seven letters, and seven conveys the concept of "completion." Thus, for her, for providential reasons, God was behind the choosing Burundi among the nations benefiting from the Heavenly Africa Package.

IAPP-Burundi takes form

The Speaker of the Parliament of Burundi, Pascal Nyabenda, led the inaugural session of IAPP Burundi in collaboration with the president of the Senate, Révérien Ndikuriyo. All the Presidents and Vice-presidents of both Houses of Parliament as well as several deputies and senators, the

representative of the mayor of Bujumbura and other dignitaries attended the ceremony.

More than ninety participants including seventy parliamentarians attended the launching of IAPP-Burundi during a solemn ceremony marked by the Oath of Members of the National Committee of IAPP, the signing of the Resolution and the nomination of the president of the Parliament as an ambassador for peace.

The president of the Senate, the central figure of the IAPP-Burundi launching ceremony, testified to his commitment to UPF and announced the composition of IAPP Burundi Bureau. Anicet Niyongabo, second vice-president of the Senate, stood as Révérien Ndikuriyo, pronounced him chairman of thirteen-member committee making up the IAPP Burundi Bureau.

Several milestones marked the inauguration ceremony, which took on a solemn dimension. Among them was the presentation and official recognition of the members of the Bureau of IAPP Burundi by the presidents and vice-presidents of the Parliament and the Senate. Seven National Assembly deputies and six Parliamentary senators comprise the



committee. The oath-taking ceremony of the members of the IAPP Bureau made a favorable impression on the parliamentarians as an act for peace and unity as it launches a politically neutral organization that aims to aid the common good, regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, political party or ideology. The International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace is therefore, in a structural and functional way, an organ, a project, an extension of UPF.

The IAPP Oath of Office

Considering the need in the exercise of our mission to embrace universally shared values in order to build a society, a nation and a world of lasting peace,

Recognizing that through this ceremony, we receive a mandate to promote Social Peace, Unity, Solidarity and Sustainable Development,

I, as a deputy or senator, a member of the IAPP Bureau of Burundi,

1) hereby affirm my commitment to respect the objectives and principles of IAPP, namely

- to arm myself with a new armor of love and peace;
- to promote principles and practices for peace, justice and good governance;

- to work for the common good of all without distinction of ethnicity, nationality, culture, race, gender, religion or political ideology;

- to seek sustainable solutions to the key challenges of our time: the loss of family values, territorial disputes, racial and religious conflicts, environmental degradation, climate change, violent extremism, poverty, hunger, corruption, etc.;

- and to contribute actively to building a sustainable world of peace by promoting gender equity, and improving educational systems and methods for young men and women.

2) We affirm today, our resolve to work for peace, to solve national, sub-regional, regional and international problems in order to build a world of peace rooted in universal and sustainable values.

“This I pledge.”

I then appointed the Speaker of the Parliament, Pascal Nyabenda, as a UPF ambassador of peace on this occasion to the general satisfaction of the deputies and participants to the inaugural assembly. Both vice-presidents of the Parliament and both vice-presidents of the Senate took part in this ceremony. In his closing

① Pres. Nkurunziza, who was an ambassador for peace before becoming president in 2005, with Dr. Walsh.

② The UPF delegation being received in Burundi

③ Speaker of the National Assembly, Pascal Nyabenda, has become an ambassador for peace.

speech, the president of the Parliament of Burundi stressed his double mandate as honorary co-president of IAPP Burundi and ambassador for peace. Speaker Nyabenda promised to work with the Speaker of the Senate to make the Burundi chapter of IAPP one of the best models of IAPP in Africa. Lastly, he asked that the Africa UPF delegation visit Burundi more regularly in order to carry out the projects for Peace and Development.

The closing banquet

We took part in a special closing banquet for the UPF delegation in the evening. The gala dinner featured a professional band of musicians. Both of the Houses of Parliament in Burundi had initiated the dinner, which benefited from the presence of the presidents and vice-presidents of both institutions. *TP*

Dr. Paterné Zinsou is the sub-regional director of UPF for West Africa.

The Art of Being Grandfathers

By Patrice Huard

The author and his wife Nellie were the first couple in Europe to bless 430 couples, during four months in the Philippines in 2015. In 2018, he went to Benin for eight weeks and taught four hundred religious leaders, about thirty couples and fifty-eight students. He also witnessed to three students who attended a seven-day seminar. His testimony sheds light on the work of God in Benin and on what grandfathers can do together to help the providence.





Fellow faith warriors, Tatsuo Sasaki and Patrice Huard; Right: Lecturing in the Cherubim Church; Title page: An aerial view of Cotonou, Benin (by Osia Zannou via Wikimedia)

This was my very first trip to Africa. But why Benin and why in 2018? This mission to Benin proved timely in the history of our blessed family. My wife Nellie is from the Netherlands; I am French. We received the blessing in May 1978, among the 118 couples in London. Forty years later, our three children all have spouses linked to Africa and we have eight grandchildren. This year, my wife and I were one of the couples chosen to be present at the inauguration of the Cheon Bo Won. Two of our sons will be there with us, and both have a connection to Benin.

In fact, our children are all blessed to children of 1975 Japanese missionaries to Africa (from the 1,800 couple group). Our daughter to a son of Mr. Sasada, a missionary in Zambia; my son Alexandre to Mutsuka Kanadani, born in Benin, where her parents were missionaries and my son Axel to Hitomi, a daughter of Tatsuo Sasaki, a 1975 missionary to Niger, currently a special envoy to Benin. The blessings of my children connect to Japanese in Africa. Tatsuo Sasaki has been in Africa for forty-three years and is now seventy. I just turned sixty-eight.

Yet, this account of my family would be nothing without the great providence True Parents are leading. This year is truly the African year for Unificationism. The head of state in Senegal welcomed True Mother in January. The second Africa Summit will take place in South Africa in November. Forty-three years of in-

vestment in Africa continues bearing fruit in 2018. This African providence must not only encompass True Mother and the great summits; it must also be part of our own lives. During my stay of eight weeks, I mainly worked in Cotonou, Abomey-Calavi, Porto-Novo, Dangbo, Miséré-té, all on the coast, and briefly inside the territory, in Bohicon and in Parakou, the big city in the north.

Why I worked in Benin

I would like to explain with what motives I went to Benin. Once there, I was able to work with Rev. Sasaki, the Cheon Il Guk special envoy to that country. Working with someone who has done more than four decades of mission work in Africa is a great privilege. For our family, Rev. Sasaki is much more than "a special envoy." He is the father of one of my step-daughters. Our destinies and lineages have met, and we have grandchildren in common.

Rev. Sasaki and I have received abundant blessings from God, who gave us good lives, good families and beautiful children and grandchildren. Together, for eight weeks, we wrote a beautiful chapter of our lives as happy and healthy grandfathers, finding joy from being in the mission field. My story is a testimony to the active friendship between two grandfathers and what Victor Hugo called "How to be a Grandfather" (original French title, *L'Art d'être Grand-Père*) in which he wrote, "Old grandpa God gives ear, amazed." Grandparents,

like both of us, must be inspiring for our grandchildren but also for the grandfather of all grandfathers.

Nevertheless, I did not chose Benin only for family ties. After the Dakar summit and the change of status to Heavenly Africa, that Europeans continue to be concerned is important, because we can sometimes open doors if we work on a team.

Benin is a French-speaking country, six hours by air from Paris, where our movement has two thousand members among a population of ten million. Above all, Benin is a democratic country, one of the most stable in sub-Saharan Africa. Its president, Patrice Talon, is a businessman and therefore knows how to manage budgets. His predecessor also came from civil society. Benin is certainly a poor country, without oil, gold or diamonds. Yet, it is a country at peace and one of the most advanced in Africa in terms of its citizen's freedom. An authoritarian government could be favorable toward our movement but suddenly change or be the victim of a coup or a revolution. Working for the providence in a democratic country, where there is security and stability is important for me. In order to restore a nation, democracy is an asset. After two months in Benin, I believe that this nation has good potential for restoration before 2020.

My mission objectives in Benin

Upon arriving in Cotonou, I was available for the needs of providence



Two grandfathers implementing True Mother's strategy of cultivating talented young people for the future. The potential of youth is palpable. The wisdom of the aging is a hidden resource.

and I integrated into an itinerant team of leaders visiting and teaching religious leaders. This team included Emmanuel Allognon, the national leader, Rev. Sasaki, Pascal Degbé and me. The mayors of the communes made connections for us with the religious leaders so that we could give them both interreligious and civic training. Each time, we sent the mayor a letter calling for all the religious men to come to our seminars and they came. I appreciated this cooperation between the political and religious authorities for the common good. The fact that we were able to teach four hundred leaders throughout the country in eight weeks, thanks to our total unity, indicates that God had prepared something.

Our seminars address "being good," the primary goal for a human being. Being good is the basis of all religions and changing one's religion is unnecessary to be good; nevertheless, participants see that we bring new concepts that help the modern human being to be good. We teach the principle of creation, the four realms of heart, the fall and the blessing. Seeing two Africans, a Japanese and a Frenchmen working in total unity as if they were a family certainly touched our guests. They could see that we had different minds but one heart and a common vision.

After our interreligious seminars, they ask for all our presentation materials, which they use to teach

and guide their congregations. They all want to work with us. We reached twenty-seven different Christian groups and many Muslims. The latter were often warm-hearted. That they often have several wives is true. We told them then that we cannot give them the blessing under those circumstances, but they could take part in the work by teaching their children and grandchildren to have only one wife. Their good hearts touched me. Though they could not receive the blessing, they understood its spirit and were supportive.

From the spirit world, one religious leader heard "If you want to grow spiritually, you have to study the Divine Principle." The day before the seminar, he dreamed and saw four people in gym shorts. The next day he recognized those people as the four of us who were giving the lectures. In the evening, he asked God why we had been in gym shorts in his dream. God led him to understand that the four men were his athletes, as St. Ignatius of Antioch said, "As God's athletes, be sober."

Our teachings raise the level of religious leaders concern, as often their own formations remain rudimentary. Many were surprised to see the extent of our knowledge of the Bible, the Quran and other religions. They also see the importance of interreligious dialogue and cooperation among all religious authorities in providing moral direction to their country. Moreover, morality is under

siege in Benin, even in a traditional and rural society. That marital problems, lack of communication between parents and children, and pornography among young people are confusing to them often came up in their remarks. We do not interact with their congregations because in other countries this has caused problems. They have to teach their congregation with our discrete support.

Sowing seeds

Another aspect of my mission was working with students. Rev. Sasaki and the Japanese Cheon Il Guk missionaries are very keen to develop CARP and train future leaders, even if they do not necessarily become members of our church. I was grateful to participate in a seminar with a dozen students in Parakou. Nine hours of traveling by public bus was difficult; once there though, being with open-minded young people was a pleasure. I was able to connect with three students who all attended a seven-day seminar.

I did not sow only spiritual seeds in Benin. With Rev. Sasaki, I started to learn moringa culture—how to plant it and how to prepare it. This tree is nutritious and effective against pollution. It is perfectly adapted to the soil in Benin and the tropical climate. To work in the hot weather is not easy, but it is such a joy to be able to offer moringa plants to the mayors of communes or to the religious leaders. ☞



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