

Stand for Family • Save the Nation and World! INTERRELIGIOUS AND INTERNATIONAL COUPLES BLESSING AND REDEDICATION CEREMONY



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TRUE MOTHER'S SPEAKING TOUR OF AMERICA



This is from an address given at east Garden to clergy planning the September 14th Blessing.

I realized that we must have one philosophy or thought. No religious leaders can do this. Don’t focus on your position with your denomination. Focus on going through the spirit world to get to God. If you don’t know God’s will you may be crying out in the future.

Some of you may have come just to see Rev. Moon to see what he looks like. All countries are afraid of me. Why. Because I have the truth, this is why everybody is scared. You have to break down the denominationalism. You must break down Godism. You must listen to me. Bishop Stallings and Bishop Johnson do you put the black Jesus in your church and the

white Jesus in your church. Are you ready to absolutely die for your faith. America doesn’t know where it should go. Without knowing the spirit world, God testified to Father Moon but people don’t like it. In the spiritual world you must know what to do. The religious leaders have completely united centering on Jesus in the Spirit World. You have to know the truth. You have to understand the truth. Your churches and deacons may resist you but you must overcome by holding on to the truth. Until now, so many points came in which spirit world tested me. You will be tested. The fact is that the spirit world they

THE LAST DAYS ARE

feel desperate and urgent. The world is made up of heresy. You must be humble and honest. You should go down to a more humble level than the Japanese Missionaries. Please don’t try to stand in a certain position to gain members. How many of you are true persons, wherever I go, I try to expose God’s teaching to the ministers. You don’t have the philosophy that is necessary to make the world like God. I have established the ideology to unify the world. I’m this kind of minister and this kind of denomination, don’t be proud and do that. You need to commit yourself and understand God’s word. You have to understand the blessing. You must spread out the blessing. You each need to get 120 couples. You must stand in the Abel position in sight of God. You have to embrace the Cain side. If you kick Cain out they will not perish but they will grow in opposition. You must digest them with True Love. You must love your enemy. From the President to the ministers. There are so many ideologies and so many are against me. They tried to destroy me but I was never defeated. America pushed me down but I only expanded and prospered. Who is the center of the saints? Jesus Christ is the center. Buddhists will say its Buddha. God must be the center. God sent the second advent. The True Parents. Centering on the True Parents then all should become one. For 30 years I have called all the theologians and challenged them. You have to live a certain way. The Japanese missionaries left their families to save America. America is the center of Christianity in the world. You must be more owner than Japanese missionaries. You must keep what I’m telling you now. America made a separation between North and South Korea. Communism is the fruit of Hellenism and America and South Korea are the fruit of Hebraism/ Christianity. I tried to deal with the original point. I went to the Soviet Union and met Gorbachev. I met North Korean leader Kim Il Sung. Our people worked to elect the President in Korea. Our people helped elect Reagan. America stepped into Korea and now America just retreats from Korea ? or should America help Korea. Because America made the division in Korea, how can it retreat and leave it that way? In 1951 Truman fired General MacArthur. That was a big mistake. If he didn’t do that then Korea wouldn’t have been divided. Unification is imperative for all Koreans. Up until now America has a spiritual connection with Korea. Because of that America was able to stand as a superpower. Because America has that kind of relationship with Korea to defeat communism then America must be involved. American religious leaders must go to Korea. America abandoned Viet Nam now America must restore this failure by helping in the reunification of Korea.

America must continue with this effort. Even if the south overthrew the north and made one country the war will not stop unless we solve Communism in China and Russia. This is something that is possible only on a global scale with religious truth. Korea will not be able to liberate itself. It cannot be done without the help of Japan and America. It is within the realm of possibility that I can do this. If Christianity becomes one with Unification then America will be saved. I fulfilled my responsibility toward America. I brought 144,000 ministers into the blessing. If you don’t fulfill your responsibility to unify Christianity then all of Latin America will oppose America, how can we stop it or deal with it. Religious leaders must repent. I have set the clear standard of Blessing to save America. The population of China, India is over 2. 5 billion. Do you know how many are there. America can’t win against them. Along as America opposes China there is a problem. After 10 years, China will be stronger. You must solve the homosexual problem. It’s your turn. It’s your responsibility. If people are opposite me. Do you stand with me? (Clergy Response: Yes !!) While you are focusing on your one church or one denomination I have been focusing on World peace. America and Japan should be responsible for Korea. That’s why I sent the Japanese missionaries to America. You have to pay back 100 times. You must send the missionaries out from America to the world. Everybody knows that you must send missionaries out. If you focus only on Christianity you will perish. I have to think of my own way to go back to my hometown. You must stand to save this nation. Where will be the center of this pledge. The three men, the thief on the right, the thief on the left and Barabbas. Buddhism, Christianity and Islam are being mixed. These religions came to America one by one. This kind of heavenly connection comes when the missionaries come to your church. The three are being mixed. The Japanese missionaries stand in the position of Eve and the ministers stand in the position of the Archangel. They can’t forget the feeling of meeting the missionaries. The ministers are deeply moved by the Japanese missionaries and don’t want them to go. I influenced America through the Washington Times and so many different activities. Do you want Father in America. (YES !! The ministers responded). America went to Korea to make unity but Korea is still its divided. You know the words of Father. Father doesn’t want America to perish. Why are there so many denominations? There is only one Jesus. Do you think if I was a white man that America would oppose me. No. Bishop Johnson You have a big responsibility. Billy Graham opposed me. Rev. Johnson you should go to Billy Graham and help him understand.

C A L E N D A R

SEPTEMBER 2002

- 1 Declaration Day of Heavenly Parentism (1989)
- 6 Young Jin Nim & Hwa Jung Nim’s Blessing (1997)
Hyung Jin Nim & Yun Ah Nim’s Blessing (1997)
Shin Ji Nim’s Birthday (7/30/94)
- 8 Shin Joong Nim’s Birthday (8/2/93)
Sa Sa Jeol Declaration (1998)
99.9 Jeol: Unification and Liberation Ceremony (1999)
- 10 3.10 Jeol (1999)
- 12 Hyung Jin Nim’s Birthday (8/6/79)
- 15 Hye Shin Nim’s Ascension (1971)
- 18 Foundation Day (1976)
- 21 Soon Ju Nim’s Birthday (8/15/72)
Chusok – Korean Thanksgiving (8/15)
- 27 Day of Dispensational Reversal Toward Unification (1988)

OCTOBER 2002

- 1 Ocean Church Founded
- 3 Foundation Day for the Nation of the Unified World (1988)
- 4 Day of Victory of Heaven (1976)
- 5 Proclamation of Total Liberation and Unification between the Physical World and the Spiritual World (1998)
- 11 Father’s father’s Ascension (1954)
- 13 Shin Myung Nim’s Birthday (9/8/86)
- 14 6000 Couples’ Blessing (1982)
- 16 In Sup Nim’s Birthday (9/11/72)
- 21 Shin Eh Nim’s Birthday (9/16/89)
777 Couples’ Blessing (1970)
- 23 Shin Mi Nim’s Birthday (9/18/77)
Shin Ok Nim’s Birthday (9/18/89)
Declaration Ceremony for the Liberation of the Parents of Heaven and Earth and the Substantial Realm (1999)
- 27 Young Jin Nim’s Ascension (1999)
- 29 Shin Pal Nim’s Birthday (9/24/98)
- 30 6500 Couples’ Blessing (1988)

NOVEMBER 2002

- 5 True Children’s Day (10/1/60)
- 8 Shin Sun Nim’s Birthday (10/4/90)
- 9 Hong Soon Ae Dae Mo Nim’s Ascension (1989)
- 10 Shin Hoon Nim’s Birthday (10/6/94)
- 11 Yun Ah Nim’s Birthday (10/7/78)
- 18 Shin Ha Nim’s Birthday (10/14/98)
Shin Chool Nim’s Birthday (10/14/99)
- 22 Jin Whi Nim’s Birthday (10/18/63)
Shin Young Nim’s Birthday (10/18/86)
- 23 Tiempos Del Mundo Established (1996)
- 27 Heung Jin Nim’s Birthday (10/23/66)
- 28 Hye Shin Nim’s Birthday (1963)
- 29 3.6 Million Couples’ & 36 Million Couples’ Blessing (1997)

COMING TO AMERICA

In the CAUSA movement. We made unity of Christian ministers. If we make all the Christian ministers unite then the president of this country could come from them. Who will be the next president. It will be the one who obeys God.

I made exchange marriages between enemies. Jesus shows us how to love enemy. The exchange marriages between Japan and Korea was exchange marriages between enemies.

Once you keep this way you will never perish. All the saints in the SW follow me now. I'm not a false speaker. The SW protects me. Christians should marry Moslems.

The Last Days are coming to Amer-

ica. Be careful. Those that oppose Rev. Moon will perish. Since I came here, I didn't get anything from America. Not for me but to save the world. Until the third generation, you should become one. You cannot hold God's blessing to your lineage. God will condemn those who practice homosexuality. Because God has protected me, I have survived here.

It will take several years for you to understand Rev. Moon's thought. Eventually all the universities in the world will teach my thought. Father laid a strong foundation in the world in the Media. Father is planning a strong internet-based media. It won't take long. We can come up with a funda-

mental resolution for world peace. If you want to come to lead this effort for world peace Father will support you. Your denomination fights you but eventually through your faith and expanding the message through the media they will change.

The Vatican is mistreating one leaders but Father doesn't attack the Vatican but is patient. If he struck the Vatican the Communists would like it and point out the discord between religions. Therefore Father is patient and loving.

The KGB and CIA studied Father and know he is working for the benefit of their people. The CIA knows that Rev. Moon is good for America. Father

has still not used the power of God. He is withholding that power. Even if there is difficulty or trouble in your life, don't worry just march forward. What is wrong, where is the mistake here. Challenge that person, and say who is doing more for God than Rev. Moon.

About Clouds of Witnesses: Don't you think that Father prayed deeply and calculated with great thought about the clouds revelation? Do you think that Jesus and the saints in the spirit world obey me? No. They obey God. Because God ordered them to do it they support me. They obey God. They didn't come together in the SW just because Dr. Lee called them—only because God called them. The 120 saints in the spirit world will help you. They need someone on earth to reciprocate this truth. ❖

Victorious 'Realm of Life' Rally in Four Korean Cities



The rally to bring the Unification and Settlement of Parents of Heaven and Earth within the Realm of Life were held in the 4 major cities in South Korea from August 10 through 13, and ended in victory: Kwang-ju on 8/10, Pusan on 8/11, Tae-jeon on 8/12, and Seoul on 8/13. 90% of those attending were not members but were outside leaders from various fields.

After the event, True Parents conducted a congratulatory ceremony for the victory at Hannam-dong House at 9:00PM on August 13. Father emphasized the importance of educating people about the Spirit World. At the same time, he gave the warning that we must be focused on Father's thoughts and ideas, not our own.

Mother is now continuing the rally to bring the Unification and Settlement of Parents of Heaven and Earth within the Realm of Life in Japan, which is held from August 18 to 29 at 12 major cities in Japan.

On the way, Mother gave

words of encouragement, "Now the spirit world works strongly. If you pray with a clear goal, spirit world will cooperate with you. If you pray mentioning names of people of ability, they will work. In this age, the spirit world is trying to bring big results through the cooperation of spirit world and physical world. There were many spiritual works in Korea too. From small things to big one, please be with Heaven, and you will be able to turn misfortune into blessing."



TRUE MOTHER’S SPEAKING TOUR OF JAPAN

KOBE

On the day of Mother's event in Kobe the weather was glorious. More than 500 VIP's attended. We felt that with each event Mother's speech is becoming more and more powerful and she is more comfortable. All this fascinates the participants who are reading along.

When reading the latter half of the speech, which announces the unification of spirit world, Mother made the historical declaration that Rev. and Mrs. Moon are the Messiah. The audience stirred and then broke into big applause. At the end everyone gave a standing ovation.

The participants looked serious even after the excerpts of the messages from spirit world were read, and there was much discussion. The entertainers in the program and the VIP's who presented Mother with a bouquet, and others representing the audience all greeted her and gave a mansei in a commitment to do greater work. One very influential Buddhist leader attended, even though he had only received an invitation in the mail, with no personal follow-up. There are numerous such testimonies that show this is a great time of Heavenly visitation. Overall the event was full of spiritual blessing.

About 500 members gathered for the victory event. Before and after, Mother showered us with words. In Alaska more than 100 members were gathered. We prepared music and instruments, costumed singers performed, and their songs inspired Father to dance along! At the end Mother sang along with Father in Alaska. ❖



Kobe

TOKYO

The Tokyo event, the final venue of TM's speaking tour this time, was held at the Hotel Okura in Tokyo, August 29, 2002. There were more than 620 VIPs including current Members of Parliament, local council members, professors, and other dignitaries

attended. Mr. Oyamada, the Chairman of IIFWP-Japan gave opening remarks, "Let us invite Rev. and Mrs. Moon as our Messiah, Savior, and True Parents and hold a bigger event [next time]!" Following the opening remarks, Mother was escorted to the stage in a light blue formal suit. Her speech started in solemn atmosphere. When TM declared about the coming of Messiah and the unification of the spirit world, the audience burst into applause.

More than 600 members gathered at the banquet venue where a big celebration cake and a banner were prepared. After TM entered the room, she greeted and reported to TF in

OSAKA

What is noteworthy about the Osaka event was there were many more participants from the South Korean Association in Japan, as well as more women leaders than at other events. About 600 VIPs attended. In his opening remarks the IIFWP Chairman, Mr. Oyamada, introduced Dr. and Mrs. Moon as the True Par-



Takamatsu

ents, and thus Messiah, who have resolved the tangled issues of the ages. The audience welcomed True Mother with a standing ovation.

This time Mother spoke about the declaration including some essence of Principle, besides the messages from the spirit world: Creation, Fall, and Advent of the Messiah. The new Ambassadors of Peace who received an appointment letter directly from True Mother included an executive of the South Korean association, a Shin-to priest, and a president emeritus from a private university.

One of the most touching moments was when the president of the South Korean women's society offered a delicate traditional bow to Mother in Korean traditional dress.

In the entertainment portion of the program one famous designer of traditional Japanese stage costumes gave a warm greeting. She had a dream a week before the event. In her spare time she tames wild birds. In her dream one blue bird flew in with a flock of white sparrows. She had no idea how to interpret the dream, but when she received a ticket for Mother's event she was surprised—the ticket was blue. She was convinced she would have to participate. Twenty-one years ago she had made a special costume, investing more than three years of effort and sincerity, but could not find anyone worthy of having it. When she saw True Mother, she realized the costume was meant for her.

Shortly before Mother joined us for the victory celebration, Father spoke to us. President Oyamada reported the highlights of the event and we celebrated True Parents' victory. From Alaska leaders of CARP in many countries and blessed children performed. From Osaka songs were offered by Korean and Japanese leaders. A choir of local members and missionary sisters sang "Oh, Happy Day," which made True Parents very happy. At the end Father and Mother sang two songs each, and we ended with three cheers of Mansei. ❖



Osaka



Hiroshima

spirit world, and all people on earth in Japan as a Mother nation will unite as one and be an exemplary central nation to the world."

For the entertainment part, first Japanese regional leaders sang, and then 25 Blessed children dedicated a song with narration and a dance to TP entitled, "We are determined to become children who can return joy to TP". TM was very pleased and rewarded with a warm compliment and a gift to each of the children performed. The performance by Japanese leaders, a second-generation couple, Korean wives in Japan, President Y's family, and then, TP's singing concluded the banquet for the tour's victory. ❖



Sendai

INTERRELIGIOUS AND INTERNATIONAL COUPLES BLESSING AND REDEDICATION CEREMONY

by Phillip D. Schanker

On September 14, 2002, an historic Blessing ceremony was held in New York City's Manhattan Center, just a few short miles from "ground zero," where the twin towers of the World Trade Center were decimated barely one year before. Couples from many faiths participated as in recent ceremonies, but this time, in commemoration of the tragedy of September 11th, several Christian-Muslim couples joined together as bride and bridegroom, seeking the Blessing of True Parents. In a poignant and moving statement of hope, these and many other couples determined to reconcile centuries of hatred and war between conflicting religions, by their own commitment to a God-centered marriage.

Beginning from the Holy Wedding of Father and Mother Moon in 1960, the Blessing movement has expanded from 3 couples to 36, 72, 124, and on and on. In 1970, it expanded beyond the land of Korea, as 10 nations participated in the Blessing of 777 couples. But Father and Mother Moon did not come to found a church or denomination. Their essential mission is the restoration of God's ideal of the family, as it was intended to be in the Garden of Eden with our first ancestors as True Parents of humanity. The mission to establish this unchanging foundation of God-centered parents as a substantial reality is an effort that must embrace people of all faiths and traditions, to realize a culture of true love, beginning from the universal ideal of true parental love, as the channel of God's love into human life and society.

By the 1990s the Blessing of marriage became not the rite of any particular faith, but an interfaith affirmation of God's ideal of the family. As religious institutions sent representative couples to participate in the Blessing representing Islam, Judaism, Christianity and other faiths, Father and Mother Moon bequeathed their mission to anoint marriages and sanctify couples to clergy from these traditions. The Blessing movement began to spring up in churches, mosques and temples across America and throughout the world. For many Christians, the experience of rebirth through Jesus and the Holy Spirit was deepened, as the meaning of changing from Satan's false lineage of death to God's original lineage became ever more clear.

Humanity's hope for a new millennium of peace was crushed through the tragic terrorist attack of September 11, 2001. The deep divisions

NEW YORK CITY



GRAEME CARMICHAEL

that remain between religions, races and cultures became undeniable. As governments scramble to find a political or military solution to this crisis, it is increasingly apparent that, as Father Moon has long maintained, we must resolve the religious issues at the root of these problems, and leaders of faith must set the example of love, reconciliation, and living for the sake of

others. It was in this spirit that an interreligious and international Blessing and marriage rededication ceremony was planned for September 14th this year.

Saturday morning, September 14th dawned bright and clear, as clergy couples from representative cities around the country joined leaders from the New York area and their spouses for a morn-

ing symposium entitled, "The Root Causes of 9-11, the Role of Religion, and Proposals for Peace." The overall theme of the commemorative symposium, at Father Moon's request, was "God is the Origin of Peace." Co-convening the interreligious dialogue were Imam Mohammad Ali Elahi, of Detroit's Islamic House of Wisdom, and ACLC Executive Committee Chairman Archbishop George Augustus Stallings. The New Yorker Hotel's Sutton Place Suite filled to overflowing with a colorful array of interfaith participants.

After representative readings from Father Moon's words on marriage, family and world peace, the responsibility of religious leaders and the role of America in creating peace, three distinguished respondents electrified and warmed the entire gathering. Dr. Hycel Taylor, pastor of Chicago's Pilgrim Baptist Church shared an impassioned presentation challenging world leaders to place spirit at the heart of all political and social efforts for peace. He shared his own experience from the civil rights movement, that all else will be fruitless. Imam Omar S. Abu-Namous, imam of New York's host mosque, the Islamic Cultural Center, and a Palestinian, affirmed

Father and Mother Moon's wisdom in building world peace through interreligious marriage. He noted that one third of all the marriages performed at his mosque are interreligious, Muslim-Christian marriages. Dr. Frank Kaufman of the Interreligious Federation for World Peace shared practical and heart-warming examples of the way in which Father Moon's Interreligious work and Blessing movement are transforming hearts and relationships. The ensuing group discussions spilled out into the hallways, as the spirit of one human family

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NYC
from page 5

enveloped everyone. Following inspired testimonies from the leaders of New York’s Afghan, Indonesian and Pakistani communities, a joint Christian and Moslem closing prayer ended the morning.

Following lunch, interfaith leaders walked next door to the Manhattan Center, joining the crowds that streaming into the Grand Ballroom. Drawn by the news that Christians and Moslems would join couples of other faiths, the media was well represented by the New York Daily News, the New York Post, the Associated Press, as well as several TV stations. Additional chairs were set up in all of the aisles to accommodate the burgeoning crowd. Prelude emcee Reverend Levy Daugherty urged Unificationists to give up their seats for the many couples lining the halls and stairways of the Manhattan Center, unable to enter the room. All told, more than 800 couples were Blessed that afternoon, along with beaming friends and family members. It was announced that through internet broad-



cast to simultaneous ceremonies worldwide and video distribution for ceremonies in the coming days, some 22 million couples would share this Blessing ceremony throughout the world.

Among those couples newly married were Sheku Kabbah, younger brother of the President of Sierra Leone and a Muslim, and his Pentecostal Christian bride Aissatou Fofana. They bowed their heads and held each other’s

hands as prayers were offered for the couples by a Jewish Rabbi, a Muslim Imam, a Christian Pastor and a Native American leader. Distinguished New York religious leaders joined the ceremony and encouraged the participants, such as Rev. and Mrs. Preston Washington, of Harlem’s memorial Baptist Church. Bishop Cecil Riley, Pastor of Freedom Hall Church of God and Chairman of the Caribbean Clergy

Association, offered the invocation for the ceremony. Famed civil rights pioneer and Pastor of Canaan Baptist Church in Harlem, Dr. Wyatt Tee Walker, shared a moving exhortation to faithfulness between the couples and the scriptural basis of Godly marriage.

Following the ceremony, the joyful couples gathered for a huge group photo with the True Parents, Father and Mother Moon. A profound statement had been made in front of heaven and earth. Terrorism is rooted in anger and hatred harbored in the wounded hearts of people who are willing to die, to give their lives to harm their enemies. This Blessing was a gathering of people from every race and religion, with love in the hearts, who are ready to give their lives for the sake of others, and give themselves in matrimony to reconcile with former enemies. What better answer could there be to the intractable problem of terrorist hate and violence? As the New York Daily News quoted, it was “...a statement of reconciliation and hope that couldn’t be more appropriate on the week America marked the first anniversary of the September 11th terrorist attacks.” ❖

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These videos are great for introducing members of the clergy to Father & Mother Moon and the Blessing movement. They provide direct testimony of the clergy’s growing relationship with True Parents, and their deepening understanding of the Blessing, the change of blood lineage, and the “greater works” that Christ challenged us to do in His name.

Rev. Phillip Schanker and Mr. Simon Kinney are the core creative team behind these productions, with guidance and support from Dr. Yang, Rev. Jenkins, Rev. Daugherty and the ACLC Clergy. They are currently available in VHS format, soon to be available on DVD as well.



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INTERRELIGIOUS AND INTERNATIONAL COUPLES BLESSING AND REDEDICATION CEREMONY

CHICAGO

For the very first time in Chicago Region's history, the 3rd phase of this year's Blessing was combined with the 7th Annual Jericho Walk Spirit Fest 2002. This Jericho Walk Event has been held annually through the great vision of Bishop Connie Crawford Bansa which aims to tear down the walls of war, racism, ideology, faith and culture.

The Interreligious and International Couples Blessing and Rededication Ceremony and Jericho Walk was simultaneously held at St. Andrew Baptist Church with 500 participants mostly coming from the Nation of Islam, Baptists, Moslem and other Christian denominations. At ten o'clock in the morning, couples, guests and participants of the Jericho Walk gathered to witness the Blessing Ceremony which was officiated by the couples of Bishop and Mrs. Ki Hoon Kim and Dr. and Bishop Emmanuel and Connie Bansa. We were so blessed to have Bishop Samuel Mann, Minister Thomas Muhammad, Rev. Charles Benton and Imam Askia to offer the Prayer of the Religious Leaders. Minister Torrey Barrett and wife also came to greet the couples and strongly testified that couples blessed by the Rev. and Mrs. Sun Myung Moon were 93% successful.

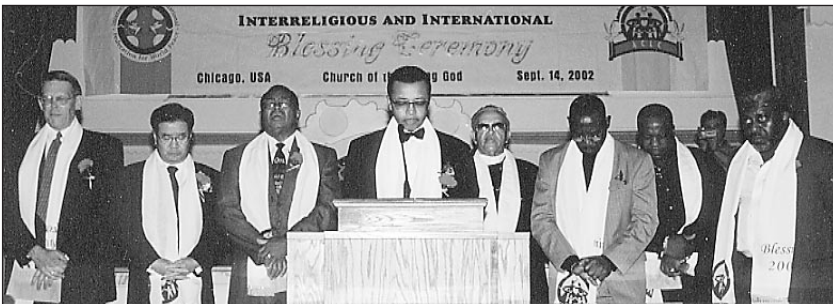
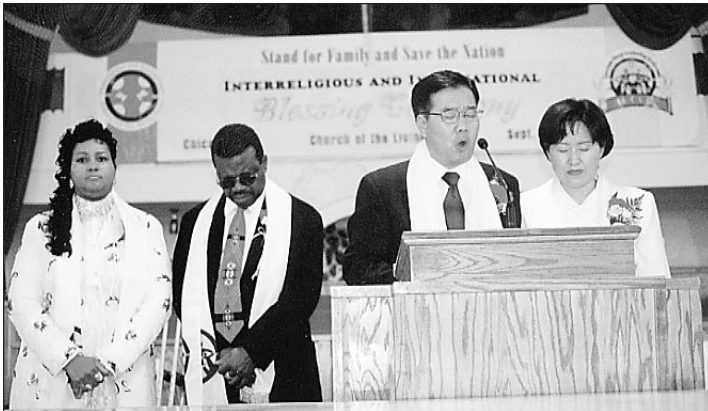
Participants got more and more excited as they listened to the vocal and group musical presentations. Then the solemn Blessing Ceremony was conducted. This was followed by the drawing of the door prizes, the echoing three cheers of mansei and a picture perfect of the newly blessed couples was taken.

Pastor Ricky Neal of Wisconsin received the blessing together with his fiancée. He told us that he really wanted to receive the blessing first before they could have

their wedding ceremony. The whole family of Pastor Morris Lockett from Champaigne, including their grandchildren came and all of them received the blessing. And Bishop William Glispie, guest pastor of the Rwanda missionaries was so inspired when he heard about the blessing during the ACLC meeting. The Bishop's couple now have just received the blessing and next Sunday, he will be conducting a blessing in his church. These are just some of the incredible and amazing work of the spirit world in bringing people to the blessing.

But that wasn't it. Proud, happy and newly blessed couples came out to the streets of Marquette Road and walked hand in hand with the Jericho Walk participants. Drum and trumpet sounds were heard, cheers and songs of praise were offered and prayers were recited as we walked through seven blocks surrounding the Englewood community.

At around 1:00 PM, the Jericho Walk program began and was par-



ticipated by distinguished political and religious leaders and speakers like the Alderman Ted Thomas, Bishop Melvin Crawford, Bishop Danny Hins, Mrs. Kathleen Sometani and the founder herself, Bishop Connie Bansa who also paid an indemnity for the victory of these combined events, that despite of her sprained left leg, she marched with us in crutches without having even a single iota of giving up spirit. According to her testimony, she moved on and marched forward because she would always remember the expectation of True Father from her through Jericho Walk which is a key to peace and unity of this nation and the world.

We sincerely want to thank the leadership of Bishop and Mrs. Ki Hoon Kim, the unity of all tribal messiahs in Chicago and Wisconsin as well as the continuing dedication of the Japanese and other missionaries, which made these combined events full of success. ❖

by BillieAnn Sabo

On September 14, 2002 the Inter-religious and International Youth & Clergy Couples Blessing and Rededication Ceremony was held at "Liu's Chop Suey" restaurant, Honolulu, Hawaii on September 14, 2002. 119 people gathered to there. 56 people-26 couples received blessing, includes 17 newly blessed couples (2 couples were spirit world blessing) and. 43 people came as audience, and 36 members worked hard as staffs.

The Ceremony was held in Hawaii, using the skills to record the ceremony that was going on in New York Manhattan Center through Web Casting. One more blessing ceremony was held at Kona Church, Hawaii Island. It started at 2:30 p.m., 2 newly blessed couples were gathered and 14 staffs worked for the event.

At 10 a.m., the Registration started. In the reception table Holy Shawls were handed out to all participants, which were going to use on the blessing of September 2001. Before the opening of the ceremony, each choirs gathered from churches did rehearsal and the participants was excited by their performance.

The program of 1st stage started at 10:15a.m. Rev. Sadrian Chee from



HAWAII

Ohana, Family of the Living God Ministry acted as master of ceremony. FFWPU Japanese missionary choir sang a song named "Welcome to the Family" as an opening song with the music played by Rev. Sadrian Chee and Sister Clarita from Waipahu Full Gospel

Church, it made participants exciting. Then MC did welcome remarks, and all participants stood up and sang National Anthem "The Star Spangled Banner" together. After that, Rev. George P. F. Chee from Ohana, Family of the Living God Ministry gave invocation with some short message, who is the vice president of ACLC Hawaii Chapter. Next program was video presentation with the VTR of "The Blessing of Peace", and the video explained that it passed 1 year from the terrible event on September 11, 2001, and the Inter-religious and International Marriage Blessing is the way to heal the nation, bring the world to the true world peace not only America, because it overcomes every conflict among the races, religions and nations. After the impressive VTR, Rev.

Hiroshi Matsuzaki, Chairman of the ACLC Hawaii Chapter, showed up and made a speech. He explained that it is how important to complete true love quoting words from the Bible. And giving the historical instance which symbolized September 11th event, he explained that after the first human being failed, we have been having conflicts, but Jesus ask True Parents to accomplish his mission which he could not do, and they are pushing forward with the Blessing to make real world peace which overcome conflicts among races, denominations and nations. Participants listened to his speech attentively making quick response saying "Amen!" to his questions.

And then, Holy Wine Ceremony was held. Firstly, married couples pledged the True Family Commitments and after that singles pledged the Pure Love Pledge, and all participants had Holy Wine Ceremony. Officiators were Rev. and Mrs. Shang Chih Hu,

Rev. and Mrs. James Mitchell, Rev. Hiroshi Matsuzaki, and Rev. and Mrs. George Chee. All participated couples and singles were received Holy Wine in this solemn Ceremony. After this Ceremony, Waipahu Samoan Assembly of God Choir sang celebration songs and it made people so exciting.

see HAWAII on page 8



INTERRELIGIOUS AND INTERNATIONAL COUPLES BLESSING AND REDEDICATION CEREMONY

by BillieAnn Sabo

We began working on the 3rd step blessing the beginning of August. We held a meeting with some of our core ACLC and asked them where they would be most inspired to hold this blessing; at a hotel, in a church, or at Pasadena House, real True Parent's home. Unanimously, they said Pasadena House. So, based upon that, we created all our outreach materials, in English and Spanish, very quickly and began our visitation.

We were focused on all clergy and religious couples who did not attend the April 27th or July 3rd blessings. Our missionaries were very few, most tribal messiahs were back to work at their jobs, and our full time church outreach witnessing team graduated the end of July. And True Mother's 12 city speaking tour was announced with one of the locations being Los Angeles. We were being very challenged, but absolutely we knew we had to give 100% of ourselves to make the blessing as beautiful and victorious as the previous two otherwise how could we offer this to God and how could we use this as a foundation to bring victory for the speech tour. Our Regional Director, Rev. Baek Joong Ku, left for Korea in August, as did the other RD's, so we jumped in with both feet with great determination to fulfill our missions.

In August, we started our Friday One Day Divine Principle Minister Workshops for our core ACLC, so it gave us a chance to meet with them on a regular basis over dinner. Our main topic of conversation was the blessing and how to bring a victory. We also had frequent meetings with all of our community families to keep the spirit high and everyone full of energy.

Pasadena House on Sept. 14th, 2002 was a wonderful, beautiful place to hold the blessing ceremony. Much better than a hotel and also less costly. Our weather in Los Angeles has been hot, hot, hot for the past two weeks and this was to be an outside "garden wedding". But no problem last Saturday, it was hot, but a very nice breeze was blowing. The side yard of Pasadena House was transformed into a beautiful holy wedding place. A stage was built for the occasion all in white with golden sponge marks. White chairs were rented and decorated with pink and white wedding bells and bows. At the entrance of the rows of chairs, was a wonderful wedding arch decorated with white net and pink, white, green & yellow flow-

ers. The balcony where they registered had wedding decorations all down the railing and flower pots bursting with fresh flowers. Everything looked heavenly!

All couples arrived between 8:00am and 9:00am. After they went through registration, the brides were given veils and wedding bouquets and the grooms were given carnation corsages. All couples wore white gloves. Some of the brides wore their original wedding dresses! We had a rainbow of races, denominations and cultures. Mostly they were African-American and Spanish couples, but we also had some Islamic guests as well as two Imams. We start-



ed at 9:30am with the entrance of the 12 concelebrant couples, followed by our 45 blessing couples. Our total attendance, including observers & members, was over 250. The Sadoc Christian Choir performed a very high-spirited rendition of "Marvelous" after that.

We displayed an American flag on the stage since this was the 1st anniversary of Sept 11th and the National Anthem was song. Our first invocation was given by Rev. Leroy Shepard, ACLC Executive Committee member and pastor of Son Shine Bible Church. The second invocation was given by Imam Ghazaly Salim, of the Indo-Chinese Muslim Mosque. Following that was the new Blessing of Peace video tape. This tape was very popular. Guests and members really enjoyed watching this. They found it very inspiring and a great interfaith testimony to True Parents. After the video, Rev. Joe Waller, Co-Convenor ACLC of Los Angeles conducted the holy wine ceremony and benediction prayer. As soon as his prayer was finished, our own Japanese Choir sang Grace of the Holy Garden.

We chose not to connect to the web-cast link to New York, but instead we did a "live" blessing. The blessing address

was given by Rev. Tim Henning, VRD of Los Angeles followed by congratulatory remarks from Rev. James Dillard, Pastor of Christ Full Gospel MBC; Dr. E. Boyd Esters, Pastor of Community MBC; and Imam Tarique Aquil, Director of the Islamic Social Services Foundation in Los Angeles. Each gave very well thought out comments keeping our ceremony time schedule in check. Our entire program was a mixture of Christian & Muslim, a real Interfaith & Reconciliation Blessing Ceremony. Following the speeches, was the Entrance of Attendants and the Officiators, our Regional Director, Rev. & Mrs. Baek Joong Ku. After that was the holy water ceremony, vows, invocation, ring exchange, proclamation, flowers, then the congratulatory song by our Japanese Choir. They sang a beautifully harmonized version of Shining Fatherland sung in Japanese. Rev. & Mrs. Ku led the celebration cheer before the attendants and officiator couples recessed. Our love offering was taken and then all couples gathered together for their group picture.

The final part of the program was led by MC Rev. J.L. Briggs, ACLC clergy and pastor of the Christian Light MBC. We had a wonderful Chinese catered banquet lunch. During the eating time, the Sadoc Christian Choir performed again, as well as our Japanese Choir, followed by a Spanish group.

Some minister's testimonies were given. We held a door prize drawing the prize being a wonderful 3-day 2 nights



all expense paid trip to Hawaii!!! A new Spanish couple won the prize. They had just been met one week before and at the last moment, almost didn't attend. WOW... were they glad they did. They were already totally inspired and uplifted from the blessing (she wore a wedding dress), but

now even more so with winning the trip. We closed in song, prayer & 3 cheers of man-sei.

It was a great blessing event. It was a lot more work than holding this at a hotel because we had to do all the set up and take down, but our guests absolutely fell in love with the "atmosphere" and whole ambiance of True Parents property. Before the program was over, we were able to make a strong announcement for True Mother's speech in Los Angeles and give hand outs. But a really good point of holding it here was the totally unity of our community members, full time members and Japanese missionaries. We not only worked hard together to bring the result, but we also worked hard to give our guests a day they will always remember.

Our ministers are growing and catching fire in Los Angeles. We gratefully offer all result to God and True Parents and give a special thank you to our Regional Director, Rev. Baek Joong Ku who always inspires us to be the best we can be. He helps us to challenge ourselves. Through unity with the central figure, we can have unity with each other which makes for strong determination & hard work. Our motto is strong in Los Angeles: We Can Do — Never Give Up! ❖

HAWAII from page 7

In the 2nd stage program, it was preceded with a VTR that recorded the Ceremony held in New York this morning though Web Casting. Rev. James Mitchell, vice president of ACLC Hawaii Chapter and Pastor of FFWPU Hawaii, acted as master of ceremony in this part. When the entrance of Officiators, big hands were given to True Parents also here in Hawaii, to welcome True Parents. Offi-

ciators in Hawaii, they sprinkled holy water to all participants when True Parents had Holy Water Ceremony. In the time of Affirmation of Vows, participants pledged "Yes!" with strong voice. And they received the invocation of the blessing attentively, even though True Parents prayed in Korean so almost all participants couldn't understand what True Parents saying. After the invocation, all participants gathered to center of the shop and took group photo for the memory. And then, Chinese Lunch served to each table, people enjoyed grate and deli-

cious lunch listening entertainment by Japanese Missionary Choir, Waipahu Samoan Assembly of God Choir, and Sis. Clarita Nuesca. In the entertainment, some participants began dancing in front of everyone because of so much joy they felt. The blessing Ceremony was filled with Holy Spirits and it was finished with wonderful victory.

One of the participants told her reflection to us, that was a first time for her to participated to the event of ACLC, but it was so grateful. She had grate time with her husband. So she would like to

attend another meeting in the future. And one of the choir members from Waipahu Samoan AOG told us they couldn't say anything except one word "yes", when missionaries asked them to sing some songs in this event, because Japanese Missionaries always come to his church even though he doesn't come. Also father of Konishiki (Konishiki is the very famous Sumo prayer, came to this event with his wife's picture. His wife passed away just few months ago. He became very happy to come. ❖

SERVICE FOR PEACE PROJECTS

Australia

Australian CARP held a kick off Service For Peace project, in Olympic Park (Bicentennial Park) where a group of about 20 young people from CARP took part on National Tree planting day, the 28th July, . Altogether 225,000 people took part on 3,000 sites throughout Australia and planted 2 million trees of different species.

This turnout was the best Australia ever seen, four times greater than the 2000 Olympic games, tree planting turnout. Although some came for individualistic reasons e.g. for the BBQ,

CARP Australia set a new standard by going with a attitude to live for the sake of others and to provide service where needed. One example of this was a music band CARP formed on the day to provide entertainment to all the people working, singing uplift-



ing music which combined a Aussie sound with skillful western guitaring and island drums to really make an amazing atmosphere where serving could be a real enjoyment - not a job needed to be done. Since it was

extremely hot all day, everyone was tired at the end of the project so Australian CARP took the chance to do a final song with all CARP members joining in.

Australian CARP made a significant impact for the day, and showed a new standard or vision, for how doing service work can be so enjoyable. This was backed up by the thankyou's and kind gestures that all the staff and participants showed or said to us. We plan to do the next Service For Peace project in the blue mountains. ❖

by Philibert Seka

On June, 22nd 2002, CARP and YFWP members organized a Service for Peace activity in one of the biggest hospitals in Cote d'Ivoire. The hospital was very dirty and nobody wanted to clean it for the risk of contracting disease. When we volunteered to clean up this place,

Ivory Coast

everybody was surprised, including the hospital director!

We worked from the morning till afternoon without taking a rest even for lunch. When they found out in the evening that the place was cleaned, an Army Major responsible for that area

encouraged us and decided to support our activities. The director of the hospital also said that we can come to receive free treatment whenever we fall sick. Hopefully, that won't be any time soon! ❖



by Dorina Pendea and Florin Tsurcanu

On Independence Day (August 27), in Chimishlya city, Moldova, we organized a project with young people from this city who just became of age (18 years old). To be of full age means to be responsible.

Even though the citizens celebrated this anniversary with a vacation, the young people took responsibility to adorn the city.

They painted the trees and sidewalks with lime near the Mihai Eminescu lyceum. Soon the poet's

Moldova

monument will be placed there. The



lyceum's principal was impressed by this bold idea and appreciated the our activities. This project was based on the cooperative spirit existent between the school's administration and city hall.

The volunteers felt inspired because they could do something good for their native city. "Independence Day is a holiday for everyone," said one of the volunteers, Svetlana Gurin "We brought a ray of light to our city today. Cleanliness is most important. If it's clean around us, then

we'll feel pure inside."

The young people appreciated that they could join the Service for Peace project and were very inspired from the talks given by the CARP president of Moldova, Mihai Calestru. They felt a strong push to create harmonious relations with all people and strive for unity, creating a family where peace, purity, trust and love abide.

Another project in cooperation with local NGOs and about 50 soldiers was called "Dniester, on your river bank." Children, young people and adults went out to clean up the river bank, collecting more than 30 cubic meters of garbage through their joint efforts. ❖

by Sally Sayre

This past summer I had the opportunity to briefly meet Joshua Harris, author of *I Kissed Dating Good-bye*. Although I was disappointed with his message at the Creation 2002 worship service I attended, I was inspired to read again his first book which was published in 1997. As I shared my enthusiasm for this book with other Moonie moms this summer I was surprised that many I spoke with were unfamiliar with this work and the wisdom it contains.

If your children are in middle school or older, you need to read this book, and, more importantly, have them read it. As Unificationists we have precious few resources outside our movement that serve to educate our children about the spiritual pitfalls of dating. Josh Harris writes authoritatively and from

I Kissed Dating Good-bye

Smart love unlocks God's best for our lives. When I stopped viewing girls as potential girlfriends and started treating them as sisters in Christ, I discovered the richness of true friendship. When I stopped worrying about who I was going to marry and began to trust God's timing, I uncovered the incredible potential of serving God as a single. And when I stopped flirting with temptation in one-on-one dating relationships and started pursuing righteousness, I uncovered the peace and power that come from purity. I kissed dating good-bye because I found God has something better in store! (I Kissed Dating Good-bye, by Joshua Harris, p.24)

his heart about his own reasons for giving up a *selfish pursuit of short-term romance*. (p.26) Not only does he point out the negatives involved in dating, but he also writes movingly about the rewards of waiting for romance. One young woman he quotes found her longing for love brought her to an intimacy with God in prayer that she had

never experienced before. (p. 147) Although Christians do not understand the real story of the fall of man, Joshua Harris uses a strikingly familiar analogy when he encourages young people to be patient. *Like a fruit picked green or a flower plucked before it blossoms, our attempts to rush God's timing can spoil the beauty of His plan for our lives.* (p.76)

Even if our sons and daughters have pledged Il Shim and wear a ring, and are serious about the promise they've made, they can receive support and encouragement from reading this book. They can learn how

to explain why they don't date. They will also gain insight on the need to guard the purity of others.

As I told Mr. Harris in June, "You have helped inspire a whole generation of youth to remain pure." I thanked him for the way his book spoke to my daughters. It will do the same for your daughters or sons. ❖

Request for Testimonies

by Bill Selig

Do you have a precious testimony about the Church building on Columbia Road in Washington?

A publication will be prepared to commemorate the 25th anniversary on December 4.

Please write down your reflections and send them along with historic photos, congratulatory letters, advertisements and ideas to:

SCWPEACE@STARPOWER.NET.
Deadline for submission is November 1.

Clarification of Terminology Used in ‘Clouds of Witnesses’

This was prepared by the FFWPU in conjunction with Christian scholars, pastors and theologians.

In his letter to the Hebrews, Saint Paul referred to this physical reality as a “copy and shadow” of the heavenly, or spiritual realm. (Heb. 8:5) The Bible makes clear that life does not cease with the death of the flesh. Indeed, most major religions hold the concept that a person’s soul continues on after his or her physical body passes away. Where a person’s soul goes to dwell is determined by the quality and character of his or her life on earth, especially the quality of faith and depth of love.

Up to the present, the realms of heaven and hell have been divided, separated by the same barriers of religion, nationality, race and culture that have divided people on earth. This is because people on the other side continue with the same prejudices and limitations they had on earth. However, in the Last Days, when God establishes His Kingdom, there should be unity in heaven as well as on earth: *“The Lord shall be one and His name be one”* (Zech. 14:9) and *“The kingdoms of this world become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever.”* (Rev. 11:15)

The testimonies that follow describe how leaders of diverse denominations and religions, even atheists, are gathering at conferences in heaven to study the truth of God and commit themselves to supporting the providence of this age. They are humbling themselves before the one true God and Jesus’ work at the Second Coming. Readers can glimpse the unfolding process that is unifying the heavenly realms.

Acts 2:17-21 reveals that in the last days, *“I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh, your sons and your daughters shall prophesy... and I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth.”* This teaches us that the Spirit will move gifted individuals to have visions of the spirit world, showing people on earth the wonders of heaven. At a time when religious conflict seems rampant, this vision of the gathering of heaven’s forces united as one mind under the one God and Creator of heaven and earth comes as a welcome message of hope.

Above all, this is a testimony to the work of Jesus at the Second Coming of Christ. Jesus’ supreme sacrifice at Calvary and the atoning blood of the cross grants us the redemption of sins. His resurrection was victory over death, hell, sin and the grave for all eternity. Of this there is no dispute. Yet few articles of the Christian religion are more divisive than doctrines of the Second Coming.

Many premillennialists believe Christ will return “in the air” to collect the faithful and one thousand years later establish his Kingdom on the earth. Others with a post-millennial view believe Christ will come only after the millennial reign. Still others don’t accept the idea of a millennial Kingdom at all. In matters of eschatology, many Christians of good faith have agreed to disagree.

Is it possible that our generation is the one that is to welcome the Second Coming? When we study the “signs of the times” in Matthew 24, we can recognize their fulfillment, one by one, in our time. Notably, *“And this gospel of the kingdom*

will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come,” is commonly seen as being fulfilled during the 20th century.

Many Christians are comforted by the prediction in Matthew 24:30 that Jesus will return on the clouds. However, at his first advent also there were those who predicted that Christ would come in the “clouds,” based on Daniel chapter 7. Of course, we know that Jesus was born on the earth and did not float down out of the sky. Yet the prophecy in Daniel can be regarded as having been fulfilled in Jesus’ advent if we take “clouds” to be symbolic. Thus, John 3:13 reveals that Jesus “came down from heaven.” Hebrews 12:1 describes a “cloud of witnesses,” the spiritual aggregation of Old Testament saints who hoped for their reward in Christ. Jude 14 likewise reports of Enoch’s prophecy that Jesus would come with *“thousands and thousands of holy saints.”* This

er, Jesus said that John the Baptist “is Elijah who is to come.” (Matt. 11:14) Furthermore, the angel Gabriel had informed Zechariah that his son John was “born in the spirit and power of Elijah.” (Luke 1:17) Therein is revealed the biblical principle of second comings. The mission is entitled with the name of the predecessor. Thus, Elijah’s mission is called “Elijah.” John the Baptist takes up Elijah’s mission and is the “Elijah” who fulfills Malachi 4:5. Adam’s mission was taken up by another “Adam,” “the last Adam.” (1 Cor 15:45)

This testimony of the saints asserts that Jesus has anointed his representative on earth to fulfill the mission of the Second Coming. Consistent with Rev. 2:17 and 19:12, he has a “new name” that had not been revealed in the days of the New Testament. He will manifest greater works as the extension of Jesus’ mission that was laid down in Gethsemane in sorrow and tears.

If these testimonies are true, and Jesus has in fact appointed another person to fulfill the mission of the Second Coming, then how should we view this new person in relation to Jesus? Since Jesus appointed him, surely they are not rivals! Nevertheless, it is likely that many Christians will regard him as an Antichrist. It is worth considering whether such a judgment is from God or from man. It is a human failing for churches to be rivals. However, the saints in heaven testify that Jesus and Christ at the Second Coming are one.

In John 9:28-29, some Jews berated a man born blind who was testifying to Jesus. *“Then they hurled insults at him and said, ‘You are this fellow’s disciple! We are disciples of Moses! We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don’t even know where he comes from.’”* Regarding Jesus and Moses from a human point of view, they regarded them as rivals.

Yet on the Mount of Transfiguration, Jesus is seen conferring with Moses and Elijah. *“Two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus. They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem.”* (Luke 9:30-32)

Moses brought the Law, to which the Jews were so devoted that it became a stumbling block to receiving Jesus. Jesus brought a higher truth – the Gospel. Hence, many Jews could not believe in Jesus. Nevertheless, Moses certainly recognized Jesus as the Messiah, even if ordinary Jews did not. Moses and Jesus were of one mind and heart when Jesus set off to Jerusalem to consummate his Passion. In truth, Jesus’ victory over death through the cross and resurrection was also Moses’ victory.

Likewise, this testimony of the saints asserts that there is no gap between Jesus and the man he has appointed to the mission of the Second Coming. They work together, Jesus in heaven and the person of the Second Coming on earth, to fulfill the will of God to “restore everything.” (Acts 3:21) They are of one heart and mind to do the Father’s will. Their

struggle is a common struggle; their suffering is a common suffering; their victory is a common victory.

Fulfill the mission

If another person is fulfilling the mission of the Second Coming of Christ, what shall we call him? Messiah? Savior? King of Kings? These are some of his biblical titles, and the saints in heaven, being faithful Christians, proclaim him thus. Could they do otherwise?

When Jesus was accused of making himself God in John 10:33-35, he answered by quoting Psalm 82: *“I said, You are gods, and all of you are children of the Most High,”* comparing his divinity to that which all are meant to inherit. Thus the anointing or terms Messiah, Savior and King used here in reference to Reverend Moon does not mean that the revelations claim that Rev. Moon is Jesus or God. Jesus’ role as Savior and Messiah will never change.

What it does indicate is that Jesus anointed Rev. and Mrs. Moon as the True Parents of humanity to complete the work of restoration at the Second Advent by establishing true families as God’s dwelling places. As Jesus predicted: *“He who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do”* (John 14:12). The narrative testifies to the value and position of Jesus, while at the same time highlighting the crucial role played by those alive on Earth in completing God’s providence to restore all things (Matt. 17:11).

This applies particularly to the person commissioned by Jesus to fulfill the mission of the Second Coming of Christ. When the saints call him by the titles Messiah, Savior and King of kings, they are not thereby asserting that he supplants Jesus. The mission of the Second Coming is an entirely new dispensation.

Take, for example, the term “Savior.” Jesus is and ever remains the Savior, who died on the cross to redeem our sins. However, 1 Peter 1:5 states that Christians are *“shielded with faith, until the coming of the salvation that is to be revealed in the last days.”* The “salvation that is to be revealed in the last days” is not the salvation that Jesus brought through the cross; that salvation was already revealed. It is a further salvation that is to occur at the Second Coming. Hebrews 9:28: *“He will come a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.”* Therefore, Christ at the Second Coming can be termed a “Savior” in his own right, on account of what he is to accomplish at the Second Advent. This does not take anything away from Jesus’ primary role as the Savior, for what he accomplished through his death and resurrection.

The testimony also applies the title “King of Kings” to the person of the Second Coming of Christ. In doing so, it consistent with Rev. 19:16, where “King of Kings” is a title of Christ at the Second Coming. The saints are not thereby asserting that this person is God, even though in 1 Tim 6:15 the title “King of kings” is used of God. Jesus is the King of kings in heaven, who sits at the right hand of God (Heb. 1:3, Matt. 22:44), as he does in this testimony. But God also views His earthly representative at the Second Coming as the King of kings on earth.

see **CLARIFICATION** on page 11



was the spiritual “cloud” upon which Jesus came. The same circumstance will occur at the Second Coming: *“The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean.”* (Rev. 19:14) Indeed, their testimony is contained in the following pages.

This is their testimony: that Christ at the Second Coming is born on earth, just as Jesus was at the first coming. He is born on earth, that he might fulfill the hope of the Lord’s Prayer, *“Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth.”*

These testimonies affirm that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, Messiah, and the Savior of humankind. Through his death on the cross he atoned for our sins, and his resurrection delivers us from death and brings us into the power of new life. He sits at the right hand of God and leads all the saints in Heaven. However, if Jesus at the Second Coming works through his anointed born on earth, how will it occur? Let’s examine the pattern displayed in other documented “second comings.”

Malachi 4:5 said that Elijah would come again. Thus, the chosen people were anticipating the return of the actual figure of Elijah, the prophet of old. Howev-

‘Clouds of Witnesses’ in Chicago

by Rev. Michael Jenkins

We must be bold and strong. The Clouds testimony is causing the ministers to leap forward on faith. At a meeting in Chicago, 300 (mostly clergy) gathered for the regular monthly meeting. Due to the request of some pastors, a number of ministers who were upset about the ad asked to be included on the program.

We did and they asked all the difficult questions. It was definitely challenging but because of the years of foundation that we have with the key clergy it went well. Our Chicago Co-Convener Dr. Harold White was magnificent. He said, “Nothing has changed. Jesus is in this movement. We are blessing families and churches are now focusing on marriage and family because of Father Moon. I have become stronger after the ad.”

Also, many questions were asked and some believed that the article stated that Father was God. The experience was just like the time of Jesus where many were accusing Jesus because he stated he was the Son of God. They tried to stone him for it.

Father will never be stoned again. Why, because the second Israel is standing up for Father and the truth of the Clouds of Witnesses. Bishop Dan Johnson, Dr. Connie Bansa, Rev. Jesse Edwards, Rev. C. Phillip Johnson (Wash. D.C. chair) all testified that the time of the Second Coming is at hand. Many of the above testified that they believe that Father is the one chosen to fulfill the second coming.

Miracles are happening. We just have to have absolute faith. The introduction that our special committee has done was the foundation upon which the above clergy could accept and now proclaim the clouds as true. Once they understood from a deeper Biblical perspective as to how Jesus is returning through Rev. Moon like Elijah did, then the ministers can change.

Rev. Edwards gave a powerful testi-

mony. Moses was a Messiah, Jesus is my Lord and paid for our sin at Calvary. Now I’m glad Rev. Moon was chosen. I’m glad we have a Messiah for this age. He is the one to lead us to the promised land.

Don’t be afraid and don’t miss the train. You know you should be on it, that’s why so many are here. Don’t miss the train—get on board.

Rev. A.I. Dunlap who fought the Tribune in 1987 and will die for Father said,

timonies have caused Christian leaders throughout America, many who we do not see, to pray now and question, could he be the one?

Now is the time to strongly distribute the Clouds. That is your proclamation. Have no fear. Father did not say to go out and proclaim he is the Messiah. He directed us to make sure every leader in America and the World gets the testimonies of the Saints. That’s your proclamation. Put

witnessed before. Now is the time for the outpouring of the spirit for September 14th. Push hard to bring the couples to the blessing. They will come. Always ask the ministers to bring 12 other clergy. It is correct and according to Father’s direction. He told the clergy who were blessed to bless 12 other clergy. September 14th is their chance. Push hard America. Bring America to the blessing.

Rev. Edwards received so much persecution. But he is not afraid. Just after the clouds ad two members came in and each at separate times brought him the ad. They said do you believe this. He said I’m praying about it. They said, “Fine, we’re leaving and the two families left his church.” He felt difficult about it but he knew that God commanded him to stay with ACLC. He will not give it up. Then his brother in law came in last week. His brother in law is a pastor and is the one that persecuted him the most. He is the one that got the tribunal going with Rev. Edward’s denomination and made so much trouble.

The week before last he came in to Rev. Edwards and said, “I see how much you have grown in your faith in Jesus. I feel that Jesus is with you stronger than ever. I want to combine my Christian school with yours.” Rev. Edwards was shocked. He couldn’t believe that this was the same one that called him a betrayer of Jesus. Rev. Edwards sees clearly that this change came after the Clouds ad.

Then, recently, two members called up and said that they wanted to attend the next marriage blessing that they have been hearing about. The amazing thing is that they weren’t even invited. They just felt led by the spirit to sign up. These two families believe that Rev. Edwards is on the path of the Lord.

This is why you must be strong brothers and sisters. The dam is about to break if the Blessed Central Families distribute and educate with the clouds and the intro piece. ❖

ACLC Pastor’s Prayer Breakfast Chicago 9/17/02



“Father Moon is the only one bringing the races together. He’s the only one bringing the family together. Those who are against God want to stop him.”

After the meeting many clergy were called. It is an amazing story. They, for the most part, even the very negative clergy said they want to still work with ACLC. They are praying about the clouds. The real thing happening from the spirit world and the support of Jesus is that the tes-

timonies out there. Be sure to do it with the special introduction. Father said recently to Dr. Yang that we must educate the clergy or they won’t understand. I’ve read the intro and discussed it paragraph by paragraph will all the key ACLC Executive Committee members, each one of them have completely changed when they were thus educated.

Be Bold and strong. The testimonies cause a transformation that I’ve never

CLARIFICATION from page 10

Scripture amply attests that Christ at the Second Coming will rule over the nations (Ps. 2, Isa. 2:3, Rev. 11:15, 19:15). This testimony reveals the beginnings of Christ’s universal rule when, for the first time, the leaders of the world’s religions acknowledge his chosen role. It reveals the opening of a providence that will conclude with the happy realization of Christ’s millennial reign over all the earth.

The mission of the Second Coming is the most glorious mission, and that glory should redound on his person. Nevertheless, while he is walking the earth, his glory is hidden, just as Jesus’ glory was invisible to the people of his day. When a blind man praised Jesus as the Son of David, the Pharisees who heard it immediately declared that he was possessed by demons. (Matt. 12:23-24) Isn’t it predictable that this spiritual proclamation of the Second Coming of Christ would be greeted by cries of “pretender” and “false Christ”?

The coming of Jesus on earth 2000 years ago did not harmonize with Jewish doctrinal expectations. No one came to Jesus as a natural conclusion of any doc-

trine. Those who recognized Jesus did so by the workings of the Spirit. *Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven.* (Matt. 16:16-17) Knowing how difficult it was for the people of Jesus’ day to recognize him, we encourage the reader to consider this message of the Second Coming with deep prayer and an open mind.

These spiritual testimonies were conveyed through two chosen individuals, one working in heaven and the other reporting to people on the earth. Dr. Sung Han Lee, who passed into the spirit world in 1997, is best known for his critique and counterproposal to Marxism-Leninism that was widely disseminated around the world during the Cold War era. A tireless teacher of God’s truth, Dr. Lee educated countless atheists and believers of various religions. Young Soon Kim is graced with the gifts of spiritual hearing and spiritual sight. While in the Spirit she is able to record Dr. Lee’s narrative for earthly people to read.

The book of Hebrews describes the Old Testament saints as a “cloud of witness-

es” in heaven, surrounding and urging on Christians as they run their race, on the principle that those heavenly saints “should not be made perfect apart from us” on the earth (Heb. 11:39-12:1). In the same way the saints are calling out to us today,

describing to us the current situation from the vantage point of heaven. They are urging us to do our part, so that together we might see the dawning of the Kingdom of God, in heaven and on the earth. ❖



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by Edy Iversen

On March 3rd I celebrated the one-year anniversary of the death of my beloved husband Tom. There is not a day or a minute that goes by that I do not think of him or am reminded of his tender loving character. More than anything else the death of someone you love teaches you about the incredible value of your own life.

You can no longer take for granted even one moment. Small insignificant things make you weep uncontrollably. The littlest kindness can render you inconsolable for hours. You can never watch the news again with the same eyes. War tears your heart out. Even disciplining your children becomes almost impossible. You want to give them everything just to take the pain away from their heart.

In spite of the agony and loneliness of death, life goes on and so must you. It is actually a time of tremendous opportunity for many people if only they can realize it and can go beyond their sadness. It is a second chance in life and time for a new beginning.

In the past because of marriage and children, we are many times forced to sacrifice our own personal God given gifts to raise our children, to pay the bills and to take care of the ones we love. But death is a tremendous opportunity to re-create that someone we somehow neglected for a long time and that is ourselves.

When my husband died I was so overwhelmed with grief I could barely function. He was my whole world. Every thing I looked at reminded me of him. It was unbearable. I got down on my knees and asked God, what next? How can I pick myself up from this misery and go forward? And I heard a voice that said, “ Go to Washington D.C.

Though I had worked in DC several times over the past 17 years it was usually just for a special event and only for a couple of days at a time. But to move my whole life, future and son to an unknown place especially a huge city full of traffic, seemed impossible to me. I had spent the last seventeen years in two small towns in South Dakota and Florida where my worst fear was hitting a deer or a senior citizen crossing the road. Yet, I knew it was fate. So to the disbelief of family and friends,

I followed my intuition and off I went with my fourteen-year-old son and began a new chapter of my life.

I realized when I got here that God had prepared everything for me already. I found a very nice home in Maryland that I could share with a woman whose husband was working overseas temporarily. Her daughter also was the leader of our church youth group. Within weeks our home became “teenage central” to the joy and delight of my son. He was adopted into a household of friends almost overnight. We also found a great school with a baseball coach who took a special liking to my son. He helped in so many ways to encourage him to go on with his life after losing his best buddy, his father. I found a job in Public Relations in the non-profit sector. This included working at the Capitol and organizing major conferences for leaders in the DC area.

Less than two weeks after my arrival the Pentagon was almost destroyed and the Twin Towers were decimated. I was terrified. Who wasn’t? But more than fear for my own life, I was scared for the life of my country and important leaders that were sacrificing their own lives every day to maintain the freedoms we cherish here. I knew I had to do something to protect our nation?

In the chill of winter, I went do to the Capitol every day with my handy legislative directory and prayed at the steps of the halls of Congress. I read the biographies of our legislators and leaders. As I prayed over each picture my teardrops kissed their faces.

The past had provided me with the incredible opportunity to work with so many conscientious Congressman and woman over the years. The thought of anything happening to the leaders of this country and our historic Capitol was unfathomable to me. In spite of the media hype, I had oftentimes seen firsthand the selflessness of our elected officials, their overburdened schedules, the public sacrifices of their families and personal lives to insure the

Starting Over

in the midst of organizing a prayer luncheon for the current global situation with over 150 religious leaders of all faiths praying together for the sake of the world. I felt my husband looking down and smiling from Heaven when I was working on this event and I knew his spirit was with me. It was a profound experience.

All this happened after thinking my life was over when my husband died? What possibly could be worth living for after someone you love is gone? I guess the powers that be knew something I didn’t. I realized that in spite of my own tragedy, there was a suffering greater than mine and that somehow through trying to alleviate the misery of God, my heart could be healed in the process.

Sometimes suffering can be a great friend and teacher if you don’t let it embitter you. It can be the catalyst to bring you to a higher and deeper place and to realize who you really are and what you are made of. In the process, I have developed a new level of gratitude, hope and patience. And I look on my “so called” life as a new beginning to be able to contribute in a way I never could before.

Recently I saw a little boy in a wheelchair with a crippling disease who wrote beautiful poetry. Even in the midst of pain he could still give and comfort others. I have learned by giving to others, the pain grows less and less each day. I am a peace now with my loss, because through it I have gained much more than I ever realized. A year ago I could never imagine I would smile again, laugh or think of anyone else but myself. But little by little I am finding my way. If you too are walking this lonely road, I reach out my hand and heart to you. One day the pain will lessen and the sun’s warmth will reach you again. It is true that “when God closes the door he opens the window”. And I thank him for that.

Luckily I have also had the help of a personal coach and counselor to help overcome the grief. This has been very beneficial for me and I highly suggest reaching out for this kind of help. Going beyond the death of someone you love is not easy, but standing still and settling for desperate loneliness or misery will never allow you or the person whom you lost to be happy. For the sake of the person you loved, go forward, find joy and take their spirit with you on the path, as it is only a matter of time when you will meet once again.

Edy Iversen, is 48 years and worked as a Public Affairs director in Washington DC. She was married to her husband Tom for almost 20 years and they have one 15 year old son. She is also a freelance writer. You can reach her at Iversen2@aol.com ♦



preservation of the “land of the free and home of the brave”. In one fell swoop of terror everything could be lost.

On New Year’s Day, I went to the White House, stood behind it’s iron gates and besieged God for the protection of our President, his family and our nation. I heard somewhere that God cannot deny the tears of a mother’s heart. I thought of President Washington praying in the snow for the sake of America, having only an army of beaten and defeated men. So much blood, sweat and tears had been shed for this country. I felt so helpless as did most Americans. This was all I could think to do to personally stop this reign of terror.

Within four months of my relocation, I helped to coordinate three major historic conferences. The first was an Interreligious and International Conference that brought over 450 world leaders together from different nations and different religions for the sake of Global Peace. The highlight of the conference was a beautiful bridge ceremony between warring countries and leaders. To see a very important Israeli Rabbi and a Muslim Imam embrace with tears gave hope to even the most cynical of the group and provided a vision that peace can be a reality in our lifetime.

Next I worked on a series of International Leadership Conferences that were conducted in almost every state in America. These brought together leaders to work for the sake of peace. At the conferences we appointed 120 Ambassadors for Peace to work on the social and moral problems of each individual state.

And finally I found myself

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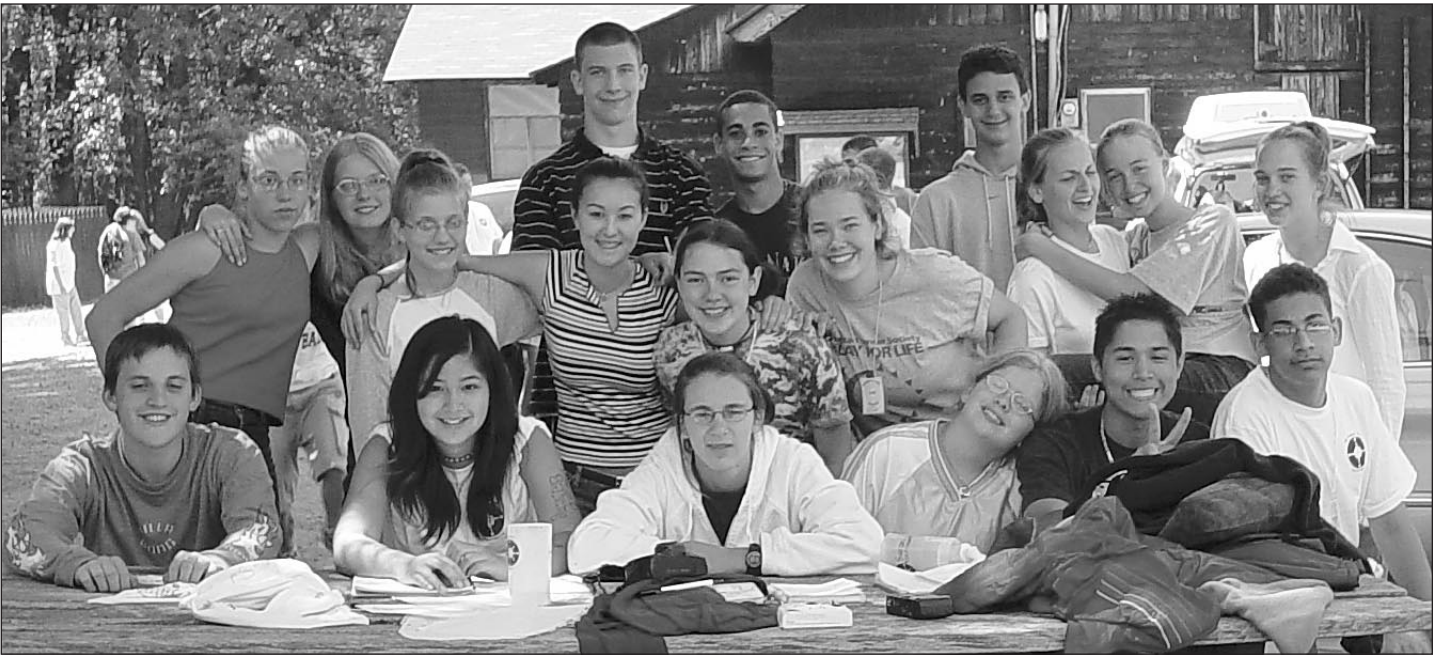
by Sally Sayre

The number “eight” means “new beginning.” In the eighth month of 2002, we finished our eighth year of Pennsylvania family camps. As usual, this year came with new challenges and new blessings. Rob Sayre has been the on-site director of camp for the past several years (since inheriting the mission after Sally’s start-up efforts). This year we made plans for there to be different directors for each week of camp in order

to share both the burdens and the blessings. Three extraordinary dads, all with full-time jobs, came forward to take on this responsibility. The three directors were Geoffrey Hinkle, Bruce Bonini, and Robert Pickell. All three camps were great successes, and all three directors contributed uniquely to the joyful experiences of family camp. French Creek State Park was also a new venue to us, and we have never had a camp so early in the summer before. Getting equipment and people in place for a June camp was a real challenge.

Utilizing this new location so near to Philadelphia and closer to D.C. was one of the ways we were blessed. New blessings also came to us through the wonderful people who came to camp this year for the first time. Among them were some real “stars” from the cast of characters in our movement. We had Dan Fefferman singing and leading his own songs at French Creek. Gerry Servito taught Unification Thought the 2nd week at Shehaqua to rave reviews from the 2nd generation who heard UT for the first time. Howard Self shared his

knowledge of the Principle with our Suns (5th and 6th graders) and their teachers. We also were blessed with having a 2nd generation blessed couple at camp for the first time. Naokimi and Shukuko Ushiroda were a special blessing to our older teens who are looking forward to experiences on STF, CARP, or the matching itself. I personally was thrilled to meet *all* the new families who came together to share their talents and energies. We are part of a truly awesome extended family and I renew my faith in True Parents every year through meeting such remarkable brothers and sisters. I also love growing closer to those we see year after year and watching their families grow. Another new effort this year was welcoming and teaching guests on special *Bring a Friend to Camp* days. Our local PA families had the opportunity at Shehaqua to invite a friend to camp for a day (or two) to share in the fun and to learn about our beliefs. We hosted five guests (including 2 young children). One guest was a grandmother, another a mom, and another a high school friend of my daughter—three generations of women! All enjoyed their taste of camp and Abby’s friend wants to come for the whole week next year. Another new addition to the program at Shehaqua was a *Family Challenge* in place of our usual square dance night. This was a series of games and races that families competed in as a family. It was a real hit and provided entertainment for those on the sidelines as well as the participants! ♦



by Rob Sayre

People who attend the Family Camp for the first time or even the first few years always remark how “amazing” it is that so many people can come together and create such a diverse, rich and almost addictive experience. They also are amazed that we have 400 yards of heavy duty extension cords, lighting to light outdoor events and five lecture halls, a truck that hauls in over a ton of equipment that includes everything from cooking utensils, to soccer goals, to toilet cleaning brushes. People assume that there is some master checklist of what you need to pull this kind of thing off and a master time table for how to go about this. Alas, this is not really the case. Not that we don’t have pretty detailed lists and our schedule and processes are pretty much the same every year. To “really understand” the magic and complexity of this, I thought I’d highlight a few things, behind the scenes glimpses that helped form the experience that around 600 people had this summer..

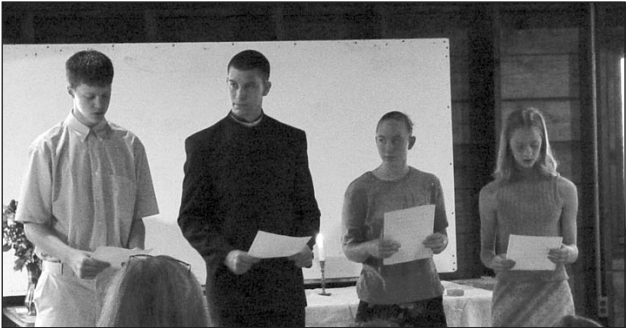
In October, 2001, we held a Strategic Retreat at a wonderful retreat center operated by the Mennonite Church in Pennsylvania. We had around 40 people attend, including kids. At this session, we assessed how we did in the summer of 2001 and made a variety of commitments for the coming year. We held another meeting in Philadelphia in Jan. of 2002, where we discussed policies and very specific roles. During the spring

of this year a small group of people met for lunch 5-6 times to discuss and plan the season’s activities. Behind the scenes, a large number of people did things that all come together for a few weeks each summer. Here are a few highlights, which will give everyone a sample of the kinds of things that happen which make all this occur. This is also my way of recognizing people who have contributed in ways large and small. This is not a complete list and any omissions or errors are mine alone. Carlos Delgado and Bruce Bonini single-handedly re-built the front end of our Camp truck, finding used parts and doing the labor themselves. This probably saved us \$1,500. In February, we decided to put up a web-site and not just any site, but one where people could download ALL the forms necessary and find ALL the information they need to register for many events. And not just that, we built a back-



end database which helped the Camp Directors and others to assimilate the huge flow of data that comes from each person and family. Robert Pickell and Peter Brown did heroic work and probably saved us \$10,000, we

...and Behind the Scenes



Unification Thought to our teens for the first time with grace, clarity and such heart. Linda Haft brought her Free Teens lectures to our teens for the first time and their response was overwhelmingly positive. Noah Ross continues teaching an entire new generation and people like Jeannie Carroll, Heddy Ching, Milon Townsend, Elke Noll, and Sally Sayre all teach our youngest age groups. Alan Feldsott who also taught for 10 years at Camp K, taught a teen group this year. New teachers this year included, Alan Rohganian, Amy Shuckers-Cuhel and Gregg Noll. For those who attended French Creek, they had the blessing of having Dan Fefferman lead songs and the square-dance. Why does this happen? A shared vision and commitment to build a spiritual event and community that nourishes our families and children. Another is our commitment to create job responsibilities that allow every person to participate and contribute. Finally, we honestly evaluate what works and what does not. We have a culture of improvement and a commitment to learning. Last of all, we do it for our own kids. ♦

never had anyway. By May 1, our site was up and running. Also, Bruce Bonini, put in countless hours integrating the data and forms into attractive pages. Like our newsletter? Rod Cameron and Bruce Bonini pulled this off. Guess who directed the Camps this year? Not me, but Geoffrey Hinkle, Robert Pickell and Bruce Bonini. These guys could not have been successful if not for the able help of Jim Stevens and Chris Ching. These guys prepared the registration packets and all the other stuff that form the basic organizational information that every person needs. Each of these people put in at least 300 hours of work before the first day of Camp. The food at Camp is always good. Wonder why? Food is a priority, it is our number one expense and people like Hiromi Stevens and Kim Berry make very detailed menus and plans for each meal at Camp. We also have 4-6 people per meal assigned to help with the cooking and cleanup for each and every meal. Thanks to all. Our teachers are some of the very best in the world, no kidding. They prepare for their responsibilities, and our kids and anyone else within their realm of heart and teaching is filled, enhanced and embraced. Gerry Servito introduced



RYS 13th Friendship Americas Project

by Carol Pobanz

The question, "What is True Service?" was a prayer topic for me as I prepared for the Religious Youth Service 2002 in Central America. This Thirteenth Friendship Americas Project took place from July 9th to August 1st. It was the first tri-national project RYS has ever held and it included Guatemala,

projects, cultural visits, speakers and through our common worship services, we came to understand one another's values and the diversity of their expression.

Each of the three countries reflected some unique aspect of beauty, sharing as well unique expressions of Central American hospitality and presenting unique challenges.

The following are reflection submit-



El Salvador and Honduras. In my newly appointed responsibility of Project Director, under the tutelage of veteran RYS directors and educators I embarked on the journey to discover for myself the answers to questions about "creating world peace through loving service", the theme of our project.

Beginning in Guatemala City, our staff, together with 42 participants, joined for a two-day orientation. The orientation and education program is designed to equip participants with the skills necessary to communicate with one another, to appreciate and work through our differences. The education program included exercises to develop better listening skills, the ability to recognize personal leadership styles, as well as how to work with individuals having styles different from our own. We also spent time brainstorming, sharing ideas, creating our vision for peace, articulating our vision statements and drawing out the vision on posters.

The next two and a half weeks provided us the opportunity to test our abilities and the validity of our ideas regarding service and peace. We learned from the Central American participants as well as from the people we served. Through our conversations, service



ted by Ana Cobiella-Olson, co-educational director:

Guatemala

We begin in Guatemala where the group was hosted by Rev. and Mrs. Gerhard Bessell at an IIFWP conference attended by various speakers, such as Cynthia Castillo, Ambassador for Peace, recently appointed by the Guatemalan government to the position of Minister of Peace. Welcoming remarks were offered by former President, H.E. Lic. Vinicio Cerezo and other notable RYS and IIFWP organizers.

Our first work project involved clearing a parcel of land owned by the Catholic retreat, our host for several years now, for the building of a community center. The parish and local community joined RYS in this enthusiastic endeavor and it helped set

the tone for the work ahead. Through this parish and its leader, Father Felix, we participated in an uplifting ecumenical mass. The privilege of addressing a congregation of approximately 500 local parishioners was a wonderful experience. The sharing of major religious heritages— Christian, Buddhist, Unificationist— remained a highlight throughout the project as we recognized that one needs to be open to other beliefs and traditions, not only because it is the Godly thing to do, but because it is key to our survival.

Prior to our departing Guatemala City, we were once more the guests of Guatemala's National Congress. The reception included a detailed tour of this auspicious government office, and incredible lunch, and the opportunity to enter into an open forum with top officials. All of us felt that this country truly appreciates the mission of RYS and strongly supports a continued relationship. On this affirmative note we embarked on a breathtaking ride through some of the most picturesque areas of Guatemala— Antigua, Panajachel, and into Santiago Atitlan, our next work site.

Santiago Atitlan, one of 12 indigenous Mayan communities, is nestled between volcanic, mountainous regions and the spectacular lake, "Lago de Atitlan". In addition to making improvements on two schools, the group completed a reforestation project, performed structural and aesthetic work on other schools as well as assisted in the building of a basketball court for the children of the community who are greatly in need of healthy recreational outlets.

Our work was complemented by the strong support from the local community and the Mayor of Santiago Atitlan who once more praised the positive impact RYS was having on his city and showed his gratitude by hosting a lovely and entertaining dinner incorporating many of the young children

see **AMERICAS** on

by Rev. John W. Gehring

In the island nation of Haiti in January, 1996 the RYS began to sponsor Island Friendship Projects in part to pull people of various faiths and cultures together for constructive service and build closer relationships between people in the island countries. In the following year, 1997, RYS worked in the Dominican Republic to promote better relationships on the island between the Haitian and Dominican population of the island of Hispaniola. Since those pioneer projects, the RYS has expanded its Island Friendship work from the Caribbean to the South Pacific. To date, two Island Friendship Projects have been held in Indonesia and with the support of the Ambassadors for Peace; projects have been held in Australia, Tonga, Samoa and New Zealand.

In 2001, Trinidad and Tobago, a nation rich in pluralism and cultural diversity was selected as the central nation to promote Island Friendship projects in the Caribbean. In August of 2001 in Trinidad and Tobago the RYS with the Ambassadors for Peace cooperated on the 4th Island Friendship project. The program brought together a multi-faith team of seventy volunteers from ten nations who enthusiastically provided work service to communities in need while sharing their cultural and religious heritage. The experiences of the participants provided a great opportunity for learning about life through the shoes of another.

News of the projects success spread to other Ambassadors for Peace in the IIFWP worldwide network. Since that initial effort, numerous RYS and IRFF projects have garnered support from the worldwide network of Ambassadors for Peace in such varied hosting nations as Kenya, Australia, New Zealand, Samoa, Tonga, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Albania, Zambia, Thailand and Malaysia.

Building on the success of the initial project and additional seminars and programs sponsored by the IIFWP, the 2002 RYS project in Trinidad and Tobago was created to deepen the connections created from previous efforts and work to provide a clear model of interfaith and cross-cultural cooperation.

The RYS Project:

On August 5-17, an excited and enthusiastic team of fifty RYS participants and staff from seven nations joined together under the theme of “Building a Foundation of Peace Through Loving Service,” to provide a substantial model of cross-cultural, interfaith cooperation and public service.

The central work task for the RYS project was done in conjunction with an effort by the Rose Foundation of Trinidad and

Tobago to establish a Center for National Character Education. The center rests on 14 acres of verdant rural land in Maracas Valley that was once the Cadbury (chocolate) Estate. We all enjoyed the relaxed natural environment with its tropical trees, colorful flowers and vistas of clouds hugging the local mountains.

Participants worked energetically, restoring and painting parts of the main house and a second building, which are to be used as training facilities. Other work required around the large estate included improving the road as trucks were often sliding into the mud as they weaved their way to the main house as a result of the heavy rains. An additional task required a special team to support an environmental project set up by the Ministry of Forestry. This team marked and recorded the trees and vegetation of the area while having the ecological systems natural checks and balances explained to them by the local experts.

The RYS traveled 45 minutes to an area where Habitat for Humanity, a Christian service project, has helped construct 17 homes in recent years. Our RYS had

IIFWP/RYS Island Friendship Project in Trinidad & Tobago



worked in the area the year before and many were happy to see the homes they worked on occupied with families who were truly grateful for being given ownership of their house and being provided a stronger foundation to support their family. On this occasion, all our participants worked hard on two newly completed houses and provided major landscaping improvements. The physical change in the area was dramatic and the appreciation shown by the residents was deep.

The RYS also worked with the local chapter of Pure Love Alliance on Thursday, August 15th and held a major rally and concert in Port of Spain. Preparing

signs, chants and entertainment took a concentrated effort from the participants. The public event attracted the attention of the business community and also those living in the poorer area of the capital. One of the main speakers on stage was the National Minister of Sport and Youth Affairs, Hon. Roger Boynes, M.P., who is an RYS patron. His presence and words served to inspire the youth through a dynamic and encouraging talk. Several well-known Calypso and popular performers contributed their talents and helped attract a large crowd of those in the downtown area. RYS was loaded with talented musicians and dancers who stepped up and entertained with an upbeat message. The leading newspapers covered the story of the youth rally.

Among the program highlights of RYS were presentations from former gang members who have taken to reforming their lives and contributing to the local community. Their explanation of why they were involved in crime and drugs had a strong impact on the participants, especially as they pointed out how much they wished they could be in the participants' position of being pure. Their words hit the mark as it showed what really is important in life.

Other interesting programs included visits to the Temple by the Sea, which is a Hindu temple that was started by a single person who made thousands of trips with a wheelbarrow to fill in the land where the temple was to be. In time the whole community rallied behind him and the temple stands in part as a sign of the difference that a single person can make.

We visited under the guidance of Dr. Khan, an Ambassador for Peace, and a local mosque on Friday, where participants had the opportunity to take part in prayers and could stay to ask numer-

see **ISLAND** on page 17



AMERICAS
from page 14

and their teachers. During our stay here, various professionals offered reflections during our evening educational sessions. One very interesting speaker was Mayan Priestess Rev. Encarnacion Gargia Sob Ajquij, whose creation of a Mayan Fire Ceremony helped bring closure to our time in Santiago Atitlan.

El Salvador

The capital city of El Salvador, San Salvador, welcomed us with a lovely dinner attended by IIFWP national leaders, Ambassadors for Peace, and special invitees. There was excitement and anticipation as this was the first time RYS visited El Salvador. Our service project here was the cleaning of a large park near a Catholic school, a much needed and desired recreational retreat for the local community. On the morning commencing our work, we were accompanied by the Catholic school's marching band which helped to cheerfully announce our arrival in the neighborhood. During our brief time there, we were encouraged, fed, assisted, and genuinely welcomed by the locals.

On Sunday we joined in another ecumenical mass at the largest Catholic parish in San Salvador, and once more had the opportunity to hear profound sentiments from a few of our participants including Dr. Ron Burr, Educational Director, and a Buddhist, Sister Blanka Cvrkova, a Carmelite nun from Austria, and Rev. Carol Pobanz, a Unificationist. Mr. Daniel Bessell, RYS Project Coordinator, gave an eloquent and passionate testimony of the RYS vision and its commitment to creating a culture of peace. These thoughts were enthusiastically received by the entire gathering of this large and inspired religious community.

On our last evening in El Salvador, the Korean National Leaders invited the entire group to a delightful dinner where we were addressed by the well-known Academic Professor of Literature and Ethics who, as an Ambassador for Peace, has been a great supporter of RYS— Rev. Dr. Matias Romero. The evening concluded with unanimous outpouring of gratitude towards Dr. Ron Burr and Dr. Sherry Hartman, Senior Advisors to RYS, as we bid them farewell. Up until then the group had been the recipient of their wisdom, talent, love, and leadership.

Honduras

We reached Nacaome in Honduras, where once more we were greeted by community leaders and Ambassadors for Peace who had created an entertaining and folkloric welcoming. From there we proceeded to Tegucigalpa, capital of Honduras, which is still dealing with the 1998 aftermath of Hurricane Mitch. Honduras, the second poorest nation in the Americas, continues to struggle with its commitment to eradicate serious health crises.

The Dengue fever is the most serious and endemic, killing both young and old in very large numbers. In addition, the appearance of slums marked with dilapidated shacks amongst mounds of garbage, where children are often seen playing unaware of the risks, can be overwhelming even for the most dedicated and passionate of heart and soul. And yet it was in this ambiance that the commitment and mission of RYS was clearly understood and experienced. Our first work day was in one of the Mitch-ravaged sections of Tegucigalpa, Villa Union. We were joined early in the day by various community leaders, volunteers from community service organizations, and the Mayor of Tegucigalpa — all gathering for the purpose of dedicating the work site. It was a confusing time for all of us in as much as we perceived our presence as having a two-fold meaning; on the one hand, we were receiving genuine appreciation and gratitude from many Hondurans for our help and contin-

self-serving. We have to take on some task that requires one to be humble and obedient to the universally held principles of service. RYS committed itself to affirming the local community and helped the people recognize that



they could make a major contribution, and so the drive to better one's life began to spread amongst all.

We worked on a total of three work sites in this capital city; the trash removal in Villa Union, the cleaning up of a local hospital, and the return to the town of Totumla where we continued the project of building a community center.

Though Honduras presented numerous challenges, it also provided some real highlights. One very significant opportunity was the invitation to the Presidential House where we were received by the Director for the Office of Volunteer Services. In his address to the group, he affirmed all the work and contributions of RYS, and expressed complete support from the Honduran government for future projects. He further

demonstrated his affirmation by unexpectedly showing up the following day at our most challenging work site, Villa Union. That same evening we were the special guests of the Mayor of Tegucigalpa at an “all-out” dinner attended by many high-ranking officials, held to honor our work. This splendid affair was considered by all of us to be a truly memorable and joyful time together. We each received a certificate of appreciation from the Mayor, in addition to

recognition and praise by the many government officials and representatives from various community organizations who had come. It was a very meaningful way to conclude our time in a city that had presented numerous challenges and so many rewards. As is written in the I

Ching, the ancient Chinese book of wisdom: “The event is not important, but the response to the event is everything.”

Once our work was completed, we traveled to the beautiful beach town of Tela where we spent the next couple of days in meditation and reflection. Motivated by a sustained commitment of self-honesty and a desire to become more sensitive to the needs of others, the participants were led through various exercises. Subhan led several very powerful reflections. One of these was a deeply moving religious fire ritual held late one evening on the beach.

As we held hands in a circle surrounding this magnificent bonfire, in deep silence, the gift of being in fellowship in the midst of God's beautiful creation was truly inspirational. It is amazing what comes through when we take time to listen to our hearts and to God. Saint Francis of Assisi once told his devotees: “What is it that stands higher than words? Action. What is it that stands higher than action? Silence.” Thank you, Subhan!

One morning the entire group was gathered for a sunrise service on the beach. Each person was holding a helium balloon carrying a piece of paper listing those things we wanted to leave behind, something we were withholding that was making us weak. After deep prayer we were ready to let go of the balloons, and to therefore open ourselves to the newness of each moment. We were clearing the way of those obstacles that prevent us from reaching our goals.

These reflections express the experience if just one individual. Every participant went away with their own unique memory. What a rich experience it was for everyone.

Perhaps the true reflection was done when we traveled back home. When I review my own experience I realize there are many ways we serve. On one end of the spectrum, one can serve and get paid for it or one can serve simply out of duty, both of these ways yielding primarily external benefits. On the other end of the spectrum is “pity service”, serving with a superior attitude, feeling sorry for another and serving out of that emotion. “True Service”, however, comes from the heart of sacrificial love and is expressed through our actions. But that love doesn't just happen. Only after first investing in the lives of the people we serve, can we get to know and love them, then we come to see the people we serve truly as our brothers and sisters, not as nameless individuals. It is with this heart that we can experience the world as a place of peace. ♦



ued support throughout the past 4 years; yet, on the other hand there was the sense that we had to meet the political needs of certain individuals in positions of authority. These concerns were shared both by Staff and participants, and after deep reflection and prayer, insights and feelings were expressed in remarkable ways.

In conclusion, it might be observed that if we don't have a public challenge, then our private victories often become



Berlin Rally Protests True Parents Entry Ban

by Fritz Piepenburg

The first people gathered already at 8 AM on 7th, 2002 at the assembly site just in front of the Reichstag in Berlin on a sunny Saturday morning. The police also came early. But they came to escort and protect the demonstration, since we received an official permission from the city council and the Ministry of Interior. We were moving on perfect legal grounds. The young police officers cooperated well with us and details about the course of the march were clarified beforehand.

Our members were busy preparing over 50 large signboards with slogans, such as “lift the entry ban for Rev. Moon” and “equal treatment for all churches” etc. The boards were written in German, English and even Japanese. A group of African brothers filled hundreds of balloons with Helium gas. They had the writing “lift the ban” on them and were later to be released into the air. There were also several oversized colored pictures of True Parents together with Gorbachev and the late President Bush. Many flags with the Unification Symbol printed in red were also passed out.

By 10 o'clock the alley where the formation of the demonstration took place was bustling with activities. More and more busses came from the 10 different city centers of the German Unification church, unloading young and old, many times entire families with baby carts.

Neighboring European countries too sent their people. Austria came with 120 people, Slovakia with 70 people. Other busses came from Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Holland, Belgium Denmark and France. Altogether some 700 members and friends of the Unification Church gathered on the starting place, lining up behind a 6 x 1,20 m banner bearing the slogan of the march. Some 1000 four-colored folders about the peace activities of Rev. and Mrs. Moon were handed out to distributors, along with 3000 flyers demanding directly from the German Minister of Interior Otto Schily to lift the entry ban. Whistles were given especially to the children (which they

made immediate use of).

March and rally

Then, exactly at 11:00 AM the march began. In front the police car, stopping all the traffic and clearing the way for us. We had three slogans prepared which we chanted all the way till our final destination where the rally was to be held. One was in English: “Lift the ban on Rev.



Moon!” The other two were in German: “Wir versöhnen Religionen – Schily mach mit” (we unify religions, Schily won’t you join us). “Große Kirchen, kleine Kirchen – gleiches Recht für alle” (big churches, small churches – equal rights for all).

From the Reichstag (which is the German parliament) we went through the historic Brandenburg Gate and along the famous street “Unter den Linden” till moving right into the Friedrichstraße. From there we marched one time around the Ministry of Youth and Families, which is

the Ministry that gives us as a religious minority the greatest troubles. Some windows opened and heads were to be seen watching us. Because the street around the ministry was rather narrow and surrounded by large buildings, the shouting and whistling became especially loud and piercing. In between and while arriving at the Gendarmen Markt we sang “We shall overcome”, which added to the solemn and festive atmosphere.

When we arrived at the Gendarmen Markt, a highly professional band, which came all the way from England, already plaid their first tune to which we all sang along. The Gendarmen Markt is a beautifully located place surrounded by tall buildings with a classic architecture. Just opposite of the stage, steps where leading up to a theater and there the large banner and all the posters were placed and could be well seen by all people passing by on foot or on board of large tourist busses. A second band, made up of Second Generation children from Düsseldorf also played familiar tones and took turns with the band from England. A press table offered background information and relevant books on the discriminatory policies of the main churches and the government towards religious minorities. A large quantity of literature was handed out.

The event was moderated by Karl-Christian Hausmann, the national leader of Germany. He explained much of the background leading to the entry ban. When he stated that even though Minister of Interior Schily had made some grave errors, but we members of the Unification Church still love him, even the watching policemen smiled.

First speaker was Michael Herbers, the American National Messiah to Germany. He told the audience that while all his ancestors are Germans and he himself feels like 100% German, he also feels that little has changed from the time his great-great-grandfather had left Germany some 115 years ago in terms of religious freedom. The religious field is still dominated by the two traditional churches, which act like state churches and view new religious groups as unwelcome competitors.

Peter Zöhrer, regional director of the Central Region of Europe, presented an appeal to the German governments consisting of nine points,

which are also supported by other minority faiths. He asked the government to delete the word “sect” from its vocabulary completely and instead talk about minority religions. The government has to stay neutral in questions of faith and doctrine and cannot give privileges to one church (like the established ones) and discriminate against others (the new ones). Government sponsored schools should stop spreading false propaganda against minority religions and instead create a climate of tolerance and mutual respect.

President Sa, President of the European Unification Church was the next speaker. He expressed his anger about the entry ban and asked the government to rethink its policy. Many people seem to be afraid of Rev. Moon in Germany and Europe, according to his words, but only the bad people need to be afraid of Rev. Moon, the good ones have nothing to fear about. – He was finally followed by Paul Frank, a former judge at the Supreme Court of Luxembourg and long standing member of the church. He put the entry ban into the European context and stressed the fact that because of Germany’s listing of True Parents on the Schengen list, they are prohibited to enter all other Schengen countries as well, which include all member countries of the European Union with the exception of England and Ireland.

All throughout the rally, people could sign a petition at the press table which will be given to Minister Schily, demanding the lifting of the entry ban. After the last speaker had come to an end, the band played the significant Beatle’s song “Hey Jude, don’t make it bad”. Then the moderator asked everybody to release their balloons. Up they went into the blue sky beyond the domes of the nearby churches. The spirit was high and hopeful as we watched the balloons disappear high above. There was more music and lively chatting among the participants, some of which haven’t seen each other for many years.

President Sa later remarked two important points that characterized the event: first it was a unified European undertaking, with many European nations joining in. Second it was the beginning point for a more aggressive tackling of the Schengen ban by our German church and other European churches together.❖



ISLAND from page 15

ous questions to the Imam and other elders. This sharing was a great opportunity to come to understand each other more deeply, for many it was a first exposure to Islam.

We were all treated to a visit to an Environmental Center on the northern coast of the country at a site where six hundred pound giant tortoises migrate to lay their eggs. The eggs are gathered to protect the hatchlings from seagulls and other predators and they are released near sunset. The participants had the opportunity to handle the hatchlings and watch them take their journey across the sand into the vast Atlantic Ocean.

This RYS project was largely organized by Ambassadors for Peace, Rev. Sterling and Marcia Belgrove of the Rose Foundation. For two years, this dynamic team has helped support the efforts of the RYS and other IIFWP programs. Additional support for the project came from an Ambassador for Peace who is currently the Prime Minister, Hon. Patrick Manning. His personal request to the RYS is that it continues to provide a model of education that will bring people of various faiths together. He reminded us that this is needed in Trinidad and Tobago as well as in all corners of the world. Mrs. Manning, the current Minister of Education, additionally stressed the need for programs and projects that actively model racial and religious cooperation. We will be returning in 2003 for another major

RYS project.

Rev. Jacob David of the USA, who helped guide the programs educational component, made an observation that showed the power of RYS. He stated that unlike any program or meeting he has ever been to, all the participants blended so closely together without any barriers or divisions. This is a phenomenon that happens often on RYS, it is a demonstration of the spirit of love that is the root of all faiths and comes out when practitioners go forward in efforts to serve others. This spirit is what makes the nearly five thousand RYS alumni a vital worldwide network that has earned, through their personal sacrifice, the knowledge and experience of being one family under God.

One participant, Aaron Cater shared

during the reflection period of RYS the following: “I never pursued my spiritual side, I am learning about another part of me. I was half empty. To see all the races and religions come together with a common bond puts more hope in me.”

The need for these positive experiences to spread to other corners of the world is obvious as one looks at the latest newspaper and reads of the discord, dissension, fragmentation and violence. The IIFWP efforts with RYS are making a difference and the continued growth and development of the Ambassadors for Peace will provide new and greater results in the near future. For more information on RYS please check: www.rys.net or email rys@iifwp.org ❖

Unification News

IN MEMORIAM

Jin Joo Ellen Byrne

1984-2002

It is with a painful mixture of profound regret tempered with fierce pride and respect for her devotion that HSA announces the passing to spirit world of Jin Joo Ellen Byrne, one of our youngest volunteers on the STF program in the United States.

While fundraising in Charlotte, North Carolina, Jin Joo was abducted and killed by a young man just three years older than herself, in a crime that shook the entire Unification community in North America and became national and international news.

Although the soul-searching for how this could happen will long continue, Jin Joo's parents, Martin and Izabella Byrne amazingly encouraged everyone to share their own deeply faithful view that, somehow, God could use the loss and sacrifice of this precious young life to accomplish his greater purpose.

Her Seung Hwa was held on September 4th, 2002 in Washington DC in an emotional national level ceremony attended by more than 500 people. She received the rare honor of an ascension title from True Parents, Daughter of Goodness and Beauty, Mansei!

In her short life, Jin Joo lived for the sake of others. She was truly God's Pearl, and we will always miss her.

Seung Hwa Address

The following are excerpts from an address given by Rev. Michael Jenkins at the Washington Family Church on September 4, 2002.

Brothers and Sisters we have gathered for a National Seung

Hwa Ceremony. The Seung Hwa Tradition was originally to begin when True Parents went to the spirit world. However, due to the sacrifice of Heung Jin Nim our True Parents' second son, a World Level Seung Hwa ceremony was initiated at Belvedere and at the Little Angels School in Korea. It is only because of Heung Jin Nim's sacrifice for True Parents that the tradition of the Seung Hwa Ceremony could begin. Based on his dedication and establishment of unity and order in the Spirit world, blessed members can now receive the foundation of the Seung Hwa Ceremony.

Until the establishment of the Seung Hwa the passing of a loved one was seen as a sad occasion in which to mourn. However, the Seung Hwa Ceremony is the celebration of the commencement of one's life as an exclusively spiritual being. According to the Principle, the Seung Hwa Ceremony is to be regarded as more beautiful, enlightening, and joyful than even the Blessing ceremony.

How can we celebrate Jin Joo's beautiful life and understand the meaning of such a tragic moment? How can we gather strength, meaning and

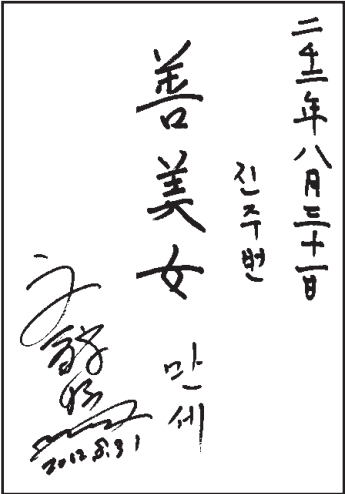
value from this precious child who True Father has immortalized as God's "Daughter of Beauty and Goodness."

To comprehend this moment in time let us relate with God and bind ourselves to God's infinitely deep heart of love. Let us now connect our hearts to God and our True Parents who have shed an endless river of tears to restore humanity. When we look at God's history we see that the course of Jin Joo is that of God's path. It is a path of sacrifice.

The great transitional moments in history all began with tragedy. Yet in the midst of tragedy God was able to bring blessing and victory. How? When a pure sacrifice could be given God could exercise his authority and power to bring great transformation in the people. This was the course of Jesus, who Saint Stephen stated in the Book of Acts was betrayed and murdered.

Yet in that tragic circumstance Jesus transcended the cross that led to death and opened a path that leads to resurrection that brings life. How did life emerge from death? Because of purity and love. In the midst of his immense suffering Jesus transcended the hatred of the world saying "Father forgive them for they know not what they do."

Love is the power that brings life. Jesus was pure, with no sin or malice. Therefore his purity and sacrificial love allowed him to create a path out of the darkness into life. However, we see that in these



Calligraphy from True Parents
- Sun Mi Nyo Mansei -
Daughter of Goodness and
Beauty, Mansei!

IN MEMORIAM

Rev. Purnell Spicer

1958-2002

Purnell Spicer was born on December 06, 1958 to Purnell Spicer Jr. and Alcora Spicer was the oldest of seven children.

Purnell joined the Unification Church on September 30, 1977 and was matched to Jenice Godofsky and blessed in July 1, 1982. He has three children Avniel, 13 years old (Hebrew name that means my father is a rock), Esua, 10 years old (Nigerian name that means the one who is loved and accepted because he led a life of love and sacrifice for the nation) and Mercia, 7 years old (who's name means compassion) and served our Heavenly Father and True Parents with impassioned faith, love and obedience even at the cost of his life.

Rev. Spicer is legendary in his ability to break down the theological and dogmatic walls that divided Christian Leaders and kept them from understanding the vision of our True Parents. His unique ability to express God's heart, articulate True Parents' vision and teach Divine Principle through the life, love and gospel of Jesus Christ helped many prominent clergy and other prominent national level leaders. He truly was a great Ambassador for True Parents all throughout America. Rev. Spicer taught hundreds of clergy Divine Principle and True Family Values and has hundreds of spiritual children who are blessed all throughout America.

He was a man who was driven to give everything that he possessed to fulfill the will of God and True Parents. He sacri-

ficed himself, his family and ultimately his life to be a responsible son to our beloved True Parents. He is a Saint, Patriot and loving son of our True Parents and I have been proud and honored to have served with him the last three years! Rev. Spicer's final mission was as the assistant Regional Director to myself Rev. Anthony Flores in the American Family Coalition mission. Rev. Spicer although relatively new to this mission set the model for AFC Activity in our region. In October of 2000 Rev. Spicer in 17 days organized a very successful American Leadership Conference in Wilmington Delaware. Over 170 leaders participated including several prominent policy makers and business leaders. He later assisted me in bringing over 300 prominent leaders to the Inaugural Prayer luncheon that was held in Washington DC in 2001 while holding several very successful AFC programs in Delaware. While working very hard and bringing great success in his AFC Mission Rev. Spicer also worked extremely hard traveling all over America helping



the American Clergy Leadership Conference. Rev. Spicer blessed hundreds of clergy, lead many successful revivals and began training our members how to successfully do clergy outreach. I received many calls from church leaders wanting me to send him to their state to help out with mobilization because of his success. Rev. Spicer sacrificed his family who he loved so deeply to do God's will. Many times he wept because he could not spend time with his wife and children but he digested this very difficult situation and invested more of his heart and energy in his mission for True Parents.

Recently, our True Parents asked for us to organize a special American Leadership Conference "Making the Dream Real" that took place in Washington DC on May 21-22 at the Sheraton National Hotel. Rev. Spicer worked very hard to bring the highest caliber of Black American Leaders across the political, civil rights, clergy, business and community leadership spectrums. He sacrificed being with his family for over two months to

tragic moments love is not passive. It must be aggressively applied to the wounds of history to bring healing. Love must be given to allow its full power to shine. Look at Jesus upon the cross. Did God feel an explosion of anger, torment and wrath? Yes, the cross was not a peaceful tranquil setting. The scripture said that from the 6th hour to the 9th hour the sun was darkened and the earth quaked and fear came upon the people. Don't you think God wanted to destroy everything at that moment? So it is natural that during our process of transforming tragedy into hope that we pass through darkness. But Jesus applied love and said, Father forgive them. From that moment of purity and love, darkness was transformed into light.

Such is the testimony that we find with Heung Jin Nim. Out of tragic and horrifying circumstances True Father aggressively applied love and transformed this moment of loss and sorrow into one of life, hope and victory for God. When we first heard of Heung Jin Nim's accident, our collective shock, sorrow and pain was immense. Many of us were there at Belvedere when Heung Jin returned. Though their pain, shock and remorse was something we cannot begin to understand, True Father and Mother braced themselves and showed absolute unwavering gratitude to God in such a circumstance and proclaimed love and forgiveness for all humanity. True Parents walked this path together with Heung Jin Nim. Therefore the sacrifice, which was pure and selfless became a turning point in which True Father could send Heung Jin Nim victoriously into the Spirit World as a General to prepare the way for the Heavenly Kingdom to come.

As so it is now with Jin Joo. Father has made her Seung Hwa a National Level Seung Hwa. Father, upon hearing about Jin Joo's sacrifice, also said that a National Level Seung Hwa cannot be given eas-

see **JIN JOO** on page 19

help make this conference a tremendous success.

Rev. Spicer spoke with me last Wednesday, a few hours before he passed into the spirit world, about how happy he was about the breakthrough he made with his Parents' Day Event. The Mayor of Wilmington Delaware, President of the Chamber of Commerce, Representative from the Governor's office and several key community and business leaders agreed to hold a city wide Parents Day Awards Ceremony. The also agreed to hold a Summit on Violence Prevention and Family Renewal together with the American Family Coalition of Delaware. That evening after making such a great break through Rev. Purnell Spicer passed into the spirit world. After not hearing from him for several days and through a series of dreams that I experienced I began to search for him only to find him early this morning in his Delaware apt. deceased!

Rev. Spicer was a true brother who can never be forgotten. He was the historical brother that everyone hopes to have, hopes to know and hopes to love. He is the true brother that makes the reality of God substantial and the love of True Parents very very real. I can only say that I am inspired to work ten times harder and invest myself one hundred times more to keep his living spirit forever alive in my heart.

by Rev. Anthony J. Flores, Co-Chairman, American Leadership Conference; American Family Coalition – Regional Director ❖

Father Blesses National Won Jeon Shrine

by William Selig

Washington, D.C.: At 4:00 p.m. on May 14, 2002, Dr. Chang Shik Yang and Rev. Michael Jenkins dedicated our new Won Jeon Shrine. Also attending the ceremony were Rev. Levy Daugherty, Antonio and Kyoko Betancourt, Kitty Wojcik, Wilfredo Rivera, Jan de Goey, and William Selig.

Located less than five minutes from the *Washington Times* in historic Fort Lincoln Cemetery, the Won Jeon is envisioned as the Arlington Cemetery of our movement, a holy ground and eternal resting place for our ascended brothers and sisters from across America.

The cemetery is located in the former Fort Lincoln, which strategically protected the nation's capital during the Civil War. President Abraham Lincoln is said to have met there to discuss military strategy. The cemetery was chartered in 1912 by an act of the Maryland General Assembly and presently encompasses 178 acres.

Background

The genesis of the Won Jeon project is tied to the 25th anniversary of the Unification Church building on Columbia Road in Washington. As part of a series of events commemorating our purchase of the building in 1976, regional leader Rev. In Hoi Lee approved the proposal to purchase a plot of land as a church cemetery.

There are a number of brothers and sisters who have ascended and are buried throughout the city, but this was an idea



to bring us together. After all, we plan for many things in life, such as campaigns, college funds, vacations, etc. It makes sense to plan for our seung hwa (funeral) and won jeon (cemetery) arrangements. It is not only financially wise, but it tremendously eases the burden placed on our loved ones.

In September 2002, when our brother Tom Wojcik ascended, Fort Lincoln made us an offer for a group burial space. Twelve members, including several blessed children, are already buried there. An executive committee of elders, including Antonio Betancourt as chairman, Jim Borer as legal counselor, and Keith Cooperrider as financial overseer, was organized to discuss the proposal. After several meetings, we sought the approval of Dr. Chang Shik Yang, who heartily accepted the offer. We contacted HSA-UWC headquarters in New York and, after consulting with Kay Allen of the Legal Affairs

Department, opened a bank account in Washington in the name of the HSA-UWC with Kyoko Betancourt as treasurer.

On July 26, the day of the Service for Peace celebration in Washington, Dr. Yang reported to Father about the won jeon and also the passing into the spiritual world of our brother Rev. Purnell Spicer. True Parents wholeheartedly approved of holding a national-level Seung Hwa Ceremony for Rev. Spicer and gave his blessing on having the national Won Jeon Shrine.

Vision

Brothers and sisters, we have begun placing an ad in the *Unification News* to promote the Won Jeon, and already the response has been good. Families from Ohio and New Jersey are interested, and currently we have a limited number of the original lots to sell by the end of this year. If your family captures the vision behind this project, you can contact William Selig

to be one of the original owners.

This is a project for the whole American movement. It is a national memorial as well as an honorable resting place for many good members. When groups come to Washington from Korea, Japan, or elsewhere, after visiting sites including the church, the *Times*, and the Ballet Academy, they may also come to the Won Jeon Shrine for prayer and meditation.

The group discount allows us to offer one person and two person crypts at \$1,700 and \$2,000. The regular cost is about \$6,000, so the savings is considerable.

For more information and to reserve your space, contact: scwpeace@starpower.net, phone: (202) 269-5337 and fax: (202) 832-2970.

Endorsement

This is a excerpt from a letter sent by Dr. Chang Shik Yang and Rev. Michael Jenkins to the church membership.

Dear Brothers and Sisters; It is our great honor to announce the dedication of a new national Won Jeon Shrine for the American movement. We invite all families to purchase a plot and share in this uniquely American providence.

Already in Japan and Korea, the movement has its own won jeons for an eternal resting place for our ascended brothers and sisters. Now Heavenly Father and the spiritual world have made very special preparations so America can join this providence and begin taking steps for the eternal mission that awaits every man, woman, and child. We wholly endorse this project and ask you to please consider purchasing a plot at the National Won Jeon Shrine. ❖

JIN JOO from page 18

ily. If the person receiving such National Level honor cannot be recognized as a person who truly lived for the nation, when they get to the spirit world, they will not be recognized naturally and this title would become a great burden. Therefore she can only be given such a title because, she representing our beloved Second Generation could give her life on the front live while serving the nation. She gave her life gloriously on this great march with True Parents and Hyun Jin Nim into the Settlement Age.

When Father heard about Jin Joo he also said, we should realize that we all make this journey. We are all going to the Spirit World. The question is, with what spirit do we make this transition? It is made with absolute faith,

love and obedience to heaven. Is it made while living for the sake of humanity. If it is, then it becomes a time of joy and celebration. This is the case with Jin Joo. Heaven is celebrating now because a saint is now about to arrive in heaven. Thank you second generation for this example for all of history to mark and remember.

This morning we gather in the quiet of this sanctuary to pay our last tribute of respect to this beautiful child of God. She entered onto the stage of history just a few years ago, and in the brief years that she was privileged to act on this mortal stage, she played her part exceedingly well. Now the curtain falls; she moves through the exit; the drama of her earthly life comes to a close and she begins her glorious eternal life forever and evermore. ❖

Pearl

by Jinjoo Byrne

There she lays
One with the earth
Thinking dreaming smiling
Her soul is bright

The sun
Inevitably shines upon her
so warm so precious so embracing
The sun flows in her soul

There she lays
One with the stars
Has she fallen asleep?
She has...how tranquil how serene

For so long love was not felt
not deep
Where had it gone
for so long?

Found Found
She had hope
Hope that now she
could infinitely and
Unconditionally love

Her soul could now shine
like the shimmering stars
feeling the deepness
feeling the complete divinity

So passionate
So pure
How it swelled
Swelling of love and happiness

Wholly devoted
Where is her love?
come come come
She wants to place a sweet kiss
On her true love's soul

She does not see him
She must wait
Oh, how her heart aches
To see her true love

What they will have
Will be greater
Than anything that
She could ever imagine

There she will lay
One with the earth
One with the stars
One with the sun

National Won Jeon Shrine

A National Won Jeon Shrine has been established at  historic Ft. Lincoln

Cemetery near The Washington Times building.
This special support is offered to the Blessed Central Families nationwide to:

- ❖ Create a national monument for departed ones to be cherished and honored by relatives and descendants.
- ❖ Establish a permanent garden for visits, prayer, meditation, and holy day celebrations.
- ❖ Lessen the stress—financial, emotional and spiritual—that comes with the passing of a loved one.

Cost includes land and burial liner.*

single person crypt: \$1,700

double person crypt: \$2,000

Make check or money order
payable to HSA-UWC and mail to:

William Selig
3600 New York Ave., NE, 3rd floor
Washington, DC 20002

For further info:

(202) 269-5337

scwpeace@starpower.net

** (in comparison, the average cost of
a single crypt is \$4,600 and \$6,700 for a double)*

This is the fourteenth in a series of excerpts from the book *40 Years in America: An Intimate History of the Unification Movement 1959-1999*. The editor is Michael Inglis, the historical text by Michael Mickler. The book is available from HSA Publications for \$70 + \$8 s&h. Contact them at: 4 West 43rd Street, NY NY 10036; tel: (212) 997-0050 xt250 or at their web-site: www.hsabooks.com.

by Dr. Michael Mickler

Dr. Mickler is Vice-president and Professor of Church History at the Unification Theological Seminary.

The movement invested heavily in its effort to ideologically arm the West, and its presentations were increasingly sophisticated. Initially, it recruited and trained a group of Unification Theological Seminary graduates and seminarians to develop educational programs. However, as was the case in the movement's outreach to scientists, theologians and journalists, their efforts were soon supplemented by specialists who helped organize conferences, edit journals, and develop new plans. The movement also prepared a headquarters in the Manhattan Tiffany Building which, in addition to a main hall with seating for 200, had 22 offices. Included among these were libraries for research, an institute, and multi-media rooms for the preparation of lecture slides and diagrams. The same conference-networking techniques were utilized that had been successful in other fields of endeavor, with the addition of high-tech visual and technical equipment. The high-tech effect may have been to offset and energize heavily philosophical elaborations of the Marxist dialectic and economic theories. In presentations, the movement utilized theatre-sized screens and as many as eighteen computer-controlled slide projectors to dramatic effect.

In addition to its message and mode of presentation, social and political circumstances enhanced the movement's ability to reach and ideologically arm a wide variety of audiences after 1980. The threat of further communist inroads into the Americas following the fall of Nicaragua to the Sandanistas in 1979 was one of the most important of these circumstances. Rev. Moon took this situation seriously enough to cancel his sixtieth-birthday celebration, an auspicious occasion in the Orient. He instead sent Col. Bo Hi Pak, who was to serve as master of ceremonies for the celebration, to Latin America with instructions to establish contacts and offer movement resources in educating young people, the military, and civic leaders so as to avoid a fate similar to Nicaragua. After establishing a number of high-level contacts, Rev. Moon set up CAUSA International, from the Latin word for "cause," which became the movement's major ideological affiliate during the 1980s.

Bolivia was the first country to express interest, and in December 1980, CAUSA U.S.-based lecturers traveled to a tiny hamlet in the mountains of Bolivia to lecture to forty-five students who previously had been indoctrinated in Marxist theory. The overwhelming success of that program led to seminars in Paraguay, Uruguay, Chile, Argentina and Brazil. In December 1980, CAUSA was approached by the government of Bolivia to conduct seminars for 10,000 college freshmen. In 1982, CAUSA held its first seminar in Peru; a regional seminar in Acapulco, Mexico for representatives of Mexico, Honduras, Venezuela, Guatemala and Columbia; and its first Pan-American convention in Montvideo, Uruguay where the movement began to invest heavily, purchasing a bank, hotel and daily newspaper.

In 1983, CAUSA educated several thousand Honduran union leaders, teachers and government officials. The movement also undertook social service projects under CAUSA World Services. In 1984, CAUSA supported the founding of the Association for Unity of Latin America (AULA) which sought to revive the ideals of Simon Bolivar.

Two circumstances facilitated CAUSA's advance in the United States. Ronald Reagan's ascendancy was the first of these. While Reagan's characterization of the Soviet Union as the "evil empire" and judgment that Marxism will end up on the "ash heap of history" did not exactly make anti-communism fashionable, his philosophy had affinities to the CAUSA position and stimulated interest in its programs. The U.S. government's prosecution and eventual jailing of Rev. Moon

on tax-evasion charges in 1984, ironically, was a second circumstance that advanced CAUSA USA's work. His case, more than any other movement initiative, provoked a sympathetic reaction among American clergy who objected to his treatment. A number of rallies for religious freedom were held and more than 7,000 ministers signed a statement of solidarity with him. According to one account, "When numerous ministers inquired how best to support him during his imprisonment, Rev. Moon responded that they should attend a CAUSA seminar." This, he explained, was because "the most serious threat to religious freedom on the world-wide level was hard-line Marxism-Leninism."

As a consequence, during Rev. Moon's thirteen-month imprisonment, "more than 7,000 ministers attended CAUSA seminars." In 1984 alone, CAUSA sponsored 34 major conferences and 290 local programs. CAUSA USA also supported the founding of the International Security Council (ISC) which in two conferences brought together more than 200 former senior military officers, diplomats, government officials and scholars that year.

Legal Gains

Rev. Moon regarded the inability of the American movement to increase its membership to 30,000 following the victory of Washington Monument, to become self-sufficient, and to become strong and diversified as internal reasons for continued opposition and the prolongation of the American providence. Externally, ongoing opposition hampered his ability to pursue objectives elsewhere and provide the solution to what he described as God's "three major headaches"—communism, the decline of Christianity, and the immorality of contemporary youth. As he later put it, "because of the court battles and other opposition, the dispensational moment was delayed." The movement spent millions of dollars defending itself between 1977-85. Apart from monetary outlays, government investigations, "anti-cult" legislation and legal battles demanded investments of time and energy which could have gone elsewhere. Contending with opposition and, in some cases, defending themselves was a major preoccupation of the movement's top leadership during this period. Rev. Moon himself was subject to government subpoena and prosecution, eventually spending the final thirteen months of the period in federal prison.

Rev. Moon's conviction and imprisonment on tax evasion charges dominated press coverage of the movement at the time and has continued to be a major point of reference in accounts of the Unification Church during the 1980s. However, this should not overshadow the movement's very real gains. In 1977, the Unification Church had a very tenuous existence in the United States. Newspapers and all manner of enemies attacked the movement with impunity. Members were subject to forceable removal and "deprogramming" through court-sanctioned conservatorship rulings. Hundreds of local municipalities refused to grant solicitation permits to church fundraisers or re-wrote regulations to keep the movement out. The church was denied tax-exempt status in New York City, and its foreign members were denied the right to enter the country as missionaries on the same basis as members of other churches. Each of these situations were reversed between 1977-85. Although embroiled in near-constant litigation, the church gained gradual recognition as a *bona-fide* religion with tax-exemption privileges, public solicitation rights, and access to missionary visas. It also was able to extend constitutional protections to its members and successfully press for action against deprogrammers. By 1985, the church had vindicated its position and existed on solid legal footing in the United States.

The most immediate problem faced by the church in 1977 was the protection of its members. The courts had clamped down on illegal kidnappings and "deprogrammings," but a new and more insidious form of

“DEPROGRAMMING”

"legal deprogramming" followed whereby sympathetic judges granted temporary conservatorships or guardianships, usually for thirty days, during which time parents could forceably remove their adult children from the church and turn them over to paid deprogrammers or "deprogramming centers." Conservators, according to common practice, were persons appointed by a court to protect other persons who were unable to take care of themselves or their property—typically, the senile and elderly. However, this device was seized upon by parents and professional deprogrammers in 1976-77 as a legal means to extricate their offspring from membership in the Unification Church as well as from other religious groups. First, parents testified about abrupt personality changes in their children. Then psychiatrists and psychologists, most of whom were leading lights in the "anti-cult" movement, were called upon to testify about the young people's erratic condition, citing "dilated pupils from lack of sleep, memory impairment, frozen emotions, and robot-like responses." Finally, former members described alleged brainwashing that they had undergone while in the church. Ordinarily, these proceedings were conducted *ex parte*, with no one in the courtroom or judge's chambers to represent the other side. Afterwards, conservatorship papers were served by police on unsuspecting members. By April 1977, parents of about ninety members in more than twenty states had used the tactic successfully.

The conservatorship issue exploded in San Francisco where twenty-four conservatorships were granted during the last half of 1976. California conservatorships law was especially vulnerable to broader application as the relevant statute included provisions for those "likely to be deceived by artful and designing persons." The great bulk of these conservatorships were directed against the Oakland Family. In early 1977, representatives of the Tucson, Arizona-based Freedom of Thought Foundation, which had emerged as the leading Western U.S. deprogramming center, escalated their efforts, preparing standardized forms and seeking multiple conservatorships at a single hearing.

This precipitated a confrontation in March 1977 between five sets of parents and five Oakland Family members who anticipated being served and who with church support retained legal counsel to fight their would-be conservators. Dubbed the "faithful five," their conservatorship hearing generated nationwide publicity and lasted for several weeks. Psychiatrists testified for both sides, and members attempted to show their "emotional effect" had not become blunted by playing original music compositions and reading poetry.

In the end, Superior Court Judge Lee Vavuris decided for the parents, explaining, "We're talking about the essence of life here, mother, father and children.... One of the reasons I made the decision...[is] I could see the love here of a parent for his child, and I don't... have to go beyond that.... It is never-ending.... A child is a child even though the parent may be 90 and the child is 60."

Vavuris' decision touched off a firestorm of editorial protest. More importantly, the California State Court of Appeals stayed Judge Vavuris' conservatorship order two weeks after it was rendered and six months later reversed it, propounding "stringent criteria for the granting of such petitions in the future." As one commentator noted, "Judges all over the country became more circumspect in granting temporary conservatorships in ex-parte hearings...and without a definite indication of overwhelming incapacity on the part of the devotee." This was too late for the "faithful five," four of whom left the church and who, thereafter, were re-dubbed in some press accounts as the "faithless four." Nevertheless, the California decision significantly reduced the risk of members being subjected to legalized "deprogrammings."

Other decisions vindicated the church's positions and put deprogrammers increasingly on the defensive. In *Ward v. Conner* (1982), the U.S. Supreme Court

40 YEARS IN AMERICA

AND THE COURTS

upheld on appeal a lower court decision allowing a church member to bring suit against thirty-one people, including his family members and others hired to break his faith. The court established an important precedent in holding that Unification Church members were entitled to the same civil rights protections that the law grants to racial minorities. In *Molko and Leal v. The Holy Spirit Association* (1983), the California Court of Appeals dismissed a case brought by two “deprogrammed” former members who claimed that they were falsely imprisoned and defrauded by the church through “mind control” and “systematic manipulation.” The lower court determined that neither person had been physically restrained or mentally impaired at the time they joined and that the law would not permit either “to avoid the consequences of their decision.” The appeals court criticized “expert opinions” on brainwashing, held that to impose liability on the church would mean that “any disaffected adherent” could bring suit, thereby leading to court entanglement with religion, and noted that “the techniques used to recruit and indoctrinate [the] plaintiffs...[were] not materially different from those employed by other organizations.”

Finally, in *Columbrito v. Kelly* (1985), the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second District awarded attorney’s fees and costs to a church member who discontinued a lawsuit against a deprogrammer, assuring access to the court by those asserting religious liberty claims without the threat of attorney’s fees being awarded. The court, in this instance, also criticized the “odious” practice of deprogramming.

Having been denied in the courts, anti-church activists turned to state legislatures. In both 1980 and 1981, the New York State Legislature passed the Lasher Bill which allowed for temporary guardianships of up to 60 days, only to have it twice vetoed by then-Governor Hugh Carey on constitutional grounds. In 1982, a Kansas bill that allowed judges to decide whether a subject of any age required deprogramming due to an “abrupt and drastic change of lifestyle” passed the State House but died in the Senate. Several other states considered anti-conversion legislation or proposals for investigations of the church and other groups. None passed. This reflected a broad-based change in public opinion. By the mid-1980s, deprogrammers rather than the groups they preyed upon were struggling to survive.

Fundraising

Another problem faced by the church was the banning of fundraising by innumerable local municipalities and cities throughout the nation. In some cases, local governments re-wrote solicitation and licensing statutes to bar church members. Other times, local police jailed and fined church fundraisers. The church took a two-fold approach to this problem. First, it issued strict “Fundraising Guidelines” to its mobile fundraising teams (MFTs), emphasizing adherence to local solicitation laws and municipal regulations, truth-telling about the work done by the church, and time-limits for solicitation in residential areas. Overaggressiveness, rudeness or the use of high-pressure tactics were strictly forbidden, members were instructed to display official church identification cards, and lists of activities their efforts went to support were circulated.

Second, the MFT made efforts to restore its solicitation rights. It began in the upper Mississippi Valley where Omaha, Nebraska was the only city that permitted fundraising. Minneapolis, Des Moines, Kansas

City, St. Louis, and Sioux City all had denied requests for solicitation permits. Members began telephoning the ninety municipalities surrounding St. Louis for fundraising permission and out of the forty municipalities requiring advance letters, one responded affirmatively and the rest were denials, including many that warned if members “so much as set one foot within their city...[they] would

be arrested.” However, MFT members gained the breakthrough they had been seeking when the city of St. Louis gave them a permit which read, “...as a religious organization you are, of course, aware that your activities are protected under the First Amendment from any restriction against proselytizing or fundraising activities designed to further your religious expansion.”

Previously, according to one church account, “administrative clerks and secretaries who knew little of First

The church went on to win hundreds of solicitation cases in succeeding years. One of these cases transcended the local level and established important legal protections against unequal government treatment of controversial religious groups. As discussed in a primer on church-state law, Minnesota amended its charitable solicitation law in 1978. Prior to that time, the 1961 law required organizations soliciting funds in the state to submit forms, showing that not more than thirty percent of their income was spent on administrative costs. However, religious groups were exempted from this requirement. The 1978 amendment “stated that a religious group that raised more than fifty percent of its revenue from its membership would continue to be exempt from the solicitation law.” But if more than fifty percent came from nonmembers, “the organization would have to file with the state, file financial disclosure forms, and be subject to state scrutiny.” Shortly after the change, state officials notified the Unification Church that it was required to register according to the new provision. The notice also threatened legal action against the church should it fail to comply. The church countered with a lawsuit, and in *Larson v. Valenti* (1982), the U.S. Supreme Court found in the church’s favor, stating that the “fifty percent rule” created “precisely the sort of official denominational preference forbidden by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution.”

As one commentator noted, “the law targeted for stricter state scrutiny those religious groups which solicited funds in airports, parks, or shopping centers, as opposed to those which received most of their funds from Sunday morning collection plates....The larger lesson...[was] that governments may not pass laws that enable them to inflict greater surveillance and regulation on controversial religious groups.”

Apart from extending constitutional protections to its members, the church won a five-year legal battle against the New York City Tax Commission which had denied its request for a tax exemption in 1977 on the grounds that the church’s theology was “threaded with political motives.” On May 6, 1982, the New York State Court of Appeals hand-

ed down a unanimous decision that the Unification Church was a legitimate religious organization entitled to tax exemption privileges granted to all religious groups. It also described the Tax Commission’s determination as “arbitrary and capricious and affected by error of law.” Unlike the Minnesota solicitation ruling, this case generated interest in mainstream religious circles as their leaders recognized that the Tax Commission denied the tax exemption on grounds that could be applied to them. Therefore, among the organizations filing friend of the court briefs in support of the Unification Church were the American Jewish Congress, The Catholic League for Religion and Civil Rights, The National Association of Evangelicals, and the National Council of Churches. The court recognized this in stating, “traditional theology has always mandated religious action in social, political and economic matters. Virtually all of the recognized religions and denominations in America today address political and economic issues within their basic theology.”

Finally, after several years of what it regarded as “unfair treatment” by the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service, the church was vindicated by Unification Church, *Nikkuni, et al. v. INS* (1982) in which the United States District Court for the District of Columbia recognized the rights of the church’s foreign members to enter the country as missionaries on the same basis as members of other churches. The court also recognized the church’s authenticity in holding that “The Unification Church, by any historical analogy, philosophical analysis, or judicial criteria...must be regarded as a *bona fide* religion.” Since only a few years earlier, members were subject to state-sanctioned seizures and jailings, these words were especially sweet. Clearly, the church had vindicated most of its claims in the eyes of the law. ❖



New Hope News, April 1, 1977 proclaims the California victory.

Amendment freedoms had refused permission requests.” Now, armed with the St. Louis notice, Ron Troyer, who served as the MFT Field Co-ordinator for Legal Affairs, went directly to the city attorneys and began traveling to other problem cities.

The next stop was Des Moines where, after four city council meetings and “many letters detailing our rights,” Troyer noted, “the City Council of Des Moines reluctantly gave up its ban and allowed fundraising to begin.” Minneapolis followed, where the city attorney admitted, “our eight-month-old ban on your organization has probably been illegal.” Soon Troyer became an itinerant worker, visiting all regions and helping public relations members apply the methods he had developed in the Midwest. By late summer 1977, “every city that was willing to rescind their bans without a court battle had done so.” Still, as millions of people were “still inaccessible to the church due to municipal censorship,” the church served notice that its “policy of tolerance has terminated.” Troyer wrote that “to capriciously deny...[the] right to solicit is equivalent to denying...[us] the right to exist.” The first case was filed against the City of Phoenix on September 5, 1977. Forty-five minutes before the trial, the city capitulated, indicating that it could not withstand the challenge, and settled out of court. Having witnessed the power of action taken in federal court, Troyer concluded, “[T]his municipal opposition against our church was not founded on the law, but rather founded on bigotry, prejudice, and an unwarranted abuse of power. These cities know the law, but it took something as drastic as court intervention before they would relinquish their prohibition.”

According to a November 10, 1978 report, the church filed sixty-two lawsuits in Federal courts across the country from September 1977 through October 1978. Of these, fifty-two were resolved in the church’s favor and ten were still pending.

THE EDUCATION CORNER

Am I Losing My Young Adult Son or Daughter?

by Dr. Kathy Winings

“My son just started college and it seems he isn’t so interested in church activities anymore nor does he seem concerned about doing anything for his life of faith. When I talk with him about it, he simply says that he doesn’t know why he feels this way but that I shouldn’t worry because he isn’t the only one acting this way. In fact, he says, several of his friends feel and act the same way. What is going on with him? Has he rejected everything he learned in the church? Have we lost our son?”

Concerned Parent

Dear Concerned Parent:

Your experience is not uncommon. Young adult faith development is a vital area of ministry and religious education because it is both an amazing as well as scary period of transition for these young men and women. The best way to respond to your question is to first look at the life of a young adult and then consider ways to respond to your question.

Young adults are experiencing several changes in their life. While we may think it is a period of transition from childhood to adulthood, in reality it is more of a transition from legal dependence to first adult life structure. One researcher of young adults has called this period the “birth-place of the adult vision.” Let’s step back for a moment and look at what this transition includes. For those who are college-bound and living on campus, it is a transition from home life and direct dependence on parents to living on their own either, in a dorm or in an apartment. Even if they are sharing the dorm room or apartment with other students, they are, nonetheless, responsible for their own decisions and actions in a new and direct way. There is no immediate safety net. If they run out of food, money or clean clothes—they must deal with it because mom or dad are not

right there to pick up the slack. For those who enter the workforce full-time, they are now responsible for their bills, savings, financial management and growing adult relationships.

Developmentally, young adults are faced with new issues and needs. For instance, these young men and women are faced with what might be called the three “I’s”—independence, identity, and intimacy. They are looking at having to separate themselves from their families in order to create their own identity (independence). They are trying to establish their own unique identity and self-concept that gives a sense of coherence and unity to their thoughts, actions, and values (identity). At the same time, they are also establishing those friendships and relationships with others that will last a lifetime and that will be supportive of their maturing identity and life (intimacy).

Independence is, in particular, a major issue for this period of time. This independence may be psychological, physical, and economic all at the same time. It is hoped that as the young adult is forging a sense of personal independence together with their philosophy of life that it is toward a mature view of interdependence.

Of course, all of this is tied to their ongoing faith development and relationship with God. One researcher in the area of young adult faith, Robert Gribbon, has used the term “explorers” to describe young adults between the ages of 18-24—the very age group of Concerned Parent’s son. It is an appropriate description I think. As they go off to college, they are immersed in an environment of exploration and adventure academically and socially. They are meeting new people, learning new ideas and theories, and having to make choices about what to think, who to believe and who to trust. This is one reason why it is not uncommon for young adults to simply stop participating in church activities and programs. While I am not saying that this is a good thing, it is simply something that may happen with some young adults.

Some of the new ideas and people they will meet in college or in the workplace will probably be very different from what they were taught or experienced as children and teens. These new ideas may come into conflict or appear to challenge their current belief system. In an environment in which they are having to make their own decisions and in which they are trying to act like adults, they may temporarily put their own beliefs and practices on the back burner—so to speak. This also coincides with their exposure to new ideas and concepts in college. As part of their process of questioning these ideas, they may ask hard questions about their own faith beliefs. In doing so, they may suspend their beliefs in an effort to compare concepts. They may visit a mosque or synagogue in order to test out these theories. Or they may stop participating altogether.

All of this may be part of their effort to move from a searching faith as a teen to an owned personal adult faith. John West-erhoff has described this as “belief without belonging” in which the young adult will have a high level of belief but with a lower level of involvement or confidence in church institutions. Add to this a possible dose of suspicion of institutions and structures that they may develop while on campus or with their new friends. In reality, they may in fact be questioning the church itself rather than their beliefs as they become more conscious of the challenges of theory and practice. Young adults may become quite critical of the adult world’s inability to live their faith more fully and truthfully. And so again, we should not necessarily equate their personal walk with God with church participation. In other words, we should not assume that they are now rejecting their faith or beliefs. It may just be that they are trying to deepen their beliefs through these questions, doubts, explorations and tentativeness.

Combine these points with the fact that they are living in a postmodern world, a world in transition toward God’s kingdom of true love and principle. More and more of their friends come from single parent homes. Confidence in today’s business practices have been shaken more than at any other time in modern history. The ethics and morality of elected officials are visible and now part of the public debate. Our inability to practice stewardship over the environment is more evident as well. This goes hand in hand with what is happening in the religious world. Can you blame them for questioning religious institutions when our daily newspapers reveal horrific abuses committed by men and women of faith? Juxtapose that with their desire for true love and you can see the tensions with which they must deal. For those young men and women who have taken True Parents’ message to heart concerning true love and the need to create true families and who want desperately to experience that kind of love and hope, they may be hesitant to rush into the blessing. As marriage or blessing is so intimately tied into the substance of their faith, you can see the dilemma some may be experiencing.

The question then is: What can we do for our young adults? How can we minister to, teach, and guide our young men and women effectively? Of course, the best preventative is a faithful home and an effective children’s ministry program. But, outside of those corrective, we need to develop a strong young adult ministry in

general and an effective campus ministry subsequently for our college students. When I say “campus ministry,” I am talking about a trained ministry on campuses that is distinct from a student-based program such as World CARP and Service for Peace. Faith development is the purview of pastors and parents. Student-based programs will work more effectively and clearly when there is a complementary campus ministry present as well. I would hope that more and more UTS students will focus their studies on young adult ministry in order to meet this challenge.

What else can we do? I have five additional suggestions. First, we need to be there for our young adults. Young adult faith is not a question of programs as much as it is a question of relationships. While our relationships as parents will change from one of dependence to interdependence, we still need to be there for them and with them. The nature of the parent-child relationship may change but it will never go away. In addition, the faith community as a whole should be there for our young adults. As William Glasser expressed it in *Identity Society*: “Involvement with at least one successful person is a requirement for growing up successfully, maintaining success, or changing from failure to success.” I believe the same holds true for success in our life of faith. Our young adults need to see that our faith works for them. They can only do this if we are there together with them. That also means including our young adults in the life of the community in integral ways. Unless we enhance the availability and quality of our young adult and adult relationships, we will not be able to support these men and women effectively.

Second, we need to affirm their questions as well as the questioners. Rather than fear their questions or think that they have fallen into disbelief or rebellion, we should see their questions for what they are: a search for an adult owned faith. Listen to them. Talk together with them. Show them how to search for the answers. Share with them, as adults, your stories of a living faith. The same goes for the wider faith community.

Third, and possibly most important, we need to provide mentors and peers for our young adults. I would encourage all concerned parents and pastors to form small groups of young adults led by a mentor and older peers who have navigated these waters. Through these small groups, these young men and women can ask those “hard questions.” They can voice those hidden concerns. They can dare to express their worries. All of this can be done under the auspices of a mentor who can create the atmosphere and environment through which God’s love, truth, and beauty can be felt and known. In addition, having those peers who have experienced these things or who are now well on their way toward a mature adult faith will support and nurture these young adults at the same time. After all, young adults tend to become intensely tied to small groups of people and ideas during this period of life. Why not have these older peers be those people around whom your young adult men and women gather?

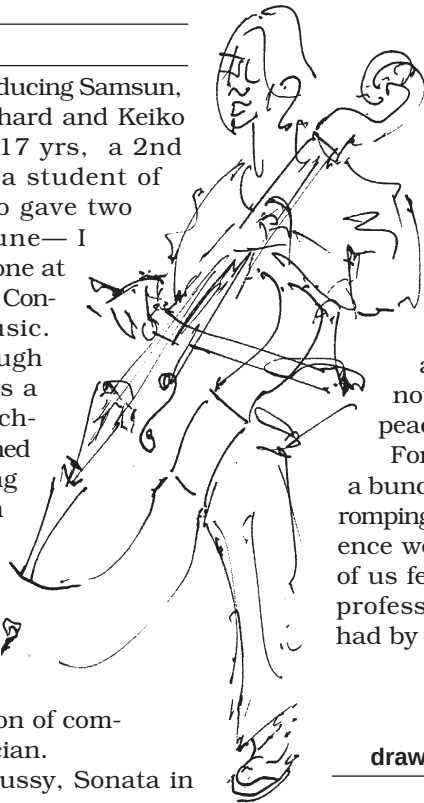
Fourth, all of us need to believe in our faith in real and vibrant ways. If we do not practice our faith vibrantly, if we do not believe in real ways how can we expect the young adults to do the same? Young adults

see **LOSING?** on page 23

Second Generation Virtuoso

by Brian Goldstein

This is introducing Samsun, son of Richard and Keiko Vanloon, 17 yrs, a 2nd gen, BC, and a student of music, and who gave two recitals this June— I attended at the one at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. Samsun, though still a student, is a proficient and technically accomplished cellist. Beginning the program with Beethoven, the Sonata in D, we hear the sublime depths brought to life once again through the union of composer and musician. With the Debussy, Sonata in



drawing by Brian Goldstein

D, we have a surprise, not the dulcet tones of impressionism that we often hear but a piece of symbolist, almost modernist, configurations that included, bows, scrapes and plucks. Finally, the Russian, Shostakovitch, a true modernist full of sound and fury and signifying, not very much in the way of peace love and harmony. For encores, the boys played a bunch of blue grass and some romping jazz. The BCs in the audience were ecstatic and the rest of us felt that an enjoyable and professional evening had been had by all! ♦

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

My Journey in Life: Timely Guidance for Today’s Teens

by Robert Beebe

“This course is an amazing discovery for everybody: students, teachers, parents and grandparents. It is as important for our children today as the air itself.” This response from Svetlana Smirnova, a St. Petersburg teacher, is typical of the enthusiasm that has greeted the arrival of IEF’s character education curriculum in the schools of the former Soviet Union. This course, known in Russian as *My World and I*, has been in use in more than 10,000 schools. Its impact has been profound. In one study conducted among teachers using the material in the Ivanovo Region of Russia, the majority of the teachers themselves reported a significant impact on their own personal character development. Now, for the first time, this course is available in English.

The course is divided into two parts in the form of two textbooks. By teaching universal principles and values, the first volume, entitled *My Journey in Life: A Student Textbook for Character Development* (in Russian, known as *My World & I: The Way of Unification*), seeks to help those in their early teens to develop their heart and character, emphasizing the importance of mind/body unity, the development of the conscience, and sexual purity. As a support, it includes the moral and ethical teachings of the world’s great religious traditions, which are at the root of most of the world’s cultures.

With lesson themes such as “What Kind of Person Should I Become?”, “What Do We Live For?” and “The Challenge of Life,” the text engages pupils in internalizing fundamental values that are at the center of good character. In this way the curriculum seeks to help young people develop the inner strength to resist negative peer pressure and detrimental social influences that are so rampant in today’s world.

Fundamentally, this book challenges the student to examine the principles and resultant values that constitute a meaningful life. It offers three basic life goals as a framework for this: becoming persons of mature character, establishing loving relationships and family, and making a positive and creative contribution to society. If young people can be made aware of these life goals and be inspired to strive for them, it will greatly help them to resist the destructive temptations of drugs, crime and promiscuous sex. Ultimately, such socially destructive influences will only be overcome by offering young people an achievable alternative that speaks to their most fundamental hopes and dreams in life.

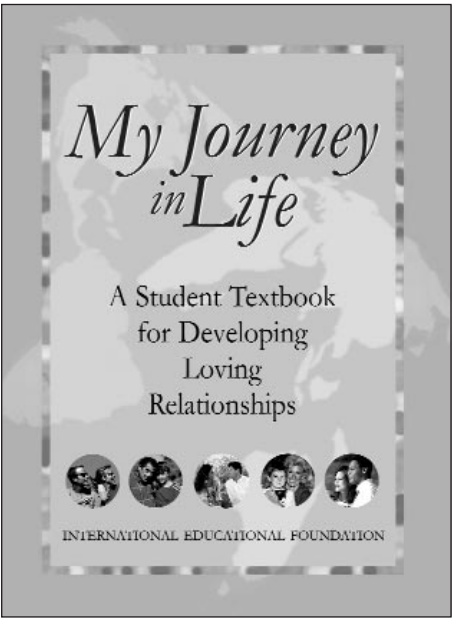
The second volume, *My Journey in Life: A Student Textbook for Developing Loving Relationships* (in Russian, *My World & I: The Way of Love*), written for those in their mid-teens, focuses on human relationships, particularly in preparation for marriage and family. It includes topics on human sexuality, marriage, family, conflict resolution and social

responsibility. It also covers problems such as divorce, single parent families, alcoholism and experiencing rejection. The book features marriage and family traditions in the world’s religions to demonstrate that there are basic universal norms of human love and its sexual expression. In this way students can develop their vision of a realistic ideal for their relationships and future marriages while being aware of the pitfalls along the way.

If the evaluations by pedagogical experts and the reflections on the part of teachers and students who have used this curriculum are any indication, then it would seem that both *My Journey in Life* books have been a resounding success. Receiving high praise for their content and interactive methodological approach, the curriculum has inspired both teachers and students to strive for higher ideals in their lives.

Due to circumstances the *My Journey in Life* series appeared first in Russia, followed by many of the former Soviet republics. However, this work was envisioned long before the actual publication in the 1990s. Although first used in Russia, they were written with the young people of the entire world in mind. Thus, these texts should not be seen as a translation of the Russian, but represent improved editions of the original English texts. In response to numerous requests from around the world, IEF wishes to offer these English editions for use in other countries. They may be translated into various national languages and contextualized by using literary sources and examples from the national culture. IEF is ready to offer its vast experience to assist in this process.

Those interested in ordering these books, either hard copy or on CD, may call Ying Yun Tagawa at the IEF office in New York, tel. 212-944-7466, ext. 403, or send an e-mail to yyus@internationalcharacter.org or hyuus@hotmail.com. If you would like further information or assistance concerning working with ministries of education and schools or organizing teacher training workshops, please contact Robert Beebe at



ief@online.ru.

Background

Many Unificationists are aware of the opportunity that presented itself in the early 1990s for our movement to work in the former Soviet Union following the Rev. Sun Myung Moon’s historic visit to Moscow in April 1990 and his meeting in the Kremlin with Mikhail Gorbachev. This meeting opened the doors to begin a massive exchange program under the title of International Leadership Seminars involving thousands of Soviet and American students over the next two years.

One of the results of this close collaboration with the Soviet Ministry of Higher Education on this project was the initiation of a series of conferences on the theme “Spiritual Renewal and School Education in Russia”, held in the Crimea in November 1992 under the auspices of the Russian Ministry of Education for the purpose of presenting ideas for a moral education curriculum. More than 1500 educators from throughout Russia plus 300 school directors from

“My Journey In Life is a unique event in the field of teaching theory and school practice. The textbook absolutely deserves the highest commendation. This publication of the International Educational Foundation is an altruistic effort directed at supporting humanitarianism by promoting universal values among youth.”
Olga R. Archegova, Robert M. Ganiev Assistant Professors of Education, Vladikavkaz State University, Russia

the Ukraine gathered to hear lectures based on the fundamental values and concepts of the Unification Principle, emphasizing their use as a foundation for moral education.

The early 1990s was a period of optimism when many people throughout the world harbored the hope that lasting peace and harmony was finally within our grasp. However, as the shadow of the Cold War receded, other problems came to the fore to show us that we were still a long way from this ideal. Both the democratic and former communist worlds were being afflict-

ed by similar social problems, such as ethnic conflicts, youth violence, alcoholism, drug abuse, divorce and family breakdown, and a proliferation of sexually transmitted diseases. These problems were symptomatic of a severe crisis of values born of a century that placed the highest priority on scientific and technological development while neglecting to honor and promote the traditional values that had provided a sense of social cohesion and spiritual well being. Brought up to believe that scientific knowledge could solve all of our problems, young people were cast adrift to find answers for themselves in fundamental areas of human life, such as the maturing of their character, preparing for marriage and raising a successful family.

In many of today’s societies there is no longer any consensus about right and wrong or which values should lie at the heart of education. Children often seem to question all values and authority, leaving parents and teachers unsure how to guide them. Ignoring the deeper questions about life, many young people pursue a hedonistic lifestyle of self-gratification, seeking to find happiness in material pursuits.

In the case of Russia and other former Soviet societies, the collapse of communism suddenly discarded the ideological framework for the teaching of morals and ethics. At the same time young people struggled to understand how to employ their newly

see **IEF** on page **24**



LOSING? from page 22

are more discerning. Therefore, the faith community and adults around them are challenged to be more genuine and vibrant in their faith. The key words are: genuine and vibrant. Anything less than that will only support their suspicions and doubts concerning institutional religion.

Fifth, we need to show a lived faith. This

helps to counter the over-reliance on reason and intellect. Many young adults are surrounded by the world of intellect and so may readily wonder whether God exists or not, or whether faith is real or not. As long as their faith remains intellectual, it will be hard for them to experience the living God. How often I have heard a young adult say: “But I just don’t know if God really exists or cares about me. Science tells me something different.” If we want our young adults to feel the heart of God,

the heart of True Parents, then they need to see how to live their faith. This comes down to fulfilling True Parents’ dictum of living for the sake of others. This is the area called service learning. This is why Service for Peace is not a service group but an educational endeavor: it challenges young adults to practice their faith by living for the sake of others. It is in that matrix that our men and women will “see” God, will come to “know” God, and will come to “feel” God in their very being.

If we can do all of these things, I believe that we will see a vibrant, faithful, mature young adult faith community who will, in turn, become the true men and women, the true parents, and true families of God’s kingdom.

Got a question concerning education? Write to Dr. Winings at IRFFint@aol.com or mail your questions to her at: 4 West 43rd Street, NYC, NY 10036. Dr. Winings is Dean, UTS-NYC, and President, Educare. ❖

AMBASSADOR OF PEACE PROFILE

Christians and Muslims for Peace

by Paula Fujiwara

Dr. William Baker is a man of God who has answered God's call at the risk of his life. His journey has taken him through Christian colleges into ministry, into service as a U.S. Marine, and on into archeology specializing in ancient history and sacred literature. He has lived and worked all over the Middle East. There, experiencing the conflict in the region first-hand, Dr. Baker has become uniquely qualified to grasp the issues with his knowledge of its history, languages and culture. He has authored books including *Theft Of A Nation, Kashmir; Happy Valley, Valley Of Death*, and *More In Common Than You Think—The Bridge Between Islam And Christianity*. He has become a professor, a lecturer, a peace negotiator, a hostage negotiator, and a consultant to government officials and the media.

Dr. Baker founded Christians and Muslims for Peace about a decade ago and is now devoting himself completely to his peacemaking efforts. His calendar is full of speaking engagements on both national and international T.V. programs as well as other venues. New chapters of CAMP are springing up

continuously all over the world. Several African heads-of-state have asked for his help to avert interreligious conflict. He has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.

In 2001 he was recognized and appointed as an Ambassador of Peace by Rev. and Mrs. Sun Myung Moon.



Dr. Baker signing copies of his book "More in Common Than You Think"

It was in 2001 that several members of Women's Federation for World Peace befriended Dr. Baker through their common involvement with an Interfaith Council in Orange County, California. Together with some local Muslim women, they initiated a women's auxiliary of Christians and Muslims

for Peace with the motto; "peace through understanding and service." They meet monthly in a church or mosque. For \$35 annual dues members receive a copy of Dr.Baker's book, *More In Common Than You Think*, a CAMP lapel pin and the quarterly newsletter.

Dr. Baker was quite inspired by this new initiative. I would like to share some remarks he made this past summer when he spoke at several women's auxiliary meetings:

"What is Islam? What is true Christianity and true Judaism?. Get down to the heart of it! If a Jew and a Christian and a Muslim practice their faith, they'll live in peace. Period! That's it! If they practice their faith.

"I want you to understand ...what CAMP is in my heart. What started CAMP is God gave me that vision that all God's people

on this earth are equal and are valuable to God!

"My dear sisters in faith. I believe for this time and this moment;... God, Allah has brought us all together. Let's face it. If there's going to be peace, the women are going to have to lead the way! It's been historically true, it's bib-

lically true. I've seen it demonstrated in my own life all over the world where I've been. So that's the focus ...of Women's CAMP is for you as homemakers, mothers, grandmothers and just women. You have a tremendous role to play in peace. . It doesn't begin with so-called peace treaties. It doesn't even begin with dialogue. It begins with a person's heart as it did mine. It is women who give birth and you have a connection to those children that men will never know. That's why women lead the way. You are the first wave for women to come together, to lead the men to come together, to lead America to come together for justice. So don't give up! The whole world needs CAMP because Muslims and Christians are 54% of the world's population. ...(W)e can come together on the common ground of peace and respect for all human life and demonstrate it by our actions and our programs.... Muslims and Christians doing local service projects together is the best way to promote peace."

To learn more about Christians and Muslims for Peace, please visit the website WWW.CAMPINTL.COM.

If you are inspired to start a local chapter and want some assistance, you may email me at

PAULAFUJ1@JUNO.COM. ❖

IEF from page 23

found freedoms. Many chose to pursue with abandon the material benefits long denied them. In reaction to the collectivism of the past the post-Soviet period saw the rise of extreme individualism.

Given this reality, participants found the theme of the Crimea program timely. The enthusiastic response of participants led to the establishment of an international team of writers under the direction and guidance of Dr. Joon Ho Seuk, president of the International Educational Foundation, in order to produce student textbooks and teacher manuals that would promote universal values in an exciting and inspiring format conducive to young people's sensibilities at

the time of the approaching 21st century. This was the beginning of the *My World & I* project.

Working at a rapid pace, the first edition of *My World & I: The Way of Unification*, intended for 13-15 year-olds, was published together with an accompanying teacher manual. In the summer of 1993, IEF held its first Teacher Training Workshops in order to train teachers how to use the new curriculum. In these workshops lectures explaining the philosophical foundation of the curriculum were presented as well as lectures suggesting innovative methodological approaches appropriate to the teaching of the material. In 1994 IEF produced a second volume of *My World & I*, subtitled *The Way of Love*, written for 15-17 year olds. In subsequent years IEF went on to publish other student textbooks, teacher manuals, and handbooks for parents, designed to be used for various age levels. Many of these have been translated into other languages from the original Russian with the support of various ministries of education. Each year IEF has been conducting hundreds of training seminars involving thousands of teachers throughout the CIS, Baltic States and Mongolia to instruct them on the use of the materials. At these seminars and in other ways, hundreds of thousands of books have been distributed in these countries.

As mentioned above, the *My Journey in Life* series represents a unique collaboration of an international team of educators and writers. The origi-



"The most valuable idea, which permeates the whole book, is the idea of chastity. It is a message that our young people, bombarded as they are from all sides by the media and society that chastity is no longer a value, need to hear now more than ever." A group of parents from St. Petersburg

nal versions were published at a time when the Cold War was coming to an end and opportunities for ventures between the democratic and communist worlds were opening up in many different fields. Thus, they are probably the first of their kind covering an area of vital concern to cultures throughout the world—the moral education of children. In the nations in which they are being used, these books offer a refreshing approach to the field and are seen as a valuable resource supporting the character development of the young generation.

Our hope is that these books, which have given much inspiration and joy to thousands of school children and their teachers in the former Soviet Union, in their English editions will benefit countless others throughout the world and contribute to the character development

of the young generation in many different nations and cultures.

About IEF

Founded in 1990 by Rev. and Mrs. Sun Myung Moon to promote moral and ethical values in education, the International Educational Foundation, through its activities and publications, seeks to address the worldwide crisis of values by offering an approach that combines the best of contemporary and traditional values, spiritual and material values, and Eastern and Western values. We call this a universal values approach. It is an approach that emphasizes what we have in common by stressing timeless values and presenting them in a way that can appeal

to the idealistic sensibilities of young people transcending cultures.

IEF works in the fields of character education, youth purity education, marriage and family education, and service education or volunteerism. In the field of character education, it has been emphasizing the need to cultivate the hearts and consciences of children in addition to the education of their intellects. Based upon the teachings of Rev. Moon, the *My Journey in Life* two-volume series is an attempt to meet this need.

Once again, for orders please contact Ying Yun Tagawa at the IEF office in New York by phone at 212-944-7466 or by e-mail at yyus@internationalcharacter.org or hyyus@hotmail. For more information or assistance, you may contact Robert Beebe at ief@online.ru. ❖

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PAUL
CARLSON

This month's article is the second in a series of three examining human nature and relationships. As the title implies, we'll focus on some of the difficulties. (Don't worry, it gets better next month!)

Many people find the subject uncomfortable, and this article is intended for mature readers.

A national discussion has emerged about relationships. Once obscure studies have become famous. For example, all the news about men being reluctant to marry, due to permissive attitudes and punitive divorce laws. (Not to mention that old saw about "getting the milk for free.")

It's not just men. Radical feminists sold women a bill of goods, and Americans are only now facing the consequences of their misconceptions. About two-thirds of divorces are initiated by the wife, and only a small fraction of those involve any sort of abuse.

It's getting harder for ladies to marry. Women almost always marry someone taller; a tall woman finds an even taller man. Wealthy men's 'trophy wives' are the exceptions that prove the rule.

Women rarely 'marry down.' A male surgeon will marry a nurse, but a female doctor almost never weds an orderly. A career woman will perceive an ambitious man as a rival, subverting their age-old home building instincts.

This is not to say that a woman shouldn't go forth and succeed. However, she should understand the dilemmas her success may entail. For a woman with a long career, that infamous 'biological clock' only makes it worse....

Michael Segell's popular *StandUp Guy* books wade deep into this minefield. Read 'em and you'll become very grateful for our church's Blessing tradition.

Schools and Culture

Rather than instilling good character, the Public Schools are mostly adding to this mess. Feminists dominate the teaching colleges, and their shadow is long indeed.

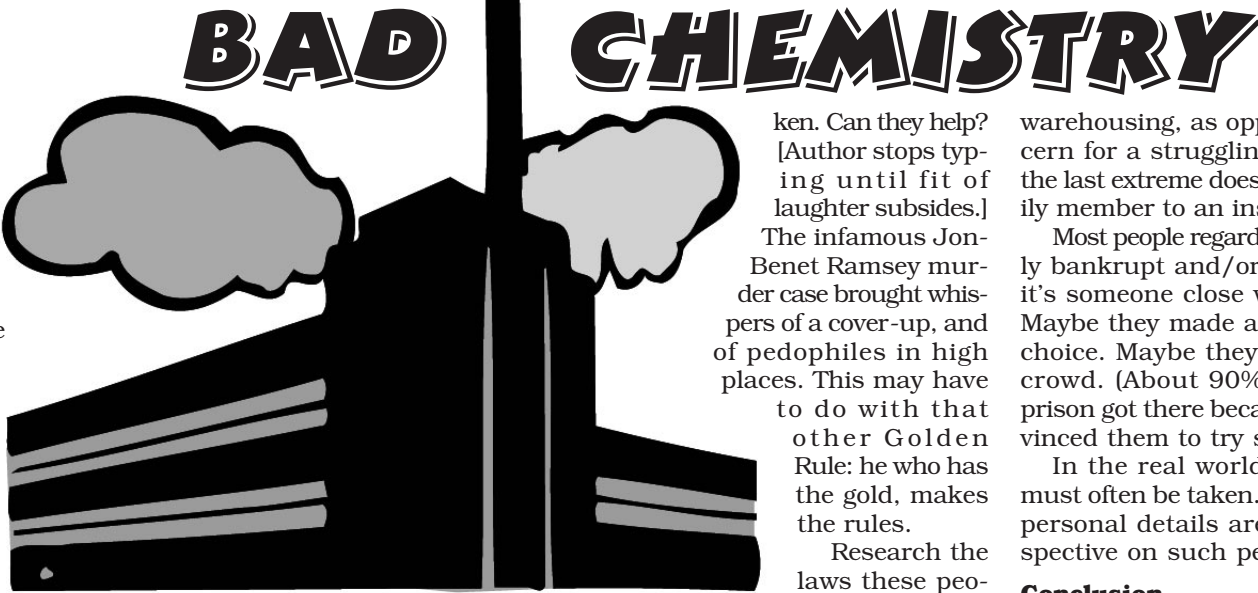
Many schools have ties with Planned Parenthood. On-campus clinics offer antibiotics, birth control, and even referrals to abortion clinics—and it's illegal to tell the parents. (Also keeping family doctors in the dark.)

In my opinion, Planned Parenthood has an animalistic view of teenage sexuality, which stems from their Darwinist perception of human nature.

The most liberal schools now display 'gay tolerance' posters with an 800 number for the children to call.

People seeking good relationships aren't getting much help from the Popular Culture. When *The Osbournes* becomes a TV hit, comparing America to the late Roman Empire just doesn't do the trick any more.

Mixed-up human



nature is at the foundation of most popular entertainment. Romance and thriller stories draw inspiration directly from cave man times. Multiple suitors for the heroine to choose from, and a bevy of available females for the hero, are universal components of their plots.

Scientists

But, you say, those novels and films are so moronic! Surely intelligent types like scientists can offer hope.

Don't count on it. Remember the Adulterous Gene? Famous researchers insisted that adultery is okay—even better—due to its handy mix-and-matching of genes and homemaking. That they'd actually say this illustrates a classic 'ivory tower' viewpoint.

There are homosexual scientists. Some pushed the idea of a Gay Gene. Later, they were (quietly) happy to see that theory discredited. They'd realized that most parents wouldn't want children who carried such a gene.

Decent scientists are in a bind. Political agendas drive research funding, so they feel compelled to toe the line. Of course, some information gets through. Check out *Kinky Cats*, *Immortal Amoebas*, and *Nine-Armed Octopuses*, by Raymond Obstfeld. Seems there really are homosexual animals, of two kinds.

First: those too dumb to grasp their own gender, and likely to mate with anything resembling their species, and often, any promising inanimate object.

Second: those who mate only once a year. These must first defeat a horde of male rivals, then spend themselves in a day-long frenzy—with *anyone* who gets close enough.

Your author does have several gay friends, but in my opinion, there are human males who combine the worst of both traits...

Politicians

Some politicians are quite well-spo-

ken. Can they help? [Author stops typing until fit of laughter subsides.]

The infamous Jon-Benet Ramsey murder case brought whisperers of a cover-up, and of pedophiles in high places. This may have to do with that other Golden Rule: he who has the gold, makes the rules.

Research the laws these people propose, and even get passed sometimes. You'll want to become an activist—or a hermit.

Belgium's recent White March was an entire nation's repudiation of such corruption, found at the very top of European society.

Mental Health

Whether from spiritual, genetic, or environmental causes, some people's chemistry becomes unbalanced. Tragically, millions suffer from mental illness. Only now has this been placed under the coverage of group health plans. That's a good thing, though it's likely to become an even bigger loophole for cheating than whiplash.

The American mental health system shows great compassion, some confusion, and a measure of evil, too. The most horrible abuses have been curbed, from Nurse Ratched imitators to the overuse of Thorazine and electroshock treatments.

The reaction to this went too far. Liberals closed most of the big mental hospitals, and many of the residents ended up homeless.

Balancing such a 'system' is extremely difficult. Conservatorship laws were used in a terrible, but short-lived, deprogramming effort. Now they've been weakened to the point where an obviously ill adult (anyone short of a murderous rampager) cannot be held for more than three days. Even if it means they will get out, then walk straight into a figurative buzz saw.

It would help if more professionals understood the Spirit World. This author recalls the weirdoes that used to come around the San Francisco center. Now, as groundskeeper at our suburban Family Church, I see crazies drawn to our property like a magnet. (By desperate ancestors?) I've nearly had to call the police!

Perspective

'Chemistry' is a slang word for human interactions. Humans will also employ chemicals in an attempt to improve their relationships. Usually it gets them in big trouble instead.

It's easy to regard the homeless as worthless bums, as opposed to one's attitude about a wandering friend. Maybe they just can't handle money, or ongoing responsibilities.

You might regard the mentally ill as fit for

warehousing, as opposed to your concern for a struggling relative. Only at the last extreme does one commit a family member to an institution.

Most people regard criminals as morally bankrupt and/or evil, except when it's someone close who "goes wrong." Maybe they made a foolish, desperate choice. Maybe they fell in with a bad crowd. (About 90% of the women in prison got there because some guy convinced them to try something stupid.)

In the real world, stern measures must often be taken. Even so, when the personal details are known, our perspective on such people may change.

Conclusion

The current Culture War is predicated upon different assumptions about human nature. Are we animals, or made in God's image? Or both? A correct understanding, moved by profound compassion, is the only force that can straighten out human relationships. And that's the only building block that will form a better society.

At a well-publicized Release the Peace conference in Oakland, California, our members were able to explain this to an attentive gathering of civic and religious leaders. There were no easy fixes, but many brave people responded.

Right now, only a small fraction of young Americans feel ready for marriage, even when we offer it to them as a genuine Blessing from God. Perhaps they're right to wait, but only if they take the opportunity to become mature.

It will take wisdom, patience, and maybe even some clever marketing, but sooner or later people will flock to the banner of True Love. ❖

New Website for
Matching 'Jacob
Children'

by Jim Stephens

In the Unification Church many couples have joined who already had children. These children have been raised in the traditions of True Parents and Divine Principle, usually along side Second Generation Blessed Children. They have come to be called "Jacob Children" because many of them stayed in the Jacob House in Tarrytown, NY, while their parents were full time missionaries.

Most of these young people desire to be married to persons of similar faith and experience and purity. Therefore we have created a website for pictures and biographical information to help parents find spouses for their eligible children.

The website is now active at: www.jacobcandidates.com.

All pictures and personal information is in a password protected area. Please help us to "spread the word" about this site to those you know who might be interested.

For more information contact: Jim Stephens, 6106 Tamar Dr., Columbia, MD 21045. Phone: 410-997-6450. Fax: 410-997-5134. email jacobcandidates@comcast.net. ❖

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Under the Shehaqua Moon

**KIM KORMAN
BROWN**



We had an opportunity to take our kids to Family Camp in the Pocono mountains of Pennsylvania last week. As we turned up the gravel road to Camp Shehaqua after the 10 hour drive from Virginia Beach, I began to panic and wanted to turn back. What if we don't know anybody? What if they ask us to do something we don't want to do? What if they don't —like us? All the heebee jeebies rolled over me as we landed in front of the registration cabin. Then came a blur of plastic mugs, T-shirts, plastic name tags, cabin assignments and schedules.

We went to dinner and to the orientation meeting held in huge wooden lodges built in the 1930's. The whole place was set up with manageable walks through the woods between the main lodges and the units of cabins. A knee-high canopy of ferns covered the forest floor all around. During our stay we saw fat scurrying beavers, charming chipmunks and spotted fawns like Bambi grazing in the meadow.

On the first night the capable and inspired staff gave us a brief overview of the week, our responsibilities and what to expect. The unique thing about this camp is that it is a family effort. Most summer camps are places where parents drop their kids and make a run for it. At this camp parents are the counselors, cooks, and staff. One mom created an incredible menu and acted as camp cook, which she and her helpers carried out with great aplomb. Families sharing the work both cut the cost and gave families a summer camp experience together.

At the orientation, we were warned not to keep food in our cabins because of bears. The previous year a boy had stepped in a marshmallow and awoke in the middle of the night to find a bear licking it off his foot. (His parents probably don't have to push him much at bath time anymore; "Rodney, you

remember what happened last time you didn't bathe...")

I lay in bed the first night, sure that I heard bears snuffling outside the cabin. I held my breath in a half sleeping state, waiting for the cabin door to fling open and a thunderous invasion of growling black bears to burst in grabbing toothpaste, shampoo and throat lozenges - and maybe bending down to give our toes a quick lick, hoping for a marshmallow. So works the mind in the dark, insect-loud woods.

We experienced campstipation, a camping phenomenon for those who eat too many marshmallows and not enough fiber. When will someone invent a whole grain marshmallow? In the dead of night I walked to the communal bathroom (nervously scanning the bushes for bears with my flashlight) and then sat there, watching daddy longlegs climb over the bodies of other daddy longlegs on the wall, wondering if they were mating, fighting or merely saying, "howdy do". There is meditation and pondering in the throbbing, chirping, darkness of crickets, the snoring of campers, and the lonely flushing of camp toilets at 3am. Sometimes there is snoring on the toilet as one awakes sitting there, dreaming that one is

snug in bed.

Our boys spent the week dipped in dirt fondue, dirt clinging to dirt, dirt begetting dirt, dirt embedding its dirty self into shorts, socks and unmentionables.

In the motel shower on the way home, they discovered the recipe for cajun blackened towels. Our daughter maintained her feminine poise without missing a beat, twisting threads into necklaces and dream catchers. She managed to arrange sleep-overs in the cabins of other girls. She is woman, hear her roar.

During a morning lesson which I assisted, the teacher placed sheets of paper on the floor in front of the six year olds: a white page, a white page with a black spot, a white page nearly covered by a black spot and a black page. She said, "Does

anyone here know anyone who is pure and sinless like this white page?" One little girl raised her hand and said, "I know, I know! My mommy is!"

One of my favorite moments of the whole camp was when everyone sang

a song signifying the end of the days' activities, written by one of the fathers, a singer/songwriter named Stefan des Laurier. It was such a great song I want to post the lyrics here.

"Time to Say Goodnight."

"It's time to say goodnight, the day is almost done, hello to Mr. Moon, goodbye to Mr. Sun. Let Mr. Sun shine on distant shores, may the world turn a little more green, May children who are not yet born live to breathe air that's clean.

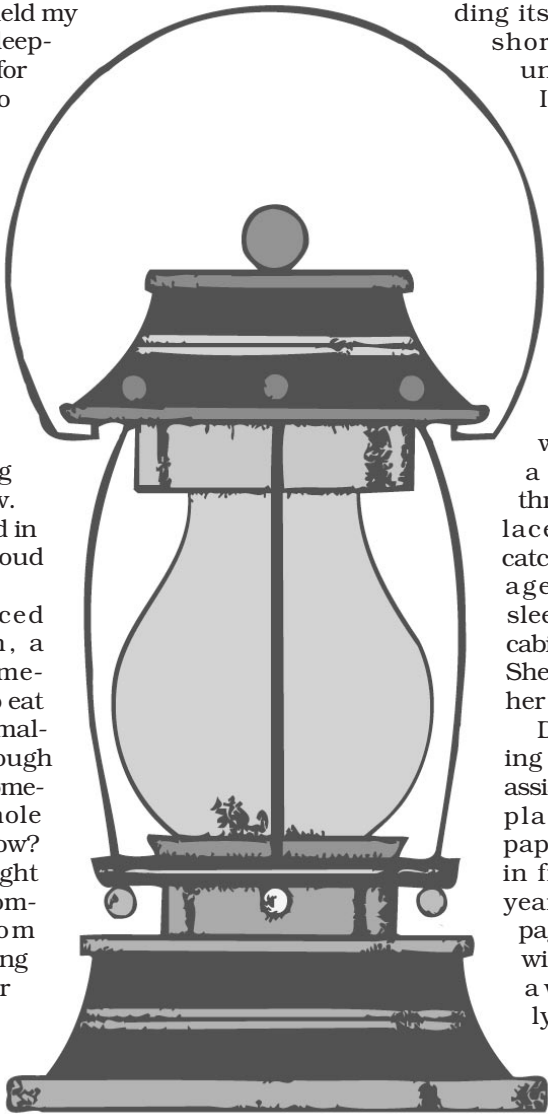
"Mr. Moon moves the seas around, and makes all life continue on, Let God's creatures all abound, from the toads to the graceful fawn.

"Please answer every human need, children grow up much too fast, Heal the broken heart that bleeds and may the time of wonder last..."

On the last night of camp I was sitting behind two teenage girls whose parents had founded the camp 8 years before. As I watched them do the hand movements along with the song, I could imagine them as little girls doing the same thing. I saw the full circle of their childhood reaching from the camp's roots to the brink of adulthood.

As we drove away on the final morning, there were people I wished I had gotten to know better, and prayers I wished I had prayed more deeply, and ways of serving I wished I had gone more out of my way to offer. The net result was a week in the glory of creation, with wonderful brothers and sisters under God who created the Family Camp experience for our children. The value of that probably won't be measured for them until they grow up and look back on it. For us it was seen in their inspired faces on the long drive home.

Kim can be found at web site: "http://worldcommunity.com" and has email address: kimbrown@worldcommunity.com. ♦



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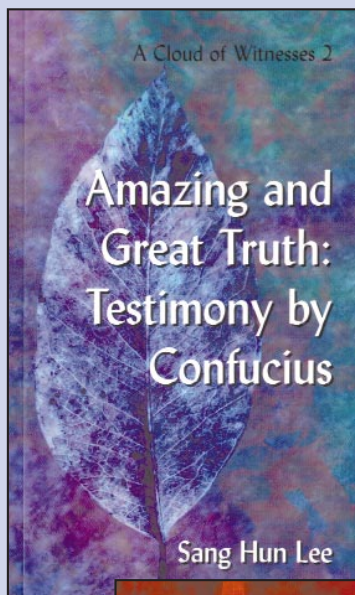
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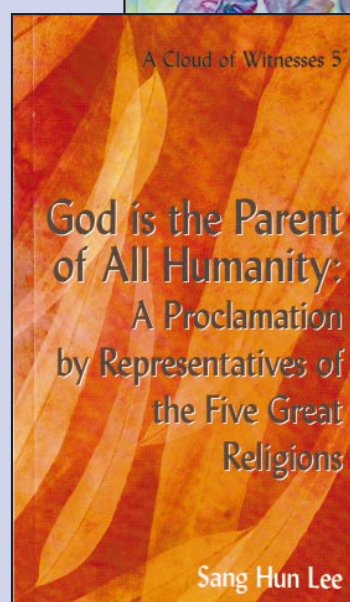
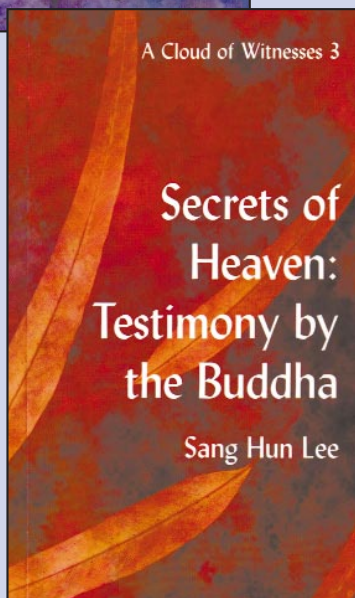
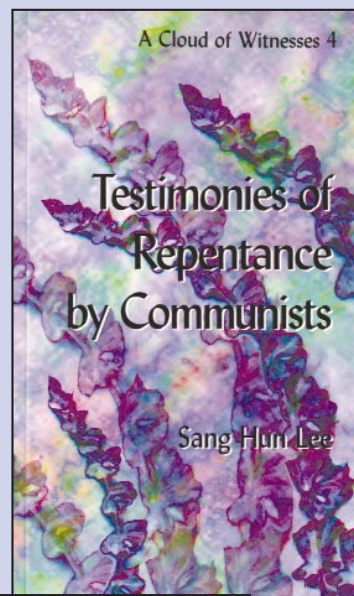
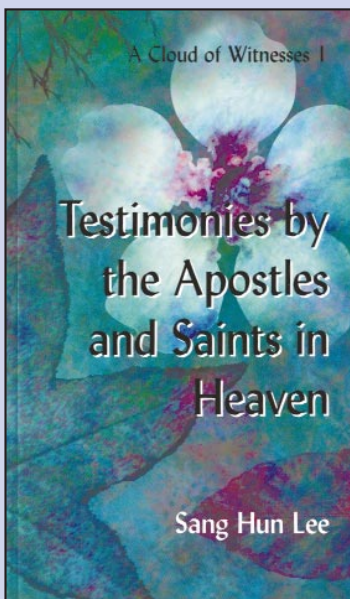
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