

The Ideal Family to Be or Not to Be: Testimonies of a Life of Faith



**A Biography of David S.C. Kim
by Jennifer P. Tanabe**

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Dedication

Dedicated to Dr. David S.C. Kim's family,

children, grandchildren,

and great-grandchildren.

Introduction

In working on this book, a biography of Dr. David Sang Chul Kim, I often wondered how I could complete this task successfully. I have never been good at history, nor had I worked on a biography before. So why did I embark on this project? David S.C. Kim has always valued historical materials, collecting them over the years with great diligence. At some point he mentioned that my husband and I should help him organize his archives for the sake of future generations. From that seed grew the idea of publishing his materials in some organized fashion. The first volume entitled “The Words of David S.C. Kim: Let Us Learn from the Past,” which contains his speeches, interviews, and academic papers, was published in 2009.

Among the many documents I found numerous photographs and other items that could not be designated “writings.” Rather, they documented his life of faith. So, although I had less confidence in my ability to succeed in this project, I began to write a biography. David S.C. Kim never failed in his support, diligently searching for more documents in his extensive archives, and finding yet another vitally significant photograph that showed another event or important person with whom he had worked in his life that spanned over 90 years. Also, he always reminded me that I have good academic qualifications and experience in writing and editing. With such help how could I afford to fail?

This biography, however, is not just an academic discourse. More importantly, David S.C. Kim is one of the early followers of Reverend Sun Myung Moon. In fact, he was one of the five charter members of the Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity (HSA-UWC), also known as the Unification Church, a signatory on the original documents, and one of those who hung the first sign on the front of the small, humble building that first housed what has become a major world religion.

His name, David, was given to him as a revelation through a spiritual lady disciple of Reverend Moon. In this revelation, God told him that his name should be David, like King David in the Bible who slew Goliath. Thus, David S.C. Kim is not an ordinary person or scholar. His life is not one of simply hard work, intellectual genius, or great bravery, although it encompasses all these. Most importantly, it is a life of faith. In order to accomplish the task of preparing this volume, therefore, my challenge was to act in faith, to trust in God and to believe that I had been chosen for this task.

A very important point about this work is that the life of faith of David S.C. Kim is a testimony not so much to his greatness, but more importantly to the life and teachings of Reverend Sun Myung Moon, known by his followers, of whom David S.C. Kim is an exemplary elder, as “True Father” or just “Father,” and, together with his wife Hak Ja Han Moon, who is known as “True Mother,” as the “True Parents.” In David S.C. Kim’s own words at his 80th birthday celebration:

This old general never dies, never fades away, but always prays; but this old general is nothing without True Parents.

The saying “You Shall Know Them by Their Fruits” from Matthew 7:16 comes to mind. Here we have a dedicated follower of Reverend Moon, a follower for more than half a century, whose life is a testimony to his faith in God and True Parents. If anyone has a desire to know whether the teachings of Reverend Moon are valuable both in theory and in practice, then this book may help provide an answer.

Brief Biography of David Sang Chul Kim

1915, November 9 - Born in Seoul, Korea

1942, January 6 - Married Eui Hong Kang

1954, February - Met and joined the Unification group; received the name "David" through Mrs. Se Hyun Ok

1954, May 1 - One of five charter members of HSA-UWC

1954, August - Departed as the Unification Church's first overseas missionary to England

1959, September 18 - Arrived as one of first four missionaries to United States

1975 - Appointed president of the Unification Theological Seminary (UTS); incorporated International One World Crusade

1977 - Charter member, Unification Church International

1978 - Incorporated Global Congress of the World's Religions

1982 - Charter member, International Religious Foundation

1988 - Ph.D., Columbia Pacific University

1990 - UTS gained Absolute Charter from the State of New York

1992 - Listed in *Who's Who in American Education*, and other source books on educators

1994 - Founded Marriage and Family Institute of America

1995 - Celebrated 80th Birthday at UTS

1996 - Appointed Chairman of Family Federation for World Peace and Unification, Netherlands

2000 - Honored as President Emeritus, Board of Trustees, UTS

2005 - Celebrated 90th Birthday at UTS

2008 - Celebrated 90th Birthday of Mrs Kim in Fishkill and Poughkeepsie.