

**The Words of  
David S.C. Kim:  
Let Us Learn from  
the Past**



**Edited by Jennifer P. Tanabe**

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*Dedicated to Heavenly Father,  
True Parents,  
and all Blessed Families of Cheon Il Guk*

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## Preface

It is my great honor and privilege to introduce a sample of the words of Dr. David Sang Chul Kim. And make no mistake, this is but a small sample of the many words spoken and written by Dr. Kim! For years as president of Unification Theological Seminary in Barrytown, New York, he gave “Morning Briefs” to the students, faculty, and staff assembled for morning worship service. On many occasions he spoke informally to students and others joining him on a walk along Father’s Trail early on Sunday morning, or gathered in the student lounge for a “Fireside Chat.” He also used sports tournaments, debate and oratorical contests, and almost any other event that took place at UTS as an opportunity to speak to the students and staff, imparting wisdom in the manner of a spiritual guide rather than an educational administrator. Although such speeches have not all been published in print, Dr. Kim guided his students and staff to make video recordings of all such occasions for historical purposes. Thus, the wisdom that he imparted in so many settings is available in the audio-visual medium.

Dr. Kim’s native language is Korean, and he became fluent in Japanese during the occupation of his homeland when the Korean people were forced to use the Japanese language. He also learned to speak and write English fluently, a valuable asset in his missionary activities in the United Kingdom and the United States. In his English speeches and writings Dr. Kim never used a translator; rather, he served as one of Reverend Moon’s translators for many years. In fact, Dr. Kim authored one of the early translations of the Divine Principle, a lecture series entitled *Individual Preparations for His Coming Kingdom: Interpretation of the Principles*. This was published in 1964 by The United Chapel of Portland, Inc., the organization he established as an early missionary to the United States. The texts contained here, in the form of his reflections, interviews, public speeches, and academic papers, are Dr. Kim’s original words, not a translation of his thoughts from Korean into English.

The theme of this volume is “Let Us Learn from the Past,” a phrase I have heard many a time from Dr. Kim. In this phrase he means not that we must return to a past time, perhaps of glory or

success, or a time that was less self-centered, materialistic, or depraved than contemporary; his meaning is more in line with the saying “learn from the past or be doomed to repeat it.” For Dr. Kim is not interested in returning to past days—he knows well that human history has been a tragic one, filled with pain and suffering and many wrong directions—he is looking forward to a brighter and better future, a world that has not yet existed in reality although many have imagined at least some of its attributes.

Dr. Kim is also urging us to learn from the past and go beyond it to a better future. There is much that is good in the past, but generally even the best is imperfect. There is also much in the past that has been misunderstood and misinterpreted. By reviewing the past and renewing it in the light of contemporary understandings, we can learn both what to do and what not to do in order to live a better life and establish a world of peace and prosperity.

With the arrival of Reverend Sun Myung Moon, and his blessed wife Hak Ja Han, who have been anointed as the True Parents of humankind, true human history has begun. From this moment the age that began after the coming of True Parents is one that must never be forgotten. The most important things we must learn from this time are the revelations of truth and the establishment of heavenly traditions. As True Parents have revealed God’s heart and God’s will for humanity, they have established the model of human behavior, for the individual, the family, and for the society. Dr. Kim is concerned that we never forget these precious truths brought by our great Teacher (as he was called in the old days), our True Father, and never lose the heavenly traditions and standards that have finally been established.

Dr. Kim’s thoughts are concerned with the story of how humankind should have developed had the Human Fall not taken place. Although that “past” can never exist, the processes of development to perfection and the establishment of the ideal world have not changed. With the opening of the era after the coming of True Parents these have now been revealed to us all and can be followed successfully at last.

The texts in the first part of this volume are Dr. Kim’s reflections on God’s providence. Here, Dr. Kim reflects 20 years after the establishment of the Holy Spirit Association for the



Unification of World Christianity in May 1954, Dr. Kim being one of the five founding members; he reflects again 30 years after its establishment; and again 40 years after the initiation of missionary activities in the United States in 1959, Dr. Kim having arrived in Portland, Oregon on September 18, 1959 as one of the first four missionaries to this country. From these reflections much can be learned about the past of the Unification Movement, important lessons that are crucial for a successful future.

The second part of this volume contains interviews that Dr. Kim kindly granted on three occasions. In these transcripts we find more reflections on God's providence and the early days of the Unification Movement. Also contained are gems of wisdom and guidance that can benefit us all. These interviews with Dr. Kim reveal many insights into his personal life of faith, his family life, and his public life of service. They are highlighted by his personal testimony, at times humorous, at times deeply spiritual in content.

The largest part of this volume consists of a number of public speeches, some previously published but many not, that Dr. Kim gave on a variety of occasions spanning half a century of missionary activity away from his homeland of Korea. Since he has served in the United States since 1959 most of the speeches were given in this country. The two earliest were given in Great Britain in 1955, while serving as a missionary there, and one was given in the Netherlands when he was assigned the position of National Messiah there in 1996. The final speech in this section is entitled *The Ideal Family to Be or Not to Be*, a topic dear to his heart, and was given at the Unification Theological Seminary Founder's Society Inaugural Banquet in 2005.

The fourth part contains academic papers written by Dr. Kim. Writing scholarly papers in English is a much more challenging task than preparing and reading a public speech or speaking informally to a gathering. These are papers presented at academic conferences and/or published in scholarly publications. They reveal Dr. Kim's passion to educate all people, particularly Western scholars, with the truth and understanding that he gained from True Parents over his many years of faithful attendance.

An appendix is also included which contains two papers written in Korean.

As noted at the outset, the texts contained in this volume are but a sample of the words of Dr. Kim. Even as I write this, a full 50 years after he arrived as a missionary in the United States, Dr. Kim continues to speak every month at a local prayer breakfast, sharing his wisdom and inspiration to the local community despite his advanced years. God bless Dr. David Sang Chul Kim! May he receive as rich rewards in heaven as he has given to so many on earth.

Jennifer P. Tanabe, Ph.D.

Red Hook, New York, November 2009.

This volume contains speeches, interviews, and academic papers by Dr. David Sang Chul Kim. Born in Seoul, Korea in 1915, he received the Biblical name “David” in 1954 when he met early followers of Reverend Sun Myung Moon and was told:

*You have the mission of David. You must go overseas and fight as a general, like King David did in Biblical days ...*

David Kim was one of the five charter members of the Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity (aka Unification Church), now a worldwide movement. A man of deep faith, passion, and indomitable spirit, he began his missionary work in the 1950s. He served as the first pioneer missionary to go overseas, and as one of the early pioneers to the United States. Describing his long and active life, “General” David Kim revised General Douglas MacArthur’s statement:

*A general never dies or fades away,  
But prays continuously for Kingdom-building on Earth.  
But this old general is nothing without True Parents.*

David Kim has educated and inspired countless people, young and old alike, for over fifty years. This collection of his words contains many of his insightful reflections and personal experiences in his extraordinary life of faith in attendance to True Parents.

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