

## FFWPU Europe and the Middle East: Michael Balcomb on *Attending Substantially Means You Show Up*

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January 2, 2025



*Dr. Michael Balcomb, President of the Europe and the Middle East Region of the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#), delivering his message at an international prayer meeting via Zoom January 1, 2025*

**Dr. Michael Balcomb elaborates on the significance of "attending substantially", a key concept in Mother Moon's New year message**

Extracts from a message delivered by Dr. Michael Balcomb, the President of the Europe and the Middle East Region of the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#), at an international prayer meeting via Zoom on 1st January 2025.

Good evening, everyone. Happy New Year!  
[...]

If you already watched [True Mother's](#) speech yesterday afternoon and then you went to your own midnight prayer service, then I can think we've already begun this year well.

[...] I want to talk about 2025, but before that,

let me just say again to everyone, thank you for all of your efforts, exertions, devotions, everything that we did together in 2024.



*[Mother Moon](#) speaking January 1, 2025 in [Gapyeong](#), South Korea*

I think it was a very good year. It was a challenging one for sure, both in the external world and in our movement. But [God](#) has given us the grace to breathe and to celebrate the first day of 2025.

I want to remember those who ascended to the spirit world in 2024, both from our region, and also those - more and more - who attended [True Father](#) and [Mother](#) from the very earliest years.

But 1st January is a day to look forward, not backwards. And I want to share a little bit about [True Mother's](#) message.

[...] I think it's really important to take some time to digest and think about what [True Mother](#) shared with us last night. For myself, I always think about this word "substantially".



*[Mother Moon](#) speaking in South Korea*

[True Mother](#) began by saying, "We will attend Heavenly Parent substantially." Su-ho, the translator, said "physically" at first. So you might think that that was a mistake, but not really, because in the [Divine Principle](#), "substantial" means in the physical world and in the spiritual world, both. So what does it really mean to attend "substantially" [Editor's note: In Korean: 실제로 모시고 (shilche-ro moshigo)]? It's different from attending spiritually. People have been attending Jesus spiritually for 2,000 years. [Editor's note: In the official version of [Mother Moon's](#) speech the Korean expression Dr. Balcomb refers to is translated as, "we can attend Heavenly Parent in substantial ways".]

But to attend substantially is rather different. Here's my thought about it:

The first thing: to attend substantially, in the physical world, the most important thing is to show up. We used to have a saying that 95% of life is showing up. If there's an event, an activity, or a call for devotion, prayer or outreach, whatever it might be, our first substantial duty is to show up.

[...] [True Mother](#) [...] said yesterday that the responsibility of [True Parents](#) is to show the life and the [Kingdom of Heaven](#) on earth. And she's asked us, her children, to be the ones who help her to do that.

Because life in the [Kingdom of Heaven](#) is not a solitary life, is it? It's life as one family. So, either we're all part of it, or it's not life in the [Kingdom](#).



*Congregation singing at the Sunday service*

But also, what about substantially showing up at Sunday service, for instance? I wonder how many of us can say we attended Sunday service every Sunday of the year? 52 weeks out of 52.

I have to tell you, I can't. There were days when I was somewhere else. But, take a reflection, how many times really did I show up?

I belong to a gym with Fumiko [Mrs. Balcomb]. And at the end of the year, it gives you a count of how many times you went to the gym. It's very accurate and a little bit distressing, to be honest.

And there are other events, too, where showing up is voluntary, but it would be helpful. That includes other people's events, other churches' events, other organization. We're always so happy when people come to our programs and

accept our invitation. But it's also true that they're happy if we attend their events. When we attend, representing [God](#) and [True Parents](#), that's very important.

The first point of attending substantially is to show up, get yourself there. Don't think it's enough to be only on Zoom or to pray for it at the time. As much as possible, you want to come there yourself.

[...] It's going to be a great year. It's going to be a victorious year. I know that [True Mother](#) is right to say that it will be a year of tremendous transition.

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# True Parents

## True Parents – what Adam and Eve should have become

The terms "True Father" and "True Mother" denote the two persons necessary to have True Parents.

The significance of this special term is that **God** has finally been able to have a son and a daughter who have become the True Parents of humankind. Jesus only became the spiritual father of those who believe in him, because he never could hold the "Marriage of the Lamb". In other words, **God** had to wait for thousands of years before this ideal that True Parents represent could be realized. True Parents represent the very source of **true love**, true life, and a true lineage. It is only through True Parents that humanity may return to **God** and become true sons and daughters.



Father and Mother Moon



Adam and Eve in Paradise. [Public domain](#) image. Cropped

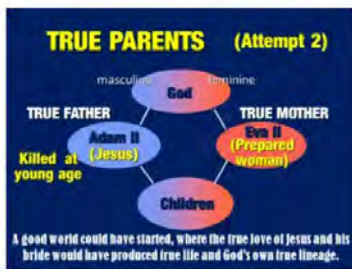
Because of the fall, we humans lost our originally intended position as true sons and daughters of **God**, who would have given them the stewardship of earth and heaven. Instead, the first humans fell to an incredibly low level when they were led astray by the archangel Lucifer and came under his dominion. Angels were created to be servants of **God** and human beings. We humans were created to be children of **God**. Instead, the first man and woman followed a rebellious angel and thus became the servants of a servant.

It took **God** thousands of years before he was able to reveal certain principles and laws, law religion (e.g. the Ten Commandments), which described what was permitted and not permitted for us humans. Thus the foundation was laid so that those who based their lives on these rules could become **God's** servants.

However, this was far from the final goal. **God** longed for us to become His children. Finally, the conditions were established so that "the second Adam", **God's** son, Jesus, could be born, without original sin. He was the first to achieve what we all will one day achieve, namely to become true sons and daughters of **God**. But the tragic thing happened that **God's** servants, the prepared ones at that time, killed him who was **God's** only son. Thus the road became closed to all the rest of us.

Instead, by giving his life on the cross, the resurrected Jesus succeeded in giving us spiritual salvation, that is, those who believe in Jesus, may join him in paradise in the afterlife.

But Jesus could not remove the original sin. It entered the world through "the first Adam" and "the first Eve", when they gave birth to children and created a false lineage based on their false and immature love.



In order to remove the original sin, "the second Adam", Jesus, should therefore have first become one with a woman whom **God** had prepared to be "the second Eve". However, that never happened. For that reason, all people continued to have the original sin. Nevertheless, by believing in Jesus, it became possible to become **God's** "adopted child", i.e. even if one is born with the original sin from the false parents Adam and Eve, one can be given new life spiritually through Jesus and the Holy Spirit.



Finally, in **1960**, humankind could get True Parents! It means that what Jesus did not achieve, was finally realized through **Sun Myung Moon** and his wife **Hak Ja Han**. Because of the True Parents, the way to become **God's** true sons and daughters has been opened. We don't just have to be **God's** servants, or **God's** "adopted children", anymore. Through True Parents, the original sin is removed so that everyone may become **God's** true sons and daughters. A new age has begun, the age when we may all become what we were originally created to be!



Text: Knut Holdhus

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