

The Homecoming of True Parents

by Dr. James A. Baughman

Faxed December, 3 1991 from Beijing, China

Some forty years ago, Father and Mother left their hometowns in the North and separately journeyed to the South—each with their own remarkable story. This was years before they would meet for the Holy Wedding in 1960.

On November 30, 1991, our True Parents traveled together as they returned to their hometowns in the North at the invitation of the North Korean government. Nothing is ever coincidental when it comes to True Parents' schedule, although things are never actually planned to correspond with other matters of significance. As it turns out, the date of their arrival in Pyongyang corresponds to the lunar date October 25—Father's and Mother's birthday.

The depths of significance of this historic event may never fully be realized for many years to come.

For instance, it is important to note that it was

Kim Jong Il, son of Kim Il Sung, who was the main actor behind the invitation of our True Parents to the North.

Father has said for many years, especially recently, that it would be the second generation who would welcome him to their countries.

Unlike Jacob who was never invited by his brother to return home, Father was invited by the son of the leader of North Korea.

It is important to note several distinctive factors about this visit. First of all, True Parents were invited for the primary purpose of visiting his hometown and holding a family reunion for his relatives. This dream has been in the depths of Father's heart ever since he left Pyongyang on his dangerous trek south with Mr. Pak and Rev. Won Pil Kim. It is no coincidence that the invitation from the North corresponded with the deepest spiritual purpose intended by Father. As we know from what he has been telling us for many years, Father had to resolve the *han* of his own family, and more importantly fulfill a dimension of his mission that Jesus was unfortunately unable to accomplish.

The second purpose of Father's visit, as understood clearly by the North Korean government, was to discuss the future of the two Koreas, especially in terms of bringing reconciliation and unification promoted by economic and humanitarian projects between our movement and the North. This is in keeping with the largest of Father's providential goals—to serve Esau and unite the two brothers on a cosmic level. Father

has been able to achieve in this one visit both extremes of his providential goals, ranging from the tribe or clan level to the unified nation, world and cosmic levels.

A second distinctive factor about this visit is that True Parents were invited specifically as the founders and spiritual leaders of the Unification Church. As the church was Father's beginning point, as well as his central focus throughout his life's work, this was the way the North Koreans identified and honored his presence. It is almost ironic that this particular government, unlike many in the West, recognized him not as a businessman or political leader, but rather as a genuine religious leader.

It is impossible for any of us to fully grasp what has gone on in Father's mind and heart prior to and

during this historic visit to the North, or what he was feeling when he saw his sisters and other relatives after forty years of separation and great sacrifice on his part for millions of people worldwide. Or to fathom his liberation at the prospects of break-

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ing through at the highest levels of North Korean society and setting the stage for national unification. Or to experience his joy at the vindication of his entire life's work, coming full circle to the place of his birth, his upbringing and the revelation which sparked the beginning of a course which would change history forever.

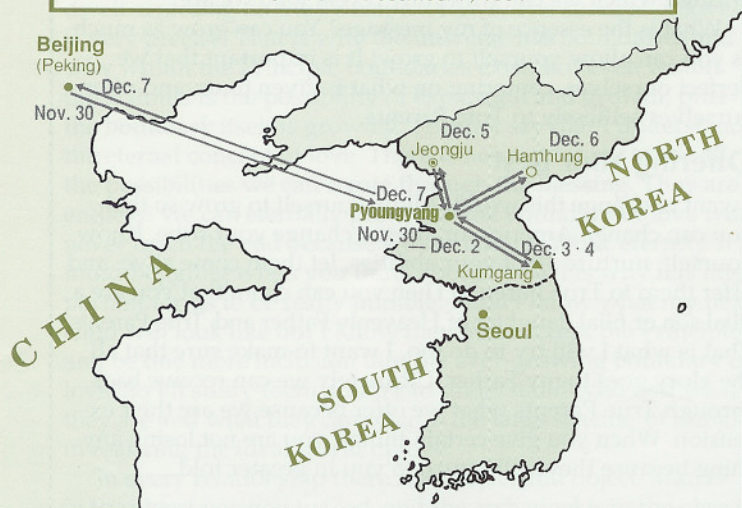
As I reflect on these and other matters, I cannot help but weep to think that I along with all other members of our church worldwide have been witnesses to the most spectacular events of history. It is only because Father hand-picked us, trained us and endured our lack of heart and faith that we have been able to participate in this history from such a special vantage point.

In realizing this we cannot help but repent for our greatest historical shame of consistent disbelief in our True Parents from the first days of his mission to today. How often in the early days did members lack faith in Father's vision and word? How often have we followed suit today, even with the record of the miracles which surrounded the fulfillment of every vision and word given to us? How quick we are still to despair and be confused; to feel bitter and beaten;

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TRUE PARENTS VISIT NORTH KOREA

November 30 — December 7, 1991



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to subsequently condemn others and seek to merely maintain our own personal and family survival during times of crisis, turmoil and difficulty in our church. I think our shame is greatest when we realize how we have fallen short of the faith necessary to get through the present difficulties facing our movement.

What we have failed to do historically as well as in the present is to notice and practice the manner and attitude with which Father approaches such challenges. In his seemingly darkest hours Father never retreated or retreated, only to think of his own survival. Instead, he gave more, loved more, reached out to others more—all at the greater sacrifice of himself. If indeed our movement is facing a critical phase in its history—as is evidenced in its global economic crises, the questioning of some of its members' faith, and the shake-up of its leadership—then it is no wonder that Father responds by putting the entire movement on the altar of sacrifice in order to give even more to those who would see themselves as his enemies.

This is the greatest moment in the history of our True Parents. I believe that the greatest way in which we can behave as responsible and filial sons and daughters is to imitate their pattern of sacrifice and true love for the sake of God and the world, even if it means to forsake our personal and often petty concerns. In this sense, I reinforce Father's request that we read his speech "The Way Blessed Families Should Go" given in 1971 in Korea. Long live the glory of the two greatest people ever to live who have touched the depths of our souls and saved our lives so unselfishly! ■■

Dr. James Baughman is the President of Unification Church of America.

Statement Issued by R

Beijing, China, December 7, 1991

Ms. Moon and I have just returned from visiting North Korea at the official invitation of the government of North Korea. This was for me an historic opportunity to return to North Korea for the first time in more than forty years.

No one can claim more justification than I for harboring feelings of ill will against North Korea. I received severe persecution from the current government of North Korea because of my position as a religious leader and my unswerving anti-communist principles. I was tortured harshly and then imprisoned for nearly three years in a labor camp. There I witnessed the deaths of many who also had been imprisoned without cause. The fact that I am alive today can only be described as a miracle and as the result of God's special blessing and protection.

Now, I have visited North Korea in my position as the founder of the Unification Church and in the spirit of True Love. True Love is that love which loves even that which cannot be loved. It is the love that Jesus spoke of when he told us to love our enemies.

As I set foot in Pyongyang, my heart was as clear as the autumn sky. I did not feel that I was entering the house of my enemy, but rather that I was returning to my hometown to visit the house of my brother. I carried with me to North Korea the principle that I have always lived by, that is, to forgive, love and unite.

It is widely known that during the four-decades-long Cold War between the Western and Communist blocs I was among the world's strongest anticommunists. As the founder of the International Federation for Victory Over Communism, I devoted my life to the struggle against Communism.

My ideology for victory over communism, however, was never intended to bring death to those who espouse communism. My desire has always been to bring life. The goal



ev. Sun Myung Moon

of my ideology has been to bring salvation to all humanity. As communist regimes have fallen in country after country following the collapse of the Berlin Wall, I have moved quickly to educate the people of these countries with a new value system. I have devoted my full energies to giving life to these countries.

Thousands of politicians, academicians and university students from the Soviet Union and the newly democratized countries of Eastern and Central Europe have visited the United States and Japan at my invitation. There I have been teaching my ideas of Godism, and Headwing philosophy, which I believe should underpin real and lasting democracy. These people have returned to their countries and many are dedicating themselves to regenerate their shattered homelands.

In order to ensure that the world does not miss the opportunity for peace in the post Cold War era, I founded the International Federation for World Peace. Through this organization, I am taking the lead in the effort for world peace.

During my visit to North Korea, I was reunited with members of my family. At the moment that we met, my heart was filled with joy, but also a sense of deep pain. The pain was for my numerous fellow citizens who are still separated from their loved ones across the 38th parallel and are denied the opportunity to meet their families.

For those whose loved ones have already died, the pain of separation cannot be relieved for all eternity. For their sake, we must redouble our effort to erase the tragedy of national division and family separation as quickly as possible.

In my meeting with President Kim Il Sung, I requested that he work to bring about exchanges of visits between North and South by members of separated families.

I believe that a resolution to the issue of communism and the accomplishment of world peace is not merely a matter of ideological confrontation and education. Economic assistance is also an important component in the effort to bring life to those people who have been ruled by communism. Thus, in China, for example, we are building the Panda Motors Industrial City with an investment of \$250 million.

This is also my outlook on North Korea. There is a difference, though, in that North Korea is not a foreign country to me. It is the country of my brothers and sisters and of my people. Blood is thicker than water. I love the twenty million citizens of North Korea as my own brothers and sisters. I love them intensely.

The unification of the fatherland, a goal shared by all of our people, cannot be accomplished through political, economic or military means. None of these will succeed unless they are preceded by another element. That element is True

Father's childhood home, unseen by him in more than forty years. "I remembered it as being bigger." It is near the northwestern town of Jeongju.



PHOTOS: KEN OWENS/ANP

Father reads aloud a statement to the press, in Korean, at the VIP lounge immediately after disembarking following his trip to North Korea. He proclaims, "The time has come to beat our swords into plowshares."

Love. Efforts to improve relations between the two sides in political, economic or military fields will lead successfully to unification only if they are motivated by True Love.

I have always believed that even a small act of sharing a spoonful of rice with my brothers represented a positive step that would someday lead to unification. I have confirmed this conviction through the trip I have just completed.

It is in this spirit that I have stated my willingness to establish a wider relationship of economic cooperation and exchange with North Korea and to participate actively in their economic development projects.

I entered Pyongyang this time as an apostle of peace. My firm conviction is that under no circumstances can we have another war on the Korean Peninsula that puts the people of Korea against each other.

I find the recent discussion in the United States both in and out of government about air attacks against North Korean nuclear facilities to be extremely dangerous. North Korea is not Iraq. An attack against North Korea would trigger an all-out war that would result in tragic consequences that no one can begin to imagine.

I ask the United States to be extremely careful about making threats against the right of a given people to maintain their existence. The nuclear issues involving North Korea can be resolved peacefully. This can be done if the issues are addressed in the context of genuine dialogue conducted in the spirit of mutual respect. It was to open the path for such dialogue that I traveled to Pyongyang. I have returned from North Korea after having opened wide that path.

It is my hope that the seventy million people of North and South Korea will put aside their relationship of confrontation. The time has come for us to arrive together in a spirit of reconciliation and love so that we may begin to resurrect the common heritage of our people.

The time has come, as the Bible says, to beat our swords into plowshares and our spears into pruning hooks. We must work quickly to prepare for the future of our unified country in the coming twenty-first century. ■





KEN OWENS / AFP

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FATHER'S HOMETOWN VISIT

“I carried with me to North Korea the principle I have always lived by, to forgive, love and unite.”



Top Left: Father and Mother pray at the pledge service the morning after their return Dec. 8 from North Korea at the China World Hotel. This is the morning of the first report about the trip, given by Dr. Bo Hi Pak who comments several times “everything seemed like a dream, and it still does, but it wasn’t—it was real.” On Dec. 1, they said pledge in North Korea.

Top Right: Father visits and lays flowers at the graves of his father, Kyung Eu Moon and mother, Kyung Kye Kim in his hometown village of Sangsa-Ri in Jeongju country. (Left to right) Father’s cousin and cousin’s spouse, Father’s sister, Father and Mother, Father’s younger sister, Father’s sister-in-law, Father’s nephew (elder brother’s oldest son), Father’s nephew’s son. The lady to the far left is a government official.

Bottom: Father and Mother have their picture taken before departing from Beijing for Pyongyang. Included here are all the members of their party in China, however only six were allowed to accompany them into North Korea on November 30, 1991.

A special report on this hometown visit and the entire visit to North Korea will follow in the February issue.