

FFWPU Europe and the Middle East: Hwang Bo-guk replaces Song Gwang-seok as President of FFWPU So. Korea

Knut Holdhus
August 4, 2024



From the inauguration of Bo-guk Hwang on 1st August 2024

Bo-guk Hwang inaugurated 1st August as new president of the Family Federation in South Korea

by Knut Holdhus



Two presidents of [Family Federation](#) in South Korea, in-coming Bo-guk Hwang and out-going Gwang-seok Song

On 1st August 2024, a ceremony was held at the South Korean headquarters of the [Family Federation](#) in Cheongpa-ro, Yongsan-gu, Seoul to inaugurate Bo-guk Hwang (황보국) as new president of the [Family Federation](#) of South Korea. He replaces Gwang-seok Song (송광석) who held the position since May 2023.

The South Korean paper [Mudeung Daily](#) (무등일보) reported on 2nd August that Hwang in his inaugural address said,

"For the past 33 years, my pastoral philosophy has been to provide clear water to the pastoral field, like

water, a symbol of humility and the source of life. [...] I will start from the lowest position, absolutely obeying the command of heaven and serving with respected pastors and members."



Mudeung Daily

According to the daily, Bo-guk Hwang was born in South Korea in 1963. He received a master's degree in pastoral studies and family therapy from [Sun Moon University](#) Graduate School of Theology and completed a doctoral program in pastoral studies at

Sunhak UP Graduate School. He began his ministry at the Gangwon Diocese of the [Family Federation](#) in 1991 and has since then held various leadership positions within the [Family Federation](#) in the provinces of Gyeonggi and Gangwon.



From the inauguration ceremony 1st August 2024

The inauguration ceremony was also featured on Peace TV's HJ Global News 3rd August 2024. According to news presenter Christa Kamga Fotso Yeun, President Hwang outlined in his inaugural address his vision for the Korean movement. He declared that under his leadership the movement would actively spread the word filled with spirit and truth, involve the youth, and stand strong.

According to the news presenter, this vision aligns with [Mother Moon](#)'s call for an innovation of the Korean movement.

In his inaugural speech, Hwang also emphasized that the [Family Federation](#) today is a movement with a [God](#)-given vision. "What greater vision can there be?" he asked.

He pointed out that [Mother Moon](#) has asked the [Family Federation](#) to become a strong movement. But to be strong doesn't necessarily mean to have a large number of members.

Hwang maintained there are two kinds of movements like the [Family Federation](#). Some are like cruise ships, others like battleships. And there are battleships that carry out operations and engage in battles. He claimed that the [Family Federation](#) is like a battleship. In the 1970s, even though the [Family Federation](#) - then called the [Unification Church](#) - was only present in one location in each district, it had the power to move the entire nation. Hwang stressed that to recover the identity as that kind of movement must be our goal. The [Family Federation](#) must carry out campaigns and operations and be a movement that our Heavenly Parent comes to, that can exert a powerful, good influence on the world. Hwang declared,



Yong-cheon Song on 2nd Aug. 2024

"I will be the captain of our [Family Federation](#) battleship. And we will sail forward!"

Dr. [Yong-cheon Song](#), International President of the [Family Federation](#) delivered a congratulatory address. Won-ju McDevitt conveyed words of encouragement from [Mother Moon](#) to the new president of the [Family Federation](#) of South Korea. The former president Gwang-seok Song gave a "farewell address". The inauguration ceremony was attended by ca. 300 persons, including most branch leaders of the [Family Federation](#).

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Religious Truth As Progressive Revelation

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A warning not to get stuck in our current understanding – truth has historically come as progressive revelation

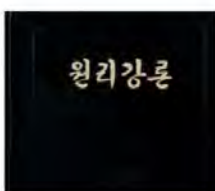
A talk given by **Dr. David Hanna**, head of the North European sub-region of the **Family Federation**, at an international prayer meeting by Zoom on 8th May 2024.

Good evening, everyone.

Over the last seven weeks we have heard summaries of the lectures disseminated by the **Family Federation** International Headquarters.

When I heard that this material was being offered, my first thought was, "Is this going to be useful or helpful in getting our message out to the wider world, especially the Christian world?" – that was my real hope, and it still is.

In my opinion, The **Divine Principle** rescues Christianity from being increasingly regarded as irrelevant; it rescues religion generally from being side-lined and ignored; and, of course, fundamentally it brings the greatest news – the gospel of gospels – that **total salvation is available through the blood of Jesus Christ**.



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available through the already realised **Second Coming**. To prepare for this was Christianity's primary purpose of existence and is the fulfilment of the hopes and expectations of other world faiths as well.

Mother Moon is emphasising that the time is not too late, even it is "ripe" to see a worldwide spiritual awakening and have the immense and rich foundation of worldwide Christianity, especially European Christianity, come metaphorically to the feet of the **True Parents**.

We are, however, from one perspective, bringing a whole bunch of "heretical" ideas to the Christian world, parts of which have a historical reputation for being "heresy hunters", avidly clinging to what in their minds is a settled orthodox view.

How then to bring the message of **Divine Principle** to a wider Christian audience, quickly and successfully – that is the challenge.

I am quite often called to share the **Divine Principle** content with ministers. I am keen to learn how to do that better and more effectively. Currently, I always begin by saying: "We totally respect your ministry, and **God's** calling you to that ministry" – we do not seek to interfere with that in any way. [...]

I also state emphatically – at some later point, when already some key ideas have been shared – that in no way am I saying that those precious and particular ideas we have believed in until now are wrong, indeed they have served us remarkably well and the living proof is that Christianity has grown to be the largest world religion, work that can only be as a result of **God's** guiding hand and with Heavenly Parent's support.



Sun Myung Moon in prayer on Wednesday 17th April 1935, when Jesus first appeared to him. Painting by Shigeyoshi Watanabe from 1982. Photo: FFWPU



*First published in 1966 in Korean: the official version of the **Unification Principles**, Wollli Kangron. First English version, **Divine Principle**, appeared in 1973, revised version, **Exposition of the Divine Principle**, in 1996.*

However, the **Divine Principle** is a **new, clarifying and developmental message that has come through Father Moon's own encounters with the risen Jesus** – and through combining revelation and reason – for the benefit of all and for the time we are living in now; it is being spread widely and is bringing

extraordinary spiritual revival the world over as part of **God's** preparations for us to meet the Lord at the Second Coming beyond denominational, religious and cultural barriers.

I may then say that central to this understanding is that **the Messiah is most helpfully to be considered as a New Adam**, bringing forward these ideas that, under the Christology chapter were topics left to a seven-day workshop in the past. And just as there was Adam and Eve, the messianic, saving work is ultimately to be completed by a couple – a New Adam and New Eve. So the **Holy Spirit was given as a counterpart to Jesus, making them the Spiritual True Parents giving rebirth to all humankind**.

Well, you can fill in all the blanks. The point is: I never tell a believer (by words or by implication) that what they believe is wrong. Mainly because I do not consider it to be wrong – it is just their belief, and it has served them and countless others well in the past as an anchor for our faith, with **God's** approval and blessing. But now we are in a new era, and **God** is sending us some important words of clarification – we need to become new wineskins.

Jesus, of course, faced as a major obstacle to the success of his mission, the stubborn adherence of Jewish religious leaders to the letter of the law.

There are six famous sayings of Jesus that all share the same pattern: They take



Jesus preaching. Illustration: Biblical illustration of Gospel of Mark Chapter 3 by Distant Shores

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the form – “**You have heard it said [...] but I tell you**”.

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This formula is an ingenious one. It avoids having Jesus look as though he is ignoring the Torah, the traditional Jewish teaching, and just bringing in his own teaching – rather it shows him as one who is respecting the Torah and bringing a new seriousness to the core beliefs of the people.

These so called “Antitheses” demonstrate how Jesus approaches the task of interpreting and applying the Torah.

Using this formula, **Jesus** refers to a commandment, provides a common understanding of that commandment, and then **provides an interpretation which strengthens the force of the commandment**.

These sayings are really ‘intensifiers’, and I don’t think “Antitheses” is a good name at all, they are not opposites. They **build on the traditional understanding rather than oppose it**. Thus, it is not enough “not to kill”, or “not to commit adultery”. It is not enough just to love your neighbour, while still having hatred for your enemy.

Jesus is saying that true righteousness, a person in **God's** image, does not even consider doing any of these things, but forgives wrong and loves enemies freely.

It is **God** who must guide not only the deeds of believers, but also their motivation and emotions, their genuine, unseen self. Such striving for perfection signals the breaking dawn of the **Kingdom of God**, the first light of the new age of righteousness and justice breaking in upon the earth.

Why I mention this is because I believe the reception of **the new material** –



A pre-publication version of "True Parents' Status and Value from the Viewpoint of Heaven's Providence". Photo: Screenshot from video published by [FFWPU](#).

concerning the “Status and Value of **True Parents**” – **could have been greatly assisted by this approach**. As it is, there is really no reference to what has been our understanding in the past, or what has been taught, even by **Father Moon** himself, and I can see that it leaves thinking, faithful members wondering what has changed and why – worrying less about the status of **True Parents**, ironically, and more about the status of the accepted truth.

Without the connection to the “You have heard it said,” it seems to imply that what we thought before was wrong, but I don’t think it is intending to say that at all – rather it is making us aware of just how serious is the understanding upon which we base our faith, and how much the world needs this intensification of understanding and should grasp the full implications of the truth already revealed, but perhaps imperfectly, or not fully shared up until now.

We **must not be stuck with one way of understanding**, or eventually we will become unstuck – like the Jews in Jesus’ day, or a faithful Christian whose **rigid beliefs might become an obstacle to understanding how God is working today**. And as **Unificationists, we are not immune from the same tendency**. You will remember how the introduction to the **Divine Principle** speaks of history as a history of progressive revelation.

However, we do have to be very careful as to how we address the beliefs and understandings that underpin a person’s life of faith.

My purpose here is not to criticise the material we have been given but to stimulate YOU into putting the important knowledge that we hold in our hands into a form that can have real, positive, and rapid results – this is our job; it is your job and it’s my job.

Let us therefore think carefully about how best to deliver the truth that **God** has given us for our use today, and in such a way that there are NO CASUALTIES.

Let us work to make our wonderful bundle of “heresies” the new orthodoxy.

Thank you and God bless you.

Featured image above: *Dr. David Hanna. Photo: FFWPU*

"Religious Truth as Progressive Revelation" – text: *Dr. David Hanna*

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