

UPF: The Hope of All Ages, A Unified World of Peace

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I always recall True Parents' words, first delivered on September 12, 2005, at the Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center in New York City, and then repeated day after day, without interruption, before audiences all across the globe, as they traveled country by country in 2005, and throughout 2006, convening the national-level Inaugural Assemblies of UPF:

Respected leaders, you are now living in an age of blessing. God's promises are coming to fruition. ... [UPF] represents God's victory, the fruit of True Parents' blood, sweat and tears, and the world's cherished hope. It will carry out the role of the Abel-type United Nations.

UPF did not spring forth *ex nihilo*, but rather emerged on the foundation of the merit of the age and the sacrifices of providential history. Even the course of True Parents can be traced chronologically like a genealogy of institutions building toward some culmination, virtually all of which contain the word "peace" in their mission statement and even in their title. Peace is an ideal that is affirmed by all the world's religions. Indeed, it is the *raison d'être* of all faiths, and the goal of all nations, peoples and governments. It is the original ideal of Heaven.

UPF, according to True Parents, was not given a specific designation or mission related to a particular sector or group. Rather its name, *Cheonju Pyeonghwa Yeonhap*, refers to a universal or cosmic vision that includes the diverse sectors of society, like the parts of our body, brought into collaborative harmony and cooperation. In that sense, UPF offers a cosmic or universal aspiration for unification, building on the aspiration for unity among nations and harmony among religions, both of which are such essential dimensions of the human and heavenly ideal of peace.

True Father directed UPF to utilize all the heavenly assets of True Parents' lifelong ministry, that is, their efforts to collaborate with heads of state and government, religious leaders, academicians and scientists, women and youth, artists and athletes, media professionals, business leaders and parliamentarians. Remember that the immediate predecessor organization of UPF was called the Inter-religious and International Federation for World Peace, indicating a call to bring into harmonious and cooperative collaboration the spheres of both religion and government, areas of True Parents' investment that, prior to IIFWP and UPF, were explored and developed independently.

True Mother has taken UPF to entirely new levels of development and accomplishment, building upon and expanding True Father's vision. Most noteworthy has been True Mother's decision to develop the various associations of UPF, each with a specific focus -- heads of state, parliamentarians, religious leaders, women leaders, youth, academicians, business leaders, the media, thought leaders and artists -- yet all working together in solidarity as essential parts of one organ system. In that sense, the UPF resembles the United Nations, which also has a wide range of organs, agencies, commissions, programs, units, etc., working together toward its goals as stated in the UN Charter.

This was surely the dream of True Father and True Mother, a dream they shared at the United Nations on August 18, 2000, the year of the Millennium General Assembly. True Mother spoke of a God-centered UN, and True Father spoke of the need for the UN to build within its system an interfaith council to work in cooperation with the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Secretariat and the various agencies that make up the UN system.

The recent World Summits and Rallies of Hope and International Leadership Conferences that True Mother has convened on the platform of UPF have all underscored this vision. Moreover, increasingly we observe that those who participate in these various programs and who meet our True Mother and who come to know True Parents' works, the fruits of their blood, sweat and tears, have a profoundly intuitive experience or realization that UPF represents, as True Parents stated above, "God's cherished hope." Indeed, True Parents offered a motto for UPF translated as: "The hope of all ages is a unified world of peace."

This hope is coming to fruition. It does not mean that we no longer face challenges. As we all know, our world is teetering on a precipice of destruction, with forces of division rattling their sabers all across the planet. At times it seems as though these "powers and principalities" will accomplish their destructive ends. However, we may be sure that the forces of goodness and wisdom are not impotent. Heaven will prevail and emerge victoriously. UPF will continue to serve Heavenly Parent's providence, centered on True Parents' vision, opening the path to peace and the establishing of one universal family under God.