

Investment in Peace-Building

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February 1, 2015

Remarks made at the victory celebration for the February 1 Blessing Festival in the Philippines

Thomas G. Walsh



My feeling is that this Asian summit is a turning point. I might use the term, "tipping point."

We are approaching the third Foundation Day and then the third Seonghwa anniversary. We are moving toward some conclusion to a three-year period that has been a challenging period for our movement, but also globally. One of the things I worry about is the threats that I see challenging True Parents' paradigm for global restoration. I think of the providential nations, Korea, Japan, America, the UK, France, Germany, Italy... Israel, which True Parents have prayed for throughout their lives. We see certain threats to that core paradigm.

We see other nations, major powers, with their own "alternative providence" unfolding. When I look at America and I think of True Parents' hope for America, it's not a sure thing; it seems somewhat shaky at times. In this region, we've seen the rise of China. In Europe there is a very strong resurgent Russia, even a desire to reassemble the Soviet Empire. Even in the religious world, we see Islam very much at war with itself. The very not-so-positive aspects of some portions of the Islamic world are challenging.

Talking to Rev. Edwards, we were so inspired by this blessing. Is Christianity living up to its mission? Is that mission comparable to the Jews' mission at the time of Jesus, and is some window of opportunity about to close? There are threats out there on the geopolitical level but also on the very deep internal, moral and spiritual level. At the core of that is a threat to the family and to sexuality.

Yet, I felt through this blessing tremendous hope and I see that we are moving toward Foundation Day and the third anniversary. That's why I say "turning point" or 'tipping point.'" It is going to make a global difference in our world to revive... Even as I thought today about Korea, Japan and America, I thought of Rev. Yong and his wife as Korea and Japan united.

That's what Father wanted for Korea and Japan -- to become a couple, to become one. I thought of Dr. Yang as the True Parents' special emissary to North America and South America.

Rev. Curry here and Rev. Thompson and Rev. Stephens and Rev. Edwards from ACLC are kind of a unity of Korea, Japan and America... I felt as if Father's providential nations were all here along with all of you, and that the Philippines is in that key position as the second daughter nation.

What is going on here is powerful. A turning point is happening. Dr. Yang is right, something is happening here in the Philippines that is going to impact our movement and the world.

We are here on True Parents' foundation, absolutely. I think, Sun Jin nim, that when you report to True Mother, she is going to be so uplifted and encouraged by what has gone on here. I know that is the heart of everyone in this room -- wanting to attend and support True Mother. Sun Jin nim, we saw you yesterday and you looked so beautiful. You looked like Mother. It really was Mother there. Also the incredible, broad overview you gave of the Divine Principle was the perfect education for the people there. Really powerful! I want to emphasize that point and underscore Dr. Yang's point that it is of course True Parents' victory but it does require leadership.

I want to praise Dr. Yong and Dr. Yong because they are really sticking their necks out. I don't know how he is going to pay for this. He does not think about that; he is always thinking about how to bring victory for our True Parents.

I can just applaud you all and say that this is going to reverberate throughout our movement and is going to have a powerful impact.

As I said, the threats are there that could completely dismantle, undermine and devastate God's providence but what is happening here is preventive peace building. We are preventing Armageddon happening in some awful way and providing the alternative through this blessing movement.

Thank you.

Ursula Mclackland



The Philippines prepared for a year but Asia prepared for two months. Two months ago, we got a sudden call from Nepal -- "Dr. Yong is asking all the Asian leaders to come..." and every day at Hoon Dok Hae was like a month of continuous revelations telling us how to go forward.

I'm sorry. I have to correct Dr. Walsh. He said that Dr. Yong doesn't think about how to pay for it: He thinks about it every day but he is never stopped by it -- never limited. At that time, Dr. Yong explained to us and motivated us to understand that this is our Asia-region offering. It is not just a Filipino event.

So, all the Asian members have supported for the last two months. I want to recognize the members -- in Malaysia, in Thailand and in every country. How hard they worked and fund raised day and night to contribute and to support, even though they weren't able to come and be here. Only the leaders are here. Even in America and in Japan, the Filipino members supported, to make it a success. I am grateful to Dr. Yong for helping us to own this, so that we feel it is our victory -- a Philippine victory, but ours all together.

I would like to speak about a point that struck me strongly during this time. How can we explain tribal messiahship to our ambassadors for peace? We have been appointing ambassadors for peace -- we give them the certificate and then they ask us, What should we do?

Hmmm, yeah... You work in your field.... This time, our education was very clear. What is an ambassador for peace supposed to do? Become a model blessed member and make a tribe. Naturally, we don't always say "tribal messiahship." We say, You make a model village or community -- 430 couples. Then you make a model nation -- and become a Cheon Il Guk owner.... Perhaps they don't know the words in the beginning, but it means you take responsibility to make your nation a model nation.

If we then have ambassadors for peace that build blessed families, become tribal messiahs that take ownership and they join hands with us, I think Cheon Il Guk is not far away.

[Bowling toward Sun Jin nim and Insup nim] So thank you very much and give our love to our beloved True Mother.



The celebration following the Peace Blessing Festival 'and in the Philippines*

Mari Curry



Good morning brothers and sisters, I am so humbled to be in your presence. When Pastor Miilhan Stephens, my co-vice president; and I came to the Philippines, your heart of love so moved us. How embracing every person we met was!

We were like Wow! this is true service and truly loving our brothers and sisters. Thank you for sharing that with us.

I am practical in some ways, so I am just going to touch on one practical thing that I am inspired about. I have been at many functions, many events, and one sign of a well-run event is that things are done on time, that you can mobilize people from point A to point B and activities start when they are supposed to start. Almost every time there was a session, we were able to start on time.

Also, I easily get lost but I never had a problem with knowing where to go, because so many brothers and

sisters were mobilized to help guide the way. It was so comforting, so moving, to see such heart that all these volunteers -- all of you -- had to help set the foundation for the Asian summit and for the blessing. Thank you for your hard work and your dedication and for uniting with your leaders to create such a wonderful event.

Pastor Miilhan and I had a meeting last night, after everything, reflecting on our experiences here. One thing we couldn't say enough about was how moved we are by the heart of the Filipino members. We came here to support and also to learn -- and learn we did. We actually have three or four pages of bullet points that we made of all the things we learned. So, thank you for being our teachers as well.

We are so excited by all the promise and the hope and all the energy you have for our Heavenly Parent and for our True Parents. We want to encourage you. We are so excited about working with you in the future and being supportive of one another, because together we can be so strong and together we can bring victory for our Heavenly Parent and our True Parents. So, please keep working hard and keep heart.