

True Mother's Mighty Work for the UPF's Inter-religious Leadership Conference

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December 2017



At times, I feel discouraged; I sometimes feel we face so many difficulties and challenges. But, then, it is as if the hand of God reaches down through the clouds and moves heaven and earth through the embodiment of Heavenly Parent's love and truth on earth. Such were the recent events in Korea, both the International Rally for Peaceful Reunification of Korea and the UPF's Inter-religious Leadership Conference.

Not only did the truths of our own faith uplift us; the beauty, goodness and virtues we experienced in others from many faiths enriched us. True Mother convened the family of religions. It was as though I were present at a global council, like the Council of Nicaea in 325, when Constantine, at a time of much division and discord in the churches, asked the bishops to meet in order to produce a common creed, which came into being as the Nicene Creed.

More than four hundred religious leaders, representing seventy nations, including nearly two hundred from the American Clergy Leadership Council, responded to a call to assemble in Korea to support the International Rally for Peaceful Reunification of Korea.

At the rally, we heard True Mother deliver a message of profound depth, outlining the grand narrative of God's providence, beginning with Genesis, the time of the Creation. She reminded us of the tragic devastation of the Fall and the painful history of restoration that followed, including Jesus' suffering life course. She explained that God's providence has reached a culmination at this time, that of the True Parents and the emergence of the long awaited only begotten daughter. For the first time, the Holy Spirit and God's feminine characteristics are embodied in history, opening an entirely new dimension of providential history -- a time of hope.

Our Inter-religious Leadership Conference (IRLC) was a truly magnificent victory. God guided the program, in every detail. God seemed to have chosen each speaker to share some important aspect of God's love and wisdom. It was like a form of "automatic writing" or receiving direct heavenly guidance.

I felt as if we had created Noah's ark for religions, and religious leaders were coming onto True Parents' ark. There were Christians of every denomination, orthodox rabbis, who cannot even take an elevator on the Sabbath and who had to have their food delivered from a kosher restaurant in Seoul. There were both Sunni and Shia Muslims, as well as Sufis, Hindu gurus and swamis and Buddhists of every kind, from Thailand, Bhutan, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, China, and of course Korea and Japan; there were Sikhs and Jains.

We experienced an enormous outpouring that indicates a hunger and a need for the Inter-religious Association for Peace and Development. We launched the IAPD on November 13. It was deeply significant and inspiring. Nearly twenty participants from all different religious groups testified at the launching ceremony. Due to limits of time and because so many insisted on saying something, I limited each of them to three minutes. This made them condense their remarks and, in a very short time, speak with heartfelt passion and insight, endorsing the IAPD initiative.

Everyone signed the resolution, but we also began discussing our program of work. In particular, the religious leaders received inspiring and uplifting reports on: IAPP, Sunhak Peace Prize, Peace Road, Youth and Students for Peace, the plan for a new character education and curriculum for youth, the interfaith blessing movement, WFWP, etc. The religious leaders are all inspired to work for these projects, including the effort to achieve peaceful reunification of Korea.

The word "development" in IAPD indicates that we are not merely engaged in dialogue, but we are advocating and working for development at all levels: individual moral and spiritual development; development of strong, healthy, loving families; good, stable communities without drugs, crime, and poverty; restored nations that are peaceful and prosperous; and sustainable development that includes preservation of our environment while also bringing an end to hunger, poverty and conflict. We have been awakened. We are ready to march forward and get to work.