

## The recent memo regarding In Jin Nim working publicly in the United States

M. La Hogue  
December 31, 2015



The recent memo regarding In Jin Nim working publicly in the United States has fueled a lot of discussion and I thought I'd contribute my own two cents.

I've read through all the discussion about In Jin Nim on this page and others and I think it's safe to say I'm one of the few Blessed Child to comment on this, which is quite unfortunate seeing as, you know, the children are the future and all.

I am from New York City and I was quite close with In Jin Nim's family for most of the time they were there. Most of my closest second gen friends were as well; we were all very, very involved in Lovin' Life and In Jin Nim's ministry and we loved it. I'm sorry for those who had to sit in the dark and

watch it on their screens, but for those of us who attended live (and I'm sure you know someone who was on STF/GPA at the time and who can confirm this) it was amazing, professional, modern, exciting, and relevant. Like I said, we were all very involved, and we were all very hurt when it all came crashing down. I honestly can't remember if I was ever angry at In Jin Nim for what she did - I guess I was more just disappointed and heartbroken. Did it shake my faith? No, I fortunately fell back on my belief in True Parents and their teachings. But I know many, many second gen who were affected much worse, who completely lost their faith and stopped going to church. The percentage of youth at services dropped drastically. Some of my best friends simply vanished.

Rationally I think I should feel angry for all that - the second gen of my hometown were raised so high, and then dropped, most to a place of disbelief they'd never experienced before. But somehow, I can't be angry. My heart tells me that that won't solve anything and it simply isn't the appropriate emotion.

Something that I think a lot of second gen (including In Jin Nim, myself, and possibly your own children) didn't hear/feel enough growing up is that we would be accepted and loved by our parents and community no matter what we did. That we would be second generation and would be loved unconditionally, no matter what. We grew up hearing about True Father forgiving his torturers and even helping them when they were in danger, and forgiving Kim Il Sung. We heard about Hitler and Stalin and even Satan being restored and forgiven. Yet we grew up being drilled about not making mistakes, not falling, not jeopardizing this precious gift we were given - and the way that message came across (whether our parents wanted it to come across that way or not) was that if we made mistakes, if we fell, if we broke the blessing, that was it, we'd lose our value, everything True Parents and the first gen had worked so hard for would be for naught. That was a fear that was ingrained in us from childhood. Was it important for us to understand the value of being born without original sin and the importance of protecting that? Absolutely! But I don't think it was done in the best way possible. I am not blaming the first gen at all, because I know how much you all did your best to raise us in a way that had never before been done in history, having left one world behind to create a new one for us. But that doesn't mean we shouldn't be trying to improve our community and how we raise our children.

I consider being a Unificationist the biggest part of my identity and I'm proud of that. I know a lot of second gen who don't, though. And part of the reason for that is the strict communities we grew up in; when second gen strayed, they would feel shunned by those around them, if they fell, they would hide that within themselves, afraid that if people knew, even their own parents would not love them (yes, there are exceptions, but I am speaking about what I've observed and felt myself and in discussions with others). So when your children or your friends' children got on the wrong path, it was very difficult to see how they'd be accepted back on the right path, causing many to continue down the path of separating from their parents and True Parents. If a BC is yelled at by their parents and getting stares at church for posting a picture on Facebook of them holding a beer, how can we expect that BC to be able to share if something else happened on that night?

In Jin Nim made a mistake, a very big mistake. Did she have malicious intent? From my experience with her, I'd say she didn't. What do God and True Parents think of it? I don't know. Is her new marriage blessed? I don't know. I can think about it all I want, but thinking won't give me those answers, and when that happens, all I can do is trust that Heavenly Parents and True Parents know what they are doing. Do I think the members (myself included) deserve to understand the situation, deserve an apology? Yes, and I

think that would come if we gave In Jin Nim a chance to speak again. But if it didn't come, I'd trust that she has worked it out with Heavenly Parents and True Parents, and I wouldn't hold that against her. We talk about unconditional love all the time, but demanding someone do something before you love and accept them is conditional, not unconditional.

I don't think anyone expected In Jin Nim to start immediately in the same position as before without some kind of course, but the backlash I've read online is really disheartening. Opening our hearts to accepting someone back, no matter what they've done, is the key to winning back the second generation, and in case you've forgotten, the True Children are the first second-generation ever. By expanding your heart to accept In Jin Nim back, don't you think you're setting a precedent for other blessed children who are in the same situation she is in? And once we've accepted her back into our community don't you think it'd be easier for us all to confront and discuss whatever we need to? When asked about homosexuality once, In Jin Nim said to the small group of us there, "You have to be gay to restore gay." She meant that all the praying and conditions straight people do won't do anything to restore homosexuality - that gay people finding their way to God and True Parents is the only way to restore that. I for one am glad to let In Jin Nim bear the burden of restoring what she's done - paving the way for others.

"But what about all the second generation who lost faith because of her?!" you say. Yes, I know them by face and name; I grew up with them in my own home and at church every week; they were my captains, my teammates, and my members on STF; I am so ashamed I couldn't do more myself to help them when they were struggling. But will rejecting In Jin Nim bring them back? Absolutely not! If she was the one who made them leave, wouldn't it be a good idea to try to let her be the one to bring them back? If their faith depended on her acting righteously once, let her win them over again.

If you think that you know more than True Mother, that you understand the extent to which God can love and forgive someone better than she does, then by all means, reject In Jin Nim. But understand that you are showing the hundreds and thousands of second gen around the world who feel ostracized by their community the way you would treat them if they tried coming back. And as I can see from your last names, I know that one day it may be some of your children trying to come back. Show them how much you can love.