

My favorite experience with Sun Myung Moon - Interview of Thomas Lee Barrett

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Question: We are on the site of the 2017 Inter-religious and International Clergy Conference for World Peace, during the time when we commemorate True Father's Seonghwa. On this occasion, do you have a favorite experience with True Father that you could share with our readers?

My favorite experience was... I was like Peter Cottontail, hopping down the bunny trail going happily, happily on my merry way, traveling with True Father on the fifty-state, We Will Stand Tour. My job was to open the program, but not the program but I was to speak before Father, sort of warm the audience up. I think I did a pretty good job, and one night we were in... I think we were in Dallas Texas and after the program was over, I was in my hotel room and I got a call that Father wanted me to come to his suite. When I went up there, he came into the conference area and said to me, You know you are going along with me on this tour for the restoration of families and the building of marriages and all, but you're not married. Because my wife and I were divorced. She divorced me after twenty-five years of marriage.

So, he said, I would like to match you. And we have chosen several ones for you to choose from.

Normally, Father just chooses someone, but he gave me the royal opportunity to choose someone. But I told him, No. I will not choose a bride because I was still married to my children's mother. We had seven children and I told him that I meant it when I said, "Until death do us part" and she's not dead. That was shocker, because nobody refuses Father Moon.

He put his head down. He did turn red. Everybody thought I had angered him but actually, the spirit of prophecy had overcome him because when he raised up he said, It will happen soon. I thought, he's not a true man of God because I didn't tell him that she had remarried and was living in another state and we had no communication.

But one week later, she walked in our church while I was preaching. After services were over, I went downstairs and there all of her luggage was in my office. I said, What is going on? She said, It just didn't work out and I'm back. We've been living in the Land of Happily Ever After ever since. And that's because of True Father's prediction. Amen!

Question: Your wife is Cleopatra

That's right. Cleopatra, Queen of the Nile!

Question: What has your experience been here at this year's conference?

Oh, this has been a wonderful gathering. I've attended all of the sessions and everyone one of them were on fire. It was just marvelous. Everybody seems to be consumed with the mission of peace, which is what Mother is propagating, that we all work in the cause of peace. Her words are "Peace begins with me," so that's what everyone is talking about. It has just been a wonderful sharing.

Question: Has it been particularly poignant because of the circumstances with Korea at this time?

Very much so. So many people said, Don't go to Korea at this time because of that crazy man in North Korea. So, I told them, first of all, we cannot perceive a child of God as crazy. I said that people tend to be what you see. You have to realize that we have power just by your perception so we can't talk about his misguidedness. We should talk about the fact that there is still God and God is still in control and God is depending on us to respond in kind but to respond kindly. If you respond to people in kind it means you have to come down to their level, which is a low level but if you respond kindly, you stay in God's stratosphere and that is how God works through us. It is not through the fervent praying that we do but it is the fervent lifting of consciousness that we determine to pay the dues of discipline to live by that makes God and enables God to work through us.

I said, this is the right time to go, to send peaceful vibrations and loving vibrations to him. By us being here, doing what we're doing as Jesus never stopped doing what he was supposed to do, even on the cross. So that after he gave up the ghost and died those very ones who said, Crucify him and did crucify him -- they said, Surely, this was the son of God. So when we leave here, Don't be surprised if Kim Jong-un says, Surely, those were people of God. We're going to mend our ways.

Question: Father was such a strong presence and now Mother is the one giving speeches and leading things. What's your perception of that?

Well, just as a Elisha told Elijah, I don't want you to lead me, but if you have to leave me, leave me a double portion of your spirit. I think that is the secret pact. I wasn't there but I have a suspicion that Mother and Father agreed that when he left this plane of existence, he would give her a double portion of his spirit. That's why she's indefatigable and she's on a mission that cannot miss.