

FFWPU USA: The 39th anniversary of Sun Myung Moon entering Danbury prison

Demian Dunkley
July 24, 2023



July 20 marked the 39th anniversary of True Father's unjust entry into Danbury prison. Some 200 Unificationists in the U.S. and abroad joined HJ International Graduate School's recent virtual program, *The Fraudulent Myth of the "Cult Expert: Factors Contributing to the Wrongful Indictment and Imprisonment of Sun Myung Moon*, which commemorated his 1984 imprisonment.

"Our movement was improperly represented," said HJI Professor Dr. Thomas Ward, who spoke about the events leading up to True Father's incarceration. The program, hosted by HJI President Dr. Thomas Walsh, traced the media bias, environmental factors, and self-professed "cult experts" that all contributed to the groundless indictment.

"Those who opposed us worked to foster an environment of animosity and hysteria," Dr. Ward said. But True Father "just focused on his desire to love America and be a model citizen in prison," he said. "True Father was always positive and optimistic."

Dr. Ward explained how interest groups - such as the Civil Rights Movement and the Anti-Cult Movement - make the greatest impact by successfully capturing the media's attention. "It can affect political parties, leading to legislative decisions," said Dr. Ward. Such was the case of True Father, where sensationalized headlines incited public fear, confusion, and negative bias.

In particular, the "Fraser Report," in which U.S. Rep. Donald Fraser falsely alleged the Unification movement was a front for the South Korean government, "showed a number of irregularities in our movement's investigation," said Dr. Ward.

A Senate investigation, which began in 1979, "opened with 13 'experts' on cults," Dr. Ward said, including Ted Patrick, known as the "Father of Deprogramming;" Dr. John Clark; Rabbi Maurice David, and Father James LeBar among the group. They were unqualified individuals who "exaggerated the

conversion capabilities of New Religious Movements" (NRMs) and viewed them as cults, Dr. Ward said.

"Ted Patrick had a tenth grade education," noted Dr. Ward. "He was not a theologian, scholar, psychologist, or psychiatrist."

"There are real experts, and then there are overnight experts," he continued. "They all had a decided bias against NRMs and didn't enter into dialogue, and they bought into guilt by association."

Dr. Ward shared that since a majority of people were not educated in religion, a "powerful narrative emerged" that "created hysteria and animosity" toward the Unification movement and members. Today, biases continue to thrive around NRMs. Media "agenda setting and gatekeeping" further propels negative perception, said Dr. Ward, as news outlets cherry pick what to publish.

"The Code of Ethics of the Society of Professional Journalists is marvelous, and if it had been put into practice, we wouldn't have gone through what we did," said Dr. Ward. "The media violated its own Code of Ethics in the case of NRMs."

"Religion always arose and emerged from a tiny seed," noted program host Dr. Walsh. "It's tragic that even today this ignorance and bigotry continues."

Nevertheless, True Father took the high road with his imprisonment. "True Father [was] determined to stand trial and go to prison," said Dr. Ward. "[True Father] said he was honored to serve and protect religious freedom. He came to this country and reminded the people of the spirit and foundation the founders established for America."

You can learn more about True Father's life, including his Danbury imprisonment, in his autobiography available [here](#).

Home > As a Peace-Loving Global Citizen



AS A PEACE-LOVING GLOBAL CITIZEN

\$ 14.00

Language
English ▾

ADD TO CART

Reverend Sun Myung Moon’s autobiography shares stories of his family and childhood and his calling from God. The early years of the Unification Church, the expansion to an international ministry, and the importance of global wedding ceremonies are all explained in first-hand accounts. Rev. Moon’s love for nature, his deep respect for all people, and his single-minded determination to see God’s ideal realized are central themes in *As a Peace-Loving Global Citizen*.

"My encounter with Jesus changed my life completely. His sorrowful expression was etched into my heart as if it had been branded there, and I could not think of anything else. From that day on, I immersed myself completely in the Word of God.

At times, I was surrounded by endless darkness and filled with such pain that it was difficult to breathe. At other times, my heart was filled with joy, as though I were watching the morning sun rise above the horizon. I embraced new words of truth that Jesus was giving me directly and let myself be completely captivated by God. I began to live an entirely different life. I had many things to think about, and I gradually became a boy of few words.

Anyone who follows the path of God must pursue his goal with his whole heart and total dedication. It requires a steadfastness of purpose. At times, I felt I would rather avoid the path. A wise person will place hope in the future and continue to move forward, no matter how difficult it may be. A foolish person, on the other hand, will throw away his future for the sake of immediate happiness. I, too, at times held foolish thoughts when I was still very young, but in the end I chose the path of the wise person. I gladly offered up my life in order to pursue the way God desired. I could not have run away if I tried; this was the only way I could have chosen."

Available in Spanish:
El Ciudadno Global Amante de la Paz.

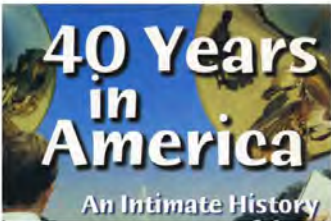
Reverendo Sun Myung Moon, Paz Mundial, Movimiento de la Unificacion, Principio Divino.

364 pages
6 x 9 x 1 in
1lb 6.4oz
Paperback

Share this Product

 Share  Tweet  Pin it  Fancy  +1

More from this collection





2023 DIGITAL CALENDAR
\$ 0.00



40 Years in America: 1959-1999
\$ 44.00



A Remarkable Journey: A Timeline of
Rev. Sun Myung Moon, Dr. Hak Ja Han
Moon, and the Unification Church
\$ 22.00



Album: HYO JIN MOON - The Best
"HyoJeong" Compilation
\$ 43.00

Quick Links

- Search
- About Us
- Contact Us

Follow Us

