

FFWPU USA: 50 Years in America - Honoring Our Japanese Missionaries

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Photo courtesy of Toshi Tagawa

Japanese missionaries of the Unification movement were recently honored during a commemorative event held at the East Garden estate in Tarrytown, New York, on November 4 and 5. The missionaries, who first came to the U.S. 50 years ago to answer True Parents' call to save America, endured persecution and myriad challenges, including language and cultural barriers. Still, they faithfully left behind their homeland to dedicate their lives to securing the future of God's Providence in the United States.

The program "50 Years of Extraordinary Devotion," organized by the HJ International Graduate School, illuminated the significant course, great faith, and personal testimonies of our Japanese missionaries, and imparted deep appreciation for their boundless determination and sacrifice. As True Father established worldwide missions in the 1970s, he urged members to pursue their providential work tenaciously, and noted that facing and overcoming hardships brings us closer to God and understanding His heart.

True Father's 1973 message "Be Serious About Your Mission," which he delivered to missionaries at the Belvedere estate, continues to ring true now more than a half century later, with words that benefit us all. Below is an excerpt from True Father's speech.

Excerpt:

When you confront hardship, trouble and suffering, this is a symbol that goodness or happiness

shall come through this hardship ... Hardship and trouble are necessary for us to overcome ... Trouble is for future happiness. Then, if you get through the persecution and the trouble, when you pass through, happiness comes, success comes - there is a real feeling of success. There is value right there, because you have a comparison: hardship is overcome, and then success comes.

When you have more hardship, more persecution, more rejection, then you expect more success, more happiness, more good results. That is the way you have to dive into this thinking, this kind of positivity. You will have the attitude, "What kind of trouble is coming, what kind of hardship is coming?" You are interested to know what will be next; you look forward to the problems. If you are scared, you are right there a victim...

There is a seriousness in everything ... If you become serious with your five senses, in everything, then naturally your being, yourself, will fit God's overall plan, dispensation or Will. It is supposed to be fitting ... [If God's Will is not fulfilled] then the whole nation will be destroyed, not just families and individuals. If there are no groups in this nation who are this serious, then God will find people in another country...

How serious are you about centering on God's Will? The Heavenly Father and our [Creator] are seriously looking at everything, perceiving everything centered on God's Will ... We are different from worldly people. We have to be serious in centering on God's Will, not on our own...

In the Principle, you must be more serious than God, more serious than anyone else to do your mission in the best way possible ... If you have this kind of heart, if you [persevere] this way, it in fact shall happen - spiritual cooperation will come...

You can learn more about the providential foundation of our Japanese missionaries in True Father's autobiography available [here](#).

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AS A PEACE-LOVING GLOBAL CITIZEN

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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.

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