

## Interview of Archbishop Johannes Ndanga

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*Question:* Archbishop Ndanga, please tell us about the Christian blessing ceremony you held in Zimbabwe.

That's correct. It was more like a launch. We are still launching. We launched with 243 couples. Around the end of this month, September, we should be having a blessing for around three thousand bishops, who are couples. We want to start with them. All the bishops lead a church and their churches are independent of one another. I happen to be the president of an umbrella board.

To me, with the second launch, we will have now ignited the entire nation, because after the bishops have received the blessing themselves, they can go out to their churches and hold the blessing. That will cover the entire nation.

*Question:* How did you persuade the bishops?

I did not persuade them. What happened is I was convinced that marriage is the first institution that God put together in the very first place. It is biblical and the philosophy, the principles, the teachings of the True Parents, all their concepts are biblical. It was confirmed also to me that this is biblical and the True Parents are not ordinary human beings as people might think. An ordinary person would not teach against infidelity, so to me they are god-sent, they are God's messengers, extraordinary people, spiritual people. The True Mother is carrying all that duty now five years after True Father's demise. So it is our responsibility because we also accepted to become global citizens. I don't belong to Zimbabwe as a country anymore. I don't belong to Africa alone. I now belong to the whole world. This is why I am here in Korea today, because I offer myself to become a global citizen, a responsible citizen, an ideal person.

Having accepted the teachings and having realized they are biblical, as a responsible citizen and as a leader, I took it upon myself to educate others, so that we can together share the blessing. As we share the blessing, God would view it as an act of restoration. As the True Parents have taught, it's an act of restoration, a return to the garden of Eden.

God initially wanted us to live in peace with ourselves, peace with the environment, peace with our neighbors and everybody, but Adam and Eve, our first parents, went against that and eventually were chased out of the garden of Eden.... The original sin was a sin they committed on the behalf of the entire universe. We all took part in that sin and the coming of the restoration gospel is acceptable. There is no option; we just have to take it, because we need to live in peace.

*Question:* I understand you had tents where people went through an education process.

Correct... Rev. [Bakary] Camara asked me, "Could you plan the blessing ceremony?" I said, OK. We had forty-three couples one week and two hundred couples the following week. Each took three days; the first two were to educate the people, because people need to do something from which they understand that

they are going to get a blessing, God's providence. Everybody is keen to receive the blessing. Even now, we actually need to prepare for the big one, near the end of this month.

*Question:* Will you hold it in the same place?

No; in the Apostolic Christian Council of Zimbabwe (ACCZ), of which I am the president, we divide the country into two regions. The northern region has five provinces and the southern region has the other five. We did the blessing in the northern region and will now go to the southern region, where we are going to hold a bishop's congress, so everybody is going to come. We need to be able to educate them properly so they know what the marriage blessing is. The capital city is in the southern region, the city of Bulawayo; that is where we are going now.

*Question:* Have you heard any feedback from the couples?

Yes. Just about five couples failed, the test, especially the separation period. Five out of the 243 failed, but they are keen to restart.

*Question:* Do you see this beyond Zimbabwe as a blessing movement?

Zimbabwe is going to be one of the big centers, probably for the African continent, if the True Mother supports it, we will be able to set up a permanent blessing center in Zimbabwe.

*Question:* Does the Apostolic Movement extend beyond Zimbabwe?

Yes. We are all over the world. I have received a new assignment to set up a separate structure for UPF, the Family Federation.

We need to set up a separate structure within Zimbabwe and we will do the same throughout the continent. We do not want to be dependent on the ACCZ all the way. We want the Unification family to do its own work on its own now that we have become part of it.

*Question:* Were the lecturers and those doing the education during the three-day blessing preparation Unificationists?

Yes, now that we have a number that have been blessed, with the True Mother's support, we will be in a good position to train people that carry out the process within the country.

*Question:* We see the blessing deals with original sin but also collective sin.

How do you see the influence of this globally or on a wider scale?

In fact, we have engaged even the government of Zimbabwe in as far as the collective sin is concerned, because we have to ease the serious tension between the two regions. The southern is Ndebele and the northern is Shona....

They say that [a thirty-five-year-old episode] is a closed chapter now that two political parties have reconciled and agreed to work together, but after going through the four categories of sin -- original sin, ancestral sin, collective sin and personal sin -- I decided to settle on collective sin, especially looking at the situation in Zimbabwe.

*Question:* We hear about economic growth in Africa, but how do you see in Zimbabwe and Africa in spiritual terms?

One of the reason we came to Korea is to come and get the blessing for the nation, not my personal blessing. Zimbabwe hasn't got its own currency at the moment; we are using the US dollar. I know the whole world is under pressure insofar as the economy is concerned. Our situation is worse.

Even in the banks, there is no money. People living in the rural areas do not even have bank cards. So I have come here to collect the blessing from True Mother. If the blessing is pronounced on the nation, I am sure it will heal. We have so many natural resources -- minerals, gold, platinum, chrome, diamonds, we have everything. Just a few people exploit these resources, because we haven't got the blessing.

I am optimistic that once we receive the blessing as a country, as a continent all those problems are going to go. Once the blessing is pronounced and the investors come, Zimbabwe can get back to its feet.