

***Randolph L. Remmel,
Appleton, Wisconsin, 1969***



As of this writing both my spiritual mother, Lynne Doerfler Kim, and I have been in the movement nearly double the number of years we had lived at the time when she joined a group then called the “Unified Family” and won me over too to what she called “this teaching” of the group. At the time, I was a student at Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin.

I had had six years of Catholic seminary training but was increasingly troubled by what I saw as very bleak prospects for the world’s being saved through the power of mysteries destined to remain mysteries forever. When Lynne came along (she was already a dear friend) I was not a “hard sell,” though I remain unspeakably grateful even today for her sensitivity to my Catholic background — which I continue to treasure and acknowledge as foundational to the faith that has characterized my entire life.

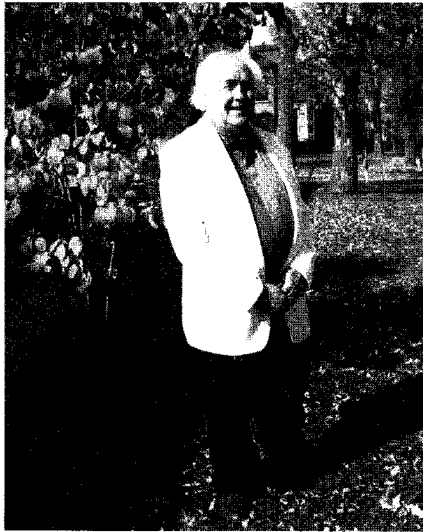
I brought along the wife I had married in 1969 when Lynne and I and the others of our little band of youthful enthusiasts for “the Principle” moved to Washington, D.C., at the end of 1970.

Except for endless trial and error and tumult and terror, the first couple of years in Washington were uneventful, characterized centrally by overzealous witnessing on campuses and overcrowding on the home front in the then-typical style of communal coexistence perhaps best described as “life in a beehive.”

There were many workshops, some for new people and some for members; there were unforgettably warm and beautiful prayer meetings; and there were endless organizational chaos and the first throes of fundraising efforts as Father insisted that the “Family” field two

witnessing bus teams to evangelize the nation after what had been the first of his many speaking tours that continue even today.

As a graduate of the Lawrence University Conservatory of Music with conducting experience and a penchant for assembling “Sunday Service choirs” at Upshur House in Washington, D.C., I was tapped in 1972 to lead the choir that would accompany Father on the first of his speaking tours and that would grow in 1973 into the New Hope Singers International.



Randolph L. Rimmel

I was called to New York to establish that choir. Having completed the first 120-day training session in Tarrytown, New York, I then served a stint as “state representative” in West Virginia. In the long term I wrote hundreds of pages of choral and piano music and was privileged to lead the New Hope Singers through four record albums and on tours through the United States, Japan, and Korea. These tours culminated in Seoul, Korea with the 1975 Yoido Island anti-communist rally and in the United States with the 1976 Yankee Stadium

event in New York. (Brian Saunders led the choir at the Washington Monument rally later that year.)

The Marriage Blessing, as the “American extension” of the 1800-couple Blessing in Korea in 1975, came to us in December of 1976.

I went in early 1977 with my wife to our home state of Wisconsin to establish a bakery business as a foundation for further musical education and, as was the plan, to have a family. During the three years of our operation, I sang in a local Catholic Church choir, and my wife played the organ in a pioneering version of the “home church providence.”

Overextended by our labor-intensive business endeavor and the simultaneous demands of the Collegiate Association for the Research of Principles (CARP) providence of the late 1970s, my wife and I were obliged to set aside our efforts and return to New York in 1981; but we could not manage starting over, and she was re-blessed in 1982. In 1981 I worked at the *News World* newspaper by day and sang professional light opera by night while writing my own opera, “The Knight and the Man of Christmas Green,” based on Arthurian legend and celebrating courtly purity and filial loyalty.

Continuing with the “performing arts providence” during the decade in New York, I wrote several hundred more pages of music, including several Shakespearean song cycles for voice and piano as well as conducting more church choirs and giving large numbers of voice lessons while maintaining a full-time work schedule in the advertising industry. I also wrote extensive concert reviews for the *News World* and *The World & I Magazine*.

The year 1991 took me to Portland, Oregon, where Christine Edwards, the wife to whom I was blessed in 1998, and I now have housed more than 120 students from 21 different nations in an “international family home.” Here we converse readily and live comfortably with people of all religions and cultures, cultivating relationships with the families of our students. The long-term vision includes expansion

of the work to an international level with many homes to be operated according to the same international-family standard that we have always used in our work and that is in keeping with our efforts to extend True Parents' efforts to embrace all nations and religions.