

TODAY'S WORLD

JUNE 2009



A Time Prepared by God

The following is from a speech Hyung-jin nim gave in English to "Original Divine Principle Workshop" participants (mainly from Japan) on June 15, 2009, at the Cheongpyeong Heaven and Earth Training Center

God has been so alone. He has many fans praising Him but not one true object partner with whom he can share His entire heart. Many people will praise God and say, "You are so powerful. Thank You. Please give me Your blessing," but not one person had tried to understand God completely. Our True Parents have done that. They have revealed the essence of God. They teach us that God's essence is knowable. That essence is true love; it is a selfless love that can even subjugate Satan, our worst enemy. If we can inherit that kind of true love, we can become God's object partner. God created the universe; even though we are small, if we inherit true love, we can become that incredible God's object partner. That's amazing!

Kook-jin nim works hard, but he doesn't only work hard. He is always generating results for our Unification movement. It's not just a matter of working hard. Everyone works hard. It's a matter of making the kingdom of heaven here while True Parents are here. We have a mission. He has been witnessing continuously, endlessly, to the staff members in the business foundation [which he runs]. He brings new people, and then witnesses to them. He sends them to Divine Principle lectures, and then they come to the church.

He shows confidence. We have a lot of professionals come into the foundation. They are used to business in Korea, where people often go to bars, play around, and even cheat on their wives. This is the business culture in Asia and all over the world. You know about this in Japan. It's the same in Korea. People new to our business foundation find a corporate culture that prohibits drinking and cheating on spouses. If they don't like that, they can go elsewhere.

Kook-jin nim teaches by his professionalism and by his example. We have some very accomplished people working there. Our human resources director at the foundation (who came from the LG conglomerate) is highly educated and experienced; he is helping us reorganize the Headquarters Church. He is on our team.

One accountant, a highly educated and smart lady, is working on the foundation's team. We were holding a Divine Principle lecture contest. The judging panel consisted almost entirely of new members who had just been

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Corrections

Jan–Feb 2009 issue: page 36, Ye-jin nim's daughter Shin-hwa nim was on a Service for Peace project, not STF. April–May 2009 issue: page 18, the name of the game True Parents played was *Hwahap Tongil* not *Wonhwa Tongil*; page 21 (caption), Dr. Seuk's wife is Yoon Moon-hye; page 26 in

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footnote 2, the web site mentioned can be found at <http://home.tongil.or.kr>; page 29, the sentence beginning four lines from the bottom of the first column should read, "If it were not for humanity's need for True Parents, their children's suffering would not have been necessary." We apologize for these editing errors.

Cover Photo: True Parents at the June 1 celebration of the publication of Father's memoirs; **Above:** Kook-jin nim and Hyung-jin nim speaking with Father before the celebration began; **Back cover:** On the same occasion, members of the Korean media surround Father

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A Challenge to Korea

Three thousand five hundred guests attended the Commemoration of the Publication of Rev. Sun Myung Moon's Autobiography at the Convention and Exhibition Center (COEX) in Seoul on June 1. In the almost four months since publication, the memoirs have remained almost constantly in the top twenty on best-seller lists, and often much higher, naturally generating interest in their subject (and of course some controversy).

It was said that Father's prepared speech might have taken him just twelve minutes to read—had he simply read it. But Father took the opportunity to speak his mind, and speak from his heart, to the many dignitaries and guests. Early on in his speech, Father introduced the wives of the great saints and had them all come up to the stage and introduce themselves (and who they were blessed with). Father strongly exhorted the members of the audience to "Believe!" Throughout his speech, this was the side of Father we saw, filled with urgency and angst at the lateness of the hour. Though well into his ninetieth year of life, Father seemed to draw upon a source of youthful energy and vigor as, standing at the podium for several hours with no hint of fatigue, he called on the people of Korea (and beyond) with a strong voice to heed his words at this crucial time.

Father has said that his book conveys 80 percent of his life. It seemed that on this day he wanted to reveal something from the other 20 percent.

The following content has been drawn from Father's speech that evening. Father's prepared text is in blue and what he added extemporaneously is in ordinary, black type.

Together with all people of the world, and in particular the nation of Korea, I too celebrate this commemorative day. During this period, many sad and unmentionable incidents [Father is likely referring to the recent suicide of former president Roh Moo-hyun and the nuclear weapons testing in North Korea] have taken place, but they are already incidents of the history and so can be forgotten. However, the

future that is coming before us will be full of incidents that cannot be forgotten in history but must be remembered. So the question is, How can this man, who is over ninety years of age, be given sufficient time to pioneer and celebrate the new future coming before him, of which he cannot be ashamed before the world? However, when I think of the fact that I, as a peace-loving global citizen, I have been able to publish such an autobiography as this one, I cannot but express my gratitude

to the people of Gimm-Young Publishers for their hard work. As the term “autobiography” suggests, in the course of my life I have established mottoes in front of my people, in front of history and the world. The first of these is *Ae cheon*. Repeat after me, *Ae cheon*. [Ae cheon.] This means, “Love God.” Though there are many people, who wish to be loved by God, no matter how much you try you will never find a person who loves God and everything about Him. In loving God, you should not love just one corner of Him, but all of Him.

I was born in Jeongju in Korea, but Heaven is not in Jeongju. Neither is it in North Pyong-an Province. It is not in Hwanghae Province or in Jeju Island. It is afloat in midair, this great universe under God. When I start talking about these things, I am worried I will run out of time and be chased out before I can finish what I’m saying. Those who are waiting for me to finish my speech are saying to themselves, “This old man is saying all he wants to say even though there is no time,” but actually I am not just speaking casually. I will just say this: In my autobiography, what I place great importance on is to love God. Say *Ae Cheon*. [Ae Cheon.] Love God. How vast is God? Though humankind has lived through thousands of years of history, there has not been one person who knew God.

How can you love something you don’t know? That has



True Parents present a plaque to Park Eun-ju, president of Gimm-Young Publishers, which produced Father’s memoirs.

been the task. You need to know God in fine detail, not vaguely. We need to be taught about God so that everyone, from people of the highest birth to mere beggars, can understand Him. We need to teach them and show them. An autobiography must include such content.

Beloved families that have recently received the new lineage of the absolute, unique, unchanging and eternal God... You don’t know about the bloodline. Do Westerners know about lineage? Recently blessed.... Yes, do you know

how amazing and terrible is the Unification Church blessing? Once you inherit the blessing, you can live in a truly loving family. Without the blessing, there cannot be families. Without the blessing, the new nation of Cheon Il Guk, a nation where the two people are united, cannot come about. Those citizens who have received the blessing refers to men and women.

☺☺☺

Even though not one person knew about it, I have worked hard to open the way for God’s liberation. Let us all sing praises to God. ... Hundreds of billions of those living in the spirit world have descended and are here with us to congratulate and celebrate this blessed day. This is the day God has yearned for ever since He created the universe. This is the day, this June 1, that even as I am standing in front of you, I am celebrating. This is the day, and no other is necessary!



June 2009



He has waited impatiently for the day He could ascend to the throne of the king of kings, to be able to embrace His lost children and the creation again and live in joy for all eternity in the sacred reign of peace in the peace kingdom. [Applause] Who? Our original Father. Our family has become like this. Can you sleep well with your arms and legs spread out in comfort? I still sleep curled up. Let's see how the nations, the families and the societies that spoke badly of me will turn out.



That is why, motivated by true love, God sought and found the True Parent of the substantial, physical world, who was to become His representative and heir. [Applause] If anyone were to hold me and shake my hand, I could weep with that person right there and then. I didn't weep when seven members of my family passed away in the course of a year in my father and mother's house, but you don't know how much I wept as I held on to God. You don't know my sorrow.



I have reached my ninetieth year of life, yet I have been unable to fully restore the 6.5 billion people of the world to God. Who knows the sad circumstances behind this? I cannot die yet, but you should do everything you can and devote yourself wholeheartedly, for it is said that the most sincere devotions move Heaven. So now God will step forward, and as He cries, He will call forth the dead, our ancestors, and we will be led toward the saints and our ancestors. **Citizens of Cheon Il Guk who truly love God!** ...The people of Cheon Il Guk who love God in His entirety! Do not be divided into thinner streams. We don't have much time. You don't know when I will leave, though I will surely leave, as you know. **Heaven will no longer wait for us.** God cannot harbor any hopes as He waits for me and the blessed families; so He will personally work from now on.



Therefore, on this solemn occasion, I will proclaim to all of heaven and earth an outline of the new heavenly law, by which humankind and all things of creation will regain their rightful positions and be governed. You don't know about the era after the coming of heaven. January 13, 2013 is January 13, 3000. Yes, this is what it means.



This is the only way the true, good lineage can be engrafted to humanity, and God's ideal of a true family can be perfected. It is inevitable. Dr. Hong Il-shik, Dr. Lee Cheol-seung, you must follow this to the letter, otherwise you will be caught when you go to the spiritual world and won't be allowed to enter.



The existing UN (in the position of the Cain-type UN) and the Abel-type UN should become one... Abel is Abel, and



Park Guen-yeong, daughter of Park Chung-hee (Korean president 1962–1979) greets Father and Mother in the receiving line at the June 1 event. WFWP International president Moon Lan-young and UPF Korea President Hwang Sun-jo look on.

others must practice absolute faith, absolute love and absolute obedience to him. Didn't God drive Cain out because he killed Abel? We need to serve and attend God. **The existing UN (in the position of the Cain-type UN) and the Abel-type UN should become one...** Abel needs to unite with Cain, so that as one they enter a new dimension.



As we melt our guns and cannons to make plowshares... This is from the Bible, isn't it? **...a new world of peace will open up before us.** This will certainly come to pass. [Applause] I am not a person who only dreams things but does not fulfill them; I will die only after I have accomplished them.



Our going to the kingdom of heaven is inevitable. That is why I say: **Ladies and gentlemen who have been chosen by Heaven! You have all truly received a heavenly blessing.** It is not a humanistic blessing. **You are participating in the ceremony to launch the providential undertakings governed by the king of kings. You are witnessing with your own eyes the whirlwind of this historic transition point.** Though others thought we would perish, we won't; we will survive. **You received an invitation to attend the celebration of the autobiography...** [Applause] If you do as I say, I will take responsibility for you.



Your ancestors, numbering in the billions throughout the cosmos, and your descendants will cheer, dance and live in joy and delight at this time, shaking the very axis of the earth. Your descendants will be better off than you are, and your ancestors will also be better off. That is what this means. This is not just advice. Do you understand?

I pray that you will open your mind's eyes and engrave this extraordinary and historic moment on your soul. When else during your life will you be able to witness such a day of blessing and glory as you have today? After I die, when will



True Parents welcome Mr. Alfred Moisiu (president of Albania, 2002–2007) in the COEX reception room on June 1; Mr. Moisiu, who gave a congratulatory address at the main event, is accompanied here by Dr. Kwak Chung-hwan, chairman of UPF International.

the fourth and original Adam where no one can enter the new Kingdom of Heaven without inheriting God's new standard of heart based on His original nature. The era has come when we should all enter the realm of God's direct dominion, the world as it was before the Fall.... I pray that you may become new families of citizens in God's Kingdom, *Cheon Il Guk*... Just try to believe what I'm saying and live accordingly, and see how you turn out. All kinds of things will happen. I am asking you to form, and live as, new true families based on original human nature... I beseech you to follow these words.



I pray and proclaim in the names of the victorious True God and True Parents... I am declaring this and praying for this; you also need to follow this declaration. That is what this means. I hope that, in all corners

there be another day like this? I hope that you can heed the words of Heaven that I have shared with you today and use them as guidelines for your life from now on. I hope and pray that you will accept these words as guidelines for your lives for generations to come, and bring all this to pass.



Humankind is now entering a new providential era wherein the earth will be governed directly by a new heavenly way and new heavenly law. It is the era after the coming of heaven. You will not go to hell. It is the new providential era of the realm of

of the cosmos, the blessings of God will overflow, and that we will all enter the kingdom of heaven with joy and gratitude in our hearts. Aju.

All of you should go out and live according to what I've said tonight. When you do, we who have inherited the rights of princes and princesses blessed by God will undoubtedly redeem this nation and universe. Now, if you have resolved to do this, raise both your hands, close your eyes and clap your hands for God. [Applause] **JW**

In his overview of the book, Mr. Lee Sang-ju, a former deputy prime minister, noted that the work covered many of the projects for peace Father has initiated. The following are brief excerpts:



Rev. Sun Myung Moon was born in Jeongju in North Pyong-an Province on January 6, 1920, the year after the March 1 Independence Movement had its beginnings. He has lived a not-so-short life, extending over ninety years. From the perspective of the history of civilization, he has lived through the agricultural age, the industrial age and into the information age. It is very rare for a person to have had lived in all three ages. He is from the last generation of the agricultural age and the first generation of the information age....

It was the generations-long tradition of the Moon family never to let a hungry person leave their home unfed, and it seems he was greatly influenced by it. He was also influenced significantly by Christian charity....

One of the special methods Rev. Moon advocates in his peace movement, in my opinion, is the international wedding. The Unification Church arranges marriages between "enemies." For example, in the marriage of a Korean and a Japanese, when children are born into their family neither set of grandparents could hate them or each other. Nowadays multicultural families are becoming common for other reasons as well, but this will surely become the most certain method in this movement for peace.

All religions and religious denominations have their own belief systems and try to abide by them. That is why history has seen many fierce wars between religions. Since Unificationism is a Christian movement upholding the love of God and world peace, it is only appropriate and wise to advocate the transcending of religion and nation. Only then will the Unification Church have more room to grow and flourish. **JW**

Opening the Cheong Jeong Peace Palace in 2006

True Parents' Benediction

The Entrance Ceremony into Cheon Jeong Gung and Coronation of the King and Queen of Peace took place three years ago, on June 13, 2006. True Father's prayers and speeches on that day indicate that this signified the oneness of the invisible God and the visible True Parents, with that unity cutting off all traces of Satan, paving the way to the unity of mind and body, and to the healing of divisions on all levels. We are no longer just atoning for the errors of history. International President Moon Hyung-jin refers to this present era as one of liberation, when we are now free to fulfill our God-given potential. We are pleased to include here True Parents' final benediction for that occasion (published in English for the first time).



Beloved Heavenly Father, we know that humankind is without honor or dignity in the face of our Father, who has had to come from the furthest point in history to this place right here.

Father, You placed me, a mere child, as Your son and guided me through everything. I can never forget Your voice as You told me with tears to forgive whatever opposed me in the world. Following that path, and knowing that it was my destined responsibility to establish a turbulent path of upheaval in the individual and the family, and the path of the cross of the world and of heaven and earth, thenceforth I could not reveal myself to anyone in the world, and I hesitated showing myself before others, as if I were the shameful offspring of a sinner. I hid myself as I revealed the secrets of Heaven. You alone knew me and guided me until now, and I am truly, truly grateful for all You have done, and for Your guidance.

In the morning, the Entrance Ceremony for the Cheon Jeong Gung [palace] was carried out, and now the era has come wherein the Cosmic Parent and the Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind can become one in mind and body, and, centering on the royal kingship of Cheon Il Guk, reign over that nation as the pride of the generations that are to come as the owners of love.

Father, this son knows Your heart and Your grief in being unable to stand in the place of glory and rule over us....

A very, very long time ago in Adam's family, Eve fell, and her two sons, Cain and Abel, who were born on the foundation of having lost the bloodline, became parents who could not establish a fraternal relationship with each other, and thus a history of extreme misfortune infiltrated Adam's family. However, no one knows about this fact, Father.

I can never forget how You enlightened me of these truths, and of the uncompromising situation You were in, and how afterwards You had urged me to take responsibility for these truths. Only one step ahead of death, I climbed over hills and passed through vast, vast, and yet even more vast oceans and wildernesses, and struggled and prayed to find the path that would help me cross them in one stride. Doing so, I have come so far, and in trying to practice the historical, living truths and records You had instructed me in, I do not know how the time passed.

Living my life like this, I now find myself an old man, and I regret that there is only so short a time left to me before I go to the spirit world to serve You, Father, on behalf of the ideal realm of the kingdom of heaven in the world before the Fall. Though that may be the case, I am not one who would pray and ask You to extend my time on earth, for You know me better than anyone else does.

Now we have finished the Coronation Ceremony and the Dedication Ceremony of the Kingship centering on the name of Cheon Il Guk. And this is the moment when we have finished the Coronation Ceremony of the Cosmic Parent, the Parents of Heaven and Earth, and the Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind coming together as one and being enthroned as the king of kings of goodness. I now state before You, that I am now sharing with others everything I have done, everything I have presided over, everything I have been involved in, and everything I have owned to pave the

foundation for Your victory, together with the ownership of the cosmos, and stand before You alone, with no burden on my shoulders.

I place before You all that should be left for You, Your ideal realm of the unity of heart, Cheon Il Guk, and the domain of the world in the form of the unified family, so that You can become the Owner who regains the bloodline of Adam lost in Adam's family in Eden, and who stands tall amidst all the efforts being made by atheism to bring ruin to this chaotic world—and that caused Cain to kill Abel—and the Owner who establishes the one nation among all nations and restores the nation where there are neither Cain nor Abel, nor wars.

Therefore, take hold of all this, the world in Your left hand and Heaven in Your right hand. The scientific world can now conquer aeronautics beginning from the helicopter. When that world becomes one with the philosophical and religious world—if the two worlds can be united into one and this then shown to all—there could be no nation or intellectual class that could oppose it. In fact, even the most famous and successful religious leaders who might pride themselves as such would not be able to oppose, but would inevitably be brought to submission before it. Knowing all this, and bearing it all in mind, I now stand at the point in time in the Last Days of history and declare this proclamation and this speech of today yet again.

In the position of the master, may You become the liberated king of liberation, the freed king of freedom, and the sage and virtuous king of eternal prosperity and peace for millions of generations to come, so that You can become the owner and the king who reigns and flourishes forevermore. I announce this as we are about to depart after having concluded this coronation, so please take the responsibility to reign over all nations and the entire universe as the fulfillment of Your greatest hope.

If there is anything You need, call upon us, for there are Your [peace kingdom] police and [peace kingdom] corps that will do anything You command them to do, and there is the correctional corps which has been organized on behalf of the mother, the mother and owner of the bloodline lost in Eden, and the fallen sister who committed wrong, who have united together, establishing this corps to correct all the wrong in the world. We dedicate this organization to You, Father, and ask that You take responsibility for again measuring and assessing its content.

Now Rev. Moon stands at the place of liberation and complete inner freedom with freedom of authority, and I pray that the Eden You have idealized, the heaven and earth where there are no nations and religions, and where the relationship between brothers and sisters can be educated anew, can be established quickly, so that the kingship of love of the victorious supremacy of the realm of the Abel UN can come down to earth and become the lighthouse and the sign of the victory of all nations in peace and prosperity, and finally be brought to settlement, making this world into the sabbatical kingdom of heaven on earth and in heaven!

I report this most earnestly in the name of True Parents, and declare before the entire cosmos that You are the king of the sovereignty of love, glory and victory! Amen! Amen! Amen! **STW**

Step into Freedom and Cataclysmic War

In this installment, the fourteenth to appear in Today's World, Father continues his account of experiences while imprisoned in Hungnam, North Korea, that he began in our last issue. The text is drawn from the third and fourth chapters of the second book of the series True Parents' Life Course (참부모님 생애 노정). The books are composed of excerpts from Father's speeches over many years, arranged more or less chronologically in the form of an autobiographical account.



Gen. Douglas MacArthur
during the Korean War

From the viewpoint of God's providence of restoration, Western civilization by all means needs to be connected to Asia. Flesh and blood, spirit and body, and all conditions of sincerity established by Western civilization have to be brought here. It was only in 1950 that representatives of sixteen nations came to Korea, and while here, they were engaged in fierce fighting.

The birthplace of the Messiah is the homeland. Those soldiers who fought in the Korean War sacrificed themselves for the liberation of our homeland. We can conclude that from the perspective of God's providence, the military conflict in Korea triggered an international mobilization to shed blood for the liberation of the homeland. Heaven mobilized men and women to Korea from all democratic nations that profess Christianity to sacrifice for the liberation of Korea, a providential nation that with the advent of the True Parent had become the ideal homeland. Heaven had them fight.

Would there have been such a thing as the Korean War had Christianity accepted the Unification Church? It would not have occurred. It would have taken at most three years to secure a complete nationwide foundation. Within seven years, a worldwide foundation would have been laid. The Korean War, which began on June 25, 1950, was a conflict in the midst of this seven-year course. Because Christianity did not accept me, Satan invaded and established a foundation based on the number seven. Therefore, we see the emergence of two enemies—communism and Christianity. Communism emerged on the worldwide level at that point in history. Had communism not secured a foothold on Korean soil, it would not have grown to command the power it did in the world. All of that would have melted down in my hand.

The bombing of Hungnam by B-29s

On August 1, 1950, a heavy bombing attack was carried out with B-29 bombers on the Hungnam fertilizer factory.¹ Not only did I foresee this attack but I also knew and explained to those close to me that God would protect anyone who stayed within twelve meters of me. I was meditating calmly amidst all of the heavy bombing. It did not bother me at all. I was concentrated on the ideal world that awaited us in the future. I knew that for God, sending a person with a providential mission like mine to the spirit world at that point would amount to a loss of cosmic proportions. God was willing to pay any price to protect me. In fact, He had no other choice.

Such were my thoughts while those around me were worried and their facial expressions got ever tighter. In the midst of explosions ripping through the Hungnam factory, people were shouting that they were going to die. That was the situation I was in... Oh well... Death did not concern me at all.

Prisoners to the front line

Soon after the Korean War broke out on June 25, the communists were mobilizing all of their prisoners to the front line, where they were to die as cannon fodder. At some point, about

¹ A U.S. government chronology of the Korean War states that on that day, "Forty-six B-29s of the 22nd and 92nd Bombardment Groups bombed the Chosen Nitrogen Fertilizer Factory at Hungnam, the largest chemical plant in the Far East."



On the day UN Forces liberated Incheon, driving out the North Korean Red Army, civilians were still fearful and distrustful.

eight hundred prisoners, out of roughly a thousand, were ordered to march to a meeting point fifty kilometers from the prison. We marched out in obedience to the order from the central command for more soldiers for frontline combat.

About eight hundred people moved from Hungnam toward Wonsan and Jeongpyeong...² Originally, we would have started out by railroad but a section of track had been destroyed by bombing. The prisoners travelled fifty kilometers on foot. At that point, there were only seventy or eighty prisoners left behind at Hungnam. Most of the prisoners were taken to fight on the front line.

I was among the eight hundred. It was dangerous to move by day because of the heavy bombing, so we marched through the night starting at eight in the evening and stopping after dawn, thus covering about twenty-five to thirty kilometers a day. Since trains could also run only by night, it had been arranged that we would arrive at a station by 4:00 AM.

However, that train did not come at the appointed time because of an accident, and the group of prisoners had to stay put for a few days. Because too few guards were escorting too many prisoners, the guards feared problems might arise and ordered a retreat to the prison. Three days later, the prisoners were ordered out again. This time, however, I was allowed to stay behind. I was the only one out of the original eight hundred whom they left behind. That is how I survived.

The end of the ordeal

How does the story end? The gates of the prison did finally open. It was time to go. Wonsan was the very first place to be retaken by the South Korean contingent under the UN Forces. Our soldiers entered Pyongyang on October 19. However, Wonsan had been taken at dawn on October 15 or 16.

² An area abutting Wonsan; not to be confused with South Korea's Cheongpyeong

Therefore, the Hungnam area was the first piece of the North Korean territory retaken by the allied forces. That incursion forced our prison guards to flee and allow me to escape.

All these events occurred as they did because God was desperate to save one person, His son. On October 12, about seventy prisoners with sentences of seven years or more were taken ten kilometers into the mountains and executed. Since my prison term was five years, my turn was to come two days later. You can see why God must have worked feverishly.

As I looked out of the cell window on the night of October 13, it already looked as if changes were occurring. The prison guards fled on October 14 because UN Forces were approaching Hungnam; so we were able to get out of the prison. The UN forces launched a general offensive and at two o'clock in the morning on that day we gained our freedom.

If you conceive of my release as a decision made in a court of law, granting it would have been done not by a judge, but by the accuser, Satan himself, who had the final word. I needed Satan's approval to be freed. Because I successfully

accomplished all that had been required of me, soldiers from the archangel nation [the United States], with other troops making up the UN forces, fought back against North Korea and were able to liberate me. This is how I came out of prison.

The fact that on October 14, 1950, just a day before my scheduled execution, UN troops led by General MacArthur freed me is evidence that my salvation was accomplished entirely by God's grace and power. A condition was established for the whole democratic world to receive benefits from the UN forces having liberated me from prison. In other words, because the UN troops played a direct role in my deliverance from the Hungnam labor camp, the democratic world established a providential connection that allowed it to be saved and blessed.

October is the month of liberation for the Unification Church. Both my liberation from Seodaemun Prison on October 4, 1955 and from the Hungnam labor camp fall in the same month. Tears well up in my eyes just thinking about this. For me, this time marked the loss of a people. I also lost my family, my beloved wife and son.

My prison life—history and tradition

Do you know about my lifestyle in prison? A tradition of visiting these holy sites should be established.... How precious is the feeling of self-confidence and liberation people would have as they fulfill their promise to follow in my footsteps through the historical tradition I have established! It is for this reason that I asked Kim Il-sung to open my hometown to visitors. I asked him to open both my hometown and the Hungnam labor camp; these sites will become educational facilities with training courses designed to correspond to the number of years I spent at each.

My imprisonment at Hungnam was not a setback for me. God has worked through my life course to turn the experience

at Hungnam into a powerful source of inspiration that brings new life to the hearts of young people who study the Unification Church doctrine as it spreads to all parts of the world....

There is no better place than a prison to learn about what one is really worth and to recreate one's character. If we are to train young leaders to take on the task of world unification, I think we might need an official survival-training course.

Determined to make a fresh start

You feel quite young when you turn thirty. When I compare that time to now, it really was the era of my youth. Leaving prison at that age, I resolved to make a fresh start, a new beginning in my life. It did not matter how hard and bitter my experience in North Korea had been up to that point. My mind was set on forgetting all the hardships and thinking of what had happened not as an impediment or loss but as stimulation for that fresh start on the road to accomplishing my historic mission. I was adamant, knowing I was responsible to accomplish my mission at any cost. I made this strong resolution in my thirties while my body was still in its prime. My release from prison was equivalent to resurrection and marked the starting point of proclaiming the truth of Divine Principle.

Those who followed me from Hungnam

At the time of my release, several people clung to me, crying desperately, asking permission to follow me. In fact, four people left their parents and wives behind to accompany me after I emerged from the labor camp in North Korea. Among them one was a man from the Moon clan, in which he thus came to represent Cain.

This man, Mr. Moon Jeong-bin, had worked as a department head in the South Hamgyong provincial office in Hamhung.³ He was sentenced to Hungnam prison because of a mistake committed by one of his subordinates. He spent some time with me in the prison cell, and from the spirit world, he was guided to become my follower. He later followed me as I traveled from Hungnam to Pyongyang.

Despite being a family man with a wife and two sons, he was very devoted to me and after his release kept visiting me in prison, hoping for my release. After my release, I set out in a hurry to reach Pyongyang, but since I was passing his house, I felt obliged to stop by and greet his family. After we exchanged some greetings and said our goodbyes, I left to continue my journey. Suddenly, he ran out of his house and started following me. "Why are you coming with me?" I asked. He replied that he felt compelled to follow me. So he came along.



A view of the Chong-no borough, the central shopping area of modern Seoul, as it looked in October 1950

A bundle of tattered prison clothes

The clothes I had worn in the labor camp, my shirts and underwear, were all made of cotton. When prisoners worked in the factory, the fertilizer ingredients—ammonia and sulfuric acid—would often stain their clothes. Both substances are caustic; their chemical action destroys an organic fabric such as cotton. If you pull on cotton clothes, they easily rip apart. After long use, our clothes were full of holes and began to rot... A beggar wearing such clothes would look even more miserable. Those clothes looked and smelled horrible. If you pulled on or scratched any part of that cotton cloth, it would practically disintegrate into shreds. Since I could not throw those clothes away, I stuffed them all into my bedding, which I spread on the floor and used as a mattress in the prison cell. I pulled out the stuffing and replaced it with all these ragged clothes to preserve them throughout my three-year term.

What possessions do you leave prison with? I carried a bundle of those old clothes with me as I travelled from Hamhung to Pyongyang over a period of ten days. In Pyongyang, I asked a member to look after the bundle, saying, "Even if you have to throw away your silk jacket, skirt or a blanket made of foreign satin, keep this bundle safe and make sure you return it to me." Nevertheless, he threw my bundle out at the first opportunity and kept his family's stuff... It was lost.

If I only had those clothes with me today, I would not need to explain anything. They would have been too valuable to exchange for the whole universe. The material could speak for itself and stir more profound emotions than any talented orator's speech could ever do. I still have no words to express my disappointment about this loss. Where am I going to find a substitute for this? Is one for sale somewhere? No. Ordinary things such as a small piece of paper or a fragment of a newspaper article become precious historical relics if they are related to your public mission. Even if you are totally impoverished and starving on a single piece of dried

³ Hamhung is fifty kilometers inland from Hungnam, which is a port city on the East Sea



Three days into the war, North Korea captured Seoul; here, people, many of them refugees, in the city of Daegu celebrate news of Seoul's recapture by UN Forces in September 1950. North Korea's ally, China, took Seoul in January 1951 but relinquished it two months later.

radish leaf, you should first think of preserving it as historical evidence by filing it or taking a picture of it. These things will allow your children to inherit the very essence of our tradition without you preaching a word to them.

Evidence of war preparations

I observed things clearly when I came out of prison in Hungnam. I was very interested in all the changes that had taken place around me. From the very beginning, when the North Koreans laid a new bridge, it was designed so that the road could be widened up to two lanes each way. They built roads like highways. Since cement was abundant in the North, they paved the roads with a thick layer of concrete, a strong construction material. None of this escaped my attention. It was obvious that the roads had been built to withstand the weight of heavy tanks moving, and the bridges had also been constructed so that thirty-ton tanks could cross them. Since the road from Hungnam was strategically important to the East Sea coast, it had already been prepared for military purposes. All things considered, it was clear that the North had prepared for war ahead of time.

I understood that war preparations were implemented by the KGB as soon as the government was established in the North. It was in line with the Soviet policy in the Far East, which is why all the fertilizer produced by the Hungnam factory was sent off to the Soviet Union. They used to send several loads per day, which they bartered for ten- or twenty-year-old Soviet weapons. Since these weapons were so cheap, they got most of the old Soviet cache. They used them to train soldiers along the thirty-eighth parallel in order to prepare for the invasion of the South. They did not need state-of-the-art heavy equipment there and managed very well with the outdated weapons.

I was aware of all of this at that time. Based on my

personal observations, it was clear that North Korea was readying itself for war. Everything was prepared by 1950.

Contacting those who had been loyal

I travelled on foot from Hungnam, on the east coast, all the way to Pyongyang, near the west coast. Although I sent people out to all of my followers in Pyongyang letting them know that I had returned, most of them did not come to see me. Nevertheless, I did succeed in bringing some people together, even if just a few.

I stayed in Pyongyang for forty days, though my hometown was only a hundred and ten kilometers from the city. To go there and back would have taken only a couple of days. Still, I did not visit my parents or my brother and sisters at home. Instead, I looked for those people who had earlier responded to God's call. I made a point to visit everyone who had promised to follow God's will—every single person, without exception.

I never made it to my hometown.

I wanted to know what happened to those who had followed me before I went to prison. Moreover, before I visited my own family, I felt obliged to communicate with everyone whom I remembered from that period. This is the heavenly way.

Since these people promised to remain loyal to me before I went to prison and did not notify me they'd had a change of heart, I was still responsible for taking care of them as their teacher. As long as I was still chosen by Heaven and as long as the person did not directly express ill will toward me (in which case Heaven would have no other choice but to forsake him) I was bound by the obligation of a promise exchanged between a teacher and a follower. Because of this, I visited all of my scattered followers. When I could not visit directly, I would at least send Won-pil in my stead. Under the circumstances, was there time left to visit my home? In some cases, it took a whole week just to find one person. Even if a person had gone against me, his descendants still have to be saved. The fate of those who had opposed me hung in the balance and had to be cleared up at the time of my visit. That is why it took me a whole forty days to complete the job.

I could not help leaving my mother behind in North Korea, even though I remembered her monthly tearful visits to Hungnam prison. I had to find all my followers in Pyongyang first. I visited everyone, even someone well over eighty years old, only to find out that the person had passed away already. My goal was to call on and bring together every single person that came to mind, young and old—everyone who had become a member or established a providential connection with me.

I would call on somebody and be rejected at first. I would return and be rejected again. Even until the third time... This went on until people started to evacuate en masse in December. I kept sending people out until sunset on

December 2, and I continued desperately offering conditions as expressions of my sincerity until God gave me the direction to leave.

I could not abandon people. I accomplished everything I had to do in the North. I had started out in Pyongyang with a perspective based on heart and before I could leave the place, I removed the pain in my heart and found the courage to offer this new heart to God for the sake of His will. This is why I left Pyongyang that night. A leader needs to be that serious about his responsibility. You should accomplish your God-given mission even amidst a life-and-death struggle. Once you have started something, you should make sure you complete it. Those who move on to do other things before completing their original mission will realize very soon that their way forward is blocked. This is why I went out and resolved all the issues with my former followers so that in front of Heaven and earth I am justified and have the sympathy of these people's ancestors and descendants.

Since I was aware of such things, I made sure to complete such a foundation before leaving. When I look back on those days, I have no regrets or pangs of conscience about anything.

Visiting the "Inside the Belly" Church

As I was leaving North Korea, I visited the mother of Huh Ho-bin. Since this elderly lady was the overall leader of a religious group, I went to visit her and met her for the first time. The lady had already received a revelation that she should treat a gentleman in Kyungchang Hamlet with respect. Therefore, all her followers came out to greet me wearing white clothes.



Suspicion of refugees prevails in a civil war. From Hungnam to Busan, Father would have gone through or skirted frequent North Korean and South Korean checkpoints like this one.

Even at that time, had this group exactly followed the directions I gave them, I would not have had to go the way of suffering. This was a substantial, divinely inspired group. Since the members of the group had been trained for years to be mobilized at the command of the returning Lord, they could have been able to advance the providence by leaps and bounds.

The Holy Lord Church, the Inside the Belly Church and the New Jesus Church were similar in the sense that they would have united easily had they been able to accept me. How would that be possible? Through the Principle. But since these people had become too comfortable, they did not recognize what was happening. They could not interpret the revelation given them.

Ministers who had opposed me

When I went to the communist North, about eighty ministers from established churches came together and signed a resolution to get rid of Moon so-and-so from the Unification Church. They must have felt relieved when they heard the news that I had been sent away to a death camp. Did I die, though? Why should I have? In the end, those who conspired to kill me got a taste of their own medicine. The communists killed them all. How ironic that the man who was destined to die in the labor camp survived while those who put him away ended up with that fate! God is indeed unforgiving when it comes to His providence. I looked for each one of these individuals. I was willing to embrace them, offer them a pardon from their past and a direction for a future they could be proud of. However, my search always ended with the same result—those ministers were dead and gone.

In Pyongyang, a church minister whose last name was Nam was behind my imprisonment. I don't remember his first name. This minister lost all his children. It went that far. Such is the settlement from Heaven. In spite of all of this, you should not think, That is the punishment you deserve.

Since the person's descendants are still alive, you should think, God, Please do not harm this lineage anymore and bless these people on my behalf.

This is the thinking of a righteous person. You should know that such is the way God has trodden until now.

Members who left the path

I have been betrayed by many people since I started my providential course. I remember each and every individual who had ever pledged to follow me to the end but went astray. Not only do I remember the content of each pledge, I know exactly how each of these former members is doing today.

There were many women in our church at the time I received the Hungnam sentence. One of them might pledge her absolute loyalty at that time saying, "I am willing to die and resurrect time and again just to be able to write a wish-paper⁴ for the sake of my teacher's well-being. If I had to choose between being different kinds of flowers, I would be a rose or a lily; why be a pumpkin flower?"

⁴ Father is apparently referring to someone from a Buddhist background. In Buddhism, one way to express sincerity is to write out a wish and offer a donation for the sake of its fulfillment.

Another person might say, "Even if I had to live on top of Mt. Baekdu and make a living by planting potatoes in the rocky ground in order to serve my teacher, I would never give up." However, when they heard from me about "going the way of death," the usual response was "Wait, let me think it over." People cannot be trusted.

Many women betrayed me. However, what is more important is that many have betrayed God. God could not take revenge over such traitors as Adam and Eve, the angel and all those others who betrayed Him in the long course of history, because God is pursuing the absolute standard of love. "Why doesn't God do anything about His enemies?" one may ask. The answer is, "He cannot do anything." Because God has set the standard of absolute love, there is no way He can seek revenge. He has to bite the bullet, saying, "We will see. Wait a little more."

Absolute love has no choice but to wait. Can you imagine the depth of God's suffering in this situation? We should be aware of this. We should appreciate God's perseverance amidst all the suffering.

Members from the Pyongyang period

In Pyongyang, I restored three women and a man.⁵ Without such a foundation, the providence of restoration could not possibly be completed.

God lost women from three significant generations. Therefore, unless three women representing these three lost generations are restored, we cannot expect to witness the unity of a Cain and Abel who were born as the result of a union of a true married couple. These three women were needed as a condition of indemnity. I knew of this necessity and went to North Korea with this goal in mind. In fact, this is my one and only achievement in the North.

I restored three women out of North Korea in order to restore by indemnity the mistakes of three generations of women. Also, the fact that Kim Won-pil attended me before he became twenty years old was of crucial significance. Since he was in the position to represent the communist world, he had to exhibit absolute obedience in attending me. No excuses were to be granted. That is why Won-pil attended me at all times even while I was in prison.

To restore one person in Kim Baek-moon's position,⁶ the respective number of members that followed me before I went to prison and the number of members after I returned had to be the same.

One person, Kim Won-pil, stood in the position of Kim Baek-moon. Three women were also significant. Because of



Around August 1950, South Korean soldiers tend to a head wound on a woman whose child's life depends on her survival.

them, I was able to restore the four people I originally planned to restore from Kim Baek-moon's group.

I went to the enemy in the North and found these people among them. This means that I was able to regain the four-position foundation there. This foundation of a son and daughters, gained amidst the struggle in the North, became the starting point for expanding the providence of restoration. From the viewpoint of the Principle, without this accomplishment I would not have been able to make a fresh start.

Sudden evacuation

Apart from these four followers outside prison, I was able to restore four groups from the circle of my inmates, and I took one man from each group with me when I returned to the South. It is because I was able to secure this particular number of followers that I could start my spiritual work in the South. This is

how the Unification Church began. All that happened from that point onward was a new providential dispensation.

When I arrived in Pyongyang after my release from the labor camp, I sent the four men that came with me from Hungnam off to visit their hometowns. I told them to come back by a certain time on a certain date, but they just missed the appointment because of the commotion caused by army troops and refugees retreating southward from the north. So what happened in the end? There was another man. He had followed me in prison and had been released earlier than I. His name was Park Jeong-hwa. He lay in his home in Pyongyang with a broken leg, abandoned by his siblings who had fled to the South leaving him behind with only a shepherd dog for a company. I cannot forget the moment I visited him at home and decided to bring him south on the back of a bicycle.

Also, when it was time to leave Pyongyang, I sent somebody to bring my mother to our place. I sent for Won-pil's mother also at that time...

I sent for my mother to come because I knew that the situation in the North might take a long time to be resolved. The person I sent to her left but did not return—he may have been caught or did not make it for some other reason. I did not have much choice but to send Moon Jeong-bin to bring Won-pil's mother to us. A trip there and back should have taken only two days, even if he walked all the way. But he never returned.

By that time also, the situation in the North was growing worse by the day. There was a real danger that we might become surrounded. We thus had no alternative but to set out from Pyongyang. Mr. Moon, who had pledged to follow me at the risk of his life, could not come with us. **9W**

⁵ Ji Seung-do, Ok Se-hyeon, Jeong Dal-ok and Kim Won-pil, respectively

⁶ For more on Rev. Kim, see *Today's World* November 2008, p. 9; August 2008, p. 8; September 2005, p. 14; July 2005, p. 17; June, July 2001, p. 33

witnessed to. We wanted new members to judge the Divine Principle lectures, so that we could see who the best lecturer for new people is. During the discussion of who was good, this lady, who recently became a member, proclaimed her faith very strongly: “I chose this faith because I found truth here. If someone like our foundation chairman [Kook-jin nim] believes in this church, I believe in it too.”

She has been in top companies in society; she has worked as a professional in the business world, but then she came to the Tongil Group, whose leader is so handsome [Applause—Hyung-jin nim laughs]...but he never goes to bars, never takes the employees out drinking. He works all day from early morning until night, and then goes straight home to his beautiful wife! [Applause]

The employees are so inspired. “Unificationism is very different!” They hear the Principle, and understand the reality of the Fall. They understand why God wanted to have his children inherit His true love. They understand why the four-position foundation, a couple and family, is so important. They understand why loyalty and honesty between husband and wife are so important. It sets a new tradition for that family, and the society, nation and world. True Father is teaching men to not be animals, but instead to be true fathers, true husbands and true brothers. He is training men to learn to love their wives as a spiritual practice, teaching the value of a husband and wife. And this inspires the employees.

And then, if they visit the video center, they might look into their ancestry and discover the pain caused when an ancestor didn’t have just one wife, but a second wife.¹ They can see how that caused pain inside the family, and why they have to indemnify that, liberate their lineage from that. Then they realize, “I have to start becoming better, for the sake of my family too.” They realize this teaching is showing the way to the kingdom of heaven.

We have an incredible teaching but have not had the ability to convey that to society, to bring people in—here in Korea—and to make the organization strong. But because the business foundation has been strengthened, it is helping the church become stronger, more rational, more organized, helping membership grow. And now for the first time in our church history in Korea, we had the core members vote and elect their regional director. In the past, the church president or international president might have appointed the person, but now the members’ voices are being heard. The criterion for being able to vote in this was at least one year tithing to the church community. Members could see

1 The video center staff gives lectures on the influence of ancestors—such as from the historical practice in Korea of men having more than one wife simultaneously—as a precursor to deeper understanding of the Principle and the time we live in; videos of the lectures can also be viewed. (See this issue p. 19, paragraph 3, for more background)

all information about the candidates—education, career and personal assets. They could make sure the person they were voting for is honest. Because the members can see this information, when they decide, the best people are elected....

Within the foundation, the chairman has a lot of power, but he has given that away by delegating a say in all major decisions to others. Decisions are checked by many professionals. That system is also being used by the World Missions Headquarters, and by the Korean Church Headquarters. Every decision involving the use of members’ donations, for example, has to be approved by many designated people, not just by one leader. Everyone in the line has to approve the decision. This system protects our congregation and membership. These changes are very important to our church as we grow and develop. Because of



these changes, and the strengthening of our organization, we are much better now at witnessing; our members are becoming prouder of being Unificationists and thus more confident to witness.

We were attacked during the indemnity period, so we often wanted to hide and not explain who we were. In Korea that has changed a lot now. We always encourage our members: Do not be shy. Now is a time prepared by God. It is not a time to be scared, but a time to be proud of ourselves as Unificationists. True Parents shed blood, sweat and tears for this. Brothers and sisters around the world shed blood, sweat and tears for this. Members have even died for this. We must not hide this. This is our pride and our Principle, the truth that True Parents revealed from Heaven.

[Hyung-jin nim indicates a large church- symbol pendant

he wears on a necklace] I wear this wherever I go. Some of us worry about even showing our blessing rings. This is so much bigger! Too big to hide! We have to be proud.

We explain to everyone that this is our Unificationism symbol. This means give-and-take action, and this means the four-position foundation—centered on God's true love.

Our Unification Church symbol represents the Principle. Wherever we go, we have to be proud of our Principle. It is the truth that True Father revealed. It is the truth that liberated God. It is the truth that brings true love into the couple, the family, the society, nation and world. This simple symbol. Wherever we go, we say it carries the power of heavenly fortune.

Catholics make the sign of a cross over their body when they pray. We wanted to make the sign of the Unification symbol. We received inspiration from heaven. [Hyung-jin nim leads everyone in hand movements that outline the shape of the Unification Church symbol]—Aju. We made the Unification symbol. I love this; we do this wherever we go.

I had lunch with the hoonsas;² they are dressed in their hoonsa uniform. We all did the sign of the Unificationism symbol in a restaurant! Other people were wondering what it was. It is time to be proud of ourselves as Unificationists.

Truly, God has prepared this time. When I studied world religions at university, the Unification Church was included in our textbook³ on new religions. The Unification Church has the biggest foundation of any religion during the life of its founder, even compared to major religions. We will continue to become more successful while True Parents are here!

Matthew 28:16 is one of the most important passages in the Bible, and for Christianity. It's called the Great Commission.⁴ Jesus says that now they must go out into the nations to bless and baptize people, make them into disciples. This is the moment when Christianity was truly born. At that time they were being persecuted. So Christians could have just become ingrown, looking just inside their own community: They could have thought, We just have to be happy and live a Christian life.

But Jesus told them, No, you must not just look inside your church community; you must go out and make disciples, and testify to my works and my deeds, and baptize in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. He said, Do not just become an ingrown church. Look outward and witness.

From that moment we see Christianity become Christianity. In that moment we see Jesus' direction to make Christianity spread all over the world. Now, two thousand years later, there are one and a half or two billion Christians who believe in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. Everyone on the planet

2 A newly created Unificationist religious order of full-time spiritual practitioners, who set conditions to support the church. (See previous issue, p. 14)

3 Elsewhere, he has identified the textbook as *Living Religions* by Mary Pat Fisher

4 The term "Great Commission" was popularized by James Hudson Taylor (1832–1905) missionary and founder of China Inland Ministry. Mt. 28:16 (in part) "And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age.'"

From Hyung-jin Nim's Speech to Korean Church Leaders on June 9

It was determined that our church cannot develop with the old church buildings and small-scale churches that we have now. Through consolidating the churches, we aim to improve the church environment with team ministry rather than individual ministry.

In addition, we plan to place capable and humble leaders in better situations to witness to new members and create a church culture overflowing with spirituality and serving hearts. We plan to create a culture of serving and working for the sake of others. This culture of spirituality and service will become the basis of church growth. More and more new members will join us, and the education of our second and third generations will be strengthened....

Pastors of other churches say that the Unification Church will perish with the end of the first generation. They say we will not be able to do great things because the Unification Church members cannot unite. Will we listen to this and do nothing? United, we can do even greater and more magnificent deeds....

Whatever religion one believes in, when its believers take pride in it and impart it to the world, it can finally begin to develop. The culture of having pride and dignity in the religion and disclosing it to the world is very important.

Now, we are frankly informing everyone about the current situation of the Korean Church. The whole world will be able to see transparently how our church develops. On Buddha's birthday, I met with the leaders of Buddhist orders at Jogye Temple. I was also invited to a meeting of the representatives of the "big seven" religious orders. The five great saints and the entire spirit world have been mobilized to cooperate with our work. We are ushering in a new era. **SW**

knows the story of Jesus, whether or not they accept it.

But when Jesus was alive he was persecuted, mocked, imprisoned as a criminal, tortured, and sentenced to die. He suffered capital punishment. Yet, two thousand years later, Christianity is the world's largest religion.

Compare all this with us now. True Parents are still here on earth. We are already teaching the Principle, serving, and teaching about true love, establishing true families in nations all over the world. While True Parents are still here we are rebuilding the church so we can witness more. Imagine two thousand years from now—the whole world will know True Parents' story—in less than two thousand years!

The Principle is what True Father suffered for. It is the Principle that liberated God. We must not let it die. We must build, so that while True Parents are still here they can see millions of faithful children of filial piety committed to the Great Commission of building the kingdom of God and spreading the message of True Parents—inherit God's true love. We will be victorious in this.

Let us pray. **SW**



How We Are Growing in Korea— Yet Denied Basic Rights in Japan

*Kook-jin nim,
accompanied
by Ji-yea nim,
spoke to a mainly
Japanese audience
at the “Original
Divine Principle
Workshop” on
June 15 at the
Cheongpyeong
Heaven and Earth
Training Center.
What follows are
extracts from what
he said that day.*

Hello brothers and sisters. It’s very good to see you today. Yesterday I had the chance to go to Changwon to visit our church there to present “thank you” awards for the Cheon Bok Gung donations. There has been a big improvement in that church. In a very short time (a year) it has grown substantially. The congregation has doubled in size and donations have increased by a similar amount.

The atmosphere was full of life. The church was overflowing. I was very happy to see such an improvement in such a short time.

Our international president began his ministry in Mapo, Seoul. This was the start of our church reform in Korea. His ministry has been very successful in a year and a half. He soon moved to the Headquarters Church, which he has grown to more than five thousand registered members.

Some other church leaders have been saying that they can’t create that kind of success here in Korea. After looking at how much the church in Changwon has grown because of the change in church policies, though, those church leaders and other members can no longer say that. If our church is well run and our church leaders are ministering well, our church can grow here in Korea successfully. The Changwon church is a good example.

As you know, we have been doing some very difficult restructuring in the Korean church. We have been encouraging the smaller churches to merge and unite, so that we can create viable churches; these would have a greater economic foundation, greater ability to provide better services for the members, to provide education for the second generation and to create a better church environment, as well as better church meetings. That policy as a whole is working.

Recently we had another round of mergers in the Korean church, which we encouraged, and that is having a very positive effect. I know that a number of our church leaders were very concerned about the changes in the organization. We really appreciate their ability to look at the overall welfare of the church and to think about the church as whole. Because they have looked at it from that perspective, they were able to accept the changes and cooperate in building a more successful church.

You may only see that these mergers are reducing the number of churches, but the result is not that we have fewer church members. *More* members are coming to church. This is a very important thing to understand. We are doing this restructuring to prepare the foundation for growth and development, and for the future prosperity of the church. As a result, we are seeing very good indicators that our church will become more successful. We are therefore optimistic about the future.

We have also introduced the video center education system that has run very successfully in Japan for many years. Our leaders here were saying that that system cannot work in Korea because the Japanese and Korean cultures are different.

When I came to Korea, I was told that many times, but I didn't think it was true, so I decided to build a Japanese-run video center in Korea. Instead of picking a Korean leader to run it, we picked Japanese leaders. Mrs. Erikawa is responsible for that organization, and under her is another Japanese sister who is the head of the video center. The staff is Japanese, but the lecturers are Korean sisters.

Since we started this system, it has been working. Our courses are fully booked. There are two hundred people going through the program right now, even making donations to Cheon Bok Gung...these are Koreans! [Applause]

As we build Cheon Bok Gung, we are also going to open

another video education center, in Cheon Bok Gung itself. As it is a very effective education system, we will continue to educate our church leaders and members in Korea about how the system runs and why it works, and how to run it properly to bring results. So, once the system is properly started here in Korea we can continuously grow and develop the church. With the church reform we are implementing now, with the reorganization and the introduction of the witnessing system, there is a great deal of hope for the future of the Korean church.

As you know, our businesses here in Korea have gone from losing quite a bit of money to being profitable. The management structures here have improved quite a bit, and so the organizations in Korea have become stronger and sounder than they have ever been. These are good and positive signs.

We are hopeful that we can achieve the vision we have given to our brothers and sisters in Japan and all over the world that through the Cheon Bok Gung providence, building the new headquarters church in Korea, that we will be able to gather up to twenty-one thousand members. Actually the church will have the capacity for almost forty thousand registered members. So we can build, with the current facilities, quite a large church here in Korea, and when we move to the completion stage and build completion-level Cheon Bok Gung for two hundred and ten thousand members, we will have the largest single church in Korea. When we have accomplished that, we will have built a church foundation through which we can directly pursue the creation of Cheon Il Guk. That is the mission of witnessing to the entire nation of Korea. As we build an institution, a church, that is so significant in size, we will be in a position whereby we can communicate directly with the nation of Korea through the media, to explain True Parents' teachings and the meaning of inheriting the true love of God. So we see the great potential to



fulfill our providential vision here in Korea, and that is really our hope for the future.

You know, every time God blesses us, He also gives us a very big challenge. In the Korean church things have changed quite a bit and now the organization is functioning. Yet in Japan we face some quite serious challenges, and we have done a lot of work to try to fix our problems there. But as a result of those challenges, our ability to conduct some of our activities in Japan has been reduced.

There are organizations in Japan that are very dedicated to trying to persecute our church, especially anti-Unification Church attorneys. Their purpose is not to have us fix the problems, which we are sincere about doing, but their goal is to destroy the Unification Movement. We want to persuade them that, yes, we want to fix our problems, but that it is not okay to persecute our church. Our Japanese brothers and sisters are very good people who have a very good motivation to serve God and the nation. All of you have truly led very

sacrificial lives. The faith that we hold as Unification Church members is a profound one. We are a religious institution and we have been living religious lives. No one in society can say we are not. Those who insist on attacking us by saying we are not a religious institution are carrying out religious persecution. That is going too far. We cannot accept unfair persecution. Where we have areas to improve, we can accept that criticism and better our organization, but to persecute us to the extent of saying we are not a religion is unacceptable.

Our brothers and sisters in Japan have lived very devoted lives. Our opponents—anti-Unification Church groups—have been violating our human rights quite extremely. They have been kidnapping our brothers and sisters and even torturing them.¹ From what I understand, nearly five thousand of our brothers and sisters were kidnapped over the past twenty years. Yet the police department has done little to address this

¹ They have held members against their will for months and even years; women have been raped while being illegally kept in captivity

Keeping Abreast of Cheon Bok Gung

A recent explanation by Rev. Moon Hyung-jin:

“Cheon Jeong Gung is the vertical temple, where God and True Parents reside. Cheon Bok Gung is the horizontal temple, where the truth of God and True Parents is given to the world. Cheon Bok means “Heaven’s Blessing” and it is to Cheon Bok Gung that we invite people to hear the Principle, that is, to receive Cheon Bok—“Heaven’s blessing.” But Cheon Bok Gung will be open to the world, and welcome the people of the world, from whatever faith and background they come. As we actively invite people to come to Cheon Bok Gung, and they participate there, they will take ownership of the temple.”

From the speech former Belarusian president Stanislav Shushkevich gave at the Headquarters Church:

“Civilizations rose and developed in interaction with faith. The Pacific Rim civilization also needs the center of faith and it should be multifaceted, embracing religions of all the countries along the Rim. The core of the center should be the Temple that will be open for the followers of all religions, embodying clemency, faith, benevolence, magnanimity, generosity, faithfulness, forgiveness, compassion, kindness, devotion, loyalty, self-sacrifice, and self-denial – all aspects of true love. They are comprehensible to all people, speaking any language, following any religion. They cover interests of governments of the Pacific Rim region, as well as leaders in business and finance, who will benefit from the relaxation and elimination of all barriers that have prevented good relations between countries and peoples.”

This picture shows a projected design of part of the new temple's interior.

gross violation of our human rights and of the rights of our members to believe what they desire to believe and what they know to be true. We have begun to look into this problem.

We have started to collect testimonies of some of our brothers and sisters who were kidnapped. They have gone through tremendous trauma....

Yet, this is our mistake too, because we have not made society clearly aware of this issue. We need to be more vocal about our rights as human beings. We need to express to the police, "Okay, if you find some problems in our organization, we'll fix them. But why don't you deal with the criminal behavior the anti-Unification Church groups are perpetrating? Why do you only listen to their accusations about our church but not stop their criminal kidnapping of our adult Japanese members?"

This is a serious problem. We need to become aware of those forces in Japan who really want nothing other than to destroy our church. This is something which together as a community we have to make clear to the Japanese government

and to vocalize. Step by step within our church we have to discuss these very serious issues. We need to organize and find the best way to represent our sincere religious convictions to society. This is so that although they may not agree with our beliefs, they can understand we have basic human rights and the right to believe in the religion we choose.

Brothers and sisters, we have some great challenges in front of us, but we cannot let these challenges overwhelm us, nor can we sit by and let people falsely accuse us without protesting against them.

With the help of God and the help of our faith and love for all our brothers and sisters—our love for each other, and for God and True Parents—we will overcome these difficult challenge and build in Japan a new Unification Movement, where we truly fulfill the promise our True Parents have given us to establish the kingdom of heaven on earth, including in the nation of Japan, by restoring—through witnessing—all of the nation's people.

Thank you very much. *TW*

A Pragmatic Advocate for a Temple of Peace

Stanislav Shushkevich, president of Belarus from 1991 to 1994, visited Korea with his wife Irina during the final week of June. One of the three signatories to Belavezha Agreement, which formally dissolved the Soviet Union, Mr. Shushkevich worked to establish democratic principles in his newly independent country. His concerns for peace in the region and beyond have led him to support the peace work carried out by our movement. He has wholeheartedly endorsed True Parents' mission of peace, speaking at conferences and at our International Blessing Ceremonies.

Soon after their visit, Hyung-jin nim said that more than inviting them just as dignitaries at an event, they had wanted to welcome the Shushkeviches to Korea as part of our international family. Hyung-jin nim and Kook-jin nim took time to personally guide the Shushkeviches, who visited the Foundation for the Support of HSAUWC, where they learned about the businesses for the first time, and True Parents' Life Exhibition at the Korean Headquarters Building, with its wealth of information on Father's early struggles to survive and continue the mission. A short distance from there, they toured the Old Headquarters Church (*photo*) where True Parents lived and ministered from the 1950s until they left for the US in 1972.

Mr. Shushkevich also spoke twice at the current Headquarters Church, where Hyung-jin nim usually delivers the sermon, to the English-speaking congregation on Saturday and at one of the Korean services the following day. He described his first impressions on meeting Father in 1992 ("I knew he was older than I was, but I hardly believed it."). He



Mr. Kwon Sang-an, FFWPU national leader of Belarus, translates Korean to Russian for the Shushkeviches at the Old Headquarters Church.

spoke of Mother visiting Minsk a few months later, and went on to describe the enterprising work of three of True Parents' sons, Kook-jin nim, Hyung-jin nim and Hyun-jin nim. The core of his sermon, delivered in analytical, practical terms befitting an erstwhile nuclear physicist, was his assertion that for altering North Korea's dangerous behavior and for promoting peace throughout the world, the World Peace and Unification Temple should be built in Korea, "the center of a new civilization of peace." *TW*

—Prepared by the Today's World staff

A Woman's Touch in a House of God

A look behind the scenes at the Lovin' Life Ministries in New York

By Kevin Thompson

Rev. In-jin Moon launched the Lovin' Life Ministries on April 12, Easter Sunday, to correspond with True Father's initial meeting with Jesus Christ at Easter time in 1935. Honoring Jesus' life and victory on a day commemorating his resurrection, In-jin nim spoke openly and candidly about her father, his mission as the returning Lord and how he has tried so hard to fulfill the calling entrusted to him at that primary encounter with Jesus. As she expressed it:

Jesus brought us the good news, but you know what? True Parents brought us the breaking news. It's breaking news time, brothers and sisters. This breaking news is a message of hope, a message of love. It is an invitation to live our lives filled with gratitude and happiness, in celebration and appreciation of each other, not being the kind of religious people who judge but instead the kind of religious people who have an incredible capacity to love, who can raise not only beautiful children but inspire our young people to become a generation worthy of the name Generation Peace.



The key reason for beginning Lovin' Life is to inspire our existing membership of all ages, to raise the quality of our worship and then to be able to reach out to bring new members to our church. If we are alive and excited about church then it is not so difficult to invite our friends to something we love. In-jin nim calls this "natural witnessing." So far many guests have come to the service and loved it.

In her sermons, In-jin nim covers a broad range of topics that include testimony of her personal experiences with True Parents and insights from her (and her husband Jin-sung nim's) experience of raising a family.

Moreover, the Manhattan Center, which True Parents bought a long time ago as a center for our cultural endeavors and into which Hyo-jin nim invested so much of his heart, is the right place to start a new kind of service that incorporates all of the exciting elements Father brought to America in the 1970s.

Consolidation and broadcast

The small churches in the New York boroughs have merged into the Manhattan Center main service. The former local church pastors serve as assistant pastors, caring for the congregations that live in their areas. Lovin' Life Ministries also has youth pastors, educational pastors and music ministers.

A few weeks after Easter, the ministry began an internet broadcast of the service to the Belvedere (rural New York State) New Jerusalem (New Jersey State) and Forty-Third Street (New York City) churches, which continue their services, but receive the broadcast of In-jin nim's message live during their worship service. Of course, this has brought some upheaval into their church world, but I think most people agree that it has been a wonderful shake up and the results are good for everyone.

Members and guests have been coming from as far afield as Washington DC, Boston and Ohio, and church leaders from around the country come to New York to experience Lovin' Life for themselves. Some are now asking In-jin nim if they can turn their own church service into a Lovin' Life service. The average size of the congregation is about one thousand four hundred members and guests.

Inspired to reach out

In-jin nim is not just delivering her message from the podium.

After each Sunday service, she meets and greets every single person who would like to say hello. This can take a long time and is the highlight for many people. She then has lunch with different church groups or ministries, for example, the Young Adult Ministers or a teen group making a purity pledge. Those who have been privileged to participate in these gatherings testify to the intimacy they can feel with In-jin nim representing True Parents.

In-jin nim is aiming to reach all kinds of people, young and old, members and non-members, resting and inspired. She believes she can speak to members of all ages and levels and at the same time make her message relevant to non-members who attend; so far she is doing a great job, as the testimonies let us know.

In-jin nim's own children were worried about the impact on their lives when their mom was appointed to the position she now holds. They were not fully happy at first. Now, however, her son and daughter are witnessing constantly to bring people. Ariana brings a friend or two each week from Harvard, and Preston has brought guests whom he met near the Manhattan Center. Many members who had never liked church before are really enjoying Lovin' Life; increasingly they bring their friends and family.

Religions as one family

In-jin nim was also adamant from the beginning that she wanted to invite other religious leaders to pray at the service. She wants to be connected in heart with all religions and to show them what the Unification Church has to offer. So far, we have had mostly Christian ministers participate, although an imam came and gave an impromptu testimony where he praised our members and especially our second generation as the hope of the world. This coming Sunday we will have a woman rabbi pray.

The clergy are mostly connected with our True Parents through the American Clergy Leadership Conference foundation. They are so excited to have the daughter of Rev. Moon stepping forward in America and they want to support her 100 percent. In-jin nim also wants to show to our second generation that we are an interfaith movement with respect for all religions.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31



Crowds flock to the Lovin' Life Ministries services, which are held in the Grand Ballroom of the Manhattan Center. Despite the size of the congregation, In-jin nim still uses a heart-to-heart approach, meeting brothers and sisters after services.

Witnessing and Parental Involvement

By Gabor and Manjola Vasmatics



Having officially started in 1996, the Albanian movement is quite young. The membership is also young; our so-called elders are just a little over thirty years old.

We have witnessing centers in five university cities. These centers are open every day for members and guests to visit. Full-time members, who are following the formula course, deepening their faith and helping the others who are going that way, live in the centers and run the activities. Other core members come to the centers every day after school and take part in programs. Whenever they can, they join witnessing, fund-raising, lecturing and outreach activities. Young members that have attended the lecture series up to the one on the Second Coming also come regularly; they continue their study of the Divine Principle and its application in daily life.

When guests come, they experience something different from being with their friends, and they long to come back again. The young and joyful spirit touches people. Knowing that someone is there, they do not hesitate to visit the center and learn something. They get the feeling that whenever they knock on our center door, it will be opened. Especially in the beginning, it is true that for most people what brings them back repeatedly is not the lectures but the atmosphere in which the lectures are held.

In Albania, family values are still very much preserved; you can find many families where three generations are living together. From one perspective, this is very good because it protects young people from many modern challenges. On the other hand, some parents have so much authority over their children that their sons and daughters can sometimes feel like prisoners.

Unfortunately, parents often don't know much about our movement. Sometimes, after only hearing about us from others—who may not know us well—and without personally visiting to see where their son or daughter is going and what he or she is learning, they simply forbid the child to come to the center. In such a case, it can become very difficult for the guest, who may have been very inspired by the seminars and the older members. Suddenly, the guest faces a crossroad, an apparent conflict between one's family and the church. Many people choose to sacrifice themselves for the sake of their parents, even though inside they feel an extreme desire to go the other way and make a full commitment to the church. For some reason, the "Isaac" to be offered by many Albanians has been the family, and not everyone, especially if he or she had only attended an initial seminar, has the faith that Abraham demonstrated. Of course, for members who have developed a mature understanding of the Principle, these situations can help them to grow. Enduring persecution as well can help them to understand something of what True Parents have gone through and to feel closer to God.

Interacting with parents

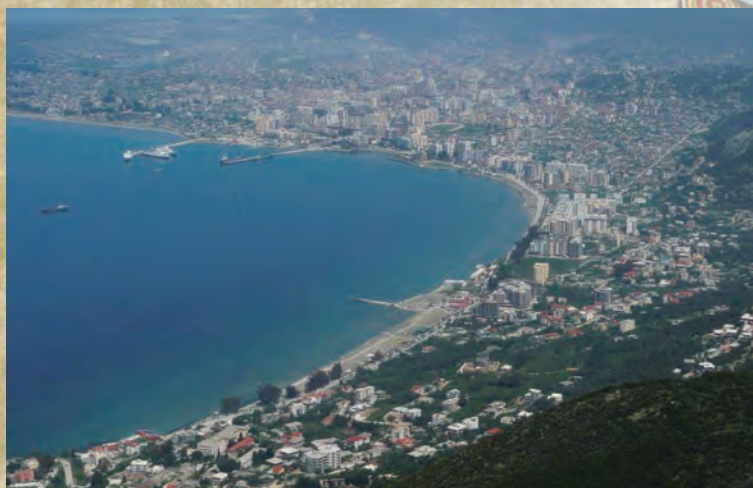
In order to prevent any misunderstandings from the parental side, it is very good

for us to contact parents from the very beginning. We can give them firsthand information about us and even spiritual guidance. Sometimes, by going out with parents just to listen to their concerns and worries and speaking with them about the ideals we have in common, we can help them feel comfortable enough to remove their resistance to their son or daughter coming to the center. Moreover, in this way, they also become spiritually charged and come to understand more about our principles, values and standards. They become supportive.

Recently, a mother came to the center with her son and asked if he could participate in a fifteen-day summer seminar. It was a remarkable experience for us, especially because a few months earlier she hadn't wanted to let her son even come to the center. But after we met them once and then met them again, she shared that she was just worried about where her only son was going. After knowing more about us, she was very sure that this was the best place for him to spend his free time.

In order to defuse misinformation and its consequences, it is incredibly important to be in contact with the parents. Eventually they will hear about us—and why not from us instead of from their neighbors? That's why we also organize workshops for members' parents, where they can listen to simplified Divine Principle lectures in order to get an idea of what we teach. Moreover, they can also experience a workshop such as their son or daughter would be invited to, and see what their child will experience.

We also invite the mothers of our members to something organized by the Women's Federation on the local level and hold a warm-hearted meeting with them. The greatest achievement is when the parents testify in front of each other about how happy they are that their



The city of Vlorë, population 125,000, in southwestern Albania

son or daughter joined the movement. Working with parents has many benefits. We can help each other a lot, sometimes in the most unexpected situations, and we can unite together to find the best way for their child to develop.

A supportive environment

Generally the guests are invited to attend lectures in the center and later they can attend different workshops, either on the local or national level. There, they can receive character education or lectures on the Divine Principle. This is the easy part compared to what comes afterwards.

Of course, we take care of them while they are attending the lectures, but after Divine Principle seminars, they need a higher level of care, because as they increasingly understand the truth, the contrast between it and the present world becomes starker.



Albanian ambassadors for peace, like those pictured here at a three-day Divine Principle seminar in Montenegro in spring 2009, have been a good influence within the movement, sometimes attending Principle seminars alongside young members.

They come to face different challenges and their own limitations. They may also be moved to witness to their friends and their parents. We need to give to them a lot of love and support, so that they can successfully pass through all these challenges.

After the guests have attended the lecture on the Second Coming, we invite them to attend Sunday services. Through the services and (more advanced) seminar II lectures, they can better understand the Principle and apply it to their everyday lives. They will understand the essence of Divine Principle more deeply when they begin to teach it and when they try to take care of someone else. Praying and setting conditions for others is the best protection for them and the best way to feed their own original mind, which is always looking for ways to give to others.

Taking part in outreach activities serves dual purposes. It's both an opportunity to witness to many people and a chance for members to grow very much through beginning to take responsibility. In this way, they feel more that they are an active part of the church, not just sitting somewhere in the back, and it helps them to develop an attitude of ownership. Furthermore, they discover what their talents are, so they can feel valuable and they can do something for the community. They can contribute in their special way to the activities, by preparing a banner, playing music, giving lectures or even cooking.

It is so inspiring to watch members grow. One of the most beautiful moments is when they offer their first full bow to God and True Parents. It is a great feeling, as a spiritual parent, to see a spiritual child offers his or her first representative prayer, or come for the first time to

stay overnight in the center or to experience hoondokhae for the first time. This inspires us to keep witnessing. At the same time, giving life to others keeps our spirit very fresh.

The formula course helps us to develop our character, to get rid of our fallen nature and to grow in heart in order that one day we can reach perfection. Experiencing an active center life is essential for internal development, we feel. It can be compared to how we learn about rice cakes: no matter how much people talk to us about them, no matter how much we read about them, we cannot truly know what rice cakes are like without tasting them for ourselves.

When summer comes and schools are closed, we don't let members become bored. At this time of the year, they have the possibility to attend a fifteen-day seminar. The first week is about Divine Principle, and the second week is about its application. Last year two ambassadors for peace also attended the seminar, and in spite of an age gap, they got along very well with our young members.

After the seminar, the participants can take part in a forty-day mobilization. They are divided into teams and move into different centers where they can experience in reality what they learned theoretically during the seminar. This is an "introduction" to the formula course. Some members become deeply inspired to do longer missions after participating in the mobilization.

Make a joyful noise

All people have the right to follow God. Understanding the fact that we are God's children doesn't lead to our sitting calmly at home. We want to go out. We want to



What better way is there to spend a summer holiday? Participants in a fifteen-day Divine Principle seminar in Albania in 2008 show their approval.

witness. We want to shout it out to the world. The feeling of being proud as a Unificationist helps to attract people. Our inner joy radiates out. It is natural that people want to stay with those who are happy themselves and who can make others happy. Witnessing has so much to do with one's lifestyle. Before the guests come to understand God's truth, they become acquainted with us, who call ourselves God's people. If they are happy with us, they gladly study the teachings that have helped mold our characters. If they see that we are joyful, they will be attracted to us naturally. Everyone is looking for happiness; no one wants to be sad. People go where they feel this desire is being fulfilled.

Besides being happy, people want to be successful. The lives of True Parents and their children testify to how successful you can become if you apply the Principle, if you apply the concept of living for others' sake. When seminar participants—not only the young ones but also the ambassadors for peace—see, for example, Global Peace Festival videos, they feel this is something very special that has never been achieved before in history. Hyun-jin nim talks in such a powerful way that it makes an impression even on those who don't understand English.

When we are talking with businessmen, we never fail to mention Kook-jin nim's example. He has proved that in the business sphere, applying the teachings of the Divine Principle will absolutely bring success.

One day I was talking with one mother and when I told her that our international president, Hyung-jin nim, is just twenty-nine years old, she was so happy. She told me society needs young people to take responsibility and take steps to change the world. She said that when old people speak to young people, the young ones think it is just moral education, but when another young person shows the way, they take it more seriously.

Dealing with ambassadors for peace is another level of witnessing. They need a different type of care, but they still need it. The older ones among them who have been in touch with the movement since long ago are really a great help; many of them are dedicated to moving God's providence forward. For me, what's most extraordinary is when they witness to their friends and family members. They speak so freely about True Parents, about the blessing and about all the activities going on around the world. The people listening, having known these ambassadors for peace for twenty or thirty years, have no doubts about what they are being told.

Whether the people in the audience are young or old, members or ambassadors for peace, when they hear this kind

of testimony they become very inspired. For example, when we were travelling back from a Divine Principle seminar that we held for ambassadors for peace, one of them talked about what a great experience the fifteen-day seminar was for him. Many of the ambassadors for peace who heard this testimony applied to participate in the seminar this year. Their presence there will help the young members take the seminar more seriously and to dedicate themselves to building Cheon Il Guk.

For the ideal world to be built, we need people from all levels of society; in order for it to be built soon, we need a lot of them. Even though things might be going well and be developing, 2013 is very near, and we should find many of those potential members, parents, ambassadors for peace and any other people who want to make a difference in the world now.

I feel an urge for us to find other ways of witnessing, something which can widen this movement even more. We need to work together in such an inspiring way that when other people see us, whether on the street, in school or at work, they would like to share our beliefs and ideas. It is important to be joyful and to talk warmly, but it is even more important to have a "don't give up" spirit. Sometimes, when we have been witnessing for hours in the most miserable conditions, we find someone about whom we will say not giving up was so worthwhile. When we concentrate on giving life to the extent that we forget everything else, God works miracles. The conditions we set are what allow God to work with us.

Living a public life brings so many blessings from God. Sharing a mission as a couple, working together to fulfill Heavenly Father's will, is an especially great opportunity. Even though other people surround us all the time, this is still the best exercise for our hearts to grow through. Of course, it is often challenging, but there is no development without overcoming difficulties through fulfilling responsibility.

The way we "elders" live, the way we behave, makes a strong impression on younger members. If we set a good example, they can become very inspired, not just about their mission but also about their future family life. The greatest compliment is when they say they also want to have a marriage where they can enjoy each other's trust and love.

Though God gave us His blessings at the beginning of creation, He is still waiting for us to fulfill them. Let us work together as brothers and sisters and let us build a world of one family under God. **YW**



The Vasmaticses feel joy when they raise in young members happy expectations for blessed family life.

The Vasmaticses lead the witnessing center in Vlora, Albania.

Inspiring Children to Teach

By Julian Gray

"Have you talked with our cousins about our church?" I had picked my thirteen-year-old daughter, Chiara, up from a church workshop and was bringing her home. She asked me this out of the blue. I admitted to her that I had not, and felt bad. My nephews and nieces are already in their teens. They—Chiara's cousins—live far from our little outpost in Korea, and they have rarely met, so it was a jolt for me to realize our adolescent daughter was already thinking about witnessing to them.

Chiara had been attending some workshops for children. That seemed normal. Blessed kids do from time to time. But I was curious about this apparent effect on her.

I found out the organizers were training the children to teach the Principle. A series of weekend workshops held over four months was followed by another, at a higher level. Chiara was staying the course, going back each time. After she had graduated from four or five such series, she was appointed an "assistant teacher." A grand-sounding title for a thirteen year old indeed.

But it seemed to give her a great sense of accomplishment, and I was touched by this outcome. I felt God was encouraging her in life directly. Now she could return to the workshops with a mission, and help raise the new students to the point where they too could become mentors to newcomers. Chiara told me she likes helping the new workshop participants. And now, instead of paying \$20 to participate, the workshop committee pays her a \$10 honorarium as a staff member. So she comes home on those Sunday afternoons spiritually healthy, and wealthy.

Though usually very shy in class at school, Chiara just this month handed her teacher a copy of Father's memoirs and asked her to read it (after reading it herself). I am certain this uncharacteristically bold act was inspired by her experience at the workshops.



It was Mrs. Sa Gil-ja¹ who developed this workshop series, working with a small but capable staff in an office in one of our churches hidden away from the main thoroughfares of Seoul. So much so that I had a hard time finding it on foot when I decided to go and ask her about her work.

I sat with Mrs. Sa and her core staff members (all women) in her humble office.² The welcome was warm. Mrs. Sa explained that it had begun with Father asking her to train women Divine Principle lecturers, and later to train children lecturers as well. He had explained that once second-generation girls reach the age of twelve, we should train them to teach the Divine Principle; in the Garden of Eden, the archangel began to tempt Eve from the time she was about twelve. Mrs. Sa explained that in the fallen world, there are a lot of men like the archangel and women like fallen Eve. Our children, those in the second and third generations, are exposed to such people, and in society it is hard to protect them completely. But if they understand Divine Principle, they can protect themselves.

Mrs. Sa further explained that in the course of carrying on her husband's work of teaching Divine Principle, she had developed various texts (including the color-coded Divine Principle and her now well-known Divine Principle lecture outlines printed on charts). At one point, she said, Father had suggested to her to produce a photo album that would allow you to sit down with someone and explain the Principle, even in a park.

The book they created included pictures. Father had said it was very well done, and instructed her to send copies to the True Children at East Garden. This was the foundational material that Mrs. Sa used for her children's workshops. The essential points of the teaching are captured in the picture charts, and help the children grasp and remember the essence of the Principle. (And it has been translated into Japanese and

¹ Wife of the late church president Rev. Eu Hyo-won, who wrote the Divine Principle under Father's guidance in the 1960s

² Mrs. Sa's office is the House of Unification for World Peace, an organization Father launched in 1992.

English.)

She mentioned that Heung-jin nim and Hoon-sook nim's son Shin-chul nim was the second person to graduate from the course. He was delighted to have achieved a perfect score on the final test. His mother and grandmother (True Mother) were too, and took a picture with him.

Mrs. Sa feels that the workshops make a good "emotional" impression on the children, in that their hearts are nourished. She pointed out that Father clearly wants the children to understand the problem of the misuse of the sexual organs, and also to know something from biblical history—so these are emphasized during the course.

Mrs. Sa asked her closest deputy, Mrs. Cho Keum-sook, to explain the dynamics of the children's workshop. Mrs. Cho began by emphasizing its audio-visual aspects: The children are not merely listening to the Principle, they also put the material into practice. This they do by drawing pictures of people and events from providential history, and creating miniature plays (skits) in which they can role-play historic central figures. When learning about the Providence of Restoration, the children can connect in heart with those whom God called in His providence.

The youngsters compete with each other in quizzes on what they have learned. The children also hear special lectures and testimony from Mrs. Sa or other senior members. These put flesh on the bones of Divine Principle.

Father asked us to train second generation lecturers, Mrs. Cho



Using their own artwork, workshop participants give a simplified presentation of the Providence of Restoration in Noah's Family.

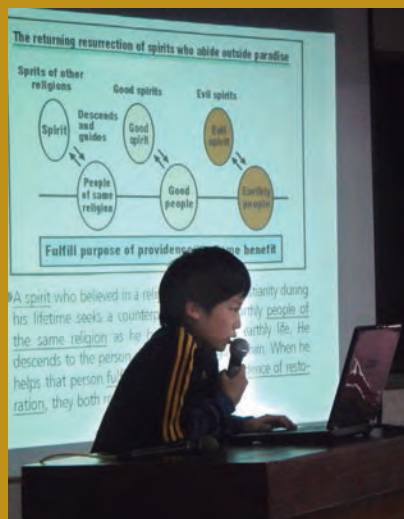
emphasized. She explained that as these youngsters experiment with lecturing, they stand in the parent's position, the central figure's position. This is quite different from just listening to someone else. You cannot understand a parent's heart unless you take a parental position. We develop that heart through going through the challenges of raising children—that is, only through experiencing the teacher's position, only through experiencing the owner's position and the parent's position, which are all the same in that they are the position of taking responsibility. The workshop teacher is not in the position of the owner or master here. The

children are. The little plays, role-playing and lecture practice are done in front of all the other students. Because they are doing this with that sense of ownership, they don't forget this experiential education, even as they grow older. They learn through direct immersion and experience; and they come to feel its value.

There is a big difference between those who have given lectures and those who have just listened to them, Mrs. Cho concluded.

Seeing my daughter's maturing faith, I believe her. As for me, I'm inspired too: my next step is to study the Principle again—by teaching it to someone.

Continued overleaf...



Left: A workshop participant practicing a presentation in English; Right: Chiara Gray and friend at the June 2009 Workshop.

I interviewed one young participant after the June workshop.

A Young Teacher Reflects on Personal Change and Responsibility

My name is Hwang Joo-seong. The first time I went to a workshop was when I was in sixth grade. A church brother I knew told me he had been to a workshop and it had been good, so I went to one with my younger sibling as well,

I believe I've been to about five levels of workshops so far over the course of a couple of years. At first I was a student like anyone else, and then I went up step by step to the middle-level class, and while I was there I was selected to be an assistant teacher. Even though I finished all the classes I still come here to help

This workshop is actually my first time here as an assistant teacher. So at first, I didn't know how I should treat the other children as an assistant teacher, and it was difficult for me, but as time went on, I became close to them and things got easier.

Usually the teachers give lectures, and we assistants sometimes give lectures too, but mostly we are just assistants, as our title suggests.



Mrs. Sa presenting Principle books to Joo-seong and appointing him as a teaching assistant

In these workshops are students from the fourth to the eleventh grades. I, too, came here first when I was in elementary school, as did my friends. At that time, the young ones were put together, and there were middle school and high school students who were working as our assistant teachers, so we got to feel what middle school and high school

students were like. It was nice to have elder brothers and sisters like that. And now I am a middle school student, I am back here teaching the elementary school students.

At first, like other children I was influenced by my parents to come here; our parents said, "Go," so we came. Of course, Divine Principle workshops are difficult at first. But after I had been here a few times, I came to feel that the Divine Principle was quite interesting. And there were days when something the lecturers taught us about actually pricked our consciences and made us think about our everyday lives.

Before I came to the workshop, my life revolved around the school, my home, and the world outside, and sometimes I did bad things. But after I came to the workshop, I realized, "Oh, that was wrong."

The children play around a lot, maybe because they are still so young. But I want to teach them what I've learned here. I hope they will listen to me. **TW**



Participants, instructors and organizers at the Second-Generation Divine Principle Lecturers Training, held at the Central Training Center in Guri, Korea, from February 27 to 28, 2008 (the signs the children are holding include the workshop title and date)

"Original Divine Principle Workshops" in America

Participants in a Liberated Realm of the Portion of Responsibility workshop held in America (Las Vegas, June 4-8) welcome True Parents into their midst. These "Original Divine Principle workshops" for English speakers are continuing; the next one in America is scheduled to run from August 6-10, also in Las Vegas.



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

Music

In-jin nim is hands on with all musical aspects of the Lovin' Life service. She has Dr. Brian Saunders as her music minister and they have a talented group of instrumentalists and vocalists, who are all members except for the drummer, who is a close friend. They rehearse continuously.

In-jin nim helps choose the songs and the lead vocalists, and often she is involved in the rehearsals for long hours. In-jin nim knew that the vision of her older brother Hyo-jin nim was to influence the world through music. One of the reasons she chose the Manhattan Center as the venue of Sunday service was because she had at her disposal such a premier facility to put on a fantastic event each week for a fraction of the cost others would have to pay.

Revival of witnessing

When In-jin nim's ministry was being launched, some wonderful first and second generation members dedicated themselves to support in any way they could. As things progress, In-jin nim is inspiring more and more people, and they are catching her vision and stepping forward. She has taken on Heather Thalheimer as Education Director for the American movement and Sheri Reuter as Witnessing Director and will fill in other important roles step by step. Mostly she is looking for people who will not be looking to do "business as usual" but rather those who can embrace a new paradigm of ministry, and who want to work together.

Our church headquarters on Forty-third Street, where Lovin' Life Ministry runs the Learning Center during the week, is again buzzing with activities. I have been tasked, along with wonderful people such as Rev. Phillip Schanker, David Hunter, Jonathan Gullery, Pastor Juan Morales and others to create Principle-based learning opportunities. Every day we have introductory lectures

at 12:30 and 6:00 PM as well as interest-based programs including marriage education classes, presentations by professional people who have utilized the Principle in their careers, martial arts programs, "open-mic" nights, and so forth.

One guest, Maristella Rodgers, commented, "I have been passing by this building for months wondering what kind of place it was. Now I see that it is a place of love and shining light."

We have a one-day seminar each Saturday. This features updated methods of teaching Divine Principle for today's audience. We also have two- and seven- day workshop retreats in the traditional style. Supporting these programs, Lovin' Life Ministries has a full time outreach team and a Special Task Force (STF) team in training.

Working with In-jin nim

Personally I am inspired by In-jin nim's vision and was happy to be asked to be a part of helping launch her ministry. As with all things, there is far more to do than there are hours in a day to do them. However it has been a delight to work with In-jin nim, as she values the divinity in each person and encourages rather than intimidates. She is not demanding or pushy, but clear and determined. These are qualities I find easy to work with. She loves and appreciates the sacrificial lives of the first generation, but she also knows that the True Children can take the second generation much further than their own parents can.

Building on the incredible foundation True Parents have prepared in America, and especially in New York, In-jin nim is setting out to revive the spirit with which True Parents first touched America. If we unite with and support the True Children then the future will be bright for our movement. **TW**

Rev. Thompson serves as In-jin nim's direct assistant pastor for ministry.

Supporting God's Work in the Matching Process

By Tessa Thonett



Left to right: Lisa Janssen, Tessa Thonett and Margret Orr

I am writing this article with the hope that it can help parents who are in the process of matching their children or preparing to match their children sometime in the future. I understand what a challenge it can be because I have matched some of my children and since 2005 have helped support parents who are matching theirs.

A short introduction

I am English, happily blessed to a German-born Irishman. I joined CARP in the United States in the 1970s, before Tiger Park's exciting years,¹ stayed beyond them, and left America to join my first husband in Brazil in 1983. Soon after my arrival, our center was destroyed by Liberation Theology² students and their mentors, where we lost everything we possessed as well as losing the unborn child in my womb. This level of intense persecution went on for three years, and followed us

wherever we moved, until after I had my son and was pregnant with my second child.

I held many mission-related positions in Brazil, including that of head of the Blessed Family Department, where I was always drawn to helping couples overcome their difficulties with each other. As I felt this was my calling, I was devastated when my own husband left the church, his children and me, after fourteen years of blessed life together. For me, the blessing has always been an eternal commitment; I was deeply, deeply shocked to find it wasn't so for my ex-husband. I don't blame him because I know he had an extremely difficult childhood and we had a very difficult course throughout. We were always on the front line, with many missions, and Satan attacked us at every opportunity, right from the beginning. He, in fact, impressed me with his ability to withstand incredible pressures from his mission—but I hadn't realized it was all building up inside him, as in a pressure cooker. Years of trying to help him come back and much soul searching ended when I was in Jardim and deeply felt God instruct me to move on and find a father to take care of the precious children He'd given into my care. I took my four children to the United States, where I worked as the admissions director for UTS. I felt embraced by Heavenly Father's love through the members in America and through the matching to my present loving husband, Markus.

The UK and European Blessed Family Departments

For various reasons we accepted an invitation, in 2002, to work in Cameroon. Markus and I left with our four teenage children for Africa, where we worked with IRFF, starting a project there. What an intensely wonderful and intensely difficult time, all wrapped up in one! We returned to the UK in 2004 and a couple of months later I discovered I had an aggressive breast cancer. I am now, thankfully, in remission.

When I was at my lowest—I was an enormous, bald, sick couch potato (not good for much!)—Susan Crosthwaite asked me to help her and her husband Ashley with the UK Blessed Family Department. It touched me that Heavenly Father still believed I could be of some help; so

¹ "Tiger" Park Chong-goo led the U.S. branch of the Collegiate Association for Research of Principles from December 1979 until his death in April 1982.

² An interpretation of religious faith, influenced by Marxist political philosophy, that conceives of salvation as liberation from injustice

with what energy I had, I did what I could, and it has grown from there. I am now working in the European Blessed Family Department, initially with Geros Kunkel and now with Reiner Fuchs as the director. We are closely connected with other blessed family departments around the world, especially with the one in America. I'm grateful to Jim and Hiromi Stephens who started the Parents' Matching Convocations, which have been an invaluable tool for parents to use when trying to match their children. Now Europe also has them.

True Father matched and blessed our son Davi (24) to Dani Boyd in 2005. We matched our oldest daughter, Luciana (22) to Elgen Strait. They were also blessed in 2005. Our third child, Tamara (19) has had a difficult course and we have learned a lot through her two previous matchings, but she is now very happily matched to Christopher Dodge. We feel they are perfect for each other. Our fourth child, Natania (17) wants to wait a while before thinking about getting matched.

We learned a lot with each of the matching processes. For example, Luciana was only sixteen when Elgen's parents approached us. We felt she was far too young to get matched, so we said no. After having only listened to our heads, my husband and I had a serious prayer about it, and it was as if God really shook us, waking us up! We both couldn't stop crying, because we realized how we had precipitately gone our own way without consulting God at all. He really wanted that matching; we're so happy we prayed that prayer!

There are no rules when it comes to matching your children, just guidelines—to be adopted or ignored, so please don't take anything I write as an absolute law that must be obeyed. I am also still constantly learning. Please understand that advice is advice. Whether it is in booklet form or a talk at a convocation, it is there to support you as guidelines only, not as rules. People tend to lean on and depend on any matching booklet that is offered them, sometimes judging other couples for following their hearts and intuition. We always need to be open to allow Heavenly Father to play His part.

At the core we are a spiritual movement, so despite how systems help us avoid pitfalls and organizational disasters, we must always make the devotional aspect of our life central.—Hyung-jin nim

International cooperation

We're building a worldwide support team, interconnecting Europe, the United States, Korea and Japan, as well as our personal contacts in South America, Africa and Oceania. This heart-based network is growing. Those I work closest with are Margret Orr, who is supporting parents in the U.S. and is the link to Europe from there (as I am the link to the U.S. from Europe), and Lisa Janssen who is supporting parents of those with special needs here in Europe. I also work with Harumi Kawamura Gondo, who is also helping older candidates in America and Japan and Ritz Yamamoto who has just started to advocate for various families in California. My husband Markus supports me very much in this mission. Without his love, advice, (willingness to translate from German when necessary!) and understanding, it would be impossible to do what I do.

Personally, I have worked with thirty-four second-generation candidates who have been blessed, matched or are in the process of getting to know each other, as well as countless others whom I am in the process of introducing, whose parents are still looking for the "right one."

The support team members are not matchmakers. We introduce parents to other parents, so they can then pray and decide whether to proceed or not. Some parents don't know many other families, and some parents are not confident to approach others. We act as a buffer between families if they so desire, working as the go-between until they are sure they want to proceed, or until they are confident to talk to the other family.

Intra-family relationships differ from family to family, and approaches to the matching also differ—some make decisions with their heads and others with their hearts, and there is a rainbow of differences in between. Dealing with other people



Jim Stephens speaking at a Parents' Matching Convocation in Europe

is always complex and matching situations sometimes become very intense and particularly complicated. People can be full of surprises. We can never know what to expect, so we should not expect anything in particular.

We hope we can make the whole journey easier and try especially to prevent the precious members of our second generation from being unnecessarily hurt.

We need to remain confident that Heavenly Father has a spouse for our child, even if our child is getting older, or is special in some way. One beautiful sister, Jana Chrastova, came for an interview with me. She was born before her parents joined and were blessed. A member in this situation is often referred to as a Jacob child. Jana has a sensitive heart, which had been hurt by her husband from her first blessing. Her beautiful attitude moved me. I was a little worried, though, when she specifically asked that I look for candidates who were taller than she is, because she is well over six foot (183 cm.) tall. That night I talked with all my heart to Heavenly Father, asking for help, because there are not so many Jacob children in the first place, let alone a brother who is that tall. How could I help her?

The very next morning, I received an e-mail message from Dolores Reid [who is originally from Spain] saying that a

member had asked her for help for her nephew who's a Jacob child and was looking for a spouse. Already at that point, I felt shivers down my spine. When his aunt gave me Nuno Cruz's telephone number my heart was in my mouth.

Nuno now tells the story of how he received a telephone call from this strange lady and how one of my first questions was, How tall are you?

Nuno is accustomed to having people stop him in the street to ask him the same question, because of his incredible height, but I hadn't even seen him. He tells of how when he told me his height, he heard the tone of my voice change, as if to say "Right, then, we're in business!" As we went on with our conversation, I discovered he was absolutely perfect—sensitive and kind and patient.

Jana, who is from the Czech Republic wrote the following little testimony:

As a Jacob child, I was raised in a family with very strong determination to realize God's kingdom. Furthermore, I've always had the desire to let God choose the right husband for me. After my first, broken, blessing, I was working in England. I was trying on my

God was teaching me a big lesson in faith, showing me that He has prepared spouses for even the most extraordinary candidates. Every time I think, "This is a very special case. Finding someone will be very difficult, if not impossible," God teaches me that this is not so—He has someone for everyone. The question is, How prepared are the candidates? I have seen everything fall into place. When a candidate makes the right conditions and surrenders unconditionally into God's hands, an ideal mate pops up apparently from out of nowhere.

Perhaps you read the testimony of Kyungsun and Mariëlle in the November 2008 issue of *Today's World*? Kyungsun was in a terrible small-plane accident in his early teens. He was badly burnt and lost an arm. I read his blessing application and spoke with his parents. His attitude and the fact that he still plays the saxophone, a special, one-handed one, impressed me very much. When I returned home, I prayed for help in finding someone special for Kyungsun. Immediately Mariëlle came to mind. (She was one of many candidates I had on my files, not all of whom were on official web sites.) I believe that Heung-jin nim helped me because I know how much he loves those in the second generation. I particularly talked to Heung-jin nim that day, asking for his help.



Help is available for parents who at first may find daunting the responsibility of suggesting an eternal mate for their child.

own, with support of the closest members of my family, to see the best possibilities for my family life. As my time in England was about to end, I was determined not to leave the country without visiting Tessa Thonett.

Before meeting, we spoke several times on the phone. I felt she is a unique person, wholeheartedly devoted to her work and ready to help others meet the chosen spouse. During our time together, we could share our hearts, understand each other and catch God's plans for my future.

After our meeting on my last day in England, I expressed to God that it was the last thing here in England I could do. After that, I put everything in God's hands.

The same day Tessa received news from one of her friends of a Jacob-child brother who fit exactly the criteria that would fit my case. Tessa introduced me to the man who is now my beloved husband. My whole family and I are very grateful for everything she did that helped us to become one in love.

In tears, alone at my computer, I felt God's intense joy when I read an e-mail message from Mariëlle's mum Lisa, telling me that she and her husband Bert believed the match was from God and that Mariëlle had been babysitting a little girl with one arm for the last few years. I experienced that again when she told me Mariëlle had accepted. What joy! What beautiful, faithful families these two families are! The unity and faith of the children and the parents meant that the whole process went smoothly, bringing so much joy to Heavenly Father. I know it wasn't easy for Mariëlle, but seeing how in love she is now, I know she is grateful that she overcame her doubts with faith in her parents and in God.

I have learned through the years to believe that however complicated or painful the situation is, God always has the solution if we are not too anxious or controlling and persevere with the right heart, allowing Him to guide the way. I have struggled a lot in my life to "let go," that is, to trust. I still struggle because it's not easy, but when I do let go, He has repeatedly shown me He has the solution.

An example of that was when I was a single mother, nearing fifty, with four teenage children. What hope was there

to find a husband, a father for them—especially someone who was neither burnt out nor immature in faith? My prayer at that time was for someone who truly loved God and True Parents with his whole heart and who would love my children as his own. I was doing conditions for my mission, bowing and praying in the chapel for more students to come to UTS, and doing what I could in the office. After having been introduced to possible candidates, I reached the point of totally letting go, praying to God, “I don’t know how. It’s up to you; I can’t do this anymore. It’s like dating, and I can’t do it.” That was the day my spiritual parents, Henri and Loretta Schaffler, called to tell me that the spiritual parents of an Irish art professor had told them he was looking for a wife.

Everything looked bleak and impossible, but the moment I totally handed everything over to Heavenly Father, He brought along Markus. Having been blessed three times in the previous three years, rejected after each blessing, Markus had been through his own tests. He had reached the point of believing God wanted him to live a single life. Later he told me he understood why he had to go through that course—to better understand the pain in my heart. There is a reason for everything. I am amazed that Markus and I both had what

but the children said no. This can be quite painful for the parents, who perhaps feel deep in their souls that God chose the candidates for each other. Don’t give up hope, but please don’t try to force a match on your child either, however well intentioned you are. If we do and they don’t feel they can say yes, it can only come back to bite us later. The children will always feel as if the decision wasn’t their own. They may even resent us later. Our children need to take responsibility for their decision (to accept rather than choose).

Another possibility is that the children are keen, but the parents suddenly reverse their decision. This is very painful for the children, who want to believe that God is working through their parents, and they can become very confused with such a reversal. Please make sure that you are all agreed before introducing your children to each other.

There are plenty of opportunities for misunderstandings between parents, so it is wise to not become overexcited or rushed along by emotion, either yours or that of the other couple. It is advisable to thoroughly discuss the match with the other couple until you are all sure that everyone is happy to proceed. Only then should you inform the children. We need to understand that parents often have different approaches



Parents looking at pictures of blessing candidates on viewing boards like those Father has used when matching people by photo.

the other needed and respected. I know that Heavenly Father prepared everything. Markus not only truly loves God and True Parents and my children as his own but as a bonus he also loves me. Who could have believed it?

It hasn’t been easy, building a family from a broken one. I especially felt that I had disappointed Heavenly Father so much that He would never be able to use this divorced lady again to help in the way I have always felt drawn to help. I had to find some confidence again. In time, everything changes. In fact, everything I have been through helps me now understand other people’s hearts and struggles more, I believe.

Finding value in setbacks

Again recently, God has shown me He has solutions for finding spouses for those in our precious second generation. God wants you to find the right match for your children even more than you do. His love for them is so much greater than yours is, even if your heart is exploding with love for them. That is why we have to work on letting go and trusting Him more. Matchings will then go much more smoothly.

I have seen situations where all the parents were keen,

and expectations. Some parents are more intuitive or spiritual, while others prefer to follow guidelines, or their logic. Both ways can be used, but without judging the other.

I have seen an instance when a matching didn’t work because it seemed the whole process was restoring something in the lineage: by the way one daughter (prospective wife) dealt so calmly and maturely with the blow of her matching being broken due to a sudden change of direction by her prospective parents-in-law, it appeared to me that she was restoring a failure of love and concern from earlier in her own lineage.

In another situation, the failure of a matching worked as a means of protecting the daughter. Because she had been matched, she continued to be an active member. When preparing for a later matching, she told me she was not sure whether she would have stayed connected during her rebellious years if she hadn’t been matched. (Both candidates in her initial matching had in fact been too immature for it to work, I believe).

Even if things went wrong with God’s initial choice (using the parents as a channel) perhaps it made possible many

lessons along the way, or was for some restorative purpose, or was to prepare the candidate's heart to understand on a deeper level the heart of his or her eternal spouse.

True Parents have given the inheritance to the parents

Now, how should one approach the whole question of matching one's child?

In this day and age, because of the sacrifices of the first generation and the foundation they have laid, the second generation has this incredible opportunity, not only to receive the most precious thing in life, which is the blessing, but also to experience joy, romantic love.
—In-jin nim

Isn't that wonderful! This doesn't mean, though, that our children should just fall in love and choose their own spouses. It's very important to remember the vertical connection, through the parents to the children. True Parents gave the spiritual inheritance to the parents, not to the children.³

It's important to remember that the parents are in the subject position, even though the matching more directly affects the child's life. Emotionally, the matching candidates

having a wife.

Sometimes we do everything based on our own abilities and thoughts, but God wants to be present in the process too, working with us—He wants to work through us. So we don't have to become stressed by trying to do everything ourselves—just connect to God and find His will. Even when we let go and let God guide us, we still may have failures because of limitations—the matching candidates' or our own—getting in the way. As I mentioned, perhaps some child needed to go through a certain course in order to mature or gain deeper understanding or appreciation of his or her future spouse, or to pay indemnity for past mistakes or ancestral problems. We shouldn't feel too anxious, think all is lost, or try to control everything. We have to just do our best and let God take over. We need to get rid of concepts that limit us.

There are many ways to approach the matching of our child, when looking for the "right one." Matching web sites—Matchbook (found at www.blessedfamilies.org) and www.bcmatching.org—can be a great help because you can see many candidates whose families you don't know. Be objective, discuss ideas, make lists, use your intuition and what you believe in. You can also use the support team.



Often, discussions between sets of parents precede parent-child discussions and eventual discussions between candidates.

tend not to be as objective in their outlook as they could be in this situation. I have seen that the tendency is for everything to be much more complicated and stressful when the children are involved from the beginning.

A son or daughter who has yielded, in faith, to mum and dad (or True Parents) is then in a position to experience incredible joy and love with a prospective spouse. I have seen this with my own children and others. Despite some challenges along the way, when they have invested their hearts, happiness has been the outcome.

There is a tendency to pamper our children and to not want them to go through hardships. Perhaps we feel our children deserve the best, but if we try to find someone perfect in every way, our child will die a spinster or bachelor. The young couple needs to grow together. We need to look at their potential; for example, young men appear to become more mature after they have the responsibilities that come with

Faith and composure

We need to believe in ourselves and not be desperate or anxious. We need to always remember that we don't have to do this alone—with God's help, we can do it. God works in many ways, depending on who He is helping and how they see the world. For example, He may give some members visions or spiritual experiences. I would like to warn you, though, that it is unwise to push anything forward as a result of a vision. The vision may show God's number one choice, but everyone involved needs to believe this, not just the visionary.

What is beautiful is that when matchings don't work out, God often brings along an even better option in the end. So if we feel convinced that a candidate is God's choice for our child, we should move gently forward, doing our best without pushing, and then we should let go and let God work in the situation. If things aren't going the way you feel they should, pray and make conditions, by all means, but don't get frantic or try to force anything.

³ By "spiritual inheritance," Mrs. Thonett is referring to the right to match.

When looking for a matching candidate for your child, please also think of the other candidate and not just of what is best for your son or daughter. Be generous. Through the matching process, often the very best qualities emerge from the candidates—for example, they may become more self confident or solid.

Please don't judge on externals. I have seen many parents put limitations on the candidate they want for their child. For example, they want someone who lives within a certain radius of their home because they want to be involved in their child's family. They fail to see that if the young couple doesn't want that attention, they can easily move away; or even if the spouse comes from far away, the couple can move nearby if they want to, depending on heart. In many cases, I have seen that a candidate may appear fine externally, with a high education and a beautiful face—everything that the parents want for their child—but as a couple their characters are incompatible or the candidate's faith is limited, which could cause problems later.

When the child or parents are too anxious, nothing seems to go right. Here is a list of recommendations:

- Pray.
- The child can prepare to be a better spouse by taking more responsibility and caring for others more, or by going to seminars that help prepare them for marriage.
- Try to avoid too much analyzing.
- Relax.
- Do your best to look, and send feelers out—calmly
- Be confident that God will take care, in His own good time.

The earlier we start in our preparation, the better. Nurturing an honest and trusting relationship with your sons and daughters (at any age) and helping them have a natural faith in Heavenly Father is the ideal preparation.

I encourage parents with small children to tell them continually the most important things: They have a very

special lineage, through True Parents, which they need to nurture and protect, and Heavenly Father is there for them always, so they should try to build up that relationship of trust.

Please inscribe the importance of lineage in your hearts. I cannot emphasize this enough. This is because the parent-child relationship is the highest and most important of all relationships, and the model, lineal relationship between parent and child is the only way through which God's lineage can be bequeathed and made to last forever. You must be clear on this point.

—True Father

Do you feel ready to start?

If so, I recommend you sit down and talk to your son or daughter, communicate with and observe your child before you start looking. Find out his or her motivations and limitations. Is she ready, even if she is of age? Does he want to get matched? Some children believe they would accept anyone unconditionally, but when they are asked specific questions, they may be surprised to see they actually do have limitations. For example, Yes, I would accept anyone, but not someone who is taller than I am, not someone shorter, not someone overweight, or too skinny, or older, or younger, or who has smoked or used to drink, or has kissed someone, or is from such and such a country.

Before another candidate is involved, you need to find out what limitations your child has and how flexible he or she might be. Are these only preferences, or could your child not cope at all with them?

After you and your child discuss the issue deeply and you believe you know what your son or daughter can accept, the next step is for mum and dad to sit down and talk it over. To pray and make conditions together and then decide is ideal. I understand this isn't always possible, but it is ideal.

Once you have agreed upon a candidate and made contact



As the number of second-generation blessing candidates increases, parents are pursuing various means of networking.



Left: Jim Stephens and District Leader David Rendel; Center: Ashley and Susan Crosthwaite; Right: Tessa's family

with the parents, have a thorough discussion with them. When you are all sure that everyone is happy to proceed, only then inform the children. Sometimes, for various reasons, only one parent is involved in the process. This parent may be lonely, but it is important not to treat your child as a confidant by chatting horizontally about the matching process. This does not help. This is where the support team can help if you would like.

I feel that especially here in the West, there's a tendency for the parents to try to be their children's best friend, but children do not need a best friend in the form of a parent. They need parents; they need someone who is going to set the guidelines, who's going to be their security blanket and yet tell them, "You know if you do this, this is not the best thing to do." We need to keep the revered and respected position and at the same time make ourselves available for conversation.—In-jin nim

Try to stay in your role as giving parents, not burdening your child; it's safer for him or her, less likely to cause pain. Maintain the position of confident, loving parents. I would advise only suggesting a candidate and showing the picture to your son or daughter after taking the following steps:

1. The parents have thoroughly talked to and listened to their child.
2. The parents have made conditions and made their decision.
3. All four parents are united with the decision to go ahead.

Then, *let go*. You have fulfilled your responsibility. The "children" need to take ownership of their decision. They need the freedom to say yes, or no without being pushed or emotionally blackmailed. They must feel free to decide for themselves in the end. At this point, the parents can allow their children to take over, taking responsibility for their own relationship.

I know there are situations that do not fit well with this ideal. I realize there are circumstances where the children may need to be involved early on in the process. For instance, if a child has been blessed before and it failed, or is over twenty-five or thereabouts, or has wobbly faith or weak trust in his or her parents, to get matched at all, the child needs to be

involved. Remember, though, that the matching support team is there to help.

Aim for a stable combination

It's unfair to your children for you to lean on them or expect them to decide early in the process. Their emotions and hearts will be affected. It is good to have a balance between the vertical (restoration—the desired outcome from God's point of view) and the horizontal (what your child desires). So we need to listen to our child's hopes and desires beforehand and take those into consideration. If we don't listen to our child and his or her faith is limited and we choose someone whom we feel would please God for restorative reasons, we could be heading for a disaster. The deeper the faith of our child, the more easily he or she can be unconditional, thereby giving deeper joy to God. We need to be sensitive. If two people enter a relationship, both determined to make it work, it will work.

Don't be hard on yourself over the difficulties; they are normal. Remember that building your life together is a process of growth, of continual improvement. Investment is required in order that we feel truly alive.—In-jin nim

Depending on your child's level of faith, you can consider beautiful differences that can create balance within a couple, for example, cultural or racial differences, different nationalities or character traits. But please don't try to force your children, only give them the choice of accepting what you are confident they could accept and handle in the long run. Every child is unique and needs unique understanding through prayer. So, once again, learn what your son or daughter can truly accept.

Another problem to avoid is talking too freely, in front of your child and his or her siblings, about what you are going through in the matching process. It's easy for the other candidate to then discover about the possible match through the internet (e.g., on one of your children's Facebook pages), or through gossip, before that candidate's parents have spoken to him or her about it. This can be disastrous.

Avoid unnecessary complications

Personally, I believe it is better to deal with one set of parents at a time. I am aware that others feel the "shotgun" approach



Decades after Father successfully matched them in an instant, parents cautiously navigate the process of matching their own children.

(contacting many parents at the same time) is another feasible method. But I believe that speaking to one set of parents is spiritually clearer. There is less likelihood of someone getting hurt through the process.

It is fine to look at many candidates initially, but if you can't decide between three candidates, for example, I recommend that you pray and decide on which to approach first, second and then third. I know it's a temptation at convocations, and after, to pursue many candidates at the same time, especially if other families are also contacting you. In such a case, I would recommend that you honestly tell a set of parents that you are in conversation with another family and will contact them if it comes to naught. It's so much clearer spiritually, when praying for one child, rather than having the added complexities of all the different parents' input. Speaking with more than one set of parents at a time can become quite complicated—and someone may very well end up hurt.

Always try to respect the other parents' wishes. Find out how they would like to proceed and be sensitive if it is different from your approach. If you have always included your child in the process but the other parents don't want to initially, perhaps you can respect their wishes and delay a little before speaking to your child. It is important to always be honest and straight. Let a couple you're in discussions with know if another family approaches you, for example. Also be extremely careful not to omit important details like height, weight, drinking or smoking, your child's true level of faith and also any emotional, mental or psychological limitations. This is an essential time to be very honest—beforehand, rather than later. Everything will be discovered anyway, so there's no point in hiding anything.

Something I cannot stress enough is that if you decide against the other child or family, please keep the other parents informed. Please, please, please don't just stop interacting. Be respectful, polite and kind. There's nothing worse for the other set of parents than hanging on, not knowing what is happening. Without explanation, the silence could mean so many things. Are they too busy to respond? Are they sick? Has there been a crisis? Or do they want to call it all off?

Please do your best to continually communicate until there is a definite conclusion and then state your conclusion clearly. You could simply say, "After deep prayer, and although your child is wonderful, we don't feel that these two are right for each other." It is not as if you don't like their child; it's just that

you don't believe the match is ideal.

Third-party assistance

Now I'd like to mention a few words about "helpers." Good friends and leaders sometimes go directly to a candidate with a suggestion and not to the parents. Please always try to go the vertical way, through the parents. Even if there is a total breakdown in the relationship between a parent and a child, and the child comes to you for your help, ask the parents' permission first. One exception to this would be if the child is older and has already communicated with his or her parents, and they have given their son or daughter the go ahead. Another exception would be if the parents are no longer members, in which case you should go through the child's central figure or advocate. Again, this is not a rule, but a standard that I go by.

Having given advice from my experiences, I understand that sometimes one needs to act counter all "ideal" situations just to make sure that one's child accepts a matching—so much depends on the child's level of faith. The aim is that our children can happily get blessed and continue the lineage. I don't believe there is any member of the second generation to whom Heavenly Father would deny the blessing.

God understands our children's needs and potential better than we do, so we need to trust Him and allow Him to work in the process, not block Him by being controlling, by worrying or having strong ideas of what we want or what we think would be best. The best thing I ever heard when I was joining our movement was "Pray, make good conditions, and then let go and let God." This is the main basic message I have for matching our children, but I know it is one of the hardest things to do.

As Hyung-jin nim has said, "The blessing is our practice of living for the sake of others, the practice of true love." I have found that the matching process itself is another way to practice living for the sake of others and practicing true love. Our hearts are stretched beyond normal capacity many times and our understanding of Heavenly Father's heart deepens with it.

Praise be to God. **EW**

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