

TODAY'S

WORLD

天基 1年 (天曆) 9月
OCTOBER 2010





Rooting Our Faith in Prayer and Spiritual Practice

Hyung-jin nim wants religious faiths to connect to True Parents, and he has been working toward that end. In this recent interview, he looked at this issue and at the reinvigoration of our life of faith. He also described plans for True Parents' 2011 birthday as if they are set but later clarified that these are tentative ideas in the discussion stage. Nevertheless, readers may gain a sense of what is being striven for and the effort that goes into this significant holiday still four months away.

Today's World: I'd like to ask you about your visits to religious leaders' birthplaces.

Hyung-jin nim: Initially, we went on the world tour—which Father sent us on—so that we could meet the members and clarify True Parents' position, so that everyone can be united with True Parents. That, of course, is the central reason. But we've also been visiting religious sites, and sites connected with our four great saints.¹ We have been to the birthplace of the Buddha,² and to Bethlehem; we also prayed there, and set conditions. And we actually brought back stones, holy rocks, from the area.

We are planning to go to the Arab world, to Mecca, in November, and to visit the birthplace of the Prophet Muhammad, and to Qufu, in December, to the birthplace of Confucius. We'll bring soil from all the sacred sites to the holy land [Korea].

On True Parents' birthday we'll have seven days of festivals. Father instructed this to be done from last year.... We'll have seven days with many activities. We really want to highlight True Parents' Birthday to the world this coming February.

We'll hold the first ceremony in the morning at the Cheon Jeong Peace Palace with True Parents. In the afternoon, True Parents may come to Seoul, in which case the main event will be held at Cheon Bok Gung. And this is where the peace ambassadors and others will come and participate in a ceremony of the "land" of all the religions becoming one—in Cheon Bok Gung.

Buddhist monks will come and bring soil from Lumbini, Buddha's birthplace, in a sacred chalice. Archbishop Milingo and other people representing the Catholic faith will come in their sacred robes holding a beautiful urn containing soil from Jesus' birthplace. Muslims will come and bring sacred earth from the Arabian Desert. And Confucius' descendants will come in Confucian robes and offer earth from Confucius' hometown.

The earth from these lands will be mixed in a large container with holy salt, with which we can purify the world. It will all become white. We will prepare this at Cheon Bok Gung.

It will be a grand ceremony. We're going to create a big stage—not the stage that we have now in the temple, but a much larger one that takes up the whole front of the sanctuary. We expect that religious leaders will come out and offer representative rituals or prayers—for example, Buddhist chanting and Muslim *salat*.³ They would do Middle

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1 Father refers to these as Jesus, the Buddha, Confucius and Muhammad; sometimes he mentions five and we understand this includes Socrates.

2 Lumbini, in southern Nepal. *Upcoming:* Bethlehem is Jesus' birthplace and is in the West Bank, south of Jerusalem, Israel. Mecca is in western Saudi Arabia. Qufu is in northeastern China.

3 A set liturgical prayer performed five times a day facing Mecca



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Cover Photo: True Parents give the Invocation of the Blessing at the 10.14 Blessing Ceremony (commemorating the day of Father's release from Hungnam Special Labor Camp) on October 10 (because more people can attend on a weekend); Back Cover: Father concludes the Blessing Ceremony by leading everyone in three cheers of Eog Mansei; This Page: Hyung-jin nim recently visited Yamok Church in Gyeong-gi Province

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Back issues of Today's World: Most issues from November 1999 to the present are available. Please enquire also about earlier issues.

The Blessing of the True Bride and Groom

This installment, the twenty-sixth in our series, looks at the events surrounding True Parents' engagement and Holy Wedding, which took place fifty years ago this year. Augmented by two additional speech excerpts in boxes, all but a small, identified portion is drawn from the first chapter of the fourth book of the series True Parents' Life Course (참부모님 생애 노정) which consists of Father's reminiscences in the form of an autobiographical account. We are also pleased to include, in subsequent pages, testimony from Dae-mo nim (True Mother's mother) and three 36-Couple wives who were attending Father and Mother in the early days of our church. Each relates her unique memories of this historic occasion.

In the Garden of Eden, Adam was Eve's father.¹ He was also her brother, and then he became her husband. This is restoration: since she needs to seek God, Eve is in a position where she has to seek for her true father, then her true brother, and then her true husband. I had to find such a person, and among all women, True Mother was the best person. I could not do otherwise than to choose this young bride who had no worldly knowledge.

I myself had studied a lot and done many things, but for my wife I thought the best choice would be someone who has only studied in grade school. I thought to find someone who is not a daughter from a rich family but an innocent country girl who didn't know anything. Because I thought like that, God allowed me to marry such a beautiful woman as True Mother.²

I formally met Mother for the first time when she was an innocent fourteen-year-old girl. I met her just twice before she became my wife. I had to see if she was qualified. The daughter of a woman who had been working sacrificially without speaking about it, living in the depths of poverty, pledging that she would follow this path by all means, was the one chosen. Because of that old woman's faith and dedication, I chose her daughter, who was in her second year at high school.³ I did not choose her based on my desire to find a wife.

Also, when I married Mother, I did not do so saying, God, I will get married because the time has come for me to get married. I got married because God said, Get married because the time for you to marry has come. That is in accord with the Principle. Mother, also, was not thinking about marrying me. She was a young lady attending high school.

When she was told "Rev. Moon is calling you," she said "Why? He does not know me; why is he calling me?" When she was told "They say that you are going to get married tomorrow," she responded by saying "Is that so?" She was like that. She did not oppose anything.

I tested her. When I told her to draw a picture, she did it very well. She drew a picture immediately and showed it to me very elegantly. Her frame of mind was even more beautiful than her drawing. She was a very lovely and elegant girl. She was wonderful.

Conditions of unity were necessary

The mother, as a servant, had to raise her daughter carefully. Then, she had to conduct a ceremony to register that servant's daughter as God's daughter, though before the ceremony her daughter was in the position of a servant's daughter. Only when she held that ceremony could the proclamation be made that the bride of the Lord, who comes as the bridegroom, had been decided. It was Mrs. Hong Soon-ae, True Mother's mother, who did this.

Two mothers became necessary because the woman who should have become Mother was lost. For that reason, I gave the title "Great Mother" [Dae-mo in Korean] to Grandmother Hong.

It was difficult for the first mother to be in that role. Leah and Rachel must become one. There must be no division in their hearts. The realm of unity must be accomplished to the extent that Leah and Rachel have become like twins and that the Cain-type woman and the Abel-type woman can take each other's place. They must establish the kind of internal foundation of unity in which the elder can become the younger, and vice versa. In 1960, I was able to receive Mother after she had passed through this process.

¹ Eve came from Adam in the Garden of Eden story.

² These first two paragraphs only were translated from excerpts found in 참사랑의 승리자 참어머님.

³ High school in Korea covers three years.

Heo Ho-bin succeeded Kim Seong-do.⁴ This was preparation for Heo Ho-bin's daughter to receive the Lord. The Lord comes on those internal and external foundations and has his wedding ceremony with the cooperation of three women. The three women are in the formation, growth and perfection stages. From grandmother, to mother to daughter, the unity of three generations is the connecting of the Old, New and Completed Testament ages. Because this was done, the age when parents could be firmly established began....

There must be a woman in the position of a fallen mother who in front of the Father plays the leading role in indemnifying all the failures of Eve, bearing the individual-level cross, the family-level cross and all other crosses.

True Parents' Engagement and True Parents' Day

True Parents first had to inherit the qualifications of spiritual parents.... In order for True Parents to appear on earth, they necessarily had to fight in substantial struggles. They had to win the victory in order to qualify as the True Parents. Parents' Day was possible only on the foundation of their having been successful in paying indemnity, both spiritually and physically.⁵

Parents' Day is the day when a man and a woman became husband and wife centering on original love—that day was established for the first time in history in the Unification Church.

When this came about, a man's mind and body and a woman's mind and body became perfectly united horizontally, and the ideal realm of perfection desired by God came into being.

Parents' Day means our parents came into existence—parents representing God's glory and acknowledging this victory of humankind, parents who have the authority to make judgments against evil based on the laws of justice. This fact is the most essential gospel on earth. That those things were proclaimed (on the first day of the third month of the lunar calendar) is the reason True Parents' Day is significant.

4 These were both women specially prepared by God to offer conditions for the Returning Lord in the years before Father's public mission began (see for example the *July, August and September 2008 issues*).

5 True Parents' engagement ceremony took place at the old headquarters in church in Cheongpa-dong on the first day of the third (lunar calendar) month in 1960. Since 1961, the day has been designated Parents' Day. "True" was added to the names of the four major holy days on the thirty-fifth Parents' Day in 1994.



The Holy Wedding of Sun Myung Moon and Hak Ha Han gave humankind True Parents

We have established True Parents' Day, but it must not be a day for the Unification Church alone. True Parents' Day must be for everyone, a day that all people around the world can celebrate, not only a small group of Unification Church members. It can be celebrated for a long time into the future.⁶

The Holy Wedding took place fourteen years after our national liberation.⁷ Since Adam and Eve married at the perfection level of the growth stage, we had to be in the position of having gone beyond the seven-years of the formation stage and the seven-years of the growth stage and of having connected with the formation degree of the perfection stage. In other words, we had to transcend the national level.

In 1960, I gathered the Unification Church members and established at least a hundred and twenty basic churches representing a hundred and twenty nations. We established this foundation to protect our church from any national-level trial.

6 Father said this in 1968.

7 The end of World War II, when Japan was forced to cede possession of Korea



True Father offers the Holy Wedding to God

Severe opposition

I could not have my own wedding simply by bringing to the ceremony a woman I personally liked. I had to solve problems in providential history. I established conditions of indemnity to resolve the historic problems in Adam's time, Noah's time and Abraham's time, and thereafter. In order for the Holy Wedding

to be held in 1960, all the problems from the four thousand years between Adam and Jesus and the two thousand years between Jesus and today's people needed to be indemnified.

Indemnity conditions had to be established from 1953 to 1960. Consequently, this period had to be one characterized by persecution. The people of Israel, the religious leadership and Judas Iscariot together contributed to the death of Jesus. We were placed in a similar situation in April 1960. At that time, opposition was at its peak. We were at a progress-or-not, live-or-die, restart-or-fail crossroads. Twelve people put their signatures to a complaint against me and I had to undergo interrogation in court. In those days a number of famous Kunkuk University scholars had become our family members, but they left when they heard the bad news and rumors. Kim Jung-shil, who was a church district director, packed all his belongings and ran away, didn't he?

At the Ministry of Home Affairs, papers were drawn up and I had to fight it out with them on the day before our wedding. Since Jesus died as the result of a court case, I had to come to a court to restore that. This was indemnity. I was attacked in the court until 11 o'clock in the evening on that day, and began my wedding day at 3 o'clock in the morning the following day. I fought to that extent in order to prepare the foundation of peace and happiness for all people. No one knew that. President Eu⁸ helped significantly at this time. Under such circumstances we had our Holy Wedding on April 11, 1960. Thus, we crossed over one peak and moved upward. Satan began to be crushed.

Reaching the age of forty

We had to hurry. You do not know how serious I was at that time. Through the study of Divine Principle, you all know how important it is to reach the number forty in the process of restoration. I had to not die before I was forty.

Every time I faced the zenith of opposition from the enemy, I repeatedly said to myself, I must not collapse. I must not die. If I die, who can do God's will? No matter how much suffering I may have to undergo, even if I become a cripple or am bedridden, I must not die." You don't know how determined I was. Longing for the day when I would become forty, I hoped, without saying a word, that time would pass quickly. During those days, I would say to myself, Youth go quickly away; pass quickly, time! Even if all my treasures are taken away, I will be a winner, not a loser, when I become forty years old.

⁸ Eu Hyo-won, Korean church president at the time



BECOMING AN OFFERING

True Father said the following on March 27, 1960 (1960 3.1 by the lunar calendar), the day he and True Mother were engaged:

There is something the church members need to know. As I've already told Mother Hak-ja this morning, once we have gone beyond a certain stage in working for God's great providence, there will be people who can claim to be in the position of the children and others who will be given responsibilities from God as leaders.

The people who are given responsibilities as leaders, however, have their own birth parents. Be that as it may, God does not regard the birth parents as the parents. He is hard-hearted when it comes to establishing this new heavenly providence. In other words, we need to march forward with a standard of heart never before seen in history.

Three generations of inner anguish

What kind of family is the family of the coming Lord? Measured in terms of human misery, his family is more miserable than any other family. In other words, all miserable things done by men and women throughout history are repeated, even to a small degree, in his family. Otherwise, indemnity is not paid....

You must know that I had to bear an even heavier cross in my heart than Jesus did. Losing the nation and losing the church were sorrowful experiences. Even more painful for me was the loss of my own family, which I had established to resolve six thousand years of bitterness and to resolve Jesus' anguished heart over his not being able to have his own family. I reestablished the family foundation, and the result is the family I have now.

Thus, for the first time vertical history came to be indemnified horizontally. In six thousand years of history, indemnity had to be paid for the ages of Adam, Jesus and the Second Coming. Sung-jin's mother corresponds to Eve; Hee-jin's mother corresponds to Mary; and our present Mother corresponds to Mother at the time of the Second Coming. Because such a mother emerged, the four-position foundation could be established.

Holy Salt

Where did Holy Salt originate? It originated from the parents, from the occasion of True Parents' Holy Wedding. Contamination of everything started from fallen parents' love, didn't it? That's why Holy Salt originated from the Holy Wedding, based on True Parents' love.

God cannot use what has been stained by Satan's blood in Satan's world. Therefore, by getting married, I became the subject person representing True Parents' original love, life and lineage. As such, I must burn what Satan has stained. However, people must eat and wear clothes. Therefore, instead of burning, I established conditions of sanctification and created a realm on earth that has nothing to do with Satan, where people can live, eat food and wear clothes. You must know these things. You must search for your True Parents, unite with them and work with them to restore the nation to the point that using Holy Salt is unnecessary.

The marriage supper of the Lamb

What was the meaning of the day, April 11, 1960, when I got married? It is set apart from other days because the Holy Wedding happened then. Though in all appearance it may have

Therefore, there may be people who are close to those established leaders, like their friends or parents, and whether they are Unification Church members or not, they may come and ask for favors to place their sons and daughters or their relatives in high places. I will not allow that to happen. I will not allow anyone to come in through the back door.

That is why I summoned Mrs. Hong Soon-ae today and told her to make a solemn commitment. She has pledged that she will live from now on as if she has no connection whatsoever to Mother Hak-ja. I may also make others commit to the same. This is because Mother Hak-ja must first be established in her position in order to set the condition for the generations to come. So I told her to be prepared for anything because she may be asked to do anything during the next three years. As you can see, you need to be prepared to go to such lengths to establish God's will.

That is why you, the other members, should not think of Mrs. Hong Soon-ae in secular terms as the mother of some-



Mother in her Korean wedding gown; in Korea even today, a couple will often wear Western wedding attire for one phase of the ceremony and Korean traditional clothes for another.

seemed a very simple occasion, the history of that day will be studied when it is understood as a core event embracing everyone. It is remarkable that this Adam, for whom God had waited six thousand years, came to earth and indemnified everything, and thus held the Holy Wedding in 1960. You do not know! From God's viewpoint, it had been a time of suffocating tension, like treading on thin ice on the verge of life and death.

body or other. From God's viewpoint, He does not recognize her as the mother at present. God has to stand in such a position. Therefore, I hope you will not think of her in those terms, and treat her accordingly. Only when such a standard is set up from the beginning can it serve as an example to the coming generations and the people who might wish to come in through the back door. Soon-ae also needs to be prepared for that. Do you understand? [Yes.]

We have come a long way and suffered much to find the path of our faith, but all our suffering has been for the providence. Now that we are on the way to achieving God's will, no matter what hardships may come our way, we need to face them with grateful hearts and do our best to go beyond the standard set by God. Do you understand? [Yes.] You have promised to move forward with gratitude no matter what you are asked to do, and I hope you will keep your promise.

FROM A SPEECH TO LEADERS ON FEBRUARY 23, 1977 AT BELVEDERE TRAINING CENTER

In a way, this is a clear display of my strategy; many mothers had been hoping for their daughter to become the bride of the Lord some day, so I had them see how unfortunate and desolate True Mother's mother was. In short, I made her sacrifice herself so that no one would envy her. That was the only strategy I could employ to placate them and win them over.

The mothers with eligible daughters, or daughters in their late teens, thought that their daughters were candidates to become the bride. They were all devoted and faithful people, and because of that, they were also the people who caused the most problems. Consequently, some even came to see me and tell me that I was wrong to place Mrs. Hong in such an unreasonably difficult situation. They said, I don't understand, Teacher, how you can treat True Mother's mother this way; I cannot help feeling sorry for Mrs. Hong.

They comforted her. But the truth is, I had been hoping for this very outcome.

For a year after marrying Mother, I treated her in such a way that others would have thought she was my maid and not my wife. I told her, "You must not come to my room without permission. You will stay in a small room downstairs and come when I summon you."

In other words, she started from the position of a servant. I actually wanted Mother to start from the lowest position possible because many candidates for the bride of the Lord were closely watching us, to see how their teacher treated Mother. Those women saw for themselves that I treated her badly and stopped feeling envious of her, and instead thought themselves lucky not to have been chosen as the bride. That, too, was my strategy.

The Holy Wedding was not just for an individual; it was a global event. If the beginning of one family that is more loving than any other is declared in front of the global providence of God at the place integrating the origin of heart, then the heavenly laws and heavenly fortune cannot but be moved centering on the beginning of that family.

Because we laid the family foundation in 1960, we cannot perish. If we did not have that family foundation, we would have met with destruction. That illustrates what a historical event the Holy Wedding was. On the foundation of the endeavors made in the six-thousand-year history of the providence to restore Adam, Adam himself has set the standard on earth by which he can receive Eve as the perfected Eve. This means that the spiritual and physical worlds, which had been separated, have finally been reconnected on earth. Man represents heaven and woman represents earth, and so through them the separated spiritual world and physical world are reconnected. In short, the wall dividing Adam and Eve as enemies has been broken down, the wall that prevented Adam and Eve from meeting God has crumbled. Satan has no choice but to leave.

Internal trials for True Mother and her mother

I also told True Mother's mother, Grandmother Hong, who is right here, not to come to our home for three years. From the secular viewpoint, to my old mother-in-law, I commanded, "Don't let her see you just because she is your daughter. Don't enter by the front door where I can see you come and go. For three years, don't appear in front of me." Do you know why I did that? It was because everything could have been ruined if they had got together and started whispering.

What I mean is that True Mother was not to gossip or talk with the other women, behind others' backs. Because she was to inherit the position of Eve, all who come to talk to her are bound to stand in the position of the Archangel and try to make her go astray, because that is the Principle. Therefore, if Mrs. Hong had come and whispered things into her daughter's ear, her daughter could not have become the True Mother. In her head, and in her thoughts, there had to be nothing else but Adam, her husband.

Moreover, Mother should not have had any ideas about her relatives, so I told her to cut them all off. She was not to have had her heart violated by thoughts about her family, when she had her own major responsibility to fulfill, because then prob-

lems would arise. I had Mother stay in a small rented room in Kim In-cheol's home for three years, cut off from everyone.

That is to say, I made her stay in someone else's home. I didn't even allow her to come to the church twice a day. I gave her permission to come once a day during the evening, but not more than that! On top of that, when she came to the church, she entered through the front gate, but when she left I made her leave through the back door. Who on earth treats his wife that way? I made her stay out of her own home.

Mother shed many tears during that time. Being married, she should follow her husband wherever he went, shouldn't she? But I didn't take her with me wherever I went; instead, I took the trinity of grandmothers and mothers.⁹ Not once did I let her accompany me. How much she must have struggled until we had gotten through that course.

More than a hundred and twenty women competed with her. If they had remained unchanged, they would have been more terrible than worldly women. To protect her from the arrows of hatred from these others, she had to stay away for three years. She gave birth to Ye-jin during that time, and because it was drafty where she stayed, she suffered postnatal illness. She was shivering with the cold, and even her husband did not visit her. How could I go to see her every day?

Moreover, from the elderly women to everyone else in the Unification Church, all kinds of rumors spread. People said that Mother is like this or that and that we would get another Mother very soon. This and that. If we had countered them from our side, it would have led to breakdown. Therefore, Mother had to endure in silence. I had her endure them in silence. The others must have been taken aback. For instance, there were even rumors about our having the same birthday, that, "She made it up to make the horoscopic data fit in with Father's." Because she survived under such circumstances, everyone ended up thinking that she was praiseworthy. In the end, people came to realize, "No one but she could be our Mother."

Do you know how much I suffered in the background? One woman came to the room where Mother was staying with her newly born son, lay down on the floor and thrashed about, shouting "Give me this room! It is mine!" She made a fuss with her shouts of "Give it to me! Get out!" How could something like that possibly happen? How shocked and mortified she

⁹ Trinities of women from two generations having a providential role in relation to Mother's calling

must have been to do something like that! She must have made thousands of years' worth of conditions to see the day she would become the Mother, and here was young Mother, who didn't look as if she had made any conditions at all, sitting in the position over all of heaven and earth. That woman must really have been stunned. She was thinking, "I should have become True Mother!" That is so sad, isn't it? So I just looked at her and did not react, and Mother also just looked at her. The wonderful thing about Mother is that she remained calm even when she saw things like that.

If the Abel of heart cannot win over the Cain of heart, he has no place to stay. This is the Principle. To occupy the position of the Abel of heart, one has to absorb and keep intact the foundation of the Cain of heart.

And so, though the women of the Unification Church hated her at first, as the days passed and they saw the way she was treated, even the old women pitied her, saying, "How can Father be so hard on her? Now that he is married to her, he should stay with her. Why is he making her stay outside and not living with her?" Thus, all the insults they had thrown at her at the beginning were dissolved through indemnity. They came around to Mother's side. First the old women were won over to Mother's side, then the middle-aged women, and lastly the young girls; everyone came to stand on Mother's side, and thus everything fell into place.

True Mother's indemnity course

What is the ideal spouse? The ideal spouse is the man or the woman we create. Just as God created Adam and Eve so that they might live together, so we re-create our spouse and live together. God spent seven thousand years to find the one person, Eve, didn't He? That's why total indemnity requires seven years. As a result, this became the first seven-year course.

During that time, I taught Mother about the family rules and laws of heaven. Mother did not know it, but by so doing, I restored, in substantial terms, the standard of a daughter, the standard of a spouse and the standard of a true parent in front of God, which had been lost as a result of the Fall.

If she said one wrong word—even if she said she liked something purely because she liked it—I made it a point to educate her. If she touched my back even once out of love, I asked her, "Why are you acting in such a way today?" and taught her. She would follow me around, treading delicately, wondering what would come next in her education. And I would teach her some more. She had no freedom, no matter where she went. Her nerves were always on edge and she was always treading on thin ice, living each day thinking, "Will I manage all right today? Will I manage all right tomorrow?"

Nevertheless, she lived each day feeling grateful to God. I know that she lived like that. So, do you think I'm a good husband or a tyrannical one? [Laughter] And yet I did not scold her. I would just say something to her in passing. Even under such circumstances, she still kept up with it all, and in the end she became the True Mother who is greater than even the holy Mother Mary herself. [Applause]



After the Holy Wedding, Father distributed Holy Salt.

True Mother's course to restore Eve through indemnity

In the course of restoration through indemnity to relieve all sorrow, there must be a history of restoration through indemnity for the perfection of Eve. I passed through the history of struggles for the perfection and restoration of Adam and laid down a victorious foundation, and so I could stand tall as the perfected man. Hence, in order for the woman to stand as a perfected woman, she had to go through the course of restoring Eve through indemnity.

Seven years was the period of suffering for Mother. During those seven years, she was meant to practice absolute obedience and set the condition of indemnity by overcoming all suffering in front of God, and thus to meet all conditions to stand before me as my perfected object partner. In short, it was a time of suffering for her as True Mother. You need to know that during those years she had to shoulder, as a woman, all the hardships the world placed on her. She had to absorb them all centering on God's will, and in the end overcome everything and be triumphant.

Unification Church women did not leave her alone. They clawed at her to make her miserable. If they'd had their way, they would have pulled out her eyeballs and cut off her lips with a razor. She was being tested in order to receive the certificate of Mother, and the teachers were looking everywhere to find an excuse to fail her. They tried to strangle her with the most difficult questions. Though she was in the position of Mother, during the period of her training, she wasn't exactly the True Mother. She first had to be in a position from which she could embrace all Unification Church women as their Abel, which is a very difficult thing to do. Unification Church members, especially the women, were bound to accuse Mother the most. They were bound to hack at her and make her fall down. She had to pass through that stage and reach the place where everyone loved her.

Thus, she has to be hated the most at first, and then be liberated and become the woman who is loved the most; the people who at first branded her and hated her had to bow to her and say, "I'll gladly give her all of my blessings."

Only then could she finally be elevated to the position of True Mother. **TW**

Grandmother Hong on the Revealing of the True Parents

The following excerpt is taken from the testimony True Mother's mother gave at the Tokyo church headquarters on December 21, 1973. It first appeared in Today's World in January 1990 and has here been reedited.

As soon as I joined the Unification Church, I felt I had to live a life of service. Since I had learned the importance of dedication while I was a member of the "Inside the Belly" Church, I decided to dedicate myself to the Unification Church. I asked my younger brother to take care of our mother and my daughter.

In the Unification Church, I lived a life of attendance for eight months, starting with serving as a cook. I attended Father with such a dedicated heart that I became ill and had to be hospitalized. While I was in the hospital, Mr. Kim Si-yong had a dream in which Father, wearing a crown and golden robe, bowed in front of me.

I also had a dream. In my dream, all the women in the Unification Church were entering Father's room wearing white robes, with a pink flower in each hand. When I looked back, I saw women who were not church members, also standing in line with pink flowers. At that time, I thought that since God had lost women because of the Fall, He had been looking for women for six thousand years. I also saw Mother, my daughter, walking directly to Father. While she was walking to his seat, thunder rumbled as lightning flashed in all directions in the sky and then it gathered at one point. Tens of thousands of people were watching the scene enviously. Seeing the vision, I wondered what it meant. I had no idea that my daughter would become Father's wife.

For a long time, Mother had been raised for the purpose of meeting the Messiah. Therefore, even though she was clever, she was used to being absolutely obedient.

When Mother was a fourteen-year-old junior high student, she met Father for the first time. I took her to Father, telling her, "I will let you meet the Second Coming of the Lord." When Mother saw Father, she bowed deeply. Father told me, "You have such a pretty daughter. Does she do well at school?" After that, Mother had no chance to see Father until she reached the age of seventeen.

True Parents

My daughter turned seventeen in 1960. At that time, many people gifted with spiritual powers were inspired and said that the bride of Rev. Moon had appeared.

It was announced that Father had decided to have an engagement ceremony on the first day of the third month of the lunar calendar [3.1] in 1960. The day was coming near at hand, but there was no announcement as to who would be the bride. Both God and Father must have been impatient, because by all means the ceremony had to be held to advance the providence.

At that time, I had another dream. A phoenix descended from the heavens. Another phoenix ascended from the earth. They came together in the sky. The eyes of the heavenly phoenix looked very much like Father's eyes.

One day when I was holding Pledge Service alone after having taken a cold bath in the early morning, I saw a vision in which I was told who the people were that the heavenly and earthly phoenixes symbolized, Father and Mother. I was very inspired and danced around, shouting, "Heavenly Father, we

Hong Soon-ae (1914–1989) gave birth to True Mother in 1943





Father has said, "Mother was not supposed to have many relatives. She could not have come from an ordinary kind of family.... She had no older brother or father. There were just the two of them, mother and daughter." Left: True Mother on her wedding day; Right: True Mother's mother with friends in the United States

are no longer orphans. Our True Parents have come, haven't they? We have become True Parents' children, haven't we?" From that time on, I no longer had the feeling that Mother was my physical daughter.

Since then, I received revelations day after day. Although the date that Father's engagement ceremony would take place had been announced, no one except me knew who the bride would be. So, I bowed in the direction of Mother who was staying in a high school dormitory. I bowed toward Father as well.

Mother looked like a child when she was sixteen years old. But when she became seventeen, she looked more mature. Whenever she came to the church, the atmosphere became very bright. Father seemed to be intently observing her. His eyes were on her even though many other people were there. Another seventeen-year-old girl would have felt embarrassed if someone looked at her in that way, but Mother remained calm and fearless.

One day Father said to me, "Bring your daughter immediately to me!" Father then met Mother face to face. During that time, Father investigated Mother's internal qualities. Over nine hours he asked her many questions. Watching Mother answering the questions boldly, I was surprised at her inner fortitude. Finally, Father said to her, "From now on, you shall have a good tutor." He asked me to go out, and called in Mrs. Choi Won-pok.

For one month until 3.1, Mother lived a life of atten-

dance to Mrs. Choi. When other members saw Mrs. Choi and a young woman eating food that had come from Father's table, they said to one another, "Who is that girl?" Some people with deep faith thought she must be a woman of great significance.

At last, the engagement ceremony took place on 3.1, 1960. The wedding ceremony was held twice on the sixteenth day of that month—once at noon and once at night. During the wedding ceremony, Holy Salt was used for the first time. Because True Parents had come into being on earth, we can consecrate all things with Holy Salt.

I then went through three years of indemnity, a period of trials for me. The daughter had become the Mother and the mother had become the daughter. Whenever I became arrogant, I was struck by Heaven. Father also tested me. Even when I greeted him, he would not say a word to me, nor would he even look at me. It seemed to me that all of the Unification Church members treated me in the same way. I became ill. I had stomach pains as if I had cancer. Satan tested me in that way. I had to spend this phase eating nothing but one cup of rice soup a day.

In the past I had experienced a time of suffering in the course of my life of faith in search of the Messiah, and I was determined to endure this period by not becoming arrogant, and by being grateful for these suffering ordeals. **JW**

Fortunate Spectators

Three wives from the 36 couples reflect on the advent of True Parents

Mrs. Chung Dae-hwa (wife of Kim Young-whi)

The engagement of Father and Mother was proclaimed in a straw-matted room on the second floor of the former headquarters church, with a small table spread with food in front of Father and Mother. I remember it was the first day of the third month of the lunar calendar [3.1]. Mother was dressed in a white hanbok [Korean traditional clothing] and on that occasion she sang "When Spring Comes." "When spring comes, the wild azaleas bloom over mountains and hills. Where the wild azaleas bloom, my heart blooms too..."

I didn't think she had chosen the song by mere chance, because the song seemed to perfectly allude to the providence. One of the things True Father is very proud of and has always praised is that True Mother is spiritually very sensitive. She had proved this. The single lily that had blossomed deep in the mountains finally began to reveal its subtle fragrance.

3.16, 1960 on the lunar calendar, marked the historic day of the marriage supper of the Lamb, for which God had waited six thousand years. Wedding decorations were put up in the main hall of the former headquarters church. The walls and the floor were covered with white cloth, and a platform had been erected. When the preparations were completed, True Father consecrated the hall with salt. That was how Holy Salt first came to be. From then on, we have continued to practice that tradition of consecrating everything with Holy Salt.

After Father had sanctified the room, the ceremony officially began. True Mother, dressed in white hanbok with a long wedding veil over her head and ornaments befitting a bride, came down the stairs from the second floor, arm in arm with True Father. A chorus of "Song of the Banquet" was their wedding march.

They were warmly welcomed by all the members present, who were dressed in white. What thoughts passed through True Mother's mind at the time? While she was going to middle school and staying at the home of her uncle, Hong Soon-jeong, she had read books on the saints and sages of the world and on the history of the Three Kingdoms,¹ and dreamed of entering a convent where she could live forever untainted by the touch of the secular world. And yet, here she was, on the verge of becoming the True Mother of this great universe. What deep emotions she must have felt at the time!

The ceremony was carried out twice, first in the Western style with a wedding veil, and then in the Korean traditional style with blue silk hanbok, square belt and black hat for the groom and a bridal headpiece and Korean royal dress for the bride. True Mother looked stately and proud, and no one who saw her thought of her as an eighteen-year

old girl. Following True Father's instructions, with no embarrassment or hesitation, and with a small smile on her face, True Mother bore herself well to the end of the ceremony.

Mrs. Ji Seung-do laid out the offering table for the Holy Wedding according to revelations she had received from Heaven. Some forty different kinds of food, which included nuts, fruits, oil-and-honey pastry, fish, beef jerky, rice cakes and so on, were piled in cylindrical columns about seventy centimeters in height and twenty-five centimeters in diameter. They were placed on the table along with bowls of wedding noodles.

After the ceremony, True Parents sat down at the same table for the first time and shared a meal at the big table. I remember I had carried the table myself from the kitchen to the platform with Mrs. Lee Kang-chil.

After the meal, celebrations were held in the same hall. True Parents had changed out of their Korean traditional wedding costumes and were wearing colorful hanbok. They danced right there and then. What a joyous occasion it was! The moment of finding the lost Eve that had been awaited for six thousand years!...

In the selection of the True Mother of the cosmos, the girl who had been prepared in secret was chosen over the many women vying for the position. She became the mistress of the headquarters church. Mothers with children who had received revelations and had offered devotions and waited for a long time in the hope of becoming the True Mother were disappointed. Their love for Father turned into jealousy toward Mother, and they couldn't stop coveting her position. True Mother knew about this; how could she not, under the circumstances? How difficult must it have been for the young True



True Parents dance together at their wedding celebration

¹ When what is today Korea existed as the kingdoms of Koryo, Shilla and Baekje (57 BC–AD 668)



Mother preparing food in the kitchen a few days after her wedding

Mother to bear this cross in her heart!

True Parents didn't even go on a honeymoon as other couples do. Moreover, Mother was confined to a small room and the veranda on the second floor, in a crowded environment where church members stayed twenty-four hours a day. The bathroom was on the first floor, a long distance from her room, and this added to her discomfort. She also had to take her meals in the main room with the members. The sweet life and dreams of a couple that people usually expect newlyweds to have were not to be observed. Who, apart from God Himself, could know that from an internal point of view, her strict training for the providence had begun?

True Father forbade True Mother's mother, Grandmother Hong, from entering the church through the front door for three years. True Mother endured all these things and never betrayed her feelings. Trusting only in True Father, she overcame everything through her life of absolute faith and finally emerged victorious. Our great True Mother! Who could have possibly endured it all as she did?

Three days after the Holy Wedding, in line with Korean tradition, True Mother came down to the kitchen, an old-fashioned place smelling of briquette gas, and donned an apron. She personally cooked food for True Father. Even a woman accustomed to housework has trouble cooking in a new place, but True Mother entered the kitchen and wielded knives as if she had always used them and began cooking in a bold manner. I could not help being impressed by her. As I remember, she cooked spicy chicken soup and potato croquettes. She completely reformed True Father's diet, which had before been monotonous with simple, salty and spicy kinds of food and included a greater variety of foods in it. The most difficult thing in cooking for True Father had been planning the menu, but from then on I discussed it with True Mother and received instructions from her, so I was very grateful for her presence.

But then True Father, in consideration of the members, began eating by himself. After Father had finished eating, True Mother took the small table that Father had used and ate in the kitchen. The kitchen was also the passageway from the main room to the bathroom. Squatting down in that small space, she

had to eat in haste. How hungry she must have been as she waited! When I think about it, tears still come to my eyes.

Members who did not know the internal circumstances always expected True Mother to smile at them with benevolence and love, and True Mother, knowing what they expected, serenely carried out all her tasks without making a single mistake.

True Mother moved into new accommodations, not because Father had prepared a new home for them after the wedding, but because she had been instructed to go to live in the home of a member, Mr. Kim In-cheol—a five-minute walk from the church. It was during her first pregnancy. It was a Japanese-style house, rather cold and drafty and without even a small courtyard around which True Father could take a walk when he came to visit.

True Mother liked to draw, and she was very good at it. When True Father came to see her, she told him about books she had read in her school days as if she had read them that very day. I heard her speaking to him a few times and was surprised at her good memory and articulacy. She also told him about articles

she had read in the newspapers, almost as clearly as if she were reading the articles to him, and she spoke with such eloquence.

Sometimes True Father played a certain board game with the members that could be played with three other players. As True Mother won the most games, I could see that she was extraordinarily smart.

Mrs. Kang Eui-hong (wife of David S.C. Kim)

I first saw True Mother when she was sixteen.² At that time Grandmother Hong was living in Noryangjin in retirement, and True Mother was staying at her uncle's house in downtown Seoul and going to school there. During the weekends, dressed in her school uniform and carrying her school bag, she came to see Grandmother Hong. She went back to the city at the end of the weekend.

Though she was only sixteen at the time, surprisingly she was almost fully grown. She was as beautiful as a flower in full blossom and gave off a sweet fragrance. She possessed maturity in every way, with an intelligence to match. I felt that she was a little bit cool, but with a neat personality. Yet, I had forgotten the revelations received in North Korea from God and the fact that when she had come to see Father in the Cheongpa-dong church and bowed to him, he had said three times, "The true daughter of God has been born in Korea!"

God shouts down at us, "Listen! I have sent you my only daughter; how can you not realize it?" Grieved at our ignorance, God waited yet again.

At the time, Mrs. Oh Yeong-choon³ was exerting herself night and day to find the woman who would become the bride of the Second Coming of the Lord. No matter where she looked, she couldn't find a prepared woman of suitable age who met the standard of beauty, both internally and externally. No wonder! God had arranged in advance for His only daughter to grow up under protection, away from the eyes of the

² Fifteen, by Western reckoning

³ Mrs. Kang, Mrs. Oh and Hong Soon-ae lived together at this time

secular world, where she might mature into an innocent and sweet girl. God was biding His time. Human beings, however, did not realize this and passed her by. I too did not realize who she was even when I saw her with my own eyes.

A few years before the marriage supper of the Lamb, in one Sunday sermon, Father lamented about God's sorrow, and he was so intense that his body seemed on the verge of collapse. He asked us, "Do you know what has caused God sorrow for six thousand years?" His body was covered in sweat.

God had lost His true daughter when she was about seventeen years old, and for six thousand years He had been grieving. His sorrows hadn't been appeased because He had not yet found His true daughter of that age, seventeen. True Father spoke about God's anguish with an overflowing heart, and at that moment it seemed almost as if God had come down and possessed True Father's body. A young girl, aged seventeen, pure and wise and beautiful with internal and external virtues! He must have been talking about God's will. Hearing those words, I thought to myself, "His true daughter aged seventeen... Would that mean spiritually only, or both spiritually and physically?" My thoughts and interpretations became increasingly convoluted, and yet I did not remember the seventeen-year-old girl I'd met, who is now our True Mother!

The people who have read Mrs. Oh's testimony will know how fervently she searched for the woman destined to become the bride of the Second Coming of the Lord. All her thoughts were on finding the bride. One day, an old man working with Mrs. Oh told her, "Mrs. Oh, I've heard that Father's bride should be seventeen years old." Mrs. Oh told me this story later, and she said that as soon as the words were out of his mouth, she thought to herself, "Ah, why didn't I think of it before? Soon-ae has a daughter, Hak-ja!" All day long she had to restrain herself from shouting True Mother's name aloud.

Around midnight, she returned to the house in Noryangjin and went straight to Grandmother Hong's room.

"Soon-ae, are you sleeping?" she asked.

"No, come in." Grandmother Hong and Mrs. Oh were close friends and addressed each other in a friendly manner.

"How old is your daughter?"

"Why are you asking me about my daughter's age in the middle of the night?"

"I just need to know."

"She is seventeen."

"And when is her birthday?"

"The sixth day of the first month of 1943, according to the lunar calendar."

By this, Mrs. Oh had achieved something according to God's will, and her heart overflowed with gratitude and joy. The next day, she summoned Mother and got busy making preparations for her to receive the seal of Heaven as the true bride. God had sent His only daughter from northern Korea and had foreordained that when the time came, He would accomplish His will. And His will was fulfilled in the small Unification Church in Cheongpa-dong, Seoul....

From that point on, the revelations given by God in northern Korea were realized through the enthronement of the substantial True Parents on the seats of glory. What a glorious day it was! Although I am inadequate in many ways, I was lucky enough to be present at this solemn occasion for the sole reason that I had been born in this era.

Mrs. Ji Seng-ryun (wife of Lee Gi-seok)

At the engagement, Mother was very cautious despite her young age. As she stepped forward on the path of God's providence, she exuded the dignity of the Mother of the universe, prepared for six thousand years by God through His providence of restoration. On that day, Mother sang a song that begins "When spring comes, the wild azaleas bloom over mountains and hills. Where the wild azaleas bloom, my heart blooms too..." Her voice was crystal clear and pure. Even now Father sometimes asks Mother to sing that song, and I believe it is because he too remembers the clear beauty of her voice on that occasion.

During the first few years after the Holy Wedding, in front of members, Mother always appeared serenely tranquil, mostly remaining silent. In all the church celebrations and meetings, she quietly sat beside or behind Father, keeping her silence in comfort and never revealing any changes in her emotions, be they joy, anger, sorrow or pleasure.

At that time, enveloping Mother was always an aura of silence and serenity, which seemed the epitome of the word "consistency." She had an introspective attitude, which made it seem as if she were closely examining every change made around her and amassing experience and intuition in her mind. There was a stateliness about her that prevented others from thoughtlessly interfering with her. **9TW**



Views of Seoul at the time of True Parents' Holy Wedding





In-jin nim visited Uruguay, Paraguay and Argentina from August 21–27. She divided her time there among public events such as the Proclamation of the Substantial Word of God, hoondokhae and other meetings, and time spent personally with members of all ages. Travelling with her were her daughter Shin-sun nim (Ariana) and a number of assistants, including three STF members who with Ariana held some well-attended ballroom dance practice sessions. The public events gave In-jin nim the occasion to meet people from local society and to present them with copies of True Father's memoirs (in Spanish of course). U.S. UPF president James Gavin, who accompanied her said, "By all accounts, the members in the three countries In-jin nim visited were enthralled by her investment of time and her bold, unapologetic witness to the True Parents to government officials and opinion leaders."

During the twenty-one days before In-jin nim's arrival, all of us did different conditions to prepare our hearts and spirits, just to be able to present ourselves to a True Daughter. No matter how much we did, it didn't seem to be enough. Finally we reached the incredible day: In-jin nim stepped on Argentine soil on August 25. Some of us were present at this historic moment; others were making final preparations. We had worked resolutely to paint and renovate the church center, with attention to detail that made it a dignified place to receive those who came representing our True Parents.

— Gerardo and Norma Alcaraz

Without a shadow of a doubt, In-jin nim's visit to Argentina marks a "before and after" in our own history...

What I will remember is the clarity and the weight of her way of testifying to our True Parents as such, especially to prominent people with responsibility in society. It was very impressive to see how a daughter of Heaven lifted up the banner of the love of God before the minister of culture for the city of Buenos Aires, Hernan Lombardi, and talked about the

breaking news of our time—the Era of the True Parents, the Second Coming of the Lord. She did the same again in our totally packed Peace Embassy, with ambassadors for peace that we hadn't seen for more than a year!

We're always afraid that when the program becomes a bit extended, the participants might feel uncomfortable, get up and leave the hall, but no such thing happened. The attention that was given to her message was very noticeable and to tell the truth this fact drew my attention.

— Andrés Melgarejo

I observed those in our second generation serving In-jin nim and her staff, translating for In-jin nim's daughter. The children were all very emotional when communicating, or at least trying to communicate, with True Parents' granddaughter. All of these expressions of care must fill those of us who are from the first generation with pride, because we have been nourishing our children with love toward True Parents and toward all of the True Family.

— Alzira Melgarejo



Observations on Chuseok

By Julian Gray

Chuseok is perhaps the most joyful holiday on the Korean calendar, and usually three days' leave from work are taken. Koreans brave long traffic jams to get together with their extended families around the country. And not just with those still living on earth: the main Chuseok ceremony takes place at the graves of their ancestors, which are typically located in the countryside near their hometowns. There, traditionally, the fruits of the harvest are arranged on an offering table in front of the ancestors and after a ceremony are shared among all present.

Some Koreans admit they are not sure if their ancestors are really still living in a spiritual realm somewhere, but honoring them as their forefathers seems no less important for that.

True Parents celebrate Chuseok. This year, True Parents were in the United States, and the Chuseok celebration for the True Family was hosted at the Wonjeon by Hyung-jin nim and Yeon-ah nim, Choi Yeon-ah nim and Hoon-sook nim, who were surrounded by many of their children. The Wonjeon is an area of several acres of land, on which are interred members of the True Family, and on adjacent ground, some of the earliest and closest disciples of True Parents.

We stood with the True Family members at the sites where they have personally buried their own brothers, husbands, fathers and other close relatives, some of whom died very young and tragically. We are part of True Parents' extended family, but being present with them in this holy place leads one to pause and reflect. Yet it was a joyful spirit rather than a mournful one that filled the air on this beautiful harvest festival day.

The main ceremony was conducted at Heung-jin nim's grave. This year, unusually, two other complete ceremonies were conducted, one at the grave of Father's great-uncle Moon Yoon-gook, and the other at Dae-mo nim's.

At the first ceremony, Choi Yeon-ah nim (Hyo-jin nim's widow), Hoon-sook nim and other True Family members lit candles on the special altar, then offered traditional cups of tea, flowers and incense to the ascended True Children. Representative leaders from the church and providential organizations followed suit. Korean church president Dr. Seuk Joon-ho spoke briefly in honor of the occasion and the international president, Rev. Hyung-jin Moon, offered a final benediction [see facing page].

The beautifully arranged food on the offering table was then divided up and shared among the several hundred strong who had gathered on the lawn in front of Heung-jin nim's grave. Fruit, rice cakes, savory pancakes and cans of soft drinks were welcomed—perhaps especially by the many children present—at what was by then lunch time. One small boy, the son of a member, was hoping to receive a dried persimmon and was not easily consoled by any of the other delicacies offered. Seeing this, Yeon-ah nim made a special effort to find and save one for him from the final ceremony. Observing this kindness I was again moved at how the True Family willingly shared this ceremony with us in True Parents' inclusive tradition. I felt I learned anew that God really does watch over the smallest among us and looks for ways to give His blessing.



HYUNG-JIN NIM'S BENEDICTION AT THE WONJEON ON CHUSEOK

Let's join our hearts in prayer.

Our most loving Heavenly Father. Victorious True Parents. Heavenly Father, we thank You. We thank You. From the beginning we wish to offer glory to You, Heavenly Father. Father, You created everything that exists in our universe. You have been watching over humankind since the beginning of time. From its outset, human history has been miserable. We see a history of having constantly betrayed Your heart and wounded You, of having forgotten You and of having followed Satan's way.

Yet, You have always maintained hope throughout history's course, You have waited patiently for Your children to return to You. Heavenly Father, until this time, there has been no central person who could liberate Your heart. But, in the twentieth century, You were able to establish all the conditions and send True Parents to earth. Through attendance of True Parents, an amazing new era has arisen. Through the spiritual experiences in the early years, True Parents took on the mission to complete the task You gave to Jesus Christ, and bring it to the world level.

Father, many evil spiritual forces came against him during that difficult pioneering period, many spiritual attacks occurred. He had to go through physical attacks, and had to go through the experience of imprisonment and torture. Father, those True Parents had to give up their bodies, minds and spirits to walk the path of the cross not only for the liberation and salvation of all humankind, but for the sake of Your own liberation and emancipation as well.

Father God, they have manifested the work of resurrection in front of You and in front of all the world, evidence of Your true love and their amazing life courses, by the victory over death through the seven deaths and resurrections. Father, because of that love, we have been given rebirth. From the outset, we want to give You and True Parents praise. And we offer all the glory to You and True Parents.

Father, at this precious, holy ground, the Paju Wonjeon, we are attending not only our precious ancestors but also our real father and older brothers. Most especially, we are honoring our older brother Hyo-jin. And we are honoring our older

brother Heung-jin. We are honoring our older brother Young-jin. Father, many senior families, many families from the early years, many grandfathers and grandmothers, are here. On this day we are attending and spending time with these older brothers and sisters. Father, on this day, the spiritual and physical worlds are united and we want to return glory to True Parents and to You.

Father, we sincerely thank You. Today, Father, please feel joy, even just a little! Father, today True Parents are in the United States, offering conditions. Before they left for America at the airport, Father said, "I am going to the United States, thinking about my hometown, and to make conditions, because I cannot go to North Korea." At this time too, with our ancestors, and with our older brothers Hyo-jin, Heung-jin and Young-jin, and with older brother Hee-jin, and everyone else, we determine in front of You that we will do our best, especially so that unification of the world, with all its people becoming one, can quickly come about. Also, Father we will do our best to establish unity between North and South Korea, so that our ancestral homeland, Korea, can shine in front of all the world. We will do our best so that all peoples, clans and families become Your blessed families in front of You, showing the bright, shining faces of blessed family members, and offering glory to heaven until the day we ascend to the spirit world.

Father, please use us even on the individual level, for the sake of Your will and Your kingdom. We have no expectations; we have no demands. Please use us as much as You wish to. Father, even if we just participate with You in fulfilling Your great will, it is glorious for us. Father, until the moment of our death, our ascension, as we offer glory to You, Father, from today we will become one in heart, wanting to become a unified being of the spiritual and physical realms offering all glory to You and True Parents. We sincerely and truly thank You.

Heavenly Father, once more, we and our precious older brothers, grandfathers, grandmothers, all the absolute good spirits who are here with us, offer a bow to You and to True Parents. Please feel every joy and receive every glory today.

I report and pray all this in gratitude with these blessed families. Aju. **TW**

East all these rituals to pray for three things. The first would be world peace, the second, unification—for North Korea and South Korea particularly, the unification of our fatherland. Some may pray for Middle East unity. The third would be prayers for heavenly blessing—not offered selfishly, just wanting to receive them, but offering thanks that we are receiving blessings.

Members as well as all the peace ambassadors would be able to come during that seven-day period. On each of these days there would be different festivals. There might be lotus lanterns or doves—all kinds of things. There will be music, and we hope the Little Angels will come. Members, non-members and peace ambassadors will all be able to come. They might have the opportunity to make a small [monetary] offering. Once a year for peace ambassadors wouldn't be so hard.

Each participant will receive a little container. We will take a small portion of the holy salt with all world's sacred earth mixed in and we'll spread it in our homes for the blessing of our home, the sacredness of the home. It will become holy land. It will protect it and also be a blessing for the children and all the people dwelling there in that sacred space.

There might be some holy ceremony to which everyone would come down after they receive the holy salt. They would come downstairs to the prayer room, where the four great saints are already present, and offer their prayers for the ensuing year—whatever they are really wishing for, not with a selfish heart but with a grateful heart.

We are also working on statues of the four great saints, Jesus, Buddha, Muhammad and Confucius embracing, or holding hands. We will be creating these. If this can be completed by February, it will be one of the real highlights.

Hyung-jin nim went on to share his idea that members and guests alike would participate in a ceremony to connect with the great religious leaders in a personal way so that we can have a living spiritual relationship with them. Hyung-jin nim goes on to explain on what basis these blessings come to us.

The real point, however, is for everyone to understand that all this is because of one man and one woman, whom we call True Parents. It's their life accomplishment. Their lives have been dedicated to world peace, the unification of the world and North Korea and South Korea, and bringing the blessing of Heaven to the world.

This will be an opportunity for the peace ambassadors not just to come and receive from us. They will learn how to give, to offer to True Parents. This is a very good way even for our guests. It's so easy because everybody wants a big blessing. It's also great because everybody agrees with praying for world peace and for those who've died in war, and for North and South unification.

The real highlight is to come pay our respects to True Parents who are bringing the world's blessings—all the sacred soil—to Korea, creating Korea as the sacred land of the world. No other Korean person in history has ever done such a thing. So we're going to glorify and honor True Parents on their birthday, not just internally but also in the external expression.

Every year this is going to be strengthened. When December arrives, everybody thinks of Christmas, Jesus' birthday. Come April, everyone recalls it's the month for celebrating Buddha's birthday. And every year when February comes, everybody in the nation will know that's True Parents' birthday is coming.⁴ This will happen more and more throughout the world each

⁴ In some years, it occurs in late January.

year. Everyone in the world will know that in February people make a pilgrimage to Korea and receive heavenly fortune.

Father personally sent me out on a world tour, to go to the sacred sites specifically. So we are making the effort to go to those lands to bring back blessings for everyone. Essentially, we're going out for the sake of the people, for anyone who will come to receive the blessing. That's not just members. We want to take that next step of bringing all the peace ambassadors. All of them should contribute, nationwide and worldwide. The other people in the nation as well.

Many Buddhists I know are already happy, delighted and excited to come. This really highlights our interreligious work and what Father has done for the world, what he's done for the spirit world—for all those who fought as patriots for Korea in the past and highlights what he has done for the fatherland, bringing all the blessings down to Korea. The people of Korea should all come.

Has any member of the True Family been to Mecca before?

No. I don't think anyone's been to Lumbini, either. From my point of view, it is very important to go, because I've had a relationship with the saints for ten years.

Also because I have a relationship with these saints, it's very meaningful within that relationship. We've brought them into our temple and if you come to my room—my personal office—they're always there. For me, they're very close. And they are all blessed.

Do you receive something personally from them?

Well, yes, their spiritual presence. A couple of weeks ago, Jesus came. He was crying, because Christians have not accepted True Parents. He was very sad, very frustrated that Christians have been unable to get beyond their narrow concept. They can't accept that the True Parents are Korean. Jesus has given his mission to a Korean....

I've had spiritual experiences with the Buddha and other saints. They're very close.

On your tour of churches in Korea, what developments have you seen that emerged as a result of the efforts to revamp the church over the last two years?

We have stronger churches now because more people are attending. That's more recent; it will take three years to get the culture right. But the culture has developed so quickly and that's very inspiring to see.

Some regions are far behind in terms of the general membership talking about witnessing, giving testimony. But other regions are all very openly talking about witnessing, as proud Unificationists. That's made a big impact. Some of the regions are faster and some are slower, but as the church gets stronger... Of course we have been investing in and rebuilding the headquarters in each region.

I'm going around calling everyone back to prayer and spiritual practice. We've got to get back to training; it's all about spiritual life.

When Muslims see us, for example, they're not going to see just whether or not we know the Principle, they're going to see how we're living, how we're praying, how our spiritual life is. I go around and speak about prayer, how we are praying. There's a right way to pray and a wrong way to pray. And most of us are praying in the wrong way. So we need to get back to prayer, to reflect on the words of Jesus about prayer and also refer to the even greater words of True Parents and how we actually should pray.

Once we do that, we see Heaven's blessing moving through

our lives. We want to get back to the strong level of prayer that existed in our church.

We have been doing eight-times-a-day prayer training, and members can join. Many members at Cheon Bok Gung are praying at least three or four times a day. This is not just a prayer like, Oh God, I love you. This is a formalized prayer. You quieten everything else, put everything away and stop what you're doing. You bow to the ground... You actually do a prayer ritual. We do *eog mansei*, we pray for each of the eight stages and we say the Family Pledge.

This is stopping everything and centering again, eight times a day. The hoonsa nims and some European leaders and many Cheon Bok Gung members have been participating with us.

It's very good because the spiritual power of the church, prayer and spiritual practices are increasing. As they increase, God's blessing flows much more powerfully. As we surrender ourselves, we open ourselves to God's presence, and then he is more powerfully present. Everything—the whole day—is constantly re-centering on serving God.

This is excellent training and it's having a good impact. I'm teaching this when I go to the different areas and everybody's returning back to prayer, back to spiritual life, back to the root. People are getting back to moving with the flow of the providence, moving with God's power, His grace, connecting with these. This is what the tour is about—getting everyone to focus on the spiritual. And from that, once you surrender yourself to God in you, accept that God is your entire life focus...

When people refer to Jesus' teaching they usually recall "Love thy neighbor," but that's the *second* greatest teaching of Jesus. The first teaching of Jesus is to love your God with all your heart, all your mind, all your soul and all your strength. That means every single moment, every single thought, every single heartbeat and every single feeling must be about God. This is the first, and (as he said) the greatest teaching, the greatest commandment.⁵ And it's from this that any compassionate action comes. Really loving your neighbor at a fundamental level, not at a superficial level, can only come when you love God with all your strength, all your heart and all your mind.

We're getting everyone back to prayer, creating a culture of prayer, and reinvigorating our life of spiritual training and spiritual practices in our movement. It's not just about education and lectures—that is not enough. You've got to get back to the training.

To be able to do this with the members around the world and to have the members participate is wonderful. We all know how to do it. We all know how to do *eog mansei*; we all know how to say the Family Pledge, and we all know how to pray. So we just incorporate those into a formal prayer ritual, where we combine those with bows and different types of prayer offering. This is not just once a week, like Sunday churchgoers, and it becomes such a wonderful offering of fragrant joy to God. **TW**

5 In explaining this, Jesus was quoting Deuteronomy 6.5.



Church Tour in Korea: Hyung-jin nim and Yeon-ah nim visit a family in South Gyeongsang Province, September 14



Hyung-jin nim and Yeon-ah nim visiting the church in Yamok, Gyeonggi Province, in September. The pictures are of True Father fishing with members in the locality in the late 1950s.



Father stayed at the Daegu church in 1953. He called Daegu then "the place of the most intense and severe persecution." Hyung-jin nim and Yeon-ah nim visited Daegu's newly renovated main church on September 6.

10.14 Blessing Ceremony Based on the Completion of the Settlement of the True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind

Sun Moon University, October 10, 2010

From Hyung-jin Nim's Blessing Address

Through this holy ceremony, all of you are here today, as good men and women, pledging anew, receiving the grace of True Parents' special blessing amidst the joy of heaven and fervent wish of countless ancestors in the spirit world, to create families that practice true love....

Please understand that the reason you can take part today in this blessed occasion is because of True Parents' life-long commitment, and enduring true love and parental heart that has brought them through trials and ordeals, and through inexpressible sacrifices....

On their path, as they were investing themselves for the salvation of humankind, True Parents encountered Satan's indescribable temptations and innumerable obstructions. In that prison camp environment, where people were tortured and forced into labor that exhausted their body completely, and where people starved to death each day, Rev. Moon did not focus on his own well-being. Instead, he shared the meager food that he had with others, and conveyed Heaven's teachings. As a result he raised twelve disciples. Worse than the physical misery was the spiritual struggle against Satan. This was similar to the spiritual pain that Jesus suffered on the cross at his untimely death. True Father put his physical and spiritual life on the line to go to the bottom of hell not once but numerous times in order to bring Satan to submission and to guide humanity to the path of salvation....

Therefore, the ceremony today is not simply one of celebrating the marriage of good men and women. It is a serious ritual of conveying the heart of a parent through the true family ideal which God wanted to realize through all people since the beginning of time. Please remember, that True Parents who are here with us today for this ceremony, have walked the path of death countless of times and safe-guarded God's altar. **TW**







Journey toward Peace Begins in Prayer

Cheon Bok Gung was the venue for the opening plenary of the UPF Interfaith Assembly, a fitting venue given the respect and love its senior pastor has for other religions, and that at the heart of this building is a shrine that invites the presence of some of the great saints. Its theme was "The Significance of Religion for Peace and Human Development."

Prayers and readings by representatives of seven different faith traditions drew the audience into the world's multi-faceted expressions of faith and love. First was Sheik Samir Aasi, the Imam of El Gazar Mosque, the second largest in Israel. He sang in Arabic the beautiful words of the Al-Fatihah sura that

begins the Qur'an.

Representatives of Hinduism, Sikhism, Shintoism, Christianity, Buddhism and the Druze religion, many of whom hold national-level positions in their faith, followed. It was significant that they had come to our world headquarters church and offered their blessings for peace in its main sanctuary.

Opening statements were then made by Dr. Hamdi Murad, a member of the UPF Presiding Council and a leading Islamic scholar from Jordan; Dr. Po Ya Chang, a former government minister and president of UPF Taiwan, and by Mr. Parmanada Jha, the vice-president of Nepal.

"Religion is not an outwardly act, it is a inner way of liv-

Some parts of the prayers offered in Cheon Bok Gung

In the name of God, the Beneficent, the Merciful. Praise be to God, Lord of the Worlds, the Beneficent, the Merciful, Owner of the Day of Judgment. Thee alone we worship; Thee alone we ask for help. —Qur'an 1, Al-Fatihah (Islam: Sheik Samir Aasi)

The Lord lives in the heart of every creature. He turns them round and round upon the wheel of his Maya. Take refuge utterly in Him. By His grace you will find supreme peace, and the state which is beyond all change. —Bhagavad Gita 18.61-62 (Hinduism: Thakur Prasad Bara)

If a man sings of God and hears of Him, and lets love of God sprout within him, all his sorrows shall vanish, and in his mind, God will bestow abiding peace. —Adi Granth, Japuji 5, M.1, p. 2 (Sikhism: Prithpal Singh Khalsa)



UPF chairman Rev. Moon Hyung-jin, Yeon-ah nim and the conference participants had time to mingle at the close of the opening plenary. Far right photo: Greek Catholic priest Father Dimitri Mussa in conversation with Hyung-jin nim



Left: The Nepali vice-president with Hyung-jin nim at the opening plenary; **Center:** Prithpal Singh Khalsa offers a Sikh blessing; **Right:** Ven. Master Shi Dechao from the Shaolin temple, who presented a hand-written sutra as "a blessing for all present."

ing life," said the vice-president. "It teaches us how to live in a family, how to live in a society, how to live in a country, and how to live in the world.... All the religions of the world and all the religious scriptures teach us only one thing: love your neighbor."

In his keynote speech, UPF chairman, Moon Hyung-jin, emphasized the value of an interfaith council being incorporated into the structure of the United Nations, a cause True Father has long championed, and which has been supported by some governments. The issue was one of the conference's topics of discussion. Hyung-jin nim went on to say that peace cannot come through external accomplishments alone, and added, "When we are lacking in spiritual discipline and wisdom, peace is not possible. Peace arises when we are in a right relationship with God, when our mind and body are united."

The plenary session concluded on a poignant note. A Buddhist monk, Ven. Master Shi Dechao, with whom Hyung-jin nim had personally trained at the Shaolin temple in China, presented a scroll some ten meters long, of a Buddhist sutra whose more than five thousand Chinese characters the monk had beautifully handwritten as a blessing for the conference. Through an interpreter he said that though the characters may not be well formed, he had poured his heart into every stroke.

Sunday morning saw the participants as honored guests at the 10.14 Blessing Ceremony, with some receiving the bless-

ing themselves. Four of the more senior religious leaders gave their heartfelt blessing upon all the couples-to-be and the vice-president of Nepal offered his special congratulations.

On Monday the conference participants were again on the move, though unexpectedly, through an invitation from the Ambassadors for Peace Association to participate in a rally supporting a campaign (with media support) to send a thousand tons of rice to North Korea. No doubt the presence of people from visibly diverse cultural and religious backgrounds showed that the people of North Korea are not forgotten.

On Sunday evening, UPF chairman Moon Hyung-jin and his wife invited representative religious leaders for a barbecue dinner at their Hannam-dong residence (which his family and Kook-jin nim's family share). Hyung-jin nim and Kook-jin nim and their families warmly welcomed the leaders to their home. Hyung-jin served his guests tea and introduced his children. As UPF secretary-general Taj Hamad put it, "They could see him in his own home environment, surrounded by his family. Even the Arab leaders, who come from a culture where hospitality is greatly emphasized, were moved by Hyung-jin nim's welcome." Mr. Hamad went on to say that Hyung-jin nim is building personal relationships based on genuineness of heart, and that the religious leaders see in him an example of the principles he, UPF and the Unification faith are expounding. **9W**



Left: Leaders of (left to right) Cheondo-gyo, Islam, Buddhism and Christianity offer their blessings at the Blessing Ceremony; **Right:** A "campaign to gather rice" receives attention from assembly participants; foreground: Imam Aasi of El Gazar Mosque



A Class on Witnessing to the Online World

Some notes from the instructor



By Yulian Marianov

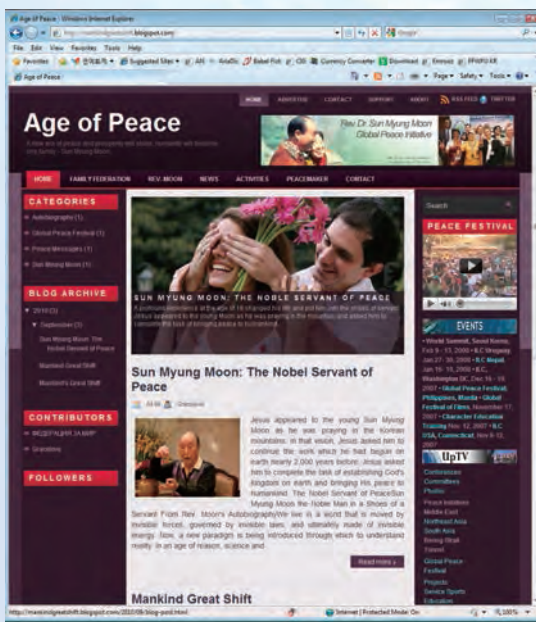
Mr. Yulian Marianov, whose work we introduced in our last issue, is teaching members how to create blogs that are an effective means of witnessing online. He is conducting his class over www.iunificationist.net, an online meetinghouse for members. What follows are some explanations from Yulian that should give our readers a sense of what the class covered in the beginning and some of the skills the students are acquiring in their quest to use the internet as a means of guiding people out of the spiritual wilderness.

I have around thirty blogs in the Bulgarian language. Each day, somewhere between one thousand and twelve thousand non-members read my articles about True Father. More than half a million read them each year, but this year I reached four hundred thousand visits just in the first four months. Isn't that amazing? At any moment, day or night, people are reading. It's as if I'm teaching lectures nonstop without the expense of travel or time.

The internet brings this educational material directly into people's homes around the world. Only the truth can transform people's lives. Only the truth can liberate their original minds. Only the truth can align us with God and spark a revolution of conscience, and only then is a revolution of heart possible.

Here is one good example, which I am paraphrasing from what one person sent me in Bulgarian. She was searching for the truth everywhere and had read many religious texts, but nothing made her feel complete. Then, one morning, she happened to find my pages in Bulgarian. She started reading. In the course of a year, she read hundreds of articles about our ideas and history. For the first time, she felt with all her heart that she had found the truth. A sense of joy that she had never felt before overwhelmed her. For the first time, a spiritual teaching made her feel love toward all people and all the creation. She was studying by herself, reading my articles on the internet. Only after a year did she get in touch with me.

One of the students' blogs, which shows what can be done after finishing only the second lesson



The internet and overcoming ignorance

Our mission is education—transforming the world through the power of the word, inspiring a revolution of heart and conscience. People lead improper lives and make wrong choices because their understanding of right and wrong is incorrect. As the Divine Principle clarifies, we have to first learn the truth, believe it and then practice it in order to be transformed as true people.

Because of the Fall, our conscience does not work properly. The truth revealed today is to correct that. But how is the whole world to learn the truth? We cannot expect them to change without having true knowledge. Where do people go first to find information? The internet. Whatever they want to know about, they just type it into Google.

"The good news is that the Internet is bringing us closer than we ever thought possible to make learning—of all kinds, at all levels, any time, any place, any pace—a practical reality for every man, woman, and child."

—Web-Based Education Commission

Explaining how readers are drawn to continue reading is not easy. When I write an article, I see what curiosity or questions it evokes in non-member readers, and then I will write an article in response to what they want to know and

make a link. But, more internally, you have to understand the psychology of education, how human concepts are formed and how information builds based on previous concepts. Spiritually, so to speak, each article creates an image in a reader's mind. The reader needs many more images until they combine to show the whole puzzle.

Readers already have many inappropriate concepts and incorrect information in their minds (about relationships, sex, love, families, parenting, history, religion, Rev. Moon...). Of course, this inaccurate information leads them to improper conclusions and erroneous actions. When I come across these incorrect concepts, I provide good research and enough information so people can see the right, principled, point of view. It's all about having the right information. If one has the right data, he can always find his way to the right conclusion. As I wrote in one article, in my studies I discovered an alarming fact.

We haven't caused the truth to appear through Google. I feel it is my responsibility to make the truth available in an easy to understand, clear form, so that people can gradually study from home.

My dedication

Internet outreach is extremely exciting. Every day thousands of new people are reading. Every day makes new victories and breakthroughs possible. That more than a million Bulgarians have read these articles about True Father is difficult to comprehend, even for me. Even long ago, I could see that hundreds of outside people started promoting these articles by themselves. These non-members were the most inspired by materials about True Father.

In the last ten months, things have changed even more, since some readers have contacted me with direct requests to become members, sharing how inspired they are about all True Father does and aims to do. In the last two months, I started sharing with our worldwide membership some of my stories and my deep sense that God wants many of us to use this power of the internet to support the realization of Cheon Il Guk by 2012. Immediately, many members wanted to join the online course that I teach to learn to do it themselves. You cannot imagine how great a joy it is for me to see with what great enthusiasm some of them want to share God's word.

Learn effective internet witnessing in a few weeks

I cannot help feeling how urgently God is crying out for us to do something about the vilification of our movement on the internet. I am determined to start changing that, as I changed it



Blog entries showing characteristics that Father shares with other famous peacemakers

in the Bulgarian language. I know how to do it, and if we work together, it's just a matter of time and dedication.

Now, online, I'm teaching more than forty students how to do it themselves. I teach them based on their own practice. They have simple assignments to complete each week. Each assignment is designed to teach a number of specific and important skills and techniques. The real teaching takes place when I begin giving them feedback, leading them to improve their work until it is attractive and effective material for witnessing.

In the first lesson, the students had two writing assignments. First, they had to take the essence of one of Father's speeches and then learn to use Google to search for more information on the topic Father was speaking about.

Next, they had to find what Father has done that is related to the issue. They searched the internet to find what others have said about that issue and to find quotations from famous people

about it.

To support them with a second article I wrote some examples based on the material of one of the students. The student had written about Martin Luther King Jr. and Gandhi. I asked him to add something similar about True Father, but in this example, I did it instead of him. I showed them ways they can mix a short historic overview of an issue, curious facts, and quotations of famous people to create a more interesting article. I left the article unfinished so that they can more easily understand the process. It still needs quotations from Father's Peace Message that describe his main vision of peace, which we covered in a previous assignment. A comparison is needed with what other peacemakers have said or done. A bit of research is also called for in order to improve the key words. It needs a catchy topic name and an introduction related to the blog's purpose or the audience it is targeting.

Thus, from the very start I want the students to pay attention to the key words they use. I want them to learn how to do research using Google and I want to help them cut off from their sectarian way of writing one-sided, sweet, boring stuff, which is neither interesting to the outside world nor to members.

Don't get the wrong impression. I'm not expecting everyone to be a writer, but students can still find a few interesting items of information from here and there.

The other lessons teach them entirely different skills and knowledge—design, tracking, promoting and so on. Each lesson is designed to be easily finished in a week, or even a day. The actual speed depends on the student. At the end, they will have overseen the whole process of witnessing online. **TW**

For anyone who registers (free of charge) at <http://iunificationist.org>, here are some links to further articles from my class about online outreach:

How to write effectively on the internet: <http://iunificationist.org/profiles/blogs/web-witnessing-words-have>

We should re-write all information on the internet: <http://iunificationist.org/profiles/blogs/let-the-truth-germinate-we>

Our message can reach to people: <http://iunificationist.org/profiles/blogs/web-outreach-our-message-can>

Fight the negativity about Father on the internet: <http://iunificationist.org/profiles/blogs/fight-the-negativity-in>

The Power of Internet: Testimony of my spiritual daughter: <http://iunificationist.org/profiles/blogs/the-power-of-internet>

Results of web witnessing—astonishing!: <http://iunificationist.org/profiles/blogs/results-of-web-witnessing>



Reaching Out to People of Another Faith

Milan city leader Alberto Zoffili works beyond his city limits pioneering a project he is passionate about—conveying our teachings and our understanding of True Parents to the Catholic Church. In an interview with Today's World he spoke in some detail about how he approaches this task.

Today's World: Italy is a Catholic country, but now a highly secularized society. What do you feel is the best way to reach out?

Alberto Zoffili: In general Italians consider themselves Christians, even if their knowledge about the Bible is quite vague and even though their lifestyles seldom reflect the content of their beliefs. They tend to identify themselves with the values of the Catholic Church, such as integrity, honesty, conjugal fidelity, and living for others' sake, but are struggling to live by them. So, their lives of faith tend to be more an external ritual perpetuating a spiritual tradition that has lost its true essence and motivation. The family is still a sacred institution, but there are not enough moral and spiritual resources at their disposal to compete with rampant secularization. Young people are often reluctant to commit themselves in marriage or to having children.

When we explain the ideal of creation to our guests, they easily accept the concept of God dwelling within the conjugal and parental relationships. More difficult is presenting Jesus Christ as a man in light of the more supernatural Catholic interpretation.

As a Unificationist, and especially as the pastor of our church in Milan, I feel responsible to find successful outreach strategies, programs and actions based on a winning model. For this reason I was inevitably inspired by Hyung-jin nim, learning from him how he continuously pushes himself to promote True Parents as the Second Coming of the Lord and as the king and queen of peace. Of course introducing True Father is not easy when we witness, but increasingly I have been experiencing the benefits of being clear and direct, especially about True Father's life.

How do you go about that?

Since Father's autobiography was published, I have focused on explaining how a young boy, born in the middle of nowhere, with no special tools and resources, relying only on his deep faith and heart, could become such an influential man in this age—a man who has kept his promise to God and Jesus for seventy-five years.

In Italy, many people know about Father, but more for the mass marriages, the blessing in marriage of Archbishop Milingo and for being a powerful "cult leader." I felt it was necessary to show where he started, how he started, and the path that he has followed. We are quite lucky because it is easy to prove Father is a unique, extraordinary man. The progress he has made in his life and mission make it clear



Living in Italy, members such as Alberto Zoffili naturally take the Catholic Church into consideration when considering a witnessing strategy.

Father isn't some clever man who wants to rule the world in order to make money but on the contrary is a man faithful to the commitment he made when he was fifteen to accomplish Jesus' mission during his life.

We are presenting the content of Father's life in a public hall where guests can learn about Father's background. I planned and hosted four public seminars on Rev. Moon's Life Course, covering from his birth to this year in detail. Although there were not many guests, it gave me the chance to invite some of them to listen to Divine Principle presentations so that they could understand the revelation Father received.

Can you mention some of them?

Yes. I have been able to make good contact with Catholics in Milan and have been able to introduce Rev. Moon and the Unification Church in a frank manner. I explain that we are the only religion in existence that has spread across national boundaries and reached the global level in only fifty years, during the life of its founder. This got me the attention I needed to propose that they acquaint themselves with the Unification Church—and, as a result, be respected and cooperate in promoting a culture of peace together in Milan.

During our discussions, I found out that the Catholic Church does not understand the real motivation behind Father's multiple initiatives. They may know what we do but they cannot understand the source of True Father's inspiration.

Catholic priests we contacted were interested to know more about us, and privately expressed the desire to know more about Father and the Principle. They may prefer not to appear at our public events, but even so I have been able to teach Father's vision and life story in detail to two priests.

To meet the main priest in charge, in Milan, of interreligious dialogue for the Vatican, I sent him a basic explanation of Unification Church belief and of our founder. I had to persevere, but after four months I was finally able to meet him face to face. For over two hours, I explained how we work for world peace, interreligious harmony and God-centered families in accordance with Rev. Moon's teachings. As a representative of the Catholic Church, he did not feel confident to take an official approving position toward us, but as a religious person he was interested.

Another priest we contacted is also an exorcist. We visited his community. In the beginning these people were quite skeptical, even antagonistic, since their viewpoint was that we belonged to a sect. They were expecting us to react to being in front of an exorcist, but we ended up totally reversing the situation over a couple of hours by speaking frankly about True Father, the blessing and our church. The level of trust gained on this occasion gave us the opportunity to ask them to organize a larger meeting with other Catholic believers.

You believe our church should be communicating with the Catholic Church as an organization.

In this city, we have the Milan Forum of Religions, which is 90 percent managed by the Catholic Church and includes only a small number of other major religions. All the so-called minor religions are left out. Thinking this was not fair, I prepared our direct approach with the Catholic Church, opening a clear



Mr. Zoffili believes we are lucky that it's easy to show that Father is outstanding. He organized public seminars at which he spoke in detail about Father's life.

dialogue and presenting Rev. Moon and Unificationism. Even though we were willing to present the material to any audience, the Catholic Church and the media were the main target.

We set strong spiritual conditions. I have worked for more than a year with Angela Signorelli, a sister who feels strongly motivated to work with the Catholic Church. Together we made conditions, including full bows, reading *Cheon Seong Gyeong* and prayer. We visited Catholic churches in major Italian cities. There, we prayed and read True Father's speech¹ "Filial Children of God Are Patriots Who Strive to Liberate His Heart."² In this wonderful speech, Father explains clearly the ideal God held at the time of the Creation, the Fall, and the path of restoration the Messiah has to follow. It gives precise insight into God's heart. We also read it to our guests during Divine Principle workshops and many Catholics were deeply touched by its content.

Why this particular speech?

The speech was chosen through prayer. We wanted to find a clear message to convey to the Catholic Church and to the Catholic spirit world and this was the answer that we received. When we offered the condition to read Father's speech in the churches, we read it aloud in order to leave the mark of God's absolute word in the church and on the Catholic spirit world. We also sent this speech to a hundred and twenty churches and we are following up by contacting them again.

At the end of a whole year spent in this way, in December 2009, we held the first public seminar, in Milan, with the title "Dialogue, Prayer and Action for a Peaceful Future—the Life of Rev. Sun Myung Moon." Over the ensuing six months, we held three more similar seminars.

What kind of people attended the seminars?

Angela and I fasted each Ahn Shi Il and offered a minimum of forty full bows each day for a fifty-day period before each seminar, to make the conditions to be able to invite appropri-

1 This was to influence the Catholic spiritual world; it was not done in front of a physical audience.

2 Given at the Common Legacy Breakfast Summit on December 13, 2004

ate representatives of Catholicism. This goal was achieved through our being able to welcome Dr. Franco Bucarelli as the guest speaker at our first seminar. He is an influential journalist, and an expert on the Vatican who has covered the last six popes. He is the author of several books about the Catholic Church. He was initially contacted at the time of the blessing of Archbishop Milingo and Maria Sung. Angela and I maintained the connection over the years; we introduced Dr. Bucarelli to aspects of the Divine Principle and explained True Father's life to him in detail.

In his speech, he publicly recognized Father's contribution to promoting God-centered families and world peace. "Our daily revolution starts in our families. They are the living cells of the body of humankind. At the same time, they are the protective walls against the moral dissolution of the real world."

We had some traditional Catholic believers that were moved to learn that Jesus had supported True Father's mission from when he was a young boy and that the controversial Rev. Moon had a Christian religious background. These guests came as a result of a witnessing campaign we had held in Milan.

After attending the seminar on True Father's life, some of them participated in a Divine Principle workshop. Among these, I was impressed by an elderly widow who took so seriously the content of the lecture that she expressed the desire to receive the holy blessing with her departed husband. She also witnessed to her daughter in order to bring her to listen to what she already feels is the definitive truth.

A young Jehovah's Witness, the son of a minister, also came and later attended a Divine Principle lecture. Through our broader interfaith activities, some Buddhist believers attended



Journalist Franco Bucarelli, author of several biographies on popes and longtime chronicler of the Vatican, speaks at the first conference.

the seminar and remarked on the similarities between the core teachings of the Buddha and those of True Father.

Will you continue the public events in the same way?

We have just held the first of four public seminars about Jesus' mission and life to be held in September and October. Our national leader is supporting the expansion of the seminars to Turin and Bergamo.

In addition to our prayer and reading Father's speech (this time, "The New Future of Christianity") in churches, we have made personal contact with the head priests of thirty-six Catholic churches, twelve each in Milan, Turin and Bergamo. To each we give a written introduction to the Unification Church and True Father and a copy of Father's speech. We have created a useful database of contacts, and we are just starting to make second contacts, inviting them to the seminars.

This first seminar, held in Milan, was very special. Just when I was beginning to speak, a storm suddenly came over Milan and the lights went off in the city for about an hour. Even though I had prepared a good PowerPoint presentation, because of the power failure, I had to speak from the heart. Only toward the end of the seminar did the lights come back on. We had only four guests but it was a foundation for the start.

We received a deep spiritual message to encourage us in our effort. We hadn't previously held public events in Italy about Jesus based on True Father's point of view, and our work is gaining some attention. We plan to go on with a loving and humble attitude.

Have you felt some benefit personally through doing this?

Even though we could achieve only limited results so far, my life of faith, my witnessing and teaching has developed considerably.

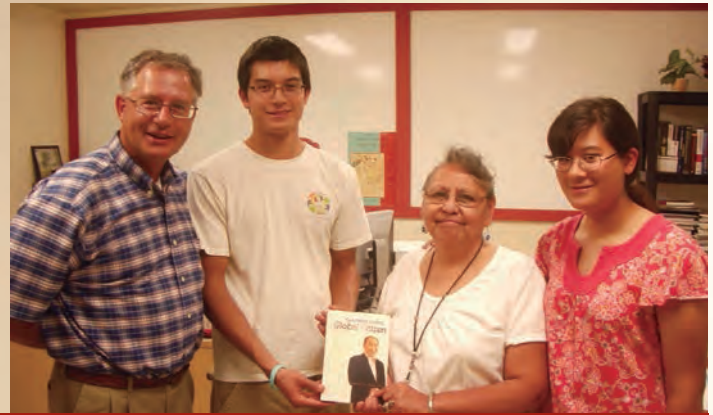
You mentioned Hyung-jin nim's direct approach.

Hyung-jin nim is a unique source of spiritual strength for me. He is leading us back to our origin, our root. But this does not mean going back to the past, but starting anew, having a clear identity and being able to promote it proudly. He has given our small Milan church community of fewer than sixty blessed families the courage to think on a larger scale. **TW**

Hyung-jin nim and Yeon-ah nim, during the European leg of their ongoing world tour, in Rome with Alberto and Antonella Zoffili and their children



Bound on Earth, Bound in Heaven



The Yakawich family, including children Joe, John, Naomi, Luke and Jacob, distributed 430 copies of Father's memoirs by July 3. Each week, Pastor Mike Yakawich of our church in the U.S. city of Billings, Montana, wrote a brief report to his district director Rev. Larry Krishnek and acting assistant director Rev. Gerhard Wiesinger, describing his family's efforts. What follows are three of those reports, outlining their experiences:

Dear Rev. Wiesinger:

June 14, 2010

This week we will begin the Yakawich Family Book Campaign. Now that we have completed our 13th Annual March Against Drugs and Violence, we can focus on this great project. I figure I will start the ball rolling for our state. When we do, I can offer ideas as to what we are doing. We have some ideas and will apply them first. We certainly enjoy reading this book as a family for hoondokhae.

Thank you for your guidance,

Mike

Dear Reverends:

Our family will submit a check from our personal account next week for the books. This week, mailman, native leaders, TV people, school superintendent, preachers, Buddhists, newspaper, U.S. senators' offices, etc ... Friends, one and all, were happy to receive Father's book. Even my older sons are mailing them out to friends. As I gave one to the U.S. senators' offices, at one senator's office my friend Vicky was so grateful and shared with me, "He (Rev. Moon) certainly has been misunderstood. I remember years ago how I felt that they treated him so unfairly. I am very happy to have this book and will read it. Could I have one extra for the office as well?" While in the Montana-Wyoming Tribal Leaders Council Office, we handed out three books and one more that a co-worker requested. I gave one to someone who does a lot of suicide prevention work with me. He said, "Wow, what a gift! This book is a special gift. Here, this is a watch with a beaded wrist band for you in honor of this book you gave me. Take it as my gift to you." God is excited that we give this book out. Total: over 200.

Respectfully yours,

Mike

Dear Reverends:

Our family prepared 56 books the night before. Each book had a letter of introduction and was wrapped in a nice clear plastic bag. Some were placed in gift bags. My three younger boys, my daughter and I departed the next day to the Crow Nation¹ about an hour and a half from Billings. We visited the executive and legislative branches of the Crow Nation government as well as the college and local churches.

One legislator was very inspired by the book gift and gave a beautiful Crow Nation lapel pin. The legislative branch attorney recalled the work of our church in Billings and wished us well. He said he was grateful for a thank you letter he received after purchasing flowers from me for Mother's Day. He said he was sincerely moved by the effort being made to hand out the books. He not only received the book but donated \$15.

At a few locations the executive secretaries not only received one of Father's books but requested two or three more to give to their co-workers. The Dean of Students at the college was very happy to take extra books to give to others on the college staff. Our children did exceptionally well helping break the ice and were good ambassadors for True Father. Some people they met commented that they looked Native American (They have a Japanese mom and an American dad).

Walking in the halls of the Tribal Building, some elders stopped me and said, "Flower Man what are you doing?" "Passing out Bibles," they asked? (As a business, I sell flowers on the reservation and elsewhere.) I replied, "Not Bibles but a book from the founder of my church! I have one for you as well." They seemed grateful to each receive True Father's book.

One of their spiritual leaders who has known me for many years happily received the book. He is a former Bureau of Indian Affairs policeman and now works for the tribe. He also gave a special prayer of blessing over the young people helping me that day. Later, we gave some books to local churches.

It was 99° F (37° C) today as we all walked and worked at the Crow Agency and Hardin, Montana. Perhaps the Holy Spirit was hot today as well. We were blessed to hand out all 56 books. Our family is at 364 books distributed.

Respectfully yours,

Mike *JTW*

¹ Land within the U.S. set aside for the Crow tribe of American Indians, which has a government-to-government relationship with the United States because of a treaty signed between the U.S. government and sixteen Crow chiefs in 1825.

The Hometown Opportunity



By Maria Pammer

I hesitated to write about our hometown work because I had thought we first needed to accomplish a clear breakthrough. Work in our hometown, however, is an ongoing process, to be continued over generations. I have written about how our work has developed so far.

Photo above: A bridge of peace was constructed in Steyr on the initiative of the Pammer family

T rue Father proclaimed the tribal messiah providence on January 3, 1989.¹ The Iron Curtain² collapsed, bloodlessly, in the same year. For most people, this was unexpected.

Friedrich and I were blessed in Korea 1982, after which we went through witnessing, fund raising and then invested ourselves into VOC.³ The VOC work in Austria had two parts: Mission Butterfly, in which members went behind the Iron Curtain as undercover missionaries, and Mission Flower Bird, in which members worked in Western Europe with Soviet emigrants. I was part of Mission Flower Bird. After the Iron Curtain fell, we initiated the build-up of the Professors World Peace Academy (PWPA) in Austria.

Because I have no siblings and my mother was alone following my father's death, we went back to my hometown, Steyr, a small town with some forty thousand inhabitants in the center of Austria. Steyr has a thousand-year, often-turbulent history. We have been living here now for twelve years.

Many people remember me from my school days. Over thirty years ago, they heard that I had joined a "very dangerous sect." At that time, my parents increasingly distanced themselves from their local community to avoid having to answer questions about what their daughter was doing.

After twenty-one years, I suddenly returned to Steyr, not alone, but with a family—a husband and three sons. We moved into a house that my husband built himself on land owned by my parents. We designed it from the outset to include rooms for public activities. In the beginning, we used them for a Maria Montessori⁴ private school. I am an experienced Montessori educator, and since the birth of our handicapped child, I had the vision of running an alternative school. We began this project in our house. More recently we have used the rooms for children's summer workshops and for interreligious meetings.

Inspired by Father's example while imprisoned of persuading others not by words but by his way of life, our basic attitude from the beginning was not to witness to our faith through talking but to give hope and encouragement to the people in our town through our

1 Father's statement to this effect can be found in Cheon Seong Gyeong, Book Seven, 2.3.

2 "To be behind the Iron Curtain" is a metaphor for being among those European nations communized by the USSR and cut off from the democratic "Free World." Germany's Minister of Propaganda, Joseph Goebbels, coined the term in a speech on February 23, 1945.

3 Father founded the International Federation for Victory Over Communism (IFVOC) in Korea in 1968. As here, members often use VOC as a generic term to refer to our church's work to counter atheistic communism.

4 An Italian medical doctor (1870–1952) who developed her own method of education

activities and the way we live.

My husband and I were confronted with the birth of a disabled child; overnight, my mother became dependent on care after having suffered a stroke. Situations nobody wishes for can be mastered as a family and help us grow. For a long time we'd had the idea of three generations living in one household. For our children it was very natural that we took their grandmother into our house after she began needing home care. Our ten-year-old daughter plays with her and does handicrafts with her. Her grandmother receives life energy and does not just stay in bed. Our speaking about family values became credible for all our friends when they saw how we reacted in such situations.

Many of the service projects we initiated were only successful because of family cohesion. I experienced substantially how essential is the parent-child relationship, which Father calls the axis of the universe. The parents' experience and the children's strength and élan aligned on a common target can work wonders.

Some of our activities

When the 144,000-couple Blessing Ceremony took place in the U.S., I strongly felt that we should perform a Blessing Ceremony in our hometown, because Europe also stands on the foundation of Christianity. Representatives from different Christian denominations took part in a Blessing Ceremony at our house.

I first laid conditions (prayer and walking around town) and then visited all the Christian denominations in town and made contacts. On Saturday, April 20, 2002, we invited these church representatives for a dialog on the value of marriage and family in the physical and spiritual worlds. Each of them gave a statement, and my husband spoke at the end about our blessing and how he wants to pass on that blessing. We all



Participants of the fourth tribal messiah workshop, in Salzburg, Austria, 2004



Left: A considerate article on our religion, featuring the Pammer's Blessing Ceremony experience. The headline reads, "Rev. Moon said, 'You, and You.'" Above: A few months later, their son's service work was attacked in an article by the same journalist, "Moon sect active in schools"

drank the Holy Wine and renewed our marriages for eternity.

Later, Austrian national leader Peter Zöhrer had a spiritual experience related to how important the hometown providence is to True Father. He asked us to become leaders of the Hometown Department in Austria. We were to organize seminars for blessed families about hometown work being the cornerstone of Cheon Il Guk and to begin publishing a hometown newsletter.

We held the workshops in neighboring countries as well. We always included a hometown testimony by a blessed couple. We could see that those who found success were self-motivated. Testimonies can provide motivation, but when listeners only compare and imitate, it's a problem. Personal skills and spiritual conditions differ, as does the path to success. One family has success on a political level; another is accepted after years based on their musical talent.

At the first seminar on April 21, 2003, we created a resolution. This and a blessing that European Regional President Song wrote in calligraphy during his first visit to Steyr were given to every participant of a hometown seminar.

About the time of our first seminar, my husband and I took part in Middle East Peace Initiatives. Friedrich participated in the December 2003 MEPI. I attended one the following September. Within the MEPI framework, I visited the mayor of Bethlehem—a city to which Steyr is twinned—with a gift from the mayor of Steyr. As chief editor of his school magazine, our oldest son Bogdan initiated fund raising for families in need in Bethlehem. He was inspired by the vision of Service for Peace, putting service into practice not as means to an end but as a way of life, as a new cultural aspect of youth.

Significant years, 2006–2007

Steyr was one of the places a member of the True Family came to speak when twelve speeches were given in each



Shin-bok nim (right), Maria Pammer and son Bogdan out and about in Steyr, Austria, the Pammer family's hometown

nation in 2006. Shin-bok nim, Ye-jin nim's oldest son, spoke in Steyr. With our brothers and sisters from the surrounding region, we held a dignified event. This was a great blessing for our town.

That year we also supported a sister, a staff member of UPF-Austria, who organized a summer camp with young people from Jerusalem and Austria. 2006 was special in several other respects as well. As part of a series on religions in Steyr, a journalist for a local newspaper interviewed us about our 1982 Blessing Ceremony. In the fall of that year, the same journalist devoted another article to attacking us.

Some of the journalist's friends were among those who responded when Bogdan managed to garner support from different Steyr youth organizations—religious as well as political—for a joint event on the International Day of Peace. Apparently, this spurred the journalist to condemn us. After reading his article, one of the journalist's friends called him because she was angry about it. He told her, "I want to prevent the Moon sect from gaining ground in Steyr."

All organizations withdrew from the project because of the journalist's campaign of intimidation. Our son was summoned to the school principal's office and his hard work of several months was destroyed within a day. We were shocked when all that effort was shot down in flames and our religion was vilified. We became known all over town.

With a handful of friends, we met downtown and held a small candlelight demonstration at the same place and time that the big event was to have occurred. We discovered who our real friends are, those of good character and courage. Our identity has been clear for all the projects we organized after that, and just as a heavy thunderstorm cools and cleanses the atmosphere, we've had a solid foundation from that time on.

A year later, in a project called Building Bridges to Bethlehem, STF, UPF and WFWP in Austria invited thirteen young people from Bethlehem to Austria, where they lived with host families for a week. The extensive program comprised a work-

shop in the high school and a Catholic youth center, discussions in a socialist youth center, excursions to museums and to BMW, the car company, meeting key figures in city hall, a hike in Kalkalpen National Park, a basketball game, and cooking on an organic farm.⁵

In our wildest dreams, we never would have expected what happened a year after that news article attacking us. The highlight of the week in Steyr was a cultural event in Bogdan's high school, to which the public was invited, with the young people from Palestine and Steyr performing music, pantomime, etc. The acting mayor of Steyr gave his patronage to the invitations, posters and flyers. The retired mayor gave a speech, and the school principal gave a speech, the same principal who had summoned Bogdan to his office over the censorious news article.

In Vienna, the young people from Bethlehem attended an interreligious church service, went sightseeing, visited the Austrian Parliament and the Austrian headquarters of the United Nations Organization and went to Lake Neusiedlersee, which straddles the Austrian-Hungarian border.

In Steyr, the host families participated in many parts of the program. In their reflections they told us they learned a lot from the experience. All of them are still friends; some of them helped two years later with our Peace Bridge project and some of them participate in our Divine Principle workshops.

The children of the host families were so inspired by Building Bridges to Bethlehem that they travelled to the Middle East a year later as participants in an interreligious and intercultural cooperation project sponsored by Faithlink UK⁶ and SFP Austria. In Bethlehem, they reconnected with the friends who had stayed in their homes in Austria.

As a result of this trip, the "Middle East suitcase," contain-

⁵ The companies and the restaurants in our city sponsored all excursions and meals. Companies and the local government sponsored the air tickets. Some of the sponsors were honored as ambassadors for peace.

⁶ A project initiated by a second generation member in the UK

ing teaching materials for schools, was created with the support of the European Union. It allows students to taste spices, see pictures and listen to music or to a conversation between an Israeli and a Palestinian, who are standing on either side of the security wall and who speak about their shared history. Students can experience the Middle East through all five senses. Bogdan and his friends, who put together the material, are still contacting schools to present the suitcases.

Our ongoing relationship with the Middle East

I must make clear that all activities with Israel and Palestine were inspired by MEPI. On the foundation of our participation in MEPI and of our son's numerous service activities in school and the community, we organized Building Bridges to Bethlehem in 2007 with UPF-Austria, WFWP-Austria and a Palestinian NGO.

Our family also had a personal vision of bringing people to Austria from Israel and Palestine. In 2009 the time had come. After many obstacles, we could invite four young adults from Israel and four from Palestine to build a Peace Bridge with members of our second generation and their friends in a small community near Steyr. The project was supported by the mayor and a local carpenter.

Often there were big differences of political opinion and conflicts during the cultural evenings. These disappeared when the young people were sawing and planing wood and working hard together during the day. The project was called Europe Meets the Middle East 09, Engaging in a Sustainable Future (EMME 09).

The participants had many deep experiences and are now working on a brochure about the project. Contacts continue and the Peace Bridge has been used in different ways since then. Prof. Lazarovits, a holocaust survivor held a book presentation there. The World Harmony Run 2010, a global torch relay, stopped by the bridge.



The letter of thanks Bogdan Pammer received from the Austrian president

The bridge is located in front of an old forest museum. Groups of tourists visit the museum and the guide always shows the guests the Peace Bridge and tells them its history. Once, he asked the tourists if any two people in their group quarrel, and two people actually came forward. The guide told the two quarrelers to each enter the platform from opposite sides, meet in the middle of the bridge, shake hands and reconcile. The carpenter's draftsman had designed two parts of the platform—one for Israel and one for Palestine—with the bonding bridge in the middle. The guide happily reported that the two antagonists did as he had instructed. He'd performed a Peace Bridge Ceremony without knowing about this tradition from UPF or WFWP. How active the spiritual world is in our time!

Our family, our community

The president of Austria, Dr. Heinz Fischer, sent us a letter (addressed to my son). He wrote, "I have been observing the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians for decades, and I sense it is a great tragedy. Therefore I welcome all activities

contributing to a peaceful solution to this conflict. I want to thank you for your efforts and express my appreciation...."

Good testimonies from well-known individuals and friends about our work over the years have made it easier to work with our relatives, who were hurt especially by the false rumors spread about our movement for many years. For example, Friedrich and I invited all our friends (in and outside of the church) and our relatives to our civil wedding ceremony in 1987, but my parents did not come, even though I am their only child. Later, however, my mother (before the stroke) invited relatives to our different events herself and was thinking of how we could bring more people to Divine Principle lectures. She attended the whole event with Shin-bok nim and was happy to have done so.

Parallel to our activities in wider society, we had hoondokhae family meetings every month with friends whom we worked with on the service projects and with guests. The focus varies from year to year. For the first year, we discussed Divine Principle. We had a series of seven lectures about the spirit world or other topics such as my trip to North Korea with the International WFWP. These were held not only in our house but also in public places and in the home of a friend's family.

One of our next aims is the distribution of 430 copies of Father's memoirs, which will be available in German soon. We hope that this will lead to a spiritual breakthrough.

Finally, I want to tell of a short dream I had not long ago. I saw our greatest opponent, who had worked against us, behind our backs, for many years and influenced people to turn against us. His wife stood close to me, but he did not. Suddenly, I loudly said, "We not only need a messiah, but parents, True Parents!" Then, he also moved closer to me and the hostile atmosphere dissolved. I woke up full of confidence.

To train our parental heart, to be real, to never cease improving ourselves and our relationships to others are absolutely essential points of focus in the hometown work. **JW**



Maria Pammer speaks at a hometown workshop in 2005

Steadfast Service to People in Dire Need

Our member looks to the long term in helping refugees of a war-ravaged nation

The following is written by a Japanese woman who has worked for many years in the Middle East. She arrived in the region among the missionaries whom Father sent to 160 countries in the mid-1990s. She has written freely of her experiences but has asked that her name be withheld. She maintains the hope that her work to help refugee Iraqi families will create the basis to develop initiatives inside Iraq for peace in the future, which is the dream that gives her the power to continue.

Since the war began in Iraq in 2003, fear of kidnapping, torture, and killing has led many Iraqis to flee their country to neighboring Jordan and Syria. Many of these refugees apply to the UNHCR¹ for resettlement in countries more distant from Iraq but they often have to wait many years. Many of the Iraqis who fled to Jordan have not received official recognition as refugees after five to seven years. Some have no hope of ever being recognized. Because circumstances don't allow them to go back to their country, they are exhausted both physically and psychologically.

Fathers become ill and die young because they are so worried about their children's future. Parents and children have no hope of receiving an education or finding employment. Under these circumstances, fathers sometimes become ill from taking tranquilizers and other drugs. I try to help these needy families who are often in difficult financial situations.

Young people who resisted joining the Hizbul-Ba'ath in Iraq or who were victims of terrorists there are unable to return to their country. On the other hand, though they have no legal status, they are stuck here, unable to study or work. Hopelessness causes many of them to suffer psychological illness. For young people to have to spend many years of their precious youth, unable to work or study, without any hope of change in the future is torture.

Since 2009, I have seen an increasing number of psychological problems among the Iraqi

refugees. I submitted a proposal to UNHCR to set up projects near where the refugees live. Many NGOs have set up projects for Iraqis far from where they reside. Those who are exhausted aren't able to get to them. Because the precise focus of my attention is refugees who are deeply exhausted and frustrated, I moved and now live where many of the needy are living.

On Fridays, other concerned individuals and I are providing them the opportunity to play soccer in two locations. We have created four soccer teams in order to give them moral support and an opportunity to focus on something other than their troubles.

I began holding English classes in my home every day except Friday. With the help of volunteers from the United States, including Fulbright² students, classes in English as a Second Language are now being provided. Arabic education has been offered to many illiterate young Iraqis who came from the Iraqi countryside. We also try to give them as much financial support as possible because it is difficult for people



A regular game of football gives displaced Iraqis something to look forward to each week

1 The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, also known as the UN Refugee Agency, is mandated to protect and support refugees through repatriation, local integration or resettlement.

2 A program through which the U.S. government supplies financial grants for educational exchange between teachers, students and researchers in the United States with those in other countries.

who are single to receive assistance from the UN.

Because of their difficult financial situation, many young Iraqis are forced to work illegally. Some have been arrested. Until 2008, many of those arrested were deported to Iraq where high levels of violent crime and terrorism still exist. So many of the deportees were killed, sometimes soon after arriving in Iraq, that the number of deportations has dropped since 2009. When an Iraqi is arrested in Jordan, the UN arranges for the person's release. This involves a Jordanian guarantor, however, and I have seen many cases where the guarantors take advantage of the situation and extort money from the Iraqis they are meant to protect. Many employers don't pay Iraqis for the work that they do, knowing they can't go to the police. Even if they do pay, they pay very little. I once visited one of those employers and threatened to do research on his business and report it to the UN. He paid the Iraqi his salary right away, in front of me.

Some of the wonderful young people that are themselves waiting to be recognized as refugees have joined me in the volunteer work to help other Iraqis. We begin by visiting each one of them and finding out about them. Then we report what we find to the Refugee Department of the UNHCR because they often don't have information about these individuals. The Iraqis scarcely have a chance to appeal by themselves. Even if they write or call, or directly visit the UN office, they aren't usually given the opportunity to explain their situation. It is usually easier when a third person intercedes.

I have become good friends with the number two person in the Refugee Department (a Malaysian woman), who has promised that whenever I report a case to her she will give special consideration to whether the person qualifies as a refugee. I usually send the reports by e-mail but in serious cases, I visit her in person. I am also in constant touch with the Health Department and the Financial Aid Department in order to utilize all possible resources.

We solicit donations for financial assistance regularly from affluent Iraqis. We recently received a donation from a group of Iraqi medical doctors living in the U.S. that left Iraq during Saddam Hussein's regime. Support for the soccer team has come from an association of Iraqi businesses.

Some examples of crises we deal with include medical emergencies, inability to pay rent (where the landlord has contacted the police), or someone not having electricity or water because of unpaid bills. My house is open at any hour of the day or night to Iraqis who are facing such emergency



Iraqis find solace in prayer at a holy site

situations.

I have been contacted by the police many times over my activities because they support people who are, strictly speaking, illegally in this country. Because I had been a masseuse for the ruling family for five years, however, I am still able to continue my work. I continue to look to the future when more organized efforts for peace can be established on this foundation.

Some individual circumstances

Abdul Rahman (aged 52)

He used to be a physical education instructor. In 2001, someone falsely reported him as being a member of the opposition group. He was arrested and tortured in prison for a year. After his release, he shot and injured the person who had wronged him. In 2002, he escaped to Jordan, and his family (his wife and eight children) followed him in 2005. It costs a lot of money to escape to a safe haven.

They haven't received recognition as refugees yet because of the shooting. The father is therefore very worried about his children (six sons, two daughters) who are all teenagers but have no hope of receiving an education or obtaining employ-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 37



Iraqis unable to return home and subsisting in extreme poverty and isolation often fall into despair and require specialized care.

With Available Resources



A small country church in Korea succeeds with an innovative program

Enterprising members, such as those at Gimcheon Church are developing ideas in the field, a key ingredient in the growth our church is striving for; Front row: Church pastor Jung Ju-sub; Second row: Yeo Kuk-dong, secretary-general of the Peace Elders Council



Gimcheon is a small city in the middle of South Korea, surrounded by picturesque hills. Our little church there is growing through a creative initiative.

On the second Sunday of each month, Sunday service is dedicated to a "Prominent Speaker Program," a presentation by a professional presenter. Subjects include life management, personal development and initiatives for peace (some connected with our larger movement, such as the Middle East Peace Initiative or the work for the reunification of Korea). The program aims always to have quality presentations relevant to society at large.

Guests from the senior ranks of various professions and religious organizations are invited to attend. The occasion is organized so that guests can come to understand more about True Parents and the Principle. The church members all help prepare for the occasion, including cooking lunch for everyone.

The church leader and other organizers have set up a Peace Elders Council and when guests attend events they are invited to register as its members. This makes follow up easy as it gives a clear reason for recontacting. Council members pay monthly dues, part of which cover presenters' travel and other expenses, a speaker honorarium of about \$100 and outreach efforts for the program.

The initiative is greatly helped by the presence of a long-time member Mr. Yeo Kuk-dong, a senior consultant in the city and the secretary-general of the Peace Elders Council. His enthusiasm to reach out across the city to people from all different professions, including the city government itself, has brought many to participate. "If you educate people with good things they become good people," he said. They have an average of fifteen new guests attending each monthly talk. Church leader Jung Ju-sub told us, "Protestants, Catholics, and Buddhists come to attend our special service at our church.... One or two Catholic church members go to mass at 6 AM on Sunday, and then come to our program." But he admitted, "Some participants [from other churches] do not talk to their spouses about coming here, and that of course makes it harder for them to receive the blessing."

And the church has set its sights on bringing their

contacts to become blessed members: "Our goal is witnessing, and so far we've been doing very well," says Pastor Jung. For a small church with a usual Sunday attendance of between twenty and thirty souls, that appears to be true—the project has brought twenty-one new members since last year, among whom twelve have received the blessing.

Pastor Jung explained that they host sisterhood ceremonies between the foreign blessed wives and participants in the Prominent Speaker Program. This is enthusiastically received. As many of the guests are senior in position (or in age), these sisterhood ties are like daughter–father relationships. It's not always easy for the pastor to inspire a new contact to come to church. However, when one's sister's family invites that person, he is often happy to attend.

And with fortunes improving, one of the main items on the church agenda for next year is a complete remodeling of the church. **TW**

This article was prepared by a TW staff member.



At a Prominent Speaker Program, professional motivational speaker Seon Ju-sam (our church member) gives examples of how success is attained

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 35

ment. He asked me to help him by filing separate refugee status applications for himself and his family. He told me he was becoming ill because of his concern for his family. He would die alone in Jordan if he could at least save his family.

I visited the UN Refugee Department and spoke to them on his behalf. They told me they could help him.

Ibrahim (aged 42)

Having been forced to fight under Saddam Hussein's regime, he lost a leg during Iraq's war with Kuwait (August 1990–February 1991). In 2005, he was abducted by terrorists. After paying large sums of money to be bailed out, he escaped to Jordan with his family.

They cannot obtain refugee recognition, because he participated in the war with Kuwait. He suffered from insomnia because he was so worried about the future of his two children and continually took strong tranquilizers, which damaged his stomach. He is in and out of the hospital, immobile with a disk problem in the neck.

Because he couldn't communicate about his suffering to the UN, I went to them on his behalf to negotiate for him.

Hadi (aged 27)

He has been here for six years and is exhausted both physically and psychologically because he receives no support from the UN. Thus he is forced to work illegally under constant fear of arrest.

One day, he couldn't take it any longer and called his home in Iraq to tell them he wanted to come home despite the dangers. His uncle told him not to come because his father, who had died, used to work for the Iraqi intelligence service and had many enemies. Being the first son, Hadi would be killed immediately if he came. Discouraged by this phone call, he went to the UN again to seek help. However, they told him he wasn't eligible for financial support nor could he hope to obtain refugee status. He became very angry and ripped up his application form in front of the office staff and yelled at them, saying he would never ask for their help again. He then came to me and asked for my help.

I could understand his situation very well, so I went to the UN Refugee Department on his behalf and explained his situation. As a result of that, he is now receiving financial support and they are processing his refugee application. It is sometimes very difficult for the UN to understand the extreme suffering these Iraqis endure. I feel that I can help in this area. **TW**

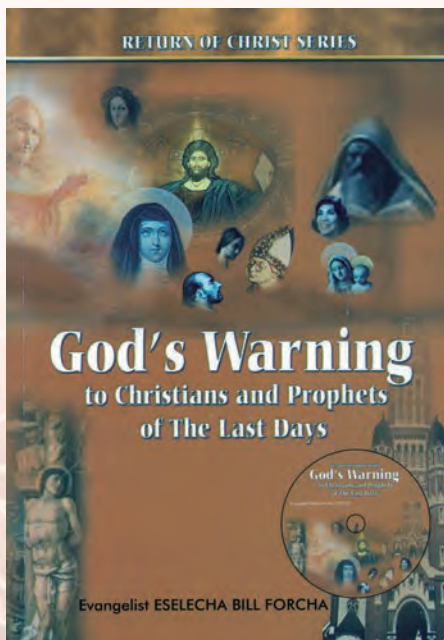


Left: A celebration marking Mother's Day gave refugee women an opportunity to meet, to develop mutually nurturing relationships and to express their feelings for their mothers; Right: A Fulbright student teaches English to Iraqi refugees

THE BOOK THAT MADE ME

By Itia Tegha

Rev. Bill Forcha's book, which is currently being used in Ghana to proclaim that the Lord has returned. A booklet produced earlier by Rev. Forcha was given to Mr. Tegha when he was a teenager. It changed his life.



My journey to national leadership started in 1994 when I found my father. I had grown up with my mother and stepfather. My only vivid images of my father were of when he visited me in our village. I was then just about four or five, living in my maternal grandfather's home.

My father had joined the Unification Church in 1975, a few months after I was born. He was just a young man of twenty-five, booming with life and dreaming of living in New York. He had a music dream and wanted to be a star. I know he would have made it. His old time pictures say it all—he was so refined. The refusal of the American embassy to give him a visa (an obstacle to his musical career) was actually a blessing, even though at that time, he could have called it a curse. With the appearance of a certain white woman, Kathy Rigney,¹ all his desire to make another attempt at the U.S. embassy evaporated. Instead, fund raising and daily Divine Principle lectures began.

He was the second person to become a member in Cameroon, and preaching of the kingdom of heaven was his new mission. He also gradually stopped visiting me. He later told me that my stepfather had threatened him with a pistol, warning him not to visit me anymore. My stepfather had claimed me and changed my names. He was rich, influential, famous and older than my father. He would have gone to any lengths to stop my father from visiting me.

Even though my name was changed, I knew I had a father who was far, far away. One day, while in school, I made up my mind to look for my father. We had finished taking our final term exams and we had some free time. I went into our classroom and started writing a letter to my father. An aunt had earlier informed me that he had a white woman and that he lived in Bamenda, in northwest Cameroon. The information was scanty. She did not even know his full name. She only remembered a nickname they had given him. I felt that asking my mother about my father would hurt her too much. My leaving would cause problems with her husband. I suspected that she would not tell me much, which is why I sought an aunt's help.

To cut a long story short, I finally met my father through the help of a young friend. I knew that although my father did not show his feelings, he was overwhelmed to see me. I had only come to visit him to connect to my roots. I hadn't planned to live with him. As things turned out, though, I was going to live with him forever.

I wanted to let him know that he had not treated me well, that I had felt abandoned by him. It was not until he told me his own part of the story and the ordeal he went through that I found a place in my heart to forgive him.

Becoming acquainted with my stepmother wasn't easy, not because she was white, but because her life was surrounded by many principles, principles that nothing could change. At first, I thought I could change them, but gradually, they changed me.

After about a week in my father's home, his wife picked up a small book, *The Return of the Lord—How Soon?* and gave it to me. I still can remember that as she was giving me the book, smiling casually, she said, "Read this book. It will inspire you."

That book transformed not only my views on God and Jesus, but my whole life. The understanding that Jesus came not to die but to unite the world was a new concept to me and made sense. I saw clearly through my imagination that if the Jews had accepted Jesus two thousand years ago, the world would not have experienced the tragedies of slavery and colonization. I had just learned the history of the slave trade and its vices. This seriously affected my emotions. I realized that had Jesus been accepted, the world would have witnessed a more civilized colonization—simply put, evangelization. I could easily grasp that Jewish people would have been the most respected people on

¹ Katherine Rigney was a missionary in West Africa in the 1970s. She was the Africa continental director in the 1990s. Since that time she has mostly worked in missions connected with Africa.

earth. I saw that Rome would have become like America. *The Return of the Lord—How Soon?* is just a book, but it removed the plank from my eyes.

I used to wonder about the publisher, Bill Forcha. He had done a good job of taking something from Rev. Moon's speeches and some Christian testimonies on Jesus' vision and putting them together to make that little book. I thought he was a famous American preacher like Billy Graham. I read the book repeatedly.

At the back of the book it said, "One Easter Sunday, Rev. Sun Myung Moon was praying on a mountain in a small North Korean village when he had a vision of Jesus Christ." According to the book, Jesus asked Rev. Moon to build the kingdom of God. Father had refused at first but finally accepted because Jesus persisted. I looked at a picture of True Father in the back of the book and I caught the whole story—an immediate revelation that this is a picture of the Second Coming of the Lord.

Though I had just had the most important revelation of my life, it didn't move me much. I decided to find out exactly what this man brings as the Lord. If he is the Returning Lord, I asked myself, why hasn't the end of the world come as described in the Bible? Why haven't the dead risen and been brought back to life? Did this man come from the sky, or was he born? I very much wanted to know more about his family. Many questions came to mind. Gradually, staying in my father's home led me to join a seven-day workshop where I learned that God's heart and Jesus' heart are suffering greatly.

This reminded me of some of the pictures I had seen in *The Return of the Lord—How Soon?* In the book was the story of a woman minister from East Africa, Sister Anne. According to the story in the book, Sister Anne had seen Jesus in a vision and Jesus had revealed himself to her to the extent that she could take pictures of him. I still have memories of those pictures of Jesus. Jesus was crying tears of blood. Jesus left the sister with severe stigmata on the soles of her feet and the palms of her hands. She bled for months until a certain Archbishop Milingo, who was her bishop, healed her miraculously. This was the explanation in the book.

Rev. Bill later told me that since both her life and Father's involved revelations, he decided to present Rev. Moon and Sis-



Rev. Itia Tegha (in a suit) with Ghanaian members recently, shortly after being elected their acting national leader

ter Anne in the same book.

When I decided to become an active member of the church, I realized that this small book had been the cause. It was my foundation. The book provoked a revolution within me. Relating to my father's wife was difficult for me but because I was compelled to ask more questions, I could not leave their home without the answers. Even though I now have memories of all the efforts my father and stepmother made to show their love for me, I did not understand them at all at that time. I just could not adapt to the many things that were new.

I held bad feelings and sometimes felt a lack of love. I wasn't yet able to understand that my life course had started. I passed through many health ordeals and many spiritual attacks while I lived with my father. When I finally understood these things clearly, I felt so grateful to Bill Forcha for publishing a book that had passed a message so deep into my soul....

I moved from one town to another and traveled out of my native Cameroon on various occasions. Once, I had finished a fund raising program in Nigeria, and I was offered a job in the capital, Abuja. A few weeks later, I had a strange dream. I felt such a strange sensation that day. My brain was signaling that

this job wasn't what God wanted me to do. Instinctively, I wrote to Rev. Forcha and included my phone numbers. He called me and told me he had a video project he wanted me to manage. I did not promise him I would come, but while at a workshop in Benin during one of Dae-mo nim's visits, I decided to visit Ghana. We didn't do the video project but instead launched a health-related product. We also gradually succeeded in starting one of the most successful bottled water companies in Ghana. Not long after that, Ghanaian Unification Church members elected me national leader.

Rev. Forcha has been and will continue to be a spiritual inspiration to many of us. Many have testified that they have never seen anyone who loves praying as much as Bill Forcha does. I have lived with him for some time, and I can testify that he is a prayer warrior. His books keep on inspiring many young people all around Africa.

Today, his new book, *Warning to Christians and Prophets of the Last Days* is touching the lives of many, especially in Ghana. Though it might take some time to turn Ghanaians around to True Parents, the hope of having a Cheon Il Guk nation by 2013 is very alive within us in the Ghana family. **TW**



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