

True Peace

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The Course True Parents Blazed

By Thomas Walsh




Heaven's eternal aspiration has been to establish a unified nation of true peace, Cheon Il Guk. This same aspiration drives Vision 2020, centering on our True Mother's leadership. UPF, from its beginning has always had this goal in mind, that True Parents and their worldwide family have their nation. At the outset of their ministry, True Parents were called to take on an enemy with tens of thousands of manifestations, each uniquely masked, and each attacking simultaneously; a world bent on disorder and deception. Fundamental principles are rejected: subject-object relations and give and take action; masculine and feminine complementarity are cast aside by many, in favor of individualism; dialectical, oppositional dynamics; even the rejection of gender differentiation and complementarity, the pillar of family ontology.

As the underpinnings are dismantled, individuals, families, societies and nations lose their bearings. Mental disorders proliferate. Families, to have been the crown of God's creation, are redefined in progressively dysfunctional ways, and fall apart, becoming factories of disordered sons and daughters. True Parents identified the errors, the evils, of dialectical materialism, and its historical manifestations in totalitarian states committed to dialectical expansion. CAUSA was launched. PWPA convened the 1985 conference that announced the pending collapse of the Soviet empire. Systematically they framed the counterproposal, dismantled the infrastructure, and at the same time, made their plans to meet and embrace Mikhail Gorbachev and Kim Il Sung. They understood the challenge that an errant Islam would present to the world were it to be dominated by extremists and fail to embrace dialogue, modernization and interfaith cooperation. Desperate, heartfelt relationships with Muslim leaders—from Syria, from Yemen, from Egypt, from Jordan, the entire Middle East, and all across Africa and Asia, were formed, intensive dialogues undertaken, educational programs sponsored, and summits for peace convened.

In 2000, True Parents called upon the UN to develop a special interreligious council, so that religious leaders could deliberate along with the member states to solve our world's critical global problems. After bringing an end to the cold war era, they visited Moscow and Pyongyang, and invested everything they had to try to open the gate to peace. They knew what would happen if either country failed to embrace the way of peace that True Parents offered. True Parents knew that what the atom is to all things, the family is to all of human society. If the family breaks down, so too will the political, economic, cultural and civic institutions. Moreover, true peace among various ethnic, racial, national, and religious subcultures would ultimately require intermarriage, producing children who were beyond the divisions of history. Disorder seems to reign in our world as we approach Foundation Day 2016, but that is not the final outcome. The underlying trend is toward peace, led by True Parents, led by our Heavenly Parent, stimulating the original minds of even the most wayward and lost sons and daughters. The conscience of Heavenly Parent's sons and daughters, trampled upon for millennia and facing the death of a thousand cuts, remains indestructible, even when wounded and broken.

Let us rise up, centered on our True Parents, as Cheon Il Guk, as Family Federation, and with UPF as an "Abel UN", forming an unbreakable phalanx of spiritual power. From this base of unity and resolve, let true love spread like an epidemic of goodness throughout our families, our villages, our cities, our businesses and associations, our political institutions, our nations, our faith-based organizations, healing the divisions, healing the planet, healing the heart of Heaven itself.

As we go forward proudly and wisely, fully engaged and active in the world, in our missions, in our professional lives, in our communities and neighborhoods, networking with others, let us form alliances, develop partnerships and in this way become an integral part of our local, national and global society. Not in order to be transformed by the world, but to transform that world. There are millions and billions of brothers and sisters who are receiving insight and awareness and who can embrace our message, and our service with hospitality and gratitude. The moral, social, political and economic disorder that plagues our world is tragic, and yet, at the same time, there are unprecedented opportunities. The Last Days are not days of fire and judgment only, but days of the unfolding of the three great blessings, an unfolding that is unstoppable, irreversible, and at hand. Happy birthday True Father, happy birthday True Mother; long live True Parents! 

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The Foundation of the Future World

True Father gave this speech on February 1, 1990 at the Olympic Fencing Gymnasium, Seoul, to an audience of conference attendees from around the globe. He focused much of the speech on the significance of his birth.

Many distinguished speakers have praised my work generously. Today's occasion would have little significance, however, if its sole purpose were to applaud my accomplishments. The degree to which my work up to now provides a reason to have hope in the future, the degree to which my work can brighten the future of humankind, and the degree to which it relates to the providence of God, who governs the entire cosmos, ought to determine the substance of our celebration.

Throughout my life, I have been running at full speed to pioneer a course never before traveled by anyone. That, on an external level, I have been continuously buffeted by opposition arising from a lack of understanding is already widely known. Within the realm of my heart, however, I have been in a constant state of tension, fighting every minute, every second, to stay focused on how I can accomplish God's desires during my lifetime. My life so intertwines with God that I can never speak of it without reference to him. Because my life connects directly to the fate of the nation and the world, I have shared every aspect of it in a deep interactive relationship with God. Recalling how I shared with him my deepest sorrow, my greatest pain, and my most exalted joy, I offer my deepest gratitude to God, with a heart that I cannot be fully shared with anyone else.

That the foundation I have laid around the world is an astonishing accomplishment is true, but I take less pride in this foundation's external aspects than in the fact that I established no part of it centered on myself. I geared each part more to the future than the present, more to the benefit of the whole than to that of the individual, and more to the larger purpose than to the narrower purpose.

The value of this foundation lies in the fact that God was its motivating force; I established it under God's protection and during the severest hardships and most turbulent vicissitudes.

A life dedicated to others

My seventy years have certainly not

been an easy course. I had no friends in the world and no mentors. I took this road alone and survived many treacherous moments. Repeatedly, I persevered even when death seemed certain. The only reason I did not lose courage under such circumstances was that I maintained deep heart-to-heart communication with God.

The conversations that took place in that profound realm are beyond anyone's knowledge. I can only say that God always softly whispered his advice to me and motivated my life. He did even more than that. He was life itself. He was the source of my life energy.

I never lent an ear to what others were saying about me. I never took my gaze off of God for even a second. I was never concerned about public opinion of me. I had no thoughts other than those of God's earnest desires. With every cell in my being in unity with God, I lived with an almost fanatic determination to bring his ideal of creation into reality.

What do you suppose God's earnest desire is that I have dedicated my life to fulfill? If not for the Fall, God would have been the invisible Heavenly True Parent with all people as his children. Each person would have become a true life form, receiving love and a lineage of goodness from God, the parent possessing vertical true love, and Adam and Eve, the parents of horizontal true love. Also, by practicing true love, people would have been able to transmit the seed of life to their descendants.

The Fall occurred when the first human ancestors were unable to fulfill horizontal true love under the auspices of God's vertical true love, allowing instead an invasion by the archangel, which led them to false horizontal love. Consequently, God lost the children He loved, and people were placed in a position where they had no alternative except to be born into the world as dysfunctional life forms, embodying a contradiction between their minds and bodies. Satan has used the condition of horizontal love as a curse to unjustly control people on all levels, from the individual to the world. God, on the other hand, in an

effort to return all people to their original state, has been carrying out His salvation providence. In accordance with the Principle, He has been working toward the natural subjugation of Satan, and He has been working through the Messiah to engraft humankind into his lineage.

I know that God has been investing Himself fully into the providence of restoration, which is actually a course of re-creation. In doing so, He has been totally investing His true love, just as much as when He sacrificially engaged in the original act of creation. I have therefore followed His Will and have offered my entire life to putting into practice these basic principles of true love and living for the sake of others. I have led my life thoroughly in service to others within God's will, investing myself fully and continuously. The foundation I have now achieved is a result of these efforts.

Advances in modern technology have already led to tremendous changes on the planet Earth and are likely to bring about even greater changes in the future. As a result of these advances, we are faced with an acute emergency that requires us to pool our wisdom to find solutions. Contemporary civilization now stands at a major turning point.

To deal with this situation, we first need to transcend national, racial and religious boundaries, so that we can make cooperative efforts on a global scale. This is necessary because today's problems, such as environmental pollution and overpopulation, are global in scale.

Finally, today's social ills, particularly the deterioration of ethical and moral standards and the deterioration of our humanity, including threats of racial and religious wars, all have their roots in human nature. Thus, solutions to these problems need to be approached from the perspective of bringing about a revolution of human consciousness and of renewing human nature. It is not a matter of simply making changes in social institutions and structures. ㄸ

*This was excerpted from **Pyeong Hwa Gyeong** book 2, speech 2; it was edited for inclusion in **TPmagazine**.*

THE FORTH-NINTH PARENT'S DAY CELE



TRUE HEAVENLY BRATION

Please stay healthy in this new year of the red monkey and do your best to fulfill your dream, Heavenly Parent's dream, the dream of the True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind.

How can we describe monkeys? They can climb high up into the trees. Thus, they can see farther than human beings can, who live on the ground. I know many people born under the monkey zodiac sign. You must fulfill your responsibility. You have the talent to see far, to the horizon.

Thus, for you to guide all people on earth, the 7.3 billion people, to True Parents' bosom, each of you should exhibit that skill and talent 100 percent, 120 percent.

During this best year, please become proud citizens of Cheon Il Guk who can confidently reveal this [Cheon Il Guk] nation as Heavenly Parent's homeland in front of the world.

By doing that, wouldn't all the people of the world, form endless lines on all five continents and the six oceans to see True Parents alive here on earth? 🌸

The Forth-Ninth True Heavenly Parent's Day Celebration





- ① A family photograph to mark the beginning of 2016.
- ② Throughout Korea, children bow to their parents and grandparents to begin the new year. Some of True Parents' many grandchildren bow to True Mother.
- ③ Cash in an envelope is the traditional response to the bow by the children. It's a way of wishing them a happy and healthy year.
- ④ After visiting True Father's grave, True Mother, True Family members and senior leaders share breakfast.
- ⑤ True Mother asked that this year be one where proud citizens of Cheon Il Guk introduce the nation as Heavenly Parent's homeland to the world.
- ⑥ The celebration cake
- ⑦ Toasting the new year
- ⑧ Dressed in new year attire, Apple Heaven perform

True Parents' Birthday





- ① True Mother, the feminine aspect of the True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind, on the sixth day of the first month on the heavenly calendar, True Parents' joint birthday.
- ② Jose De Venecia, a prominent figure in the Philippines, lauds True Parents' accomplishments from the stage as True Mother and the audience listens
- ③ The birthday cake
- ④ Kwon Jin nim and Hwa Yun nim present flowers to True Mother
- ⑤ Several regional presidents presenting a birthday gift to True Parents
- ⑥ Cho Sung Il, director-general of the FFWPU International Headquarters, was the master of ceremonies.
- ⑦ Jose De Venecia and Wonju McDevitt, the chief of staff of True Mother's Secretariat, who read an ode to True Mother composed by the late Yoo Kwang-yul
- ⑧ A musical depicting missionary efforts in then-communist Eastern Europe; this dangerous witnessing effort went under the code name Mission Butterfly.

A Reminder of What True Parents Love and How They Have Loved Others

Our international president gave this message on Thursday, February 11, to a group of hungry members at the opening of the flagship Heaven G Burger store. This was among the many events commemorating True Parents' joint birthday and the third anniversary of Foundation Day.



FFWPU International President Sun Jin Moon

It is my great pleasure to be here with you today for the opening of Heaven G Burger restaurant. First of all, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to our True Parents, for their amazing true love, care, and grace. I want to especially acknowledge our True Mother for her leadership and guidance, and for initiating and completing this Heaven G Burger project.

Some may ask, Why hamburgers?

When True Parents embarked on their first trip to the USA in 1960's, there was one food in particular that they fell in love with: hamburgers, from the USA.

True Father, in his autobiography, in the chapter entitled "Everything We Have is Borrowed from Heaven," said the following:

The meal I enjoy the most in America is McDonald's. Some people call it junk food and don't eat it, but I like eating at McDonald's for two reasons. It's cheap and it saves time.... The message I give members every year is spend money carefully and conserve on everything.... I want them to have the consciousness of conserving in order to help the country and save humanity. —As a Peace-Loving Global Citizen, p. 333

Combining delicious and hearty beef, nutritious vegetables, and delicious bread, the hamburger is an entire meal packed into a simple,



True Mother with Sun Jin nim, In Sup nim, Yeon Ah nim, Hwa Yun nim and others in front of the flagship Heaven G Burger store; Below: True Mother wrote, "May this place be a garden for happy meetings that unite people."

easy-to-eat package.

For True Father, who was always on the go, the hamburger was the perfect five-minute meal. It could be consumed in the car as they traveled from city to city. It could also be consumed anywhere, or at any time, requiring no plate or utensils, just a napkin.

It was also his favorite meal to serve to leaders in the USA during their meetings.

True Mother has fond memories of those times. So, with the Heaven G Burger, True Mother is sharing some very heartfelt memories from the early days of our movement, especially pioneering days in America.

True Father writes about the "incomparable inner beauty of True Mother's heart" in his autobiography. He writes,

My wife has such a tremendous heart of love and care that she even gave a special ring I bought her to someone in need. When she sees someone in need of clothes, she

buys them clothes or gives them some of ours. When she comes across someone hungry, she buys the person a meal.—As a Peace-Loving Global Citizen, p. 197

Father writes about his own family home in his chapter "Food Is Love," where it states:

I too have spent my life feeding people. To me giving people food is the most precious work...I gave them food, and they shared their love with me. The deep friendship and warmth they showed me back then continued to be a source of strength for me today. As I go around the world and witness children suffering from hunger. I am always reminded of how my grandfather never missed a chance to share food with others.—As a Peace-Loving Global Citizen, p. 10-11

With this same sincerity, love and nurturing heart, True Mother has

guided the entire process from choosing the special (secret) recipe, to giving it the name Heaven G Burger.


At this critical time, with just four years to go until Vision 2020, True Mother has given us this Heaven G Burger. At the time of the Celebration Luncheon, True Mother said that Heaven G Burger was for families working hard for the sake of the accomplishment of their Tribal Messiah responsibilities.

As we enjoy this nourishing food that strengthens our bodies, we can experience the deep parental love of our True Parents.

Let us inherit this same heart of our True Parents, so that we share not only physical food but also true spiritual food with all the people of the world!

Starting with True Parents' birthday celebration tomorrow, and until the Foundation Day Celebration, tens of thousands of members will come from around the world to this holy place of Cheongpyeong.

I hope all members will have a chance to receive True Father's and True Mother's love through a Heaven G Burger and feel the unconditional love, nourishing care, infinite hope, and glorious strength to bring the world's children back to our Heavenly Parent and True Parents.

Thank you all. May Heavenly Parent and True Parents always bless you and your precious families! Bon santé et bon appetite! To your health and happy appetite! Aju! 





ON THE BIRTHS OF MY THE TRUE PARENTS OF EARTH AND HUMANKIND

Sun Jin Moon, the FFWPU international president, gave this address on February 13 at the Cheongshim Peace World Center, where thousands that included parliamentarians from more than fifty nations—a hundred and fifty in number.



PARENTS, HEAVEN, AND

Peace World Center to an audience of tens of

It is my special privilege and honor to share a few words with you today on this special occasion.

Today, in the presence of True Mother, we honor and celebrate the birthdays of both my father and my mother. True Father would be ninety-six today, and True Mother is a very young seventy-three. On this glorious day we celebrate their amazing life, legacy, and true lineage; the starting point of true peace, true love and the restoration of all humankind; we celebrate the birth of our True Parents.

True Father's course

True Father was born in 1920 in Jeongju township, in present-day North Korea, during the Japanese occupation. He lived almost a century, witnessing a world in a constant state of conflict, from the Korean War, the two world wars, the Vietnam War, the Middle East conflict, terrorism, 9/11, and every manner of global crisis in between—a steady stream of turmoil, suffering and confusion.

Despite his war-torn childhood, imprisonment and religious persecution, he overcame every temptation to become bitter, cynical or resentful. Rather, he committed himself gratefully to God's providence, and began to teach and travel the world, bringing to light the principles of peace, true love, forgiving one's enemy, and living for the sake of others.

The first line of his autobiography tells of the stoic vision of peace he embraced even as a child. He writes,

I have lived my life with just one thought. I wanted to bring about a world where there are no wars and where human kind lives in love. Perhaps some may say "how is it possible that you were thinking about peace when you were just a child." Is it so astonishing that a child would dream of a peaceful world?" ...Perhaps for people who experience these horrors of bloodied bodies and broken bones, peace has been something that could be imagined only in a dream. Peace, though, is not so difficult to accomplish. To begin with we can find peace in the air we breathe, in the natural environment, and in the people around us." —AAPLGC p. 2



天地人父母님 聖誕 記念

Sun Jin Moon, speaking to an international audience, helped bring audience members a sense of her parents' respective providential missions as the loving True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind.

to go back to the pure hearts that we had as children. To shed our desire to possess ever-increasing amounts of material wealth and restore our beautiful essence as human beings, we need to go back to the principles of peace and breath of love that we learn as we were being carried on our father's backs. —As a Peace-Loving Global Citizen p. 7

The above passage is from the very first chapter of True Father's autobiography, a section entitled, "What I learned about peace while being carried on my Father's Back."

In this section, he tells the story of when he was a young boy and would go off to play in the forest and hills, and, of being so completely immersed in nature that night would fall and he would fall asleep in the woods.

He writes,

My father would be forced to come find me. When I heard my father shouting in the distance, Yong Myung! Yong Myung! I couldn't help but smile, even as I slept. My name as a child was Yong Myung. The sound of his voice would awaken me, but I would pretend to be asleep. He would hoist me onto his back and carry me home. That feeling I had as he carried me down the hill- feeling completely secure and able to let my heart be completely at ease- that was peace. That is how I first learned about peace, while being carried on my father's back.

That peace was true parental love. This unconditional and eternal love of a parent causes him to call out and stumble through the dark to find his children and carry them home! Throughout history, such love is the love of God, our Heavenly Parent.

This same love, True Father and True Mother have given to blessed family members worldwide; this selfless, sleepless, caring love, carrying us all home to Cheon Il Guk on their backs, as God's children, in complete peace and security. This is True love. These are our True Parents. This is the truth of our Heavenly Parent.

Being given this gift of love we

Please take this moment to meet all the peace-loving global citizens around you! True Father's dream of peace lives in each of you! During the nearly 80 years of his public ministry, he gathered and witnessed to millions of people from around the globe, uplifting and inspiring them to an awareness of the higher purpose and consciousness of the universe and to an understanding of the true heart and nature of our Heavenly Parent.

He taught that we are all Heavenly Parent's children and that, at the root of all life, there is true love; as such, we must honor each life as sacred. He opened churches, schools, and businesses all to spread this message of peace and oneness with each other and all of creation.

He writes,

The truth of the universe is that we must acknowledge each other and help each other...The principle of the universe is for everyone to live

together, for the sake of one another. Anyone who deviates from this faces certain ruin. If nationalities and religions continue to attack each other maliciously, humanity has no future. There will be an endless cycle of terror and warfare until one day we become extinct. But we are not without hope. There is clearly hope. I have lived my life without ever letting go of that hope and always kept alive the dream of peace. What I want is to wipe away completely the walls and fences that divide the world in myriad ways and to create a world of unity. I want to tear down the walls between religions and races and fill in the gap between the rich and the poor. Once that is done, we can re-establish the world of peace that God created in the beginning. I am taking about a world where no one goes hungry and no one sheds tears. To heal a world where there is no hope and which is lacking in love, we need



A view of the stage as President Moon addresses the standing-room-only crowd.

need to make this dream of peace, which True Father had as a child, a living reality. Let us be like children again, sons and daughters who live to spread true love and carry on our backs all the other children of the world. We must all open our hearts and experience the eternal peace of being lovingly carried on our Heavenly Parent's back. We must pass down this precious lineage and tradition to future generations. Thank you True Father! We wish you the happiest ninety-sixth birthday! Aju!

True Mother's course

True Mother was born in 1943 in Anju Township in present-day North Korea. She was only eight years old when the Korean war broke out.

As a young child, she witnessed gruesome death and incomprehensible destruction of her homeland and its people. Under harrowing circumstances, she fled for her life with her grandmother and her mother and was miraculously reunited with her uncle, who was stationed in an army base in Daegu South Korea. Despite all the horrors she encountered in her early years True Mother was the embodiment of peace and unscathed purity, piety, and goodness.

In 1960, she was engaged and blessed to True Father, on April 11. From that day, she has walked the hilly parental path with our True

Father; together they carry the world's children on their backs and bring them in peace and love back home.

In his autobiography, True Father writes

My wife's dream is to see all women raised as true daughters with filial hearts who can create peace at home, in our communities, in our nations, and in the world. The woman's movement being carried out by my wife serves the goal of true families, which are the root of peace in all areas of life. —As a Peace-Loving Global Citizen p. 199

Though out history, women have been persecuted, but I predict this will change. The coming world will be one of reconciliation and peace based on women's maternal character, love and sociability. This time is coming when the power of women will save the world. —As a Peace-Loving Global Citizen p. 198

Mother had to become a true mother, a true wife and a true daughter. To complete even one of these three missions is difficult, but mother has completed them all. Also, she had to be a mother by giving birth to (14) sons and daughters. —Cheon Seong Gyeong, p. 158)

To this day no one has known Mother. I invested myself in her through three stages, formation, growth, and completion. Because it is time to seek sons and daughters in the perfected world devoid of the Fall, you can proclaim clearly that the True Father is Sun Myung Moon and the True Mother is Hak Ja Han. —Cheon Seong Gyeong, p. 159

They are our True Parents, and on this day, we sincerely offer them both our eternal gratitude and love, for carrying us all and teaching us what it means to have true love and world peace. I pray that all of you can learn more deeply about them, and study True Parents' lives and their great works; for, in these few passages, I have only read the tip of the iceberg, so to say, of their long history of living for the sake of others.

My hope and my prayer is that we can all take their love and wisdom and pay it forward to future generations and to all people of the world who have yet to have felt the true parental love of being carried home safely, securely, and peacefully with true love on Heaven Parent's and True Parents' backs.

Once again, thank you. May Heaven's blessing pour forth upon each one of you, your families and your nations.

Happy True Parents' birthday! 🎂

Aspiring to a Noble Life

This is the first of a two-part interview of Aeryun Lee Hokanson (이애련), which her daughter Amanda conducted.



- ① A fellow student introduced Mrs. Hokanson (top row, second from the left) to our church in 1971
- ② Without any previous dance experience, she was among the 8 percent of accepted applicants.
- ③ Mrs. Hokanson is in the bottom row, second from the right.
- ④ Drums are a prominent instrument in Korean folk music.
- ⑤ Dancing at True Parents' residence in Korea
- ⑥ Preparing to play a gayageum

Q How did you join the church?

A In high school in Gangreung, my friends and I would pass by a church. People would always say, "That's a bad church, a weird church, a crying church." Because in the early days when members learned the Divine Principle, all they could do was cry. At the time, I did not know that it was the Unification Church, but when my classmate, who turned out to be a Unificationist, invited me to go to a three-day introductory Divine Principle workshop, it was at that "crying church." So when the youth leader came out greeting us and invited me to go in, I was reluctant. But he was kind and persuaded me, and once I heard the Divine Principle that was the end of it.

Before I joined the church, I used to go to a Christian church with my mother. Whenever I looked at the cross in the sanctuary or at a picture of Jesus on the cross, I had a big question mark in my mind. Christians believe we receive salvation through the cross, but I always felt there was more than just the cross.

When I was young, because of my father's job, we had to move a lot. During the 1960s and 70s, Christianity was reviving strongly in Korea. Wherever we moved, the church in each town was a different denomination. One time it was a Presbyterian, another time Methodist or Catholic. Even within those churches were other denominations;

people would just go to the closest church regardless of the type. We also just went to the closest church. As I was growing up, I would go around to different churches. I became interested in all the differences. I began seeking out new denominations to see how they differed. Yet, I still always had that question mark next to the cross. When I finally came to the Unification Church I stopped. I wasn't interested in going to other churches anymore.

When I heard the Divine Principle, it answered all those questions. I joined not after hearing the mission of the messiah lecture but after hearing the introduction at the beginning of the book. It talked about the necessity of the new truth, about the purpose of creation, the Fall, and restoration—those three parts. I was so impressed by the introduction lecture that I still remember it.

That was 1971. It gave me a light in my struggle. I was a teenager at the time and I was feeling some despair. When I read the word (from the Bible) my original heart was saying that this was not the word that was meant to be. I was thinking that there was no real meaning for my life. There were many contradictions. I was losing hope for my life at that time. Thus, when I heard the Divine Principle it was like a great light. That is why I believe my ancestors guided me. It was not just me;



my ancestors guided me to hear the Divine Principle and to meet the church.

You were a Hanseon Korean Folk Ballet performer (1975–1976).

In 1974, True Father did a Day of Hope eight-city speaking tour in America. By that time, I had graduated high school. True Father had the New Hope singers and the Hanseon Korean Folk Ballet (founded in 1973 and mostly made up of former Little Angel members). Before that time, I had never had any dance training nor was I from the Little Angels like most other performers.

The first troupe performed during the eight-city tour. After that, eight of its members left the team. Amazingly, out of the original one hundred applicants, I was among the new eight to join the second Hanseon troupe. We went to Japan on tour and performed at the Yankee Stadium rally in 1976.

Once again, I feel it was my ancestors. My ancestors are of the Yi Dynasty [also known as the Joseon Dynasty 1392–1897]. Yi Seong Gye [King Taejo] was the first king and founder of the Yi Dynasty. Right after I joined the church, I had the opportunity to visit a grave in Gangreung. I learned that it was a sanggung's [court lady's] grave. In those days when a queen died, the sanggung would no longer have a purpose and would thus follow the queen into the tomb.

I remember feeling she was one of my ancestors. I also had the heart that if I had lived three or four



hundred years ago, I would have wanted to become a person just like that... more amazing than a queen. Most girls wish they could be a queen. But to me, the life of the queen's servant was nobler. Therefore, I feel as if due to the heart I had, Heavenly Parent remembered me and guided me to attend True Parents. Because of that I was able to be in the Hanseon Korean Folk Ballet, because of that I was matched to my husband, I could go to Kodiak, Alaska and I could attend True Parents directly and personally for eighteen years. (1985–2003)

After folk ballet what did you do?

I was working in Korea when I was engaged by photo in 1978. In 1979, I joined the International One World Crusade. True Father said that those matched to an American husband should go to a mobile fund-raising team (MFT) because according to him fundraising was the fastest way to learn English. That was true and that's how I learned English.

But you were in New York before you got blessed.

Yes. It was the first time for Korean and American couples to be blessed. In the 1970s, getting a visa to go to America was very hard. To everybody, America was like the kingdom of



heaven, so [the government thought] nobody would return. Nobody in the church could get a visa because most members did not have a regular job. I was one of the first members to get a visa. Thus, I had to meet True Father personally at East Garden to receive his direction on where to go, my mission. Can you believe that? Can you imagine? It was a terrifying experience.

He told me I should go to MFT, but back then I was brave enough to talk to him and show off. Because you need to show off. "Father, if I could go to CARP, I could go fundraising and witnessing too." Then True Father said, "Okay!" He listened to me and said okay!

Then one night in Belvedere, Mrs. Lee came to me. Mrs. Lee worked at Jacob house, where the wives would leave their children when they were working for the church. They needed a caregiver and I showed her my records showing I had been a pre-school teacher at the church. Well, her radar went up. She talked to True Father and said, "I want to take her to the Jacob house," and True Father said, "Okay!"

I wanted to go to CARP, but I was intercepted. Then, at East Garden, two Japanese wives got pregnant, so they needed somebody. I was the only person who could speak Korean, so I was sent in their place. Then in the summertime, the entire staff moved to Gloucester, near Boston, for the fishing tournaments. By that time, all the Korean wives, about fifty of them, had arrived in America and gathered there.



True Mother wanted to select someone to take care of Hyung Jin nim. Based on a Divine Principle test they would choose the carer. I am usually one of the best at taking tests. On quizzes or tests at school or church, I would win. But I had a spiritual experience of a big force that blocked me. I could not study, I could not concentrate, I could not listen to the lectures—nothing. I was not meant to be chosen. True Mother selected a person from the group, and the rest of the Korean wives were sent to Chicago for fund raising.

Please tell us about attending True Parents in Kodiak.

When I was attending True Parents, I was mainly cooking, which I had not even had any experience in or knowledge of. I still sometimes feel very sorry. But because I did my best there were moments that True Parents were very happy with my food and True

- ① She was blessed to Allan Hokanson, True Father's boat captain
- ② The couple lives today in Korea
- ③ She spent some years working at East Garden; here, she is with True Mother's mother
- ④ Performing in Korea on the 19th Children's Day
- ⑤ The folk ballet performed on June 1, 1976 at Yankee Stadium, where Father spoke on "God's Hope for America."


Father said, "You did well."

In 1985, True Father was released from Danbury prison and he came to Kodiak. I had moved to Kodiak to join my husband with our first daughter earlier that same year.

As the only Korean in Kodiak, I not only had to cook for True Parents, the True Children and guests, I had to coordinate all of North Garden. True Parents would come three to four times a year bringing people from all over the world, sometimes up to three hundred members for fishing tournaments and workshops. At the time, Hyun Jin nim, Kook Jin nim, Sun Jin nim, Yeong Jin nim, Jeong Jin nim, all the

True Children and grandchildren would also come.

I was still young spiritually. When attending True Parents, so physically close, you sometimes look at True Parents through humanistic eyes. For example, I would be in remote areas such as Karluk, Chignik, or King Salmon, living in the same small house and sharing the same bathroom as True Parents. You can't help looking at them as normal human beings who are simply fishing. You see them eating, you see them going to the bathroom. You look at them from your physical point of view and you lose sight of them.

Moreover, I had to leave all my children at other people's homes. That's the time I started to seriously read True Parents' words for the first time in order to understand True Parents directly from where they stand. That was the beginning of my study about True Parents and discovering their true value. 



How I Joined the Unification Movement

By A. B. T. Byaruhanga-Akiiki

By divine providence, I happen to be a professor of Comparative Religion and Culture. In this context, when on duty, in 1976, I received a visit of three young men, a William Connery (US), Ulf Ingwersen (Germany) and Hideaki Kamiyoshi (Japan). They expressed interest in educational issues, and Hideaki registered as an occasional student in Religious Studies and Philosophy.

It was only in 1979, after Idi Amin's departure, that the three young men approached some ten university professors at Makerere University and introduced us to the Professors World Peace Academy (PWPA). We began to get literature from other PWPA chapters and were invited to different regional and international conferences. One of those was the International Conference for the Unity of the Sciences (ICUS). We were also introduced to another organization, the Assembly of World Religions. During the various international meetings, we were informed that the brain behind these and other organizations was none other than the Reverend Sun Myung Moon. In fact, he made a point to attend and greet members at the opening and closing sessions of these meetings. I remember meeting him thus over twenty times!

At one of the ICUS meetings in the 1980s, in Seoul, we were among seven hundred participants. Father Moon explained about the principle of Creation, the Fall and the Providence of Restoration. He explained about the chance given, to anyone who believes, to be restored through the blessing to the state of Adam and Eve before the Fall. He asked how many

wanted the blessing. Almost all participants from whatever background raised their hands (me included) and expressed their desire for the blessing.


It is in that context that later I was blessed with my Japanese wife, Tshucida Kazuko at the 360,000 group in August 1995. Papa and Mama Moon are our beloved True Parents. They, at times, appear to us in dreams! We know them physically and they are with us spiritually daily. They are our saviors and Lord of the Second Advent. They remain our best friends and confidants. They are also our media with God and our ancestors who passed on. Together with all of humanity, they teach us to always live in love, goodness, justice, happiness and peace.

We are trying to internalize many more of their teachings. First, we take note of the life of Papa Moon. We have come to know him as a peace-loving global citizen. We know the deep meaning of his names, that Sun, Myung and Moon mean "the bearer of light, life and truth." He is very strong with a great sense of justice and love for others. We are to emulate him!

We also note that he has been given a number of titles and attributes that define his nature and character or inner qualities. Some of these, include Jaja (grandfather, in Uganda), True Father, liberator of God's heart, king of kings, returning Christ, full inheritor of God's love, Master of Science, Father of four hundred clans, founder of the Unification Church, professor of Peace and Conflict Studies, the anointed Messiah (Mukombozi in Swahili, for savior), great teacher, wonderful leader, loving husband, friend of all, chairman of



PWPA, of ICUS, of the Ambassadors for Peace, and so on.

We take note of his own testimony concerning his unique spiritual experience and journey. It says, On Easter morning, April 17, 1935, while on a mountain praying for his people and his nation, he encountered Jesus in a vision who asked him to continue his life's work. Twice he refused but on the third request, he accepted the calling and promised God to do three things: To unite Christianity and all religions (human relationships and connections), to heal the divided human family and to comfort the grieving heart of God, who suffers from three big headaches (atheism, lack of cooperation among religious people against evil, and the moral crisis afflicting especially the youth). Rev. Moon's one thought in life to date has been to bring about world peace. His testimony ends with a quotation where he says, "God Himself told me that the most basic and central truth of this universe is that God is the Father and we are the children. We are all created as the children of God. So, God is the parent of us all in the cosmos!" Clearly, Rev. Moon is a profound thinker. We are meant to emulate him. So help us God! Glory be to our beloved True Parents! 

The author is a professor emeritus at Makerere University in Kampala, now part of Uganda Christian University.



Since our foreign missionaries came, the church has developed greatly. Here, East African Regional President Bakary Camara, a fellow African, visits Uganda.

Uganda's 1975 Missionaries

No one anticipated that Uganda's independence from Britain in 1962 would unleash forces that led to the bloody decades that followed. Like Ugandans today, we enjoy the benefits of a world with less friction and enmity than in past decades. True Parents brought together elements to create this current foundation through the 1,800-couple blessing and the dispatch of missionary trinities, who struggled for harmony among themselves even as they bumped up against the culture of their assigned nations. Later missionaries added to this foundation. As Father explained at Lancaster Gate, in London, on May 20, 1978:

Before I sent out all the missionaries, I blessed 1,800 couples....

Where did the number 18 come from? Eighteen is six times three. Six is Satan's number. The lost number, six, was taken away by Satan; restoring the number six in three different categories resulted in 1,800 couples, which includes all the satanic families. In other words, any kind of satanic family can come to God, can come to truth, can be saved. I laid railroad track in 1,800 directions so everybody finds a track, finds a direction. Any nation can find a direction to come to God and the True Parents. We are now moving on those rails.

The 1,800-Couple Blessing Ceremony took place in Seoul on February 8, 1975. Father announced, in Tokyo, four days later, that members of their

blessing group were to become foreign missionaries. William Connery, then barely twenty-six, remembers, "We had a special meeting on February 12: a list of ninety-five nations was read out. We were to pick out three. My choices were French Guyana, Rhodesia and Singapore."

William attended a workshop for missionary candidates at Barrytown, March 3–May 14, 1975. "During that period, Rev. Moon came to speak to us at least ten times. His advice was always strong and fatherly," he recalled. He described the workshop schedule as "strenuous." "My own greatest challenge started on April 5.... US church president Salonen took me aside to ask if I would be willing to go to Uganda. Without much hesitation, I said yes. Actually, I knew very little about Uganda but my



information soon grew.”

What had happened in Uganda that might have come to William’s attention? In April 1972, news emerged of the disappearance and murder of an American journalist and a university lecturer together in Uganda a year earlier. In August 1972, President Idi Amin (January 1971–April 1979) deported eighty thousand Indian merchants, many of whose families had lived in Uganda for three generations. The missionaries would witness first-hand the economic devastation that this mass deportation caused.

Undoubtedly, the people that suffered most under Idi Amin were Ugandans. Amin arranged the murders of many of Ugandans, the famous and the little known. He declared himself president for life in 1976. Amin developed a reputation for being volatile, erratic, tempestuous—“the wild man of Africa.” All over the globe, this leader of that relatively small country was making headlines.

The Washington Post reported that in a radio broadcast, Amin had said,

“he would not stand for any ‘dirty tricks.’ He said he was shocked to learn that twenty-two minor religious sects had infiltrated Uganda from the U.S. in the past two years.” Certainly, that was not a report to calm the heart of our young missionary, who had said “yes,” to Uganda.

How did William respond to what he learned? “I gave my fate to God,” he said, “praying in my mind: ‘Well, if You want to get rid of me, this is Your chance. Anyway, I will go because someone must bring Your New Word to the Ugandan people and it is better for me to die than for some worthier brother or sister to go and die.’” He flew to Uganda in mid-May 1975. That first step caused apprehension. Of the flight to Entebbe Airport, he recalled, “My stomach was turning over like a person awaiting execution.”

One of his fellow missionaries would later testify to the strong conditions William Connery set while in Uganda. “Rev. Moon told us to make special conditions for our nations,” William wrote, “My first started as soon as I left the plane—I began a seven-day food fast. I felt that God was protecting me from the very beginning.”


By chance, he met the Germany missionary, Ulf Ingwersen, soon after his arrival. The last of their trinity, Hideaki Kamiyoshi, they would not find until late September. Mr. Connery’s testimony describes their efforts to get work permits and employment, but it is not a dry account of young men job hunting. There’s palpable tension from opposing forces—their desire to make a mark on the country and the awareness that they must remain hidden from predators who could put an end to their mission, or their lives. “As our circle of friends grew,” he wrote, “more people told us stories of the beatings and killings that were taking place. Our hands were tied: if we did anything to help our friends, we could be easily kicked out of the country. Our only solace was the word of God we could teach people through the Divine Principle.”

William chronicles many instances of teaching people, beginning from his third day in the country. While teaching the Principle of Creation, quietly, one-on-one, in a small park, on July 27, 1975, an officer of the State

Research Bureau (SRB), Amin’s secret police, descended on him. Papers confiscated, address revealed, he headed quickly home once released; but like hounds on a scent, SRB officers rapidly were at the door. They arrested William, Ulf and Abdul, a Bangladeshi they rented a room from, and put them into the back seat of a car. The driver took them to a vacant building. He went in, came back and kept driving. “Next, we were driven to the three-story building, which had the external appearance of a motel, where they knew most of the SRB victims were beaten and eventually killed. Our driver again went in and again he came out after a few minutes and drove us away.” Even after darkness descended, the car continued to wander the city streets. They reasoned it was just an attempt to throw them off-kilter, an intimidation tactic. But how where they to know? Ugandans were not the only ones who had “disappeared.”

Eventually, they were taken to a small ground-floor room beneath SRB living quarters. There, officers interrogated them, hurled wild accusation at them but did not beat them. It was the uncertainty that must have worked on their hearts.

Many have speculated as to how many thousands the SRB killed. No figure has been offered for how few walked away. On Tuesday afternoon, the three men were taken to meet the Permanent Secretary for Education, who may have intervened because Abdul was a college lecturer. They had been released, physically unscathed.

William’s daily life, as revealed in his testimony, continued thereafter in a focused, determined manner as he spread Heaven’s “New Word” up until the day in 1978 that he was called to attend the seminary. The other two missionaries continued in his absence. We have no way of measuring to what degree the effort of these pioneers contributed to freeing the world. What we have is Father’s word that they were part of a railroad track to freedom, hope and the original world, which he laid “in 1,800 directions.” 

This was excerpted from an article that originally appeared in the October 2007 issue of Today’s World.



Dealing with the Heart of a Youthful Nation

An interview of Reverend Suuna James Kiggala, head of Youth Federation for World Peace-Uganda, on Uganda's Pure Love Club project.

Q Please give a brief introduction of yourself and your tasks.

A I am Ssuuna James Kiggala. I am thirty years old and was Blessed and married in 2009 with my beautiful wife Aime Mashihhi from Democratic Republic of Congo. We are blessed with a four-year-old son. I became the president of Youth Federation for World Peace (YFWP) in 2012. My main task is to revive the organization here that had been inactive for a long period of time.

What is Youth Federation for World Peace? (Please expand on how it was founded and its main purpose.)

YFWP-Uganda is an organization for young people that promotes True Parents' mission of bringing the youth together in order to restore them back to Heavenly Parent. Our motto is "Living for the Sake of Others."

It officially started in Uganda by our elder members but due to different problems, its activities collapsed. However, we decided to lift it up once again and this called for a tremendous

dous investment of effort.

Having discovered that Uganda's population is mainly dominated by youth—over 65 percent—it motivated us to rejuvenate the Youth Federation for World Peace. We started by inviting young people from local communities to attend youth seminars at the Peace Embassy in Kampala (the capital and largest city of Uganda). We also directly visited some communities and held workshops. However, our results were less than our expectations and we were unable to manage the big costs. From this background, we came up with the strategy of visiting schools.

The Pure Love Club seems to be the most active of your outreach programs. How did the idea of starting the Pure Love Club come about?

After realizing that many young people make their life decisions during high school, we decided to find them in their schools. We were motivated by many reasons, among which was the fact that there

were many faith-based school clubs and the Unification Church had none. Secondly, we heard testimonies about many of our youth who had been converted to other faiths through these school clubs. Finally, we have superior teachings, the Divine Principle, above all other teachings in the schools. Hence, we saw that it was a good strategy to reach out to the youth before they enter university.

What are the main programs you do, especially the outreach programs within schools?

Our Pure Love Club activities include teaching character education to students in general. After which we establish a club with those who are interested to learn more about our message. From that group we tell them to elect their leaders whom we give club t-shirts to. We also continue to teach our club members about True Parents' message on abstinence, the many dangers regarding early sex and sex outside of marriage. We then teach them good leadership skills. We show



the young people how they can contribute to the society through spreading the pure love campaign.

We teach them the vision of living for the sake of others and the need to create a pure life based on the Principle.

What are the mission and vision of the Pure Love Club?

Our mission and vision is establishing pure young people who can make a positive contribution to the society. We also have a vision to create new leaders through the Pure Love Club who will inherit the vision of living for the sake of others and help make our church strong.

What has the response been like from students and teachers as well as from the local communities?

Many teachers have always been cooperative with us. At times some schools would allow us to conduct our program in their schools even if we did not have an appointment.

School directors have also been good in welcoming us. In the recently concluded Peace Road activities, we managed to have over fifteen Pure Love Club members and four teachers as club patrons.

What has your personal experience been like as you lead the Pure Love Club? (overall experience, personal growth, etc.)

As a Youth Federation president, it has not been easy to make people aware of the mission

and vision of YFWP-Uganda and the Pure Love Club. Leading church activities is a sacrifice, but this has helped me understand God's heart. We started the Pure Love Club with only our will. We didn't have any money, teaching materials—nothing. But we had determination, because True Father has said that where there is a will there is always a way, especially if it's God's will.

Fortunately, when we began we got a \$900 donation from one family in Croatia, the Dejan Perhat family. It helped us in meeting transportation costs, and in making club T-shirts for the whole year. We managed to visit over ten schools. We have launched the Pure Love Club in ten schools and we now have over three hundred members. It's not easy, but it is possible to restore humankind and that is our mission, and one which we can't run away from.

What do the future plans look like for this club?

We will be having a Pure Love Club Members' Annual Camp that will be a vibrant. Our mission is to bring all members together to share and get to know each other and make new year's plans. We held our first Pure Love Club Members' Annual Camp at the end of 2015 and it was a success. We thank Heavenly parent and True Parents for that.

Also we hope that by 2020, we will have produced many blessing candidates, we will have reached thousands of schools and a consistent

- ① Encouraging young members
- ② A donation paid for T-shirts for a year
- ③ Connecting to the community
- ④ A Unificationist faith-based school club

number of youth joining the church through the Pure Love Club.

Also, as we gain more ground, we will educate the parents of our members via the Family Federation and give them the marriage blessing. Plus we also hope to establish a good relationship with the society because of our virtues. On top of that, the teachers, patrons and directors of the schools shall be introduced to blessed life education and connect them to Heavenly Parent and True Parents.

Do you have any personal aspirations you would like to add?

I thank our Heavenly Parent and True Parents for giving us the blessing and giving the knowledge that has distinguished us from the fallen world. I also thank everyone who prays for our nation and activities in Uganda. Finally, I would have loved to see True Father physically before he went to the spirit world, but I couldn't. I shed tears for that (unfulfilled hope) when I got the news of True Father's departure to the spirit world. However, I was consoled when I met one of the True Children, Rev. Kwon Jin Moon in Kenya. It is still my deepest desire to see True Mother physically. It's still my dream and I hope Heaven shall answer my prayers. Glory to Heavenly Parent and True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind. Aju. 7



A Way Forward for My Generation

By Kuk Kang Gem Custodio



I am the oldest son of Raul and Daisy Custodio. My parents are both Filipino. They belong to the 1,275 couples. I was born in 1993. I have an older sister and a younger brother. Their names are Yea Mi Cristal Custodio and Hyo Gang Prince Custodio respectively. We live in the historic land of the Philippines.

You might say that life had quickly caught up to me and exposed the true nature of the modern world. College was not an exception. My Mother needed to go overseas to help my father cover our school expenses. Her leaving us was a major turning point, the lowest in my life, but it did not prevent me from grabbing opportunities God gave me. I joined several groups in college. Thanks to my proactive sister, I became part of our Marketing and Advertising Program Council. I was appointed one of the heads of the committee on our college council. Meanwhile, I joined our college dance group and eventually became its president. After that, I

joined a student political party and vied for a position on our college Student Council.

Since graduating, my sister and I have been advisors for that same party. Helping young people mature and nurturing young minds based on our principled background has been a blessing. If one ventures into politics, one will soon discover it is society's dirtiest sector. Nevertheless, because we believe that teaching young people the principled way of leading is imperative, we always include our principled tradition in the way we guide them despite the traditional course that politics tends to take.

I am working but I had to leave work to do a forty-day Cheongpyeong workshop in 2014. Thankfully, the top management was supportive. I work for an export company, where the employees are also members of our organization. I work as a marketing officer that directly reports to the general manager. I think that the forty-day workshop gave me so much blessing because after I came back, our sales started

① More than 50 percent of Filipinos are under 25 years old.

② "CARP is wonderful platform for blessed children to get to 'know' themselves and to bring out their potential."



to rise. We acquired new buyers whose demand for our products is stable.

I am also thankful for my colleagues, who inspired me in many ways. I am always learning from them by observing how they work. Therefore, I tried my best to learn as much as I could in Cheongpyeong. I met with inspiring and dynamic young people. There, the diversity of the participants' cultures and races can be overwhelming. This is living proof of True Parents' legacy.

After arriving at Cheongpyeong, my spirit calmed; I felt peace. Through the workshop, I started to understand better my original self. My connection to God became deeper and stronger. I cherished every moment, and I will not forget the people I met there.

Since I came back, my life started to change. I had gained a new perspective. I never expected that everything I had experienced until that moment had been a preparation for something higher and bigger. In October 2015, I volunteered to be a part of a five-day workshop for our younger blessed children, organized by Japanese sisters and supervised by our national headquarters. The objective of that workshop was for the true self of each participant to emerge. It was not a typical workshop, where you are refreshed or reminded of your identity and lineage. Rather it empowered the young people to

delve into their uniqueness, the talents God has given them—their backgrounds, blessings (everything around them) and to harness it all in pursuit of their dreams, while not neglecting to fulfill their responsibilities as God's child.

I have been appointed adviser of a CARP group pioneering in our region. Our chapter mainly has blessed children as its members. We are a core group from different universities, still in the stage of educating and training ourselves, preparing to build CARP one university at a time. CARP is a wonderful platform for blessed children to get to "know" themselves and to bring out their potential. For instance, high school and college cover the critical years of a blessed child's life, when the child can discover her potential and individuality. If one submits oneself to being honed into a leader in some field, one can flourish on the front line, using the skills acquired through honing to spread the Principle. I am thrilled to contribute the progress of a blessed child on her journey toward becoming a leader of this country.

In past years, I realized that the majority of the blessed children I know, including myself, has set our movement and everything related to it, in a different box than a career.

We treat the two as mutually exclusive. Perhaps, this is because we position the Divine Principle, the church and our careers differently in

our minds. I see this as a problem because it prevents us from enlarging our movement's network of capable young people. We are the fruit of True Parents' investment. We have the Principle, a foundation exists. Why have we been unable to offer a nation to God?

I believe those in our young generation are yet to recognize their true selves and because of that, are missing the opportunity to grow internally and externally. I admire members that are using their skills to create a principled community, by initiative, and by creating their own principled legacy. I suggest we expose ourselves to different sectors of our country. Let's involve ourselves in business, media, politics, government and thus solidify our organization, as True Father did. He created connections with key people in powerful nations by applying the Divine Principle and through oneness with God. We, too, can do this if we envision ourselves as leaders and movers through the principle. Through the principle, spirit, education, skills and experience, we can create an ideal world. If those in our young generation see themselves as leaders in their own fields, they can find followers and witness to those people indirectly about the principle. By doing this, we are not only laying a solid foundation but also progressing in transforming our communities, cities and the whole nation into God's dominion. 7



Forming Happy Families that Uplift Hong Kong

After observing Holy Blessing Ceremonies in Thailand, FFWPU Hong Kong was inspired to host its own. We firmly decided to hold a blessing event before Foundation Day 2016, as an offering to our Heavenly Parent and True Parents. We set January 17 as the date, and we began our efforts with internal preparation, through two forty-day conditions of reading blessing-related hoondokhae material. FFWPU Hong Kong echoed the Hong Kong Tourist Association's theme and vision of creating a "Happy Hong Kong" by initiating a "Happy Family" movement in the city.

Among other indexes, the UN's World Happiness Report—released since 2012 in conjunction with the UN International Day of Happiness—

shows that in recent years Hong Kongers rate themselves as increasingly less happy. High housing costs, high living costs, together with long working hours, put an enormous strain on individuals and even more so on families. Through community outreach, FFWPU called on couples

and families to stand up and put strong and loving families first, by dedicating their own family to this ideal.

Hong Kong members invited their neighbors and friends to participate in the Blessing Ceremony. Pastor Namhi Hwang and Eve Lau reached





out to community leaders and contacts of the Filial Piety Initiative, who strongly agreed with the need for such a movement and who were inspired by FFWPU's initiative.

Many community partners of FFWPU committed to join the event as guest speakers as well as participating couples to receive the blessing. Rev. Lee Mo-fan, director of the Lord Grace Home for the Aged, gave the Christian prayer blessing and brought twelve couples to participate. Mr. Chan Yung Wai from the Confucian Academy gave a Confucian blessing and participated in the blessing with his wife. A representative of Master Kwan Hsing from the Western Monastery chanted a passage from a Buddhist text to bless the participating couples. Dr. Li Siu Kei, chairperson of the Fuzi Association; Mrs. Lilian Lui, the executive director of the Hong Kong Association of Senior Citizens; and Dr. Amen Lee, founder of Happeace gave congratulatory remarks. Dr. Lee also presented a beautiful reflection journal of his own design to each participating couple, which couples will use during the

- ① A final photograph of the assembled guests, organizers and blessed couples
- ② Young or old, they are all now better equipped for the day they enter the eternal, spiritual world.
- ③ It was a day to reflect on the significance of traveling through life together as a couple.
- ④ The indemnity stick ceremony
- ⑤ Music created a paradisaical atmosphere for the newly blessed couples.

forty-day education program following the Blessing Ceremony.

Members brought their relatives and neighbors as well. Some couples began their married lives through the Blessing Ceremony, while many married couples renewed their vows. Twenty-five couples gathered to receive the blessing, as an audience of thirty-two—friends, family and guests—looked on.

We began the program with a video of our marriage blessing activities, followed by the graceful and heavenly music of the church choir led by Kaoru Obara. The audience then rose to welcome the officiators, Rev. and Mrs. Lee Ker Shung, the regional president of the Greater China Region, to the stage to conduct the Blessing Ceremony. Representa-

tive couples—a prominent societal figure, an elderly couple and soon-to-be newlyweds stood in front, while others gathered close behind to receive the one-heart holy tea and holy water blessing. The atmosphere was vibrant and joyful as couples hugged and held hands tightly. Various religious leaders then gave interfaith prayer blessings for the couples.

Mr. Peter Poon explained the significance of the forty-day separation leading to the three-day honeymoon period for couples to make a new start in their relationships. Those who committed to going through the forty-day program received the reflection journal to focus them on attitudes of gratitude during this time of self-purification and renewal. The attentive and supportive participants pledged to make a new start in their marriages. The event ended on a joyful note, with three cheers. Many guests and members expressed their happiness and gratitude with wishes that we could hold more Blessing Ceremonies in the near future. *FP*

FFWPU-Hong Kong contributed this article.

Forty Days of Inheritance of Forty Years of Providence in Africa

By Eliane Z. Dakpogan



- ① Members in Benin are immensely proud of their Peace Embassy.
- ② Inside the Peace Embassy, where the forty-day workshop took place
- ③ Forty-day workshop graduates showing off their diplomas
- ④ Sporting activities helped clear the mind for further studies.

2015 was filled with many significant commemorative anniversaries in the worldwide movement. In early 2015, True Mother acknowledged the forty years of missionary work by many elder members, including those who pioneered the providence in Africa. After being blessed by the third anniversary of True Father's seonghwa, it was time to inherit all these blessings through a special regional forty-day workshop. From November 8 to December 19, the Africa West Regional Headquarters gathered forty-three leaders and other members and held a commemorative workshop in the Peace Embassy in Cotonou, Benin.

It was the First Special Forty-Day Regional Leadership Seminar in the Era of Cheon Il Guk for Inheritance of True Parents' Victorious Course. How could the workshop participants truly inherit True Parents' victorious course? At the beginning, there were of course much hope and expectations from Dr. Dong Ho Cho, our regional president, as well as from the organizing committee and workshop participants.

At the time when communism

was spreading around the world, particularly in Africa, True Parents sent the first missionaries to this continent in 1975. Rev. Michel Futilla, former national leader of the Democratic Republic of Congo, now leader of the Central Africa sub-region gave some understanding to participants on the theory of Victory Over Communism (VOC) and how early members had to challenge and overcome materialism's attractiveness in their minds. Rev. Pierre Amoussouvi, Benin's first national leader, spoke about witnessing in the pioneer period, in the days when the country was under communist rule. As one of the first members in Benin and in Africa, he spoke about the sad circumstances the church was born into and explained how members could overcome outside persecution with the presence of God and also the heart to win over accusations and insults from inside.

Yesterday and today, True Parents' words remain the key to being victorious. Through the presentation on hoondok meditation by Rev. Paterné Zinsou, regional director of the Blessed Family Department and



- ⑤ Forty days were invested into passing on what leaders had learned in international workshops and into sowing seeds of a brighter future for our movement in West Africa.
- ⑥ The participants had come to inherit blessings and reconnect heart-to-heart with our Heavenly Parent.
- ⑦ Break time



coordinator of this regional workshop, participants could make a great discovery on how to develop one's spirituality, become closer to God and True Parents and increase their ability to receive clear directions from Heavenly Parent when solving any issue. Workshop participant Issa Traore from Burkina Faso testified, "During the Original Divine Principle session, how to resemble God was the key sentence that attracted my mind. After thirty-seven years in the church, how have I been able to resemble God? I realized that the Family Pledge was the central word that would enable us to re-create ourselves in order to resemble the Heavenly Parent. Thanks to hoondok meditation, we receive directed on how to develop communication with Heavenly Parent's heart, that original shimjung. It is through meditating on True Parents' words of life that we can better understand the Principle that they have discovered. I therefore resolved to make hoondokhae become very special occasions for meeting with Heavenly Parent. I am very grateful to Heavenly Parent and True Parents, who have made me realized that. In fact, before that workshop, I

was thinking that as I was quite an old member in the church, it was now time for me to look for external wealth before anything else. However, I have come to realized that I have been missing the point."

This commemorative regional workshop was to be recorded with substantial results as a means to express gratitude to True Parents and early missionaries for their great pioneer path in Africa. Therefore, in accordance with the objectives defined by the Regional President Cho to cover all nations of Africa West Region and to strengthen the existing basis in some nations, new missions were officially launched and will actually start in January 2016 in Mauritania, Gambia, Cape Verde and Guinea. Like the early missionaries who came forty years ago to Africa, a Burkinabe, Issa Traore; will go to Guinea-Conakry; Joseph Liba, also from Burkina Faso; will go to Cape Verde; Yovo Kokou from Togo will go to Gambia and Assane N'Diaye will go to Mauritania. They will start over or strengthen foundations that have already been laid in those African nations. They will in turn try to make history in also being victorious like

True Parents. With True Parents' precious words in hand and in heart, we are wishing them all the best in their new mission fields.

Inheriting True Parents' victorious course after forty years of the providence in Africa is ultimately being victorious as Heavenly Tribal Messiahs. Through the Book 9 of Cheon Seong Gyeong on "Home church and Tribal Messiah," the core of the current providence, which is the responsibility of blessed family for the Vision 2020 and Cheon IL Guk's establishment was clearly revealed throughout the workshop. Thus, all presentations focused on this key topic of the current providence. This workshop helped explore conditions, strategies and methodology for the success of Heavenly Tribal Messiah activities. Therefore, in the end, many participants decided to start their Tribal Messiahship activities in their respective countries by providing a script of their plans. We look forward to share their results and experience with our worldwide community. 

This article was based on information provided by the workshop coordinators, Rev. Paterne Zinsou and Rev. Eugene Ahondjo.





Barbara Grabner and her son Laurenc engaged in hoondokhae

Our Hoondokhae Home Academy

By Barbara Grabner

T rue Father asked us countless times to do hoondokhae with our children. As long as children are very young, they are more willing to do whatever their parents do. But how do we inspire older blessed children to attend hoondokhae joyfully? Here is the experience of our family living in Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia, a small nation located in Central Europe.

To qualify as true parents and true teachers we should develop a fine reading culture, a task many find difficult to fulfill but that is essential for the passing on of our faith. In our little family, the solution to this question came along with a task the children received during Sunday school—the teacher asked them to read the entire Bible, from the book of

Genesis to the book of Revelation. At that time Laurenc was just thirteen years old. To help him accomplish this “homework” assignment, we listened to his readings for almost nine months. Every evening our son read for twenty to thirty minutes, sometimes asking questions, which showed that he was trying to digest the difficult material. His questions also tested our competence to explain the Bible well. We all enjoyed that “Bible course” a lot.

Afterward, we read True Father’s autobiography; in addition to that came the series in Today’s World magazine, “Father’s Life in His Own Words,” which includes fascinating aspects which are only briefly mentioned or not included in the autobiography. In between, Laurenc read the whole Divine Principle book;

some chapters he read several times.

Please note that the reading was done exclusively by our son; his parents only listened with occasional remarks on some important points. Why? The person who reads has to focus on the text and cannot allow his mind to wander, which often happens if one just listens as someone else reads.

After reading the Peace Messages and some other speeches by True Father, we searched for additional literature which would deepen his understanding, captivate his interest and have educational value. During the last years, we read, “Jesus Christ: His Life and His Mission” by Rev. Moon as well as the HSAUWC chronicle “40 Years in America” and the exciting “Bodyguard for Christ,” which Laurenc’s friends also liked a


lot. Our reading list includes “True Family Values,” which explains the meaning of the Family Pledge profoundly, and the intellectually challenging book “The Virgin and the Priest” in their superb German translations, as well as other titles. Fascinating and instructive but not fare that appeals to everybody were the two volumes of “The History of Christianity” and some chapters of “Inquisition: The Persecution and Prosecution of the Reverend Sun Myung Moon” by the distinguished journalist Charlton Sherwood. Presently we are reading European members’ testimonies in the book “Footprints of True Parents’ Providence,” which help our children understand how valuable their parents’ work was. The comments we have received from our son show that this goal can be achieved by literature of this type more readily than by his listening to occasional talks.

Since our blessed families have inherited a messianic mission—be it on the tribal or the national level—we have to educate our children more deeply and carefully than ever before.

Born and raised as a Catholic, I received my first religious teachings from my parents at home when I was just four or five years old. To this day, their education helps me to do keep the traditions of the Unification Church. One of the strengths of the Jews after they had to leave their homeland following their failed rebellions against the Roman Empire was their ability to pass on their teachings to their descendants in a foreign and often hostile environment. Until they could establish an independent nation in 1948, they were forced to live in a non-Jewish environment with the danger of assimilation. Yet pious Jewish parents continued to pass on their traditions. Fathers instructed their sons as they read Scripture together. In this way, they were able to preserve their identity and survive in Christian Europe or under Muslim rule.

Laurenc, who communicates at home in German and Slovak, knows English quite well. So there is a wide range of literature available for our little “Home Academy,” but surely there are valuable books in other languages about saints, sages or true patriots. For

example “Heaven and Hell” by Emanuel Swedenborg exists in many languages, though we read only selected passages of that somewhat difficult literary work. There is also Christian literature which is acceptable for Unificationists, especially Bible stories written for children. When our son was in elementary school we made use of a Children’s Bible published by the Jehovah’s Witnesses. If True Father refers in his speeches to some Biblical figures, such as Moses or David, our children will remember some of the interesting story they read and prick up their ears—they have heard about them before.

In any case, the occasional participation in seminars and other activities cannot replace individual and ongoing lessons which are learned most naturally in our homes day by day. A precondition for children to like hoondokhae is that at least one of the parents enjoys reading. Some say that books are our best friends. Perhaps that is true. In any case, a “taste” for the word needs to be cultivated from an early age and continued throughout one’s life. 



Laurenc has established a reading tradition that will serve him well in life.

Pure Love Education Academy, an Educational and Social Project Founded

By Mercedes González

With the desire to support our True Mother (True Parents), I started praying and asking for guidance late in 2015. In response, I received that I had to pay special attention to what True Mother had said in her speech on September 12, 2015, in Seoul, Korea. She told us on that occasion, "During his lifetime, my husband, Dr. Sun Myung Moon, was deeply concerned about the seriousness of climate change and he struggled to find solutions. To continue the good cause of my husband Dr. Moon, we created the annual Sunhak Peace Prize. 2015 was slated as a year of care for the environment.... I wish everyone becomes aware of this global problem and undertakes initiatives to alleviate it. You have to contact local, national and international organizations to collaborate and work together against climate change."

With what she had said in mind, I began to develop my initiative. The concrete answer to my prayer was that I had to organize two events, one

in October and another in November, with the aim of supporting the providence and connecting citizens of Madrid with the providence and with our True Mother's Vision 2020.

Before, in 2012, Heaven already inspired me and gave me the idea of opening an online academy that could become an educational and social bridge, so that I could educate the citizens of Spain according to the mentality (thought, vision, way of thinking) of the True Adam; that is, according to the teachings of the Messiah, our True Parents. My arena of activity as a heavenly tribal messiah is the field of education. I work with public-minded people that serve the national and international society in my hometown of Madrid, Spain.

Under Heaven's guidance, I named this project the Pure Love Education Academy (PLEA). As I often say, it began with the help of the Holy Spirit. PLEA programs cover two aspects, the spiritual or seong-sang aspect and the social or hyeong-sang aspect. With this pattern, I design all of my programs. For the spiritual

part, we teach Unificationism (True Adam's Thought), through lectures given only by FFWPU brothers and sisters. In that way we allow God's heart and teachings to be expressed freely; it is like an unadulterated, original pearl.

For the social part, the chairmen, directors or representatives of the organizations invited for the occasion give their lectures and we leave to them space for free expression and presentations. Abel-type organizations are chosen; that is, ones in line with Christian ethics or the public-minded ethos to promote good behavior and to serve others.

Save the Earth

The first event took place last October 31 under the theme, "Knowing and Caring for Mother Nature." The Academy presented the program in three parts. We started the program with three Unificationists speakers. Mr. Mario Magaz told us about the importance of the inaugural Sunhak Price Award in Korea. Giving a very detailed presentation, Jose Manuel



- ❶ Prayer provides the foundation for clear communication among all participants.
- ❷ The impressive guest speakers that the Pure Love Education Academy attracts each receives a certificate of appreciation.
- ❸ The writer giving her presentation
- ❹ Refreshments



Cabero read True Mother's September 12 message, whereas I presented a lecture, "The Origins of Mother Nature: The Law of Cause and Effect and The Law of Giving and Receiving."

With this lecture, I intended to make clear to the audience the great value of Mother Nature, whose designer and creator is God, and the fact that nature is the visible manifestation of God while human beings are the visible body of God, according to his original plan at the time of the Creation. It took many hours and days to prepare for it, but I felt that since the issue was of great importance, I must pour all my devotion into the presentation. True Father gave us an amazing revelation and humanity has to know it, understand it and practice it. As a missionary and an educator, absolutely I have to help the providence in the task of education and evangelization.

After many calls, letters, hard work and perseverance, we could count on the presence of three major speakers on climate change—Manuel


Montijano, chief strategist at the Climate Reality Project—Spain. Mrs. Veerle Minner Van Neygen, Ph.D., district manager for the Climate Reality—Spain and Mr. Steve Sawyer, manager of the Renewable Energy Foundation.

We gave these speakers on climate change certificates of appreciation. Everyone shared "vino santo," holy wine, in a toast to wonderful Mother Nature. We also had the presence of the Mil Caminos, from the Thousand Roads Choir, who intoned mantras in praise of Mother Nature. We served a snack at the end of the program and delivered FFWPU literature, As a Peace Loving Global Citizen, Exposition of Divine Principle and some of True Father's speeches.

Save humanity

The next event took place on November 21. The theme was "Our Contribution to World Peace, Latin America and Spain." Again, the program consisted of three parts. Two lectures were on the "Life and Faith of the Founder of the Unification Movement

for World Peace, Rev. Sun Myung Moon," taught by Mr. Mario Magaz Armenteros. The presentation was extraordinary because Mario explained in detail the life and work of the Messiah. Mario's determination to prepare called him to invest many hours, which in the end yielded for us a detailed idea of the topic. I believe True Father would have been pleased to see his successful effort. I lectured on the material presented in As a Peace Loving Global Citizen. Eight leaders from Madrid, some of whom our ambassadors for peace, gave presentations as well. Many are the directors of the organizations they represent.

Each one gave a presentation on their work in and contributions toward improving society—domestic and international. Each speaker was very sincere when talking about how difficult conducting a public project within Spanish society is, especially for those who are foreigners and South Americans. They are contacts of mine, made while working with UPF. 



Experiences with True Father, the Fisherman

By Mike Dover

In November 1988, when Father held an ICUS conference in Los Angeles, a Japanese brother, Mr. Habara, came to make preparations. He also wanted to see what kinds of fish we catch in Los Angeles. I invited him to fish with Tom Akuza-wa, Gabriel Legay and me. We trolled in Santa Monica Bay and caught some of the biggest bonita I had ever seen. He sliced them up into sushi bites and said it was delicious. He told us we should be ready in case Father wanted to go fishing. I told him we also fish for halibut.

During the conference, to inspire Father, Gabriel and I caught two nice halibut and brought them in an ice-box to Pasadena house, where Father was staying. We heard Father was happy to see the fish, which they enjoyed for lunch and dinner as sushi. Later, Mr. Habara met me, thanked me for taking care of the boat, but said he would take responsibility from then on and abruptly asked for the boat key. I assumed my mission was done when I passed the key to him. He asked me to get more boats in case Father wanted to bring more people. I borrowed one Good Go boat that had no electronics and moved another to King Harbor.

Unexpected responsibility

That evening Mr. Habara called to say Father wanted to fish for halibut after the conference. We met at the boat early one morning. I had arrived at 3:00 AM to clean the boat and set up the gear. Father arrived with several members, including some Korean elders. Mr. Habara ran up, gave me the key and said I would be the cap-

tain. My blood pressure must have shot up. I was expecting Gabriel or Mr. Habara to be captain. I ran to the bathroom with a bit of diarrhea. I ran back to the boat. Father was already sitting in the back. Mr. Habara introduced me to Father. I bowed but neglected to remove my hat. Mr. Habara quickly grabbed my hat and shoved it into my chest. Father laughed and said, Let's go.

We left the dock with a full boat, with everyone staying in the front. I was in charge of providing direct service to Father in his needs during the trip.

Without travelling far, I came to an area where I had caught fish before. Almost immediately, we began catching halibut. We carved the first fish into a plate of sushi. Father tasted it and said it tasted better than Alaskan halibut. They continued to catch fish and enjoyed sushi throughout the day.

I showed someone a recent picture of a large white sea bass I had caught at Rocky Point, about five miles away. Father saw it and said he wanted to go there. It would be dark soon but they wanted to go. We fished there for a couple of hours in several spots and caught a few more fish but no white sea bass. We returned about 9:00 PM to the dock. Mr. Habara said Father was happy and shook my hand.

When I got home, Mr. Habara called to say Father wanted to go out the next day with heavier fishing tackle. I went into panic mode again, fearful of somehow causing a bad experience. The stress kept me hyper-vigilant. I repaired the damaged fishing lines and re-spoiled some of



- ① Mike Dover and Mr. Habara, two men who find peace breathing in the salty air on the shifting deck of a fishing boat
- ② True Father lived a rich prolific life — prophet, preacher, industrialist... fisherman was certainly one aspect of his bounteous legacy.





True Father fighting to land a fish

the reels. I returned to the boat to clean it thoroughly and check that all the electronics worked. I slept for an hour and a half. I worried that this would effect my concentration, but I was never tired or hungry with True Father.

Making an offering

The second day started like the first. I had a moment of diarrhea just before Father arrived. I baited Father's hooks and sometimes netted and removed the halibut he caught.

Father caught an unusually large sand bass. I said it was a good tasting fish. Father had someone return it to the water, saying we sometimes need to make an offering of appreciation to the creation.

A sudden test

Third Day: I was spending so much time with True Father. I only wished I could speak Korean. I observed Father and his level of concentration. I tried not to disturb him as I stood beside him most of the time. He watched me at one point tying hooks and leaders onto fishing line. He caught a nice halibut but his leader line broke in the middle. I began to remove the broken pieces to prepare a new leader for him. He said no and motioned for me to tie the two short pieces together. A long leader of sixty to ninety centimeters is better; the

two short pieces he wanted me to connect were only ten centimeters long. He made a guttural sound for me to tie them together. I looked him in the eye and smiled. He smiled back. I knew he wanted to test my skill. To make the best knot, I spent a bit too much time. He waved his hand as if to say, Forget it. I grunted back to insist on a few seconds more. When I finished, he examined the connecting knot and with both hands pulled to test the strength of my work. The 15 lb. fishing line nearly disappeared into the indentation in his flesh that the line was making. It held and he said, Good, with a smile. A few minutes later, he changed rods and I retied an appropriate-sized leader.

We continued to fish, and they all enjoyed lots of sushi. The Pasadena sisters always prepared containers of side dishes for Father including spicy dipping sauce.

A minor mishap

Mr. Habara called to say many people would come with Father the next day. We would use all three boats and would go to Catalina Island, around thirty miles from where we had been the first day, though the larger halibut were about forty-five miles away.

At 5:45 in the morning, Mr. Habara called. The phone connection was bad; I could not hear. I called the

Pasadena house and learned everyone had left already. Oh no! I quickly gathered my things and drove to the boat. Everyone was waiting for me. Mr. Habara ran over. He said Father was on the boat already.

Father told everyone to make new leaders for fishing off Catalina as a challenge to see whose leader caught the most fish. Everyone began to make a leader, with special knots and different sized hooks. The atmosphere was joyful. I saw Father make his leader and slip it into his pocket rather than attaching it to his fishing line. Others attached theirs and made ready for the long trip. The challenge was on!

Three Good Go boats sped away from Kings Harbor Marina as if in a race. The water was slick, flat and pleasant to travel on. After a few minutes we slowed down to put less stress on the motors, but about ten miles from the island my boat hit something that caused the whole boat to shudder and the motor to bounce up. The propeller no longer turned. I was embarrassed, but I had seen nothing in the water. They quickly decided to switch boats. One good boat stayed with the disabled boat after I had arranged rescue by radio giving the coordinates.

Father and the others crossed into the third boat, the one with no compass and a radio and sonar Fishfinder

that did not work well. I expected them to leave with a new captain but they called me over.

Once on the far side of the island, being unable to depend on the Fishfinder, I went to the first cove where a sandy bottom was likely. We fished without catching anything. Someone said that Father was hungry so we had to catch something. I felt tremendous pressure and hoped someone would. A Japanese brother finally hooked a large seven-gill shark, the flesh of which requires soaking overnight in a brine solution to be edible. The catch excited everyone but we continued without catching a fish we could eat.

Father ate only the food the Pasadena sisters had prepared. I felt so bad. In the late afternoon, Peter Kim got a bite, but the line broke. Everyone moaned. We continued into the night but did not catch another fish. We left the far side of Catalina Island about 9:00 PM.

Everyone appeared weary and disappointed.

Dangerous circumstance

I started the engine. We had no running lights and no navigation lights. That and no compass meant I had to drive back from memory. No moon illuminated the night, and with many men onboard, I could not see anything in front of me. I prayed that we did not hit any of the numerous things I knew were floating in the water. I rounded the island and in the distance could see lights from a couple of cities. I calculated which cities they were and adjusted my direction to head into the darkest point on the horizon. The more we traveled, the darker it became. A Japanese brother said he thought we should head toward the lights. I indicated each sets of lights, saying one was Long Beach, one was Huntington Beach and the other was Newport. He went back to the others and returned to say that everyone thinks that is Redondo, as he pointed toward the lights of Long Beach. We were over twenty miles out, so no skyline was discernable. I said no, it is Long Beach. Redondo is straight ahead and I pointed into the darkest part of the ocean. We all knew we were low on fuel and only had



The leader Father gave to the writer following their harrowing experience at sea

enough to get back to Redondo. If we discovered I was heading in the wrong direction, we would not be able to make it, and we could not ask for help over a radio that would not transmit far. I understood their concern and tried to reassure them.

Father spoke. The Japanese brother said Father thinks King Harbor is that way, pointing toward Long Beach. I said that if Father wants to go to Long Beach, I will change our course, but we will end up in Long Beach. He told Father and then sat down for a few minutes. Someone on the bow became insistent, so again I heard that everyone thinks I am wrong. I said OK, if you want to go to Long Beach, I will.

This time Father stood up. He held my left arm for several minutes. Feeling as if he were my father, I smiled at him and said that if Father wants, we would go that way, but we would end up in Long Beach. I pointed straight ahead and said this is the way home. Finally, Father said OK and pointed straight ahead. After a few moments, he sat back down.

I was nervous about boldly speaking against everyone. I felt relief that we did not have to go to Long Beach but had to make sure I did not overshoot Redondo. At the angle we were going, the Palos Verdes Peninsula juts out, obscuring our view of the city lights in Santa Monica Bay. We trav-

eled another hour and finally made out a few home lights along Palos Verdes. A little farther and they all recognized Father's favorite fishing spot. They let out a cheer releasing a lot of tension. The Japanese brother said I was a great captain and everyone clapped.

As we approached nearer, Father said to stop and fish. We were all so surprised. Emotional and physical exhaustion weighed heavy on us all, but we put out the anchor and caught a few small bottom fish in about an hour. During that time, I worked on the radio to get it to work. I contacted the Land Marine Operator, who connected me to Mr. Habara. He was relieved. The members were worried, because no one knew what was happening.

I gave our present position so he could be ready when we returned. We got back about 1:00 AM. Several members greeted us at the dock. As others shared their stories or ran to the bathroom, Father stood up, grabbed my arm and put something into my pocket—the leader he had made but never used. I bowed and thanked him. He asked for paper and pen. It was not my boat; I found only a magic marker and a paper towel. Father wrote his name on it and gave it to me. The following day, I framed that paper towel and displayed the leader on top of it. 

Contributing My Rediscovered Self to the Providence, Part I

The writer, a mother of two sons, describes her course as a Japanese wife adjusting to Korea, even as she sought liberation through solving struggles she had carried with her since her adolescent years in Japan.

By Satoko Oshima



Mrs. Oshima's writing has appeared in these published collections of short stories and poems.



My hometown is Hokkaido. My parents were devoted members of Tenri-kyo, an Eastern “new religion” founded in 1838. I was born in 1964, the fourth of five children. As a child, I was withdrawn and not good at expressing my opinions. I was a bit odd. People often said they could not figure out what was on my mind.

I had a mysterious experience in elementary school. As homework, our teacher told us to write a poem. The moment I thought, “I want to write about “this,” I felt words drop out of the sky. All I did was jot them down on paper, but the teacher said, “What a wonderful poem!” She even contributed it to a poem collection by students from all over Japan. I was excited because I had rarely experienced receiving praise. This was my first encounter with writing.

After that, I was good at writing. Several times, I won first prize in composition contests. Writing came effortlessly. I felt as if I could express my true self and become free through writing. Because I was not self-confident, I often suffered from gaps—I tried to do what adults or others around me told me to do, but I

would fail. I wondered what was wrong with me. By contrast, in my schooldays I became aware that my true happiness lies in writing.

When I was in ninth grade, I began to have antagonistic feelings against my father. He told me to go to Tenri High School, which was not a regular high school but a four-year course in the evening, while working to qualify as a vocational nurse in the first two years and work in a hospital in the latter two years.

Since they waived tuition fees for students in this course, I would only need pocket money. I did not want to become a nurse, but since my father was demanding it and I knew my family's financial difficulties, I ended up going to Tenri High School and living in a dormitory.

Life and death

We used the desks regular high school students used during the day. We went to school as they went home, so we often passed each other on the street. I would think, Why can't I go to school during the day as they do? I did not enjoy high school at all. I had to study day and night and our life at the dormitory was very strict. Neither could I feel any

sense of satisfaction in my work as a nurse.

As my bitter feelings toward my father grew, I lost my ability to write. I knew I could change through writing, but I could not write anything—poems, essays, not even book reports. I forced myself to write, but the results were not even half as good as previously. I wrote and wrote, but hated everything I wrote; eventually, I quit writing.

When I look back at those days, I could have advised myself to quit being a nurse if I hated it that much. However, back then, I thought I did not like being a nurse because I did not understand the work well enough. So, after I graduated from high school, I chose to go on to a two-year course to become a registered nurse. Nevertheless, I did not find it meaningful and barely concentrated on my nursing studies. I read unrelated things, such as books on philosophy, as if saying, What am I supposed to do as a nurse when I don't even know why people live and die in the first place?

In 1985, I was struggling to find a fundamental answer to this question when I met my spiritual parent. A few days later, I visited a video center and heard the Divine Principle for the first time. I was shocked to learn about the Fall but inspired to learn the reason for human suffering. I went to the video center regularly. However, the school found out about this one day. Although I was in my second grade of the nursing school, they said, "The school operates on donations offered by Tenrikyo followers. We cannot let you graduate if you are going to the Unification Church." I think the teachers thought they could stop me by saying so. When I think back on it now, I should have just obeyed them temporarily and started going to the church again after I graduated (laugh), but I knew no better than to quit school a month before graduation. I thought, "If I haven't come across the Divine Principle at that moment, I would not have been my present self. I should not leave the church just because I couldn't graduate from school," and started to live a devotional life in a church dormitory.

At first, I was high-spirited, but as time went by, I started to feel contra-

diction in various matters such as human relationships within the church or the way they operated the financial providence. There were times when I wanted to leave, but I ended up staying because every time I studied the Divine Principle, I was convinced that its teaching was the truth. Helplessly dragging on my life in the church, I stayed in bed at the dormitory most of the time.

Serving my mother-in-law

Nevertheless, thanks to the devotion offered by the people around me, I somehow managed to emerge from the blessing in a Korean-Japanese couple and came to Korea in 1996. I had married into the Wonju Lee family, meaning that among the many different Chinese characters pronounced "lee," my husband's family has the one that traces back to a Lee that lived in Wonju, sometime deep in antiquity. Of eight children, my husband, Lee Byeong-seung, is the oldest. All his siblings live in Seoul. He alone lived with his mother in Wonju. A number of things I cannot express in words happened since I came to Korea, but I cannot avoid saying that my mother-in-law's personality was problematic.

One example: we had a vegetable garden. I wanted to grow cabbage in it, so one day I asked her, "Could I raise something in the garden, too?" She misunderstood and believed that I had said, "Could I change the name of the garden to my name?" She told this to everyone around her. I was wondering why people were casting cold looks at me. When my husband's aunt asked if I had really said that, I was shocked. Similar occurrence happened daily.

One of the most shocking circumstances occurred right after I gave birth to my second son. My husband had had an accident and could not work for over a year. Despite this, my mother-in-law applied for the welfare payments to go into her account and kept it a secret. When we discovered it, my husband took away her bankbook. When the payment ceased coming a few months later, we discovered she had arranged for it to go to another of her accounts.


Having to live with her for thirteen years, I finally fell mentally ill.

As it turned out afterwards, she, too, had difficult family issues and had had a hard time with her own mother-in-law. It seems that many of the things she did to me her mother-in-law had done to her. Since I was not aware of that back then, I had thought it was my fault. Not understanding Korean well, in itself, caused me to feel accountable for everything. Constantly, unconsciously, I blamed myself.

Every night, I would wake up around two o'clock from hearing myself scream. I could neither sleep nor eat. I lost fifteen kilograms [thirty-three pounds]. In 2007, feeling I reached my limit and went to see a second-generation member who was an art therapy doctor. The seriousness of my condition took her aback. She recommended I undergo psychiatric treatment as well. The psychiatrist prescribed medicine for serious depression, anger syndrome and emotional disorders.

I began using sleeping pills. Meanwhile, my mother-in-law often experienced blood sugar crashes due to diabetes, usually around four o'clock in the morning. Since I had to call the ambulance whenever this happened, I could not sleep after all. The art therapy doctor found out about this and said, "This is not right. You will die if you stay there. You have to leave home." She suggested I attend a forty-day workshop at Cheongpyeong.

While I was at the workshop, my mother-in-law stayed with my brother-in-law's family, until, unable to cope, they put her in a nursing home. By then, she had lost sight in one eye (a complication of the diabetes) and lived on dialysis due to decline in renal function.

As soon as I came back home, although I wanted to rest until I recovered completely, the other in-laws started to say, "We cannot stand our mother being in a nursing home." They took this stance despite none of them having confidence to look after her. They pushed her on to me because I was "the oldest son's wife." Thus, I had to live with her again. 

This was reprinted with permission after translation from 분향인, a newspaper for Japanese members in Korea.

God's Music and My Mission Life

An interview of the opera singer, Tokiko Richardson



Mrs. Richardson, above and with her husband, Dr. Eric Richardson, below



Q How did you join the church?
A I joined the church in April 1976. At that time, I was studying in Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music. My spiritual mother was my classmate, and we had grown up in the same town. I come from an atheist family. My parents were always fighting, so I was always looking for an ideal family. I was thinking to myself, where is an ideal family? Do ideal families exist?

This is the main cause of my joining the church; it was my first motivation. I never felt my father's love before but after I met True Father, I felt his love.

I joined a seven-day workshop. I could not understand the Divine Principle well; the only part I could understand was the providence to receive the Messiah. That caused me to join the church. At the end of this seven-day workshop, any participant willing to become a fulltime member had to make a commitment to God. Even though I did not feel that I wanted to become a fulltime member, I made the commitment. Among all the participants, I was the only one who made the commitment to dedicate myself to God through my music, to dedicate myself to God's music.

The key point of my faith-building process was the Yankee Stadium event. I had a very strong and moving experience with the Yankee Stadium event. It happened just two

months after I joined the church. At that time, I was in Japan and even though I could not fully understand the significance of the event, when I heard what happened, I felt so sad; I felt God's sadness. Despite a rainstorm and a low turnout, our members sang You Are My Sunshine. That struck me and I felt sad but still our members were able to overcome and bring a victory for God.

After I joined the church, I finished my studies and I started witnessing while working as a professional opera singer in one of the biggest opera company. I was also teaching music. My spiritual mother and I studied in Japan's best university, so we wanted to witness a high-class artist to create a true culture and true music. This ideal motivated us to witness a lot.

My spiritual mother, Yasuko Sakata is a famous singer. She was blessed to a Korean in 1982 and lives in Korea. My spiritual daughter, Seiko Lee, is also a famous singer. She sang for True Mother last year in New York. We are all classical singers.

When did you received the blessing?

On June 30, 1982, I met my future husband. True Father matched us by picture; it was rare at that blessing. During my matching in 1982, many Japanese sisters had to come to America to be

matched and to attend the Blessing Ceremony. Father did not allow matching by picture but because I had a music competition, he allowed it. It was a special matching; True Father knows me. Two days after the Blessing Ceremony, on July 3, True Father called all Japanese members to East Garden. We were all excited to see True Father. During his speech, he stopped to look at me and said, "You, professor. Why did you come to America?" I was so tired, a few days before I had been performing; I took an airplane the next day, and then I received the blessing and I sang for True Parents in Madison Square Garden. But when True Father talked to me, I was suddenly fully awake. I did not know how to think in front of the messiah, so I answered, "I want to achieve true love, do my best at raising funds and serve America." True Father responded, "Do you know, what your husband is like? Even if you have ten children, your husband would never complain about raising them. He is not a unification-church-type leader; he is not, but he is a deep-hearted person."

When I was in Japan, because I was a famous singer, I received many flowers every day after performances. But as soon as I moved to America, I started selling flowers, in downtown San Francisco. But what Father had said, and some connection, attached to my heart. That gave me absolute faith to follow all my life.

How did your music play a role in your life of faith?

When I was in America, I sang for True Parents many times. When I attended that seven-day workshop, I dedicated myself to God's music, but it was not easy. If I hadn't been a church member, building up a music career would have been easy, but because I am a church member, I had many strong experiences. I sang in Madison Square Garden, at Lincoln Center and in many other places for True Parents.

About 1987, we started an Arts Conference for World Peace, which attracted many famous artists. By our invitation, we brought the fa-

mous soprano Renato Scotto, the renowned jazz pianist Dave Brubeck and many others to meet True Parents.

In America, there is a strong Japanese community. In all big cities in America, the Japanese community runs a weekend school, to keep the kids educated in Japanese. It is a big community. In Detroit, they had a male and a female choir and I taught both, performing the Southfield Symphony and Beethoven's Ninth with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

My singing is essential in the Interreligious International Peace Council (IIPC) mission. Through my singing, such as at spring concerts, I make connections to ambassadors through music. For example, I have a part-time job teaching in Seoul. When the Japanese Embassy learned that, they invited me to sing the Japanese national anthem at the Japan-Korea friendship soccer game at the World Cup Stadium in front of an audience of fifty thousand people.

In Michigan, I opened a Japan-Michigan business conference with the governor Jennifer Granholm in attendance.

How did you start your IIPC mission?

In 2005, True Parents founded the Universal Peace Federation (UPF), but earlier, in 2003, Father had founded IIPC. The first thing Father did when founding it was asking everybody to go to New York City. He brought thousands of people to pass out a millions copies of the Spirit World Messages. My husband was there. After that, Father asked them to go to Korea and Japan, for a few more weeks, but then Father asked them to stay for a hundred and twenty days. Then he asked them to remain in Korea. My husband stayed. For five years, my husband was in Korea with IIPC and I was in Michigan working.

True Parents gave deep parental love to the eighty-four members of IIPC, who were like their children. During the hundred and twenty days, Father went through Cheon Seong Gyeong for the first time. Every day, they woke up every day at 3:30 AM to do hoondokhae at 5:00

AM with Father, going through Cheon Seong Gyeong.

Being on a mission and having to make money to support a family is not easy. After several years, this severely hurt our finances. I was working in America but was not earning enough. After five years far from my husband, I moved to Korea. My husband started to teach at Cheongshim International Academy, which he did for five years. That is when I moved to Korea and took over his mission. Now he is teaching at Hanyang University, while I teach English to Japanese children, part time.

What is your mission in IIPC?

Our job with IIPC and UPF is to connect to all the embassies and invite leaders to our conferences. We organize events. One thing we do is to connect with the United Nation International Days, like African Day and the International Day of Peace. We make deeper contact with people. Bringing ambassadors, as True Parents had asked us to do is not easy, but at events of this type, making a heart-to-heart connection with ambassadors is easier.

Many people working in embassies here have received the blessing. Embassy personnel are connected to leaders in their countries and when they return to their countries and may become leaders there.

Father made clear at UPF's founding that we should expand to various countries so that diplomats connected with us in one country can contact our group when they move to their next country. For example, one thing that moved me about the Cheongshim International Academy is True Parents' vision to establish one good school in every nation. This means when diplomats transfer to a new country, they can call us to ask, "Where is your school?"

True Father's vision is for UPF to connect to all embassies in every nation, so when these leaders return home, they establish a relationship with us there. If they have a good feeling toward us, they will bring that feeling home with them. ㄹ



환양하세, 참부모님 성탄
환양せよ, 天の父母様の御聖誕を
Celebrate Parents' Birth!

축하하세, 원일국 기원절
祝賀せよ, 天・地球元節を
Celebrate Foundation Day!