

The Truth about the Reverend Sun Myung Moon

Recently there has been a great deal of attention focused on the Unification Church and our founder, the Reverend Sun Myung Moon. Much of this attention has been generated by our national speaking tours and the unprecedented growth of our membership. Because the message of Reverend Moon is new and unfamiliar it has quite naturally provoked some controversy. Like most prophets in history, Reverend Moon has been the object of attacks by some jealous religious leaders. Others, because they did not understand his purpose, have felt threatened by this rapidly growing movement.

Until this time, the Church has remained silent and has not issued a formal response to these attacks. We have had no desire to increase the conflicts in an already sadly divided religious community. However, recently these attacks have become increasingly vicious and have given the public a seriously distorted image of the Church. Thus, it is with a grave sense of responsibility that we must speak out and set the record straight.

THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

The Unification Church is based on a new revelation from God given through Reverend Moon to prepare the world for the return of Christ. **The sole mission of the Unification Church is to bear witness to this revelation and to lay a foundation for the Kingdom of God on Earth.** In order to do this, answers to the most essential questions about the meaning and purpose of life must be found. The revelation received by Reverend Moon gives those answers. Therefore, we do not seek to be just another denomination, but rather to act as a catalyst to promote unity among all races, creeds and nationalities.

Everyone is aware that mankind is far from the Kingdom of God. Many people are caught up in a pursuit of wealth, power and personal gain. It is no surprise then that social responsibilities are neglected. The increase in crime, divorce, drug usage, pornography and the prevalence of violent ideologies all point to a society which has lost its purpose and direction.

It is obvious that man has been unable to solve such problems and realize his purpose; we must seek the solution from the words of God. Reverend Moon is a prophet sent from God to bring those words.

ORIGINS OF CONTROVERSY

Because the Unification Church teaches that this world must be changed fundamentally if we are to solve these problems, it has generated controversy. To fulfill the will of God, many personal sacrifices are necessary. This may threaten those people who are caught up in the pursuit of their selfish interest. A growing number, however, have accepted the challenge of making their previously vague religious ideals a living reality in our Church.

Change is essential in any religious conversion process. Because of the dramatic transformation in the lives of his followers, some people have accused Reverend Moon of using techniques of mind control or brainwashing to gain disciples. No doubt racial stereotypes of Orientals play a role in these allegations. However, the success of Reverend Moon does not lie in such techniques. Indeed, when opponents of the Church tried legally to prove such accusations (Helander v. Unification Church Superior Court of the District of Columbia), their case against the Church was dismissed! In that case, the Court ruled:

... the evidence of record is insufficient to establish the application by respondents [the Church] to Miss Helander of any techniques substantially different from those which are used by other religious organizations for purposes of converting or proselytizing.

At that time, Dr. Harold Kaufmann, a practicing psychiatrist in Washington, D.C. testified that he had interviewed Miss Helander and had concluded that she was quite capable of autonomous judgment and independent behavior. It is true that members are deeply committed to the mission of the Church. They have found such an inspiring new vision and hope, that their hearts overflow with God's love and concern for their fellow man. This is the source of their profound dedication.

The Unification Church categorically denies the absurd allegation that it brainwashes its members. We believe that man and his institutions are failing to meet the challenge of today's world with the results reflected in alienation, lack of goals and ideals, immorality and blatant hedonism. Therefore, we encourage young people to restore their intrinsic nature that seeks for love, beauty, goodness and God. As a result, the lives of many young people have been literally saved.

THE FAMILY

A strong family is the key to a moral society, yet in America the breakdown of the family is accelerating at an alarming rate. The Unification Church believes that the family can stand only with God in the center. In addition to our spiritual preparation, members of the Church are celibate before marriage and do not use alcohol, tobacco or drugs. Parents deeply concerned about their children must certainly prefer this as an alternative to the general trend among many young people today. Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Rechlis of San Francisco wrote us:

"The Unification Church has done a lot for our three children. They have learned to actualize their teachings, applying them in their daily lives. This has helped mold their characters, which is evidenced in their social behavior. They have grown to be beautiful children both academically and spiritually. My words do not do justice to the feelings we have for this wonderful organization."

Another parent, Mrs. Peggy Moffitt from Texas, writes concerning a recent visit to her son, "I can truthfully say that these people I've met here are everything we had hoped our young people would be. It is hard to believe God gave me a son that is such a fine person.... Now, I just want to get down on my knees and say, 'Thank You God, God bless Reverend Moon and his people for bringing You to so many young people that might have never found God, for Reverend Moon has done what I was unable to do for my son.' Amen."



Reverend Sun Myung Moon

There are many such families who have experienced first-hand the wonderful spirit of our movement. Open houses are sponsored frequently at Church centers and families are encouraged to come and share in the fellowship and learn about what their children have discovered.

Tragically, some parents have been severely misled about the nature of the Church and have been induced to hire mercenaries literally to kidnap members of the Church and brutally force them to deny their beliefs. Members have been subjected to vicious techniques including indefinite physical incarceration, obscenities and other verbal abuse, forced sleep deprivation, lack of food, and complete contempt for the person. The Church condemns such activities as violations of the First Amendment, which protects religious freedom and basic human rights.

The Unification Church seeks to promote a close relationship between our members and their parents. Contrary to what some critics say, it is not the Church which is breaking apart families, but the opposition to the Church through frightening allegations and illegal kidnapping and "brainwashing" techniques.

GOD AND COMMUNISM

Reverend Moon believes that morality and faith in God is the necessary foundation for good government. Some have twisted this to accuse the Church of having political goals. The Church wants God's love and truth to have dominion over all aspects of human society and strongly believes that political leaders should listen to God. However, Reverend Moon has never sought political power or office in Korea or anywhere else.

The Church's strong opposition to Communism has sometimes been misunderstood as political activity. We oppose Communism because it denies the existence of God. Thus, it denies the true value of a person as a child of God. It denies freedom of speech, press, religion and assembly. It has spawned political systems that have murdered over 60 million people in this century. Communism is the enemy of God and man, and the Unification Church believes it is the duty of all religious people to oppose it.

Because the Unification Church proclaims a new world ideology to overcome Communism, avowed Communist groups in the United States and elsewhere have openly organized to discredit and destroy our movement, and have even terrorized our friends and members.

Communism is more than just a political, economic or military system—it is a false idea and an atheistic religion. Only a living faith in God can effectively oppose it. We accept this as our Christian duty and responsibility.

FUNDING

Funding for the Church comes from tithes and donations by the members, donations from businesses owned by the Church, and donations solicited from the public. The Church uses these monies to carry out our evangelical and humanitarian activities, to buy facilities for teaching and training programs, to provide living accommodations, and to administer this large international movement.

Reports of Reverend Moon's personal wealth are absolutely not true. The Church legally owns all the facilities and properties he uses while in America; even his residence is part of an official center where international meetings, services, and religious ceremonies are held.

Some people have alleged that the Church receives money from government or CIA sources. There is no truth to these statements, either. We challenge anyone to investigate these agencies or to document these charges.

The members of the Church who engage in fundraising activities work many hours every day, but every penny we earn is used to promote our evangelical work, distribute literature, or prepare for the establishment of our university. All these efforts are made by volunteers, out of a real zeal and desire to fulfill God's Will and help mankind. If we can respect a person working long, hard hours for his own welfare, isn't it far more noble to work even harder for the sake of others?

A PROPHET IS CALLED

The key to understanding the motivation of the Unification Church is to understand the background and motivation of our founder. Sun Myung Moon was born in Korea in 1920, when his country was dominated by a foreign power. He was raised a Christian, at a time when Christians were persecuted. Even as a child he prayed desperately not just to find a way to help himself or his family, but to help his nation and his God. The answer came on Easter morning when he was 16 years old. While he was praying on a mountainside, Jesus Christ appeared to him and told him that he was called to be a prophet—to bring a message of truth that would prepare the world for the return of Christ. What a glorious message—but under such miserable circumstances!

Over the next nine years he studied and prayed to prepare himself for this providential mission. As he began to teach he was mocked and persecuted and finally put in a Communist prison for three years. Who among us could have accepted such a call and carried it out under such conditions? It is a great testimony to the faith of the Reverend Moon, and the power of his message that he was able to begin his ministry under such hardship, continue in complete faith, and build a movement which has now spread to over 120 nations with more than two million followers.

All his life, Reverend Moon's only desire has been to do the Will of God. Three years ago God called him to come to America, but like Moses, he protested, "I am a Korean man, I don't even speak the English language—how can I bring this message to America?" God said, "I will open your way, and give you strength—America must hear these words before it is too late." And he came. The key to the great success of Reverend Moon has always been that he is completely humble before God, and then totally confident before men in carrying out God's Will.

His impressive list of accomplishments testifies to his humble faith and determination to bear witness to this message of truth from God. In 1975 alone, Reverend Moon and our Church took many great steps forward in achieving the goal of international harmony and understanding.

- In February, 1800 couples were blessed in a public marriage ceremony in Seoul, Korea. They came from 25 nations to declare that their marriages were for God and all mankind.

- Young missionaries from Japan, America and Germany were sent to a total of 120 countries in May.

- Throughout the entire year, 1500 youths from 25 nations toured Korea, Japan, America and Europe as a part of the International One World Crusade. Speeches, rallies and cultural performances characterized these efforts to bring young people to God.

- On June 7th, 1,200,000 people, including representatives from 60 nations, gathered in Seoul, Korea to hear Reverend Moon speak out against Communism at the World Rally for Korean Freedom.

- In September 1975, the Unification Theological Seminary opened for its first semester with 55 graduate students from Japan, America and Europe.

- In November, Reverend Moon initiated the Fourth International Conference on the Unity of the Sciences which was attended by 350 scholars and scientists from 57 nations.

- On December 18th, Reverend Moon spoke on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. to members of Congress and their staffs on "God's Plan for America."

For the year 1976, to promote a spirit of celebration, thanksgiving and "one world under God," Reverend Moon has formed the **Bicentennial "God Bless America" Committee** to commemorate America's 200th Birthday. A national campaign will sweep this country to urge Americans to embrace God and participate in a New American Revolution—a revolution of the spirit.

A CHALLENGE

Amidst all of the controversy surrounding his movement, Reverend Moon has continued to forge ahead to realize God's great vision. He is using all of the resources he can to lay a foundation for the Kingdom of God. He has never wavered since he began 30 years ago in such humble circumstances. Now there are two million members of the Unification Church around the world who have found new hope through Reverend Moon's life and teachings.

Skeptics and cynics mocked and persecuted great religious leaders of the past such as Moses and Jesus. History proved their detractors lacked vision and acted in ignorance of the truth. Today we believe God has sent another prophet to man. It is our fervent prayer that the American people will open their hearts to this man of God.

If there is someone who can do a better job than Reverend Moon—let him speak out! If there is someone who can better inspire American youth to love God, love America and love humanity—let him come forth! If there is such a man, Reverend Moon will be glad to follow and serve him. Until then we believe America needs Reverend Moon!



An Official Statement by the UNIFICATION CHURCH OF AMERICA

Neil Albert Salonen, President

I would like more information on the Unification Church. I would like to know the name of the local Unification Church representative nearest me. I would like to know how to join the Unification Church.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Mail to:
Unification Church of N.Y.
18 East 71st Street, NY, NY 10021
Telephone: (212) 288-1102