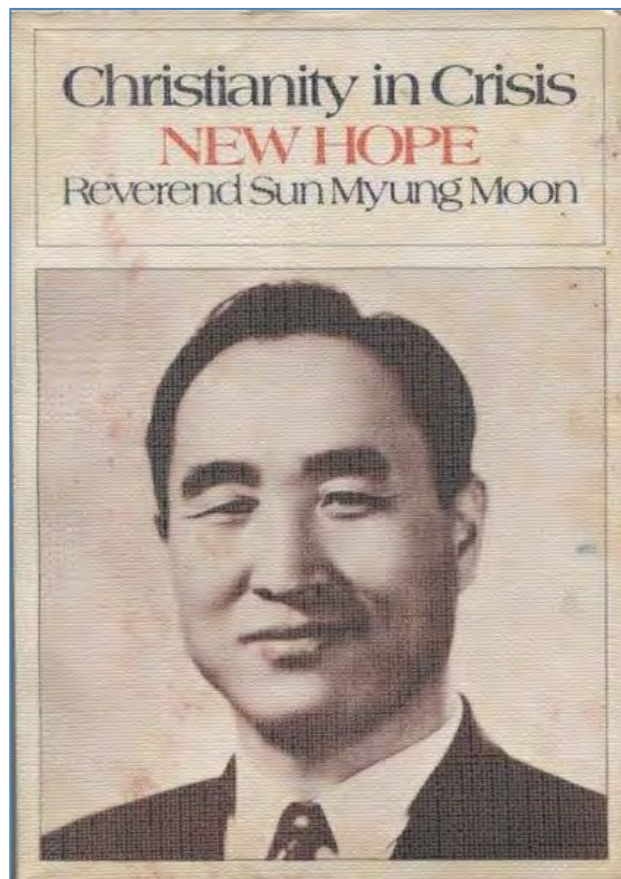


FFWPU Europe and the Middle East: 50th Anniversary of *Christianity in Crisis - New Hope*

Knut Holdhus
August 1, 2024

50 years since publication of book with Father's Moon's key message giving new hope to a Christian America in decline



[Father Moon](#) during 21-city speaking tour 1973/74

It is 50 years since the publication of "Christianity in Crisis - New Hope", a book containing three public speeches [Father Moon](#) gave during a [21-city speaking tour](#) in the USA from 1st October 1973 to 29th January 1974. He spoke three evenings in each city in order to proclaim a new message from [God](#) to humanity. At that time, [Father Moon](#) was primarily concerned with addressing the Christian world.

One speech from each of the evenings was selected for the book. He delivered these speeches: "God's Hope for Man", "God's Hope for America" and "The Future of Christianity". The text was a slightly edited transcript of the simultaneous translation by Bo-hi Pak. [Father Moon](#) did not use a manuscript, so there were 21 versions of each of the three speeches.

God's Hope for Humanity

His speech "God's Hope for Man" - republished as "God's Hope for Humanity" in 2014) - is the version [Sun Myung Moon](#) gave in Washington DC on 20th October 1973. He emphasized the importance of understanding [God's](#) original purpose and vision for humanity. [Father Moon](#) argues that [God's](#) primary hope is for human beings to achieve a state of [true love](#) and unity, both with [God](#) and among themselves. According to [Father Moon](#), this ideal was disrupted by the Fall of Man, which introduced sin and separation into the world.

In this speech, [Sun Myung Moon](#) stresses that humanity's salvation and restoration lie in rediscovering and realigning with [God's](#) original intentions. This involves cultivating a personal relationship with [God](#) and practicing [true love](#), which transcends selfishness and division. He calls for individuals to take responsibility for their spiritual growth and to work towards the establishment of a world centered on [God's](#) love.

[Father Moon](#) also highlights the role of the family as the fundamental unit for realizing [God's](#) hope. He believes that families rooted in [true love](#) and guided by divine principles can serve as the foundation for a harmonious and peaceful society. He urges people to build families that reflect [God's](#) love and to extend this love to the broader community and world.

Throughout his speech, [Father Moon](#) underscores the urgent need for a spiritual awakening and a commitment to living in accordance with [God](#)-given principles. He calls on his audience to join him in the mission to fulfill [God](#)'s hope for mankind by creating a world of [true love](#), unity, and peace.

An improved version - with a new title and better translation - of the speech was published in the speech collection [Pyeonghwa Gyeong](#) in 2014 (page 31).

God's Hope for America



From one of the meetings with [Father Moon](#) in Washington DC in October 1973

The speech "God's Hope for America", is the version [Father Moon](#) delivered in Washington DC 21st October 1973. Here, [Sun Myung Moon](#) discusses the pivotal role he believes the United States plays in [God](#)'s [providence](#) and the realization of a world centered on divine love and principles. He argues that America was founded with a special purpose and divine blessing, destined to lead the world towards peace and unity under [God](#).

[Father Moon](#) emphasizes that America's success and prosperity are tied to its adherence to spiritual values and its responsibility to uphold [God](#)'s will. He warns that the nation is at a critical juncture, facing moral and spiritual decline that threatens its divine mission. [Father Moon](#) calls for a revival of faith and a return to the founding principles that reflect [God](#)'s hopes for humanity.

Central to [Father Moon](#)'s message is the concept of living for the sake of others. He urges Americans to embody selfless love and to serve as examples of [God](#)'s love in action. By doing so, America can fulfill its role as a leader in the global movement towards a world of peace and harmony.

[Father Moon](#) also highlights the importance of strong, [God](#)-centered families as the cornerstone of a healthy and prosperous society. He believes that the renewal of the nation must begin with the renewal of the family. In the family, values such as [true love](#), sacrifice, and mutual respect are cultivated and practiced.

In this speech, [Sun Myung Moon](#) calls on Americans to recognize their unique position and to take proactive steps in aligning with [God](#)'s vision. He appeals for a collective effort to overcome divisions, heal societal wounds, and work towards the greater good of humanity. By doing so, America can achieve its true potential and lead the world into an era of peace and divine fulfillment.

The Future of Christianity

The speech "The Future of Christianity", is the version [Father Moon](#) gave in New Orleans, Louisiana, on 28th October 1973. He addresses the crucial role of Christianity in [God](#)'s providence and its future direction. He emphasizes that Christianity has a unique mission to lead humanity towards the realization of [God](#)'s [ideal](#) world, a world characterized by [true love](#), peace, and unity.

[Father Moon](#) points out that for Christianity to fulfill its divine mission, it must undergo a profound transformation. He believes that Christianity has deviated from its original purpose due to internal divisions and a lack of spiritual vitality. To rectify this, he calls for a return to the core teachings and spirit of Jesus Christ, focusing on love, sacrifice, and [living for the sake of others](#).

[Sun Myung Moon](#) highlights the importance of Christian unity, stressing that denominationalism and sectarianism weaken the faith and hinder its ability to impact the world positively. He urges Christians to

transcend their differences and work together towards common goals, emphasizing the need for a unified front in addressing global challenges and advancing [God's kingdom](#) on earth.



From a street rally promoting one of the speeches of [Father Moon](#) during 21-city speaking tour in 1973

Central to [Father Moon's](#) vision for the future of Christianity is the concept of true love and the establishment of [God](#)-centered families. He believes that Christians must exemplify true love in their personal lives and communities, thereby setting a standard for others to follow. Strong, loving families are seen as the foundation for a healthy and vibrant society that reflects [God's](#) love and principles.

[Father Moon](#) also calls for Christians to take an active role in societal transformation. He encourages them to engage with the world, addressing social injustices, and working towards peace and reconciliation. By doing so, Christians can demonstrate the practical relevance of their faith and contribute to the creation of a world that aligns with [God's](#) original vision.

Several times during this speech, [Father Moon](#) emphasizes the urgent need for renewal within Christianity, urging believers to recommit to their faith with sincerity and dedication. He envisions a future where Christianity leads a global spiritual awakening, guiding humanity towards a new era of harmony and divine fulfillment.

[Father Moon](#) later, on 1st June 1976 in Yankee Stadium, New York, delivered a very different version of the speech "God's Hope for America". It is published in the speech collection [Pyeonghwa Gyeong](#) (2014), page 1311.



Bo-hi Pak translating for [Father Moon](#) in the USA during the 1970s

Bo-hi Pak (1930-2019), who translated for [Father Moon](#) during the entire speaking tour, writes in the "Editor's Note",

"[Rev. Moon's](#) teachings extend the universality of Judeo-Christianity to embrace Oriental concepts of [God](#) and man. The content is both spiritual and deeply philosophical and abstract by nature. Therefore I sometimes feel great difficulty in expressing the root of his concepts in understandable English. [...]

I only wished that the audience could have heard him without the aid of an interpreter. My heart was truly aching because I was really the only one who knew how much was lost in translation. If people could hear [Rev. Moon](#) directly, as countless thousands in Korea and Japan have done, his message would draw them into a spiritual experience from which they would emerge with an even more powerful vision of new life than what he imparts in translation."

The 21 cities included in [Father Moon's](#) historical [speaking tour](#) were New York, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Boston, Washington DC, New Orleans, Dallas, Tampa, Atlanta, Omaha, Minneapolis, Cincinnati, Detroit, Chicago, Kansas City, Tulsa, Denver, Seattle, San Francisco, Berkeley, and Los Angeles.

The book was published in 1974 by the [Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity](#), Washington DC, USA.

Text: Knut Holdhus

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The 3 Blessings And The Process To Fulfil Them

May 8, 2024 • Knut Holdhus

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The process to realize the 3 blessings and God's ideal



Dr. Michael Balcomb.
Photo: FFWPU

Part 2 of a lecture given by Dr. Michael Balcomb, President of the Family Federation for Europe and the Middle East, given at an international prayer meeting by Zoom on 1st May 2024.

See part 1, part 3

I'm now going to briefly cover some of the highlights of Dr. Jin-choon Kim's (김진춘) lecture, which he entitled "Heavenly Parent's Ideal and True Parents' Lives".

What are the main points of this lecture, which is actually a very complex one with enormously complicated slides? It's really very simple.

1 God has had a dream since the Garden of Eden. It's based on the fulfillment of the three blessings.



Dr. Jin-choon Kim.
Photo: Segye Ilbo

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"God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and over the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground." (Genesis 1:28)

That was the first commandment that God gave to Adam and Eve in the garden.

The fulfillment of the three blessings and that ideal takes time. And finally, that Father and Mother Moon together, and only together, can fulfill the ideal.

2 The life course of the True Parents can really be understood through three stages until now. And there's one more to come.

There's the early life of both Father and Mother Moon separately before the Holy Blessing.



Father and Mother Moon in Gapyeong, South Korea in the late 1960s. Photo: FFWPU

Then there's their victorious life together on earth after the Holy Blessing – a period of 52 years, which as we know, Mother Moon recently described in many ways as a wilderness course. Why?

Because even throughout that time, there was so little support from Christianity, from the nation of South Korea, and – let's be honest – sometimes insufficient support and understanding from us members.

Then the third stage, which Mother Moon calls life belonging to the Kingdom of Heaven ("Cheonil-guk" in Korean), which really began with Foundation Day in 2013, with Father Moon ascended in heaven and Mother Moon still on earth.

And then in the future, there will be that time when both Father and Mother Moon are ascended in heaven. But of course, we're not there yet, and so more understanding may come later.

And finally, Dr. Jin-choon Kim closes with a focus on,

"So what? What should our responsibility be? What should our focus be in this time, to keep going?"

And I am particularly going to share about the type of person Heaven needs us to be. Heavenly Parent's dream back in the beginning, and forever will be the fulfillment of the three great blessings – we know it well – which will lead to, in due course, ideal couple, ideal children and family, and an ideal world.

This is the fundamental truth underlying everything else that we study in the Divine Principle.

But it is a continuous process



Illustration from Dr. Balcomb's presentation 1st May 2024. Screenshot

But usually, at least for myself, I've always thought of the three blessings as some kind of series. You do the first one and then the second one, and then the third one.

The first blessing is to become an ideal individual, the second blessing to reach family perfection and create an ideal family – which, of course Mother Moon did – that is to spread throughout the world.



Illustration of the 3 blessings (not from Dr. Balcomb's presentation)

Send us a message

First Name * Last Name

Email *

Email Address

Your Message *

Submit

Illustration of the 3 blessings (not from Dr. Balcomb's presentation).
Illustration: FFWPU

And then finally to have perfection and dominion over all things, both the things of creation, but also creating a society that is comfortable and secure.

But, you know, it doesn't really happen that way. I think any spouse who's honest will admit,

"I'm not a perfect spouse. I'm still working on it, even though I now have a family."

I think a truer look is that these things are continuous and interlinked. And in the beginning, maybe when we receive the **marriage blessing**, the overlap between our own state of spiritual growth and the reality of our family life is quite small. And as for the third blessing, well, I know a lot of young couples who are really struggling to make ends meet.

But over time, these areas coalesce until that central area of overlap becomes very large.

So it takes time to fulfill the blessings – for the **True Parents** as well. It isn't something that happens one, two, three. It's a constant process. And this is what Dr. Kim wanted to emphasize.

When we think about the course of **Father Moon**, [...] it involves a period of growth. **Father** and **Mother Moon** weren't born perfect. They weren't born with all knowledge, like the Buddha was supposed to have been, so that at birth he was already teaching. No, **Mother Moon** constantly emphasizes the need for growth.

And then came the day of the **Holy Wedding**, the **anniversary** of which we just celebrated, followed by the holy works of **True Parents** over 52 years and beyond.

So it's important, then again, to recognize that – even when analyzing the lives of the **True Parents** – or our own lives, we're gentle on ourselves and realize that it's okay as long as we are moving forward.

Continued in [part 3](#).

See [part 1](#), [part 3](#)

Featured image above: Illustration of the 3 blessings. Illustration: FFWPU

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And it can take a lifetime



Illustration from Dr. Balcomb's presentation 1st May 2024. Screenshot

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