

bcf-ed.org a Post-Blessing Education Website for Blessed Families

Interview of Alice Fleisher
June 2, 2016



Question: What is the vision behind the website?

One vision and purpose behind creating the bcf-ed.org website is to foster the evolution of and investments in an extensive and increasing library of post-Blessing educational resources that specifically target the Marriage Blessing and the subsequent lifestyle and path of Blessed Central Families and that are grounded on the revelations, words, works, life, and guidance of the True Parents. To stimulate and galvanize post-Blessing educators to play a part in achieving this goal, I have designed the bcf-ed.org website as a clearinghouse, platform and an archive for True Parent's inspired post-Blessing educational resources and material. Another one of my visions is that, through encountering my website, the number of Marriage Blessing educators who feel God's call to create and contribute their post-Blessing True Parent's inspired original work to bcf-ed.org will reach a critical mass, allowing the Couple Care, Family Care, and Community Care ministries of the USA Blessing & Family Ministry to begin hosting Smart Blessings types of conferences in order to showcase and promote the further development of material in this genre. Ultimately, I envision that the bcf-ed.org website will act as a catalyst for a providence dedicated to assisting Blessed Central Family personify and embody the lifestyle, customs, practices, traditions, morality, norms, values, and culture that will be found in a Cheon Il Guk type of society and social system. True Parents continually taught that the cornerstone of the Kingdom of God is the ideal family. I am convinced that the realization of this potential will be achieved when Blessed Central Families function as training grounds for good and Godly people (the family is the school of love), become the models for a good, nurturing, and healthy social system, and contribute to their greater social environment in a wholesome and loving manner. I believe this paradigm is reflected in the second Family Pledge, "... to perfect the dutiful family way of filial sons and daughters in our family, patriots in our nation, saints in the world, and divine sons and daughters in heaven and on earth, by centering on true love" and throughout that sacred document. However, for Blessed Central Families to live up to the strictures, vision, and expectations envisaged by the True Parents, they will certainly need help and support. So, as part of this ultimate vision, I fervently hope that the bcf-ed.org website can inspire and galvanize educators and leaders of our movement to seriously take up such a mantle and provide the requisite support needed to all Blessed Central Families enabling them to fulfill this heavenly mandate. I firmly believe that True Parents-centered post-Blessing education is a crucial element indispensable to empower Blessed Central Families to personify and exemplify those essential attributes and characteristics that will enable them to truly function as the base of the Kingdom of God on this earth.

Question: What inspired you to create this website?

This website was launched in response to my interest in and concern for the state of the post-Blessing educational providence in our movement and was also due, in no small part, to Heaven's inspiration. That Heavenly guidance coupled with my own interest and concern has been driving me over the past 10 to 12 years of my participation in the Blessed Family Department in the capacity of a BFD State

Representative, District Coordinator of District 9, and Senior Matching Advisor, to invest in and continually attempt to discover, uncover, and develop True Parents-inspired post-Blessing educational strategies and curricula. Those past inquiries found a dearth of resources of this nature, reinforcing my perception that I had detected a major gap in our post-Blessing educational offerings. Though I did find a small quantity of material that incorporated True Parents' words and guidance on the lifestyle, practices, and traditions for Blessed Central Families (that I have now featured in the 4 bcf-ed.org website), those resources were frequently disconnected, uncoordinated, and few were presentation (out-of-the-box) ready. Given my difficulty to uncover a True Parents-inspired post-Blessing curriculum, it is no wonder that the state of Unificationists' post-Blessing education is germinal. The type of material widely available to post-Blessing educators typically targets the institution of marriage through enrichment or enhancement material developed by such luminaries as John Gray (Mars/Venus), Drs. Les & Leslie Parrott (Save Your Marriage Before it Starts) or Gary Chapman (5 Love Languages), part of what has come to be known as the marriage education movement that was promoted and encouraged by the now-defunct Smart Marriages conferences. Though I have found marriage education material relevant and helpful since all Marriage Blessing relationships do require that couples establish and maintain successful marriages, I am convinced that a comprehensive post-Blessing study program must also feature and research the value, meaning, practices (including parenting), traditions, and lifestyle for this most holy sacrament. My drive to effect a reformation of post-Blessing education took a quantum step forward in July of 2015 when, after a 16-year effort to gain my MA in Sociology, and a bout of Mono, I had both the time and the inspiration to craft and launch the bcf-ed.org website, aided by the pro bono website development technical expertise of my son, Yongil Fleisher. It is my hope that the existence of a centralized repository of educational material and resources that are inspired by and rooted in the Divine Principle and the revelations of the True Parents will facilitate and streamline present and future research, development, and study of the Marriage Blessing and the way of life for Blessed Central Families.

Question: Who is it for?

I created this website as an in-reach educational clearinghouse for FFWPU educators, leaders, scholars, and members. It is designed as a centralized repository of True Parents' words (that have been translated into English) on the Marriage Blessing and the way of life for Blessed Central Families and also features educational resources and material that are inspired by, utilize, and reflect that original source material. It is my hope that bcf-ed.org will be accessed on a continual basis by Blessed Central families, leaders, and educators, resulting in a post-Blessing continuing education model/paradigm and in time, the emergence of a Marriage Blessing culture within our movement. To that end, I would encourage end-users to utilize this website for their personal development, and church leaders and post-Blessing educators to employ the True Parents' words along with inspired educational material and curricula found on bcf-ed.org in public programs or small group settings. Since the website is public, I expect that it will also be accessed by those interested in researching True Parents' revelations and insights on marriage, the Marriage Blessing, and the family.

To provide a quick overview of the site: at its initial launch, I did a cursory perusal of True Parents' speeches and books found on www.Tparents.org, and based on title alone, chose and downloaded speeches which seem to indicate that the target audience was Blessed Central Families. This material is located under the tab labeled "True Parents' Words About," and has been further subdivided under the headings of "Blessed Central Families," "parenting," and "other." I am now doing an in-depth read-through of speeches found on www.Tparents.org (am currently working on the year of 1999), and am posting any additional speeches where I find guidance directed towards Blessed Central Families, including contents which speak to the education of Blessed Children or which demonstrate and reflect True Father's education given to members on fulfilling the First Blessing and/or contributing to the providence. My ultimate goal is the construction of a centralized English language-based archive of True Parents' words on the Marriage Blessing, Blessed Central Families, and parenting. In addition to this source material, I have also posted PowerPoint presentations, papers, books, manuals, and links to websites under the following tabs: "Blessed Central Family Education," "Marriage Education" and "On Parenting Education." The material found under the "Blessed Central Family Education" tab features post-Blessing educational material for the benefit of Blessed Central Families that have been inspired by the Divine Principle and True Parents' speeches and words. The material found under the tab "Marriage Education" contains material that reflects a Unificationist's worldview on the institution of marriage. Lists of marriage education material that indirectly reflect a Unificationist's worldview can also be found under this tab. The material found under the tab "On Parenting Education" is intended for the use of parents and educators in their work with Blessed Children, and features True Parents-inspired parenting education resources. Finally, as this website purports to function as a clearinghouse for original Marriage Blessing and Blessed Central Family educational material that express a Unificationist's worldview, there is a tab which can be used by scholars and developers to submit their original post-Blessing education material for review and posting, should they meet the outlined parameters and guidelines.

Question: What has been the response from some people that have been introduced to the website?

Based on current traffic statistics for bcf-ed.org, I can tentatively say that the site is providing a service to both my local community of Blessed Central Families, as well as congregations and Blessed Central Families around the world. I purchased and activated the domain in July 2015. Since that time, and including the partial month of March, there have been 10,602 visits; the average is 1,178 visits per month and 73,346 hits with the average of 8,150 hits a month. The peak month for usage was in November 2015 (2,483 visits/21,030 hits) which was probably due to a marketing outreach I initiated targeting Unification Theological Seminary alumni (I was in the class of 1977). While the current response to bcf-ed.org is heartening, I am far from satisfied though I do remain hopeful that the site will continually stimulate the development of resources that are inspired by True Parents which will benefit and speak to post-Blessing life.