

FFWPU Europe and the Middle East: Bo-guk Hwang on the Ceremony Uniting Christianity and the Family Federation

Knut Holdhus
August 31, 2024



The unity ceremony of reconciliation between Christianity and the [Family Federation](#), held in [Gapyeong](#), South Korea 23rd August 2024



Rev. Bo-guk Hwang, August 30, 2024



Mother Moon, August 23, 2024

Interreligious ceremony of reconciliation to unite Christianity and Family Federation held in South Korea

Part 1 of report given by Rev. Bo-guk Hwang 30th August 2024 in a large meeting in Gapyeong, South Korea for members and leaders of the [Family Federation](#).

In a speech delivered to leaders and members of the [Family Federation](#) gathered in [Gapyeong](#), northeast of Seoul, 30th August 2024, Bo-guk Hwang (황보국), the president of the South Korean branch, reported about a recent unity ceremony where 40 Christian pastors and 40 [Family Federation](#) leaders took part.

Rev. Hwang (황보국) began his report by first reading a passage from [Father Moon](#)'s words,

"Christianity is the elder brother that remains with us to the end. That being so, unless we become one with this elder brother, there is no way to avoid death. We are facing that fate.

What is God's hope? It is that the [Unification Church](#) and Christianity will join hands. That is due to the [Principle](#). The [Parents](#) can be recognized only when Cain and Abel become one. Through Cain and Abel, the [Parents](#) can be reclaimed. Yet because of the separation and conflict between Cain and Abel, the [Parents](#)' way forward was blocked. Only when Cain and Abel unite and form a tribe on the world level will the [Parents](#) emerge. When that unity occurs in the democratic world, the groundwork will be laid for a world level victory." (from a speech given 18th August 1972, quoted from [Cheon Seong Gyeong](#), pp.875-876)

Rev. Hwang then read a passage from [Mother Moon](#)'s words.

"During the 70-year history of the [Family Federation](#), we should have created an environment on Earth where Heavenly Parent could be attended through the [True Parents](#). But because we failed to restore the Christian realm, we feel a profound sense of remorse toward Heaven.

Heaven has invested everything for the sake of the [True Parents](#), but it is a great sorrow that the [Family Federation](#) could not begin from a position of embracing the Christian realm." (from a speech given 18th July 2024)

Hwang continued and gave an overview of the week-long series of events held in Gapyeong, South Korea from 20th August to commemorate the 12th anniversary of [Father Moon](#)'s Seonghwa (ascension to the spirit world).



The unity ceremony of reconciliation between Christianity and the [Family Federation](#), held in [Gapyeong](#), South Korea 23rd August 2024

One of those events was a "Pastors Conference for a Heavenly Korea". The participating pastors took part in a special prayer vigil. During the vigil, there was a unity ceremony between Christian pastors and [Family Federation](#) leaders. According to Rev. Hwang,

"That occasion became the starting point for awakening the new spirit of a unified Korea centered on our Heavenly Parent, with Christianity and the [Family Federation](#) becoming one."



The unity ceremony of reconciliation between Christianity and the [Family Federation](#), held in [Gapyeong](#), S Korea 23rd Aug. 2024

Bo-guk Hwang said,

"At this unity ceremony, I testified to the great lives of righteous Christian people who from the perspective of Heaven's [providence](#) walked the path of noble sacrifice for the independence of our homeland.

I appealed for the [Family Federation](#) and Christianity to unite inter-religiously and ignite a new Holy Spirit movement, awakening the spirit of a new era centered on Heavenly Parent's will.

South and North Korea must reunite centered on [God](#)'s will. The movement for the unification of North

and South Korea centered on our Heavenly Parent - the heavenly unified Korea movement - is a new 'independence movement' and the new zeitgeist.

As they realized how great the contributions of Korean Christianity had been to the nation's independence, Christian pastors who listened to the lecture were moved to tears.



[Mother Moon's memoirs](#)

During the subsequent unity ceremony, Christian and [Family Federation](#) pastors exchanged the Bible, which testifies to the only begotten Son Jesus, and the memoirs of [True Mother](#), which testifies to the [only begotten Daughter](#).

This was a precious moment symbolizing the unity of the only begotten Son and the [only begotten Daughter](#) after 2000 years.

After the exchange ceremony, the Christian pastors and [Family Federation](#) pastors embraced warmly.

This embrace served as a moment to clear away the discomfort of the past when Christianity and the [Family Federation](#) could not unite.

All the pastors who attended were deeply moved and pledged to unite with the [Family Federation](#) for the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Korea to achieve a heavenly unified Korea."

According to Hwang, one pastor who attended the reconciliation ceremony, "expressed that he could see a vision of unity after 70 years of division in Israel's history and now 70 years of division on the Korean Peninsula." He stated that a stage for the harmony of the [Family Federation](#) and Christianity has opened up for the unloosing of [God's kingdom](#).

Another pastor said that about 80 pastors from Christianity and the [Family Federation](#) now had taken the first step towards understanding and unity by exchanging the Bible and [Mother Moon's memoirs](#). He was deeply moved, calling the reconciliation ceremony a great miracle that will go down in history.

A third pastor shared that it was incredibly moving to see Christianity and the [Family Federation](#) harmonize and sing the Song of Unity in a peaceful manner. He confessed that the progress towards unity between Christianity and the [Family Federation](#) is all due to [God's](#) grace and work.

To be continued. Part 2 coming soon.

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Holy Spirit Movement For Korean Reunification

August 26, 2024 • Knut Holdhus

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Call for creation of Holy Spirit movement for Korean reunification at 12th anniversary of Father Moon's ascension

A speech given by Rev. Bo-guk Hwang, President of the Family Federation of South Korea, at a large event 23rd August 2024 organized by the Family Federation in the big indoor arena Hyojeong Cultural Center in Gapyeong, South Korea commemorating the 12th anniversary of Father Moon's passing in 2012.



Bo-guk Hwang speaking 23rd August 2024. Photo: Screenshot from live transmission by PeaceTV.

World leaders and blessed members from all around the world, [...]

Protestant Christianity and Korean independence

Let me read from the True Parents' words:

"The people who were centered on Christianity took the lead in establishing this nation of Korea. In this way, this is one aspect of the great providential significance of Christianity. In the

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most of 40 years of Japanese oppression, they voluntarily took a path facing death to establish a path of loyalty and patriotism toward their country." ([Father Moon](#), 1974)

"Before Korea came under Japanese rule, Protestant Christianity from the United States was introduced. Centered around Pyongyang, they sparked a spiritual movement. Christians across the country who embraced the new culture began the independence movement." ([Mother Moon](#), 30th June 2024)

Respected leaders and family members,



[Father Moon](#) on 16th July 2012, not long before he ascended. Photo: [FFWPU](#)

17th July by the oriental lunar calendar, this year 20th August by the solar calendar was the 12th anniversary of the ascension of [Sun Myung Moon](#), the [True Parent](#) of Heaven, Earth and Humankind.

Before his ascension, [Father Moon](#) [...] spent a long time deep in thought about his hometown. Perhaps he was dreaming of returning to his hometown one day with the country united.

However, [Father Moon](#) had to leave before his earnest dream of the unification of North and South Korea was achieved, and he ascended to Heaven.

Now we must awaken a new spirit on the Korean peninsula and finally make that dream of unifying our nation come true.

About 140 years ago, three missionaries



[Horace N. Allen](#). Photo: [Unknown author / Wikimedia Commons](#). [Public domain image](#). [Cropped](#)



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representing American Protestantism came to Korea. First of all, there was missionary [Horace N. Allen](#) (1858-1932) from the *Northern Presbyterian Church*, arriving in 1884, and then in 1885, missionaries [Horace G. Underwood](#) (1859-1916), also from the *Northern Presbyterian Church*, and [Henry G. Appenzeller](#) (1858-1902) from the *Methodist Episcopal Church*.

At the time, Korea was in a very chaotic situation, facing pressures from foreign powers and also going through internal changes.

Under Japanese rule

In particular, Japan's control over Korea strengthened when it won the *Russo-Japanese War* in 1904-1905.

Japan then deprived Korea of its diplomatic rights through the *Eulsa treaty* in 1905.

And in 1907, Japan dethroned Korea's emperor [Gojong](#) under the pretext of sending a special envoy to the Hague. Through the *Jeongmi Treaty* in 1907, they took control of the internal affairs of Korea and disbanded the Korean army. And then through the annexation treaty in 1910, Japan completely took away Korea's sovereignty.

However, [God](#) knew that this crisis would occur and let Christianity take root in advance. Japan tried to invade the sovereignty and rule Korea.

But [God](#) prepared Korea to become an independent nation of faith where it could serve [God](#) by creating a great revival centered on Christianity here in Korea.

Christian spirit key to independence



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From regular weekly prayer meeting in Pyongyang sometimes between 1908-1922. Photo: Methodist Episcopal Church / Wikimedia Commons. *Public domain* image. Cropped

Through the Wonsan revival movement in 1903, the Pyongyang revival movement in 1907, and the *One Million Souls* movement in 1909, many people in Korea accepted the Christian faith. In particular, in the Pyongyang great revival movement which took place at the Jangdaehyeon church in 1907, there were earnest prayers from the people in the midst of their suffering. A powerful wave of the Holy Spirit swept through the church, bringing lots of repentance.

From that time, on the Korean peninsula a great revival movement spread throughout the nation. Korean Christianity grew explosively. Pyongyang came to be known as the Jerusalem of the East.

That movement, along with Christian spirituality, raised the historic and national consciousness of the Korean people. That became an important foundation for the independence movement.

The desire for independence was strong in the spirit of Korea at that time, riding on the wave of the Holy Spirit. The *March 1* movement was an important focal point in the independence movement.



Photo of the Mansei demonstrations in 1919, that was part of the *March 1* Independence Movement. Here, thousands of enthusiastic Koreans demonstrating outside the Palace in Seoul. Photo: Unknown author / Wikimedia Commons. *Public domain* image. Cropped

Many Christians who were moved by the Holy Spirit participated in the *March 1* Independence Movement. Among the 35 national representatives who wrote Korea's *Declaration of Independence*, 16 of them were Christians. About 200,000 Christians, equivalent to 1% of the Korean population, participated in the independence movement.

18% of those imprisoned and 65% of the females who were imprisoned were Christians. Even as 7,509 people lost their lives, the desire for independence did not subside.

This was the result of the Christian spirit, the willingness to sacrifice one's life to achieve national freedom, following the example of Jesus Christ's sacrifice and love.

In this way, the independence movement, which was led by Christians, who made up 1% of the population, spread throughout the Korean peninsula, achieving a surprising result of reaching 10% of the people participating in the independence movement.

One characteristic of the *March 1* movement is that the central persons were religious people. Of the 33 national representatives, 16 were Christians, 15 were from the Cheondogyo [Editor's note: indigenous Korean religion], and two were Buddhists.

They became pioneers who guided the national spirit and raised the torch of the *March 1* movement. They pointed their faith towards patriotism and rose up with a life or death fighting spirit to take responsibility for their nation. In this way, the *March 1* Independence Movement in 1919 awakened the national consciousness for independence, which remained alive until the liberation of the country was finally achieved in 1945.

Behind this were righteous Christian people who created the spirit of the times with their sense of history.

North-South Unification





UN delegate Lieut. Gen. William K. Harrison, Jr. (seated left), and Korean People's Army and Chinese People's Volunteers delegate Gen. Nam Il (seated right) signing the Korean War armistice agreement at Panmunjom, Korea, 27th July 1953. Photo: U.S. Department of Defense (F. Kazukaitis. U.S. Navy) / Wikimedia Commons. **Public domain image.** Cropped

This year marks the 71st anniversary of the **armistice agreement** at the end of the Korean War. It has been 71 years since that agreement was signed on **27th July 1953**.

As these 70 years have passed since the division of the south and the north, the Jerusalem of the east, where the fire of the Holy Spirit had burned so fiercely, has suffered under communist rule for 70 years and has not been able to freely call out the name of **God**.

The North Korean regime threatens peace on the Korean peninsula and world peace with nuclear weapons.

Although South Korea has achieved economic revival with the introduction of liberal democracy, it faces a population crisis, with a falling birth rate and the spread of materialism and individualism, losing track of values, a rise in youth delinquency and family breakdown.

Now with one of the world's lowest birth rates, the Korean peninsula faces a greater crisis than ever before. In order to overcome this crisis, all religious people, including Christians, must rise up and awaken a new spirit of this time centered on **God's** will. South and North Korea must meet again centered on **God's** will.

The North-South Unification Movement centered on **God**, the heavenly unified Korea movement, is a new independence movement and a new spirit of our times. It is a **God's** fatherland restoration movement that seeks a nation and its righteousness.

Babylonian exile



The journey of the Judean exiles to Babylon – 6th century BC. Photo: Key maker / Wikimedia Commons. License: **CC ASA 4.0 Int.** Cropped

In the past, Israel lost its faith in **God** and was divided into a northern and a southern part. The northern part of Israel was destroyed by Assyria. The southern part Judah was taken by the Babylonian empire and held captive for 70 years. But when the time of the **providence** was right, **God** liberated the Jewish people.

"This is what the Lord says: 'When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfil my good promise to bring you back to this place.'" (Jeremiah 29:10)

This kind of history does not only happen to the Jewish people. The Korean people are another chosen people that Heaven has prepared.

Therefore, when the time comes, works will also happen on the Korean peninsula. It has already been 70 years since the division of the south and the north. Just as **God** liberated the Jewish people from Babylon after 70 years, Heaven is now bringing about the heavenly fortune of the unification of the north and south.

The issue is human responsibility. Are we ready for what Heaven desires?

The unification of North and South Korea can never be achieved through human effort alone. A movement to invite **God**, our Heavenly Parent to the Korean peninsula must begin. A Holy Spirit movement must begin allowing us to strongly experience the Heavenly Parent as the Parent of humanity, who loves humanity so much.

The people of South and North Korea must realize that they are brothers and sisters as children of **God**. A true desire to live together must arise from the depth of their hearts. We must create a history of unity through tears of **true love**.

A new Holy Spirit movement for Korean Unification

There was a powerful Holy Spirit movement centered around Wonsan and Pyongyang that arose over 100 years ago and awakened the spirit of the times for national independence.

In the same way now, the [Family Federation](#) and righteous Christians must unite in interfaith cooperation and ignite a new Holy Spirit movement for the unification of the south and the north.

We must respond to the spirit of our times – the vision for a heavenly unified Korea.



From the unity ceremony for Christian clergy and [Family Federation](#) leaders 23rd August 2024 in Gapyeong, South Korea. Photo: Screenshot from live transmission via PeaceTV.

Tonight, there will be a unity ceremony for Christian pastors and [Family Federation](#) pastors during this night vigil.

This will be the time of a starting point for Christianity and the [Family Federation](#) to become one in order to move towards the unification of South and North, centered on [God](#) – a heavenly unified Korea.

2025 is the 80th anniversary of our liberation from Japan. The number eight is the number for a new start. A liberation with division of the north and the south is not the true liberation that Heaven wants for Korea.

Now, it is a time to achieve the true liberation that Heaven desires, a true liberation of [God's](#) fatherland. Through the unification of the South and the North, let us reconcile North and South Korea with [God's true love](#) and achieve the unification that Heaven desires.

As it says in Matthew 5:9,

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of [God](#).”

I will conclude my message today with this. Thank you very much.

Text: Edited version of simultaneous translation from Korean to English. Inaccuracies may occur.

Featured image above: Korean reunification. Illustration: Microsoft Designer Image Creator, 26th August 2024.

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