

Special Holy Wine Ceremony on Sunday, March 11th, 2012

Michael Jenkins
March 3, 2012



MEMO

TO: All Co-chairs, 172 and all ACLC Clergy, Executive Directors and Coordinators
DATE: March 3, 2012
RE: Special Holy Wine Ceremony on Sunday, March 11th, 2012
FROM: National Executive Board of ACLC

Our founders, Father and Mother Moon, our Presiding Prelate, Rev. in Jin Moon, and all of us on our National Board want to ask all ACLC churches to support the international blessing of marriage ceremony that will be held March 24, 2012, in Seoul, Korea, (Friday evening March 23 in the U.S.) and will be broadcast to 194 nations.

To prepare our ACLC pastors and their congregations to join into this holy occasion, we want as many ACLC churches as possible to hold a Rededication of Marriage with the Holy Wine, to be conducted by the pastor on Sunday, March 11th. All couples will be invited to attend the International Holy Blessing Ceremony at a local location if available. *(If there are enough couples, each major city can organize a blessing ceremony in conjunction with the international ceremony. If it is done in the LLM of your city then it will be webcast. If an ACLC church is the venue then we will provide a video from a past event to avoid technical problems. If there is no local blessing being held the couples may simply join in their home for a prayer to receive God's final blessing and seal at 9 pm Friday, March 23rd.)*

It will be best if each ACLC church has an announcement in their March 4th Sunay bulletin about the holy wine rededication marriage ceremony for March 11th. From that ceremony all will be invited to participate in the International Blessing at a local church on Friday, March 23rd.

All Executive Directors, please work closely with your ACLC core churches and supporting churches to set a time in the service on Sunday, March 11th, to call the participating couples forward to receive the holy wine. The best time to do this is after the sermon, which is a time of inspiration and also reverence toward God. The pastor will call the couples forward for the holy wine and for a special prayer of blessing on their marriages.

Note: We are doing this in the love of God and the spirit of strengthening families. We are not asking any of our ACLC Churches to push for numbers. We are simply opening the door of this incredible blessing to strengthen marriages. We would like each church to do three couples as a start, but if the pastor wants to call all couples forward, we are very happy to support that. Again, we are not looking for numbers. This is a natural inspiration based on the vision of our True Parents, Father and Mother Moon.

The executive directors of ACLC, along with co-chairs, should properly prepare each church** and the elements of the services should be as follows:

A. Meaning

With the anointing of Jesus, Father and Mother Moon are asking all pastors to teach fidelity and faithfulness in marriage and to bless the marriages of their congregation. Through this each married couple comes under a special covering of the Holy Spirit. Jesus said in Matthew 19: 4 – 6 : “And he answered and said unto them, ‘Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.’” It is ordained of God that we are to join together as one under God’s Blessing.

Jesus has anointed and affirmed Father and Mother Moon as True Parents and are asking all of us to make that covenantal commitment to God and to receive the anointing as the true parents of our families. A true parent is one who is faithful to God in obedience to His word and absolutely loving, as Jesus would be loving, to one another’s spouse and to the children, and nothing can separate a true parent from God or from one another.

B. A three minute introduction from the host pastor should be given to explain the biblical and spiritual significance of this rededication ceremony. A suggested message will be provided.

C. The ceremony at an ACLC Church on Sunday, March 11, 2012

The pastor calls participating couples to come to the front, husbands and wives facing the pulpit in a straight line. Also, after the couples are well organized in the front, please call all individuals whose spouse is not there, or whose spouse has transitioned to heaven. Then remind everyone that all unmarried individuals can also receive a special blessing from the Holy Spirit by taking the holy juice. From the couples standing in the front, choose one representative couple to come onstage. Have the couples face each other and give the cup to the woman.

(At this time also, the attendants or ushers can give the cup to the women in the line of married couples in front of the pulpit. The holy wine can be distributed to the whole congregation if the pastor so desires.)

With the representative couple on the stage, the pastor and his or her spouse should stand facing the congregation to the right of the pulpit. The representative couple should be facing the pastor, with the woman on the right side and the husband on her left. Likewise for the couples in line, the husband should stand at the left hand of his wife.

The pastor should give the holy wine to the wife, saying these words: “Because Eve disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden and Adam followed her, therefore, it must be the mother that comes and reestablishes the vertical covenant with God and brings it to her husband. As the mother takes the cup, she establishes her position as the mother of the family. In essence, she brings this blessing to her husband from a mother’s position, restoring the husband to his rightful position.” The pastor should ask the wife to drink half.

Now ask the husband in the representative couple to bow to his wife. He receives the holy wine with both hands and then he drinks the other half of the cup. Now the pastor asks all the women to drink half of the cup. Then the husbands bow to their wives, following the example of the representative couple. Then the husband receives the holy wine with two hands and drinks the other half of the cup. At this point, individuals whose spouses are not present or their spouse has gone on to heaven should drink once for their spouse and once for themselves. Finally, the entire congregation should be invited to receive a blessing from the Holy Spirit and all can join in drinking the holy wine.

The ushers should collect the cups. Then the couples hold both hands, facing one another. The pastor asks the couples these four questions, with the couples responding after each.

1. Do you affirm on this day that you will be faithful to God's command, to become true parents?
2. Do you affirm this day in the love of Jesus that you will be faithful to your spouse, forsaking all others?
3. Do you affirm that you will teach your children to be pure and chaste before marriage and faithful in marriage?
4. Do you affirm that you will join with True Parents in the love of Jesus to restore your community, nation and world to come under God's blessing?

The pastor and spouse should join hands together, and at the microphone offer a short prayer of blessing for the families. The pastor can say, you may kiss the bride.

The pastor should announce that an international gathering will be held in which a worldwide prayer will be offered for all couples standing together in the image and likeness of God. This will be held March 23rd, 9:00 pm Eastern time, in America.

A celebratory song could be sung by the choir or a soloist.

Ask the couples to proceed to the registry and sign their names in the Book of Life. (We should create a nice registry for them to sign).

After the ceremony the Sunday service concludes. If there is a church luncheon, please invite the couples to give testimonies and record the testimonies.

Encourage all participating couples to attend an upcoming OSDP Kingdom Registration program, in which they will learn deeply about the Scriptural foundation for marriage and family.

Sincerely,



Dr. Michael Jenkins
Chairman
American Clergy Leadership Conference

** We recommend that one of the ACLC Unification leaders be present to support or, if the pastor so desires, the Unification ACLC pastor can do the prayer or even conduct the service. However, we encourage everyone to support the pastor in leading this blessing ceremony.

Items to prepare for each participating church:

Holy wine

Registry for the couples to sign

Someone to take digital pictures of the event (and perhaps a picture for each couple)

Leaflets for those who attend, inviting them to the Blessing on March 23rd, Friday night (according to the local situation)

Gather testimonies from some of the participants

Information about upcoming local OSDP program