

Farley Jones: Unification Church Dogma Called 'Only Way' to Hope

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"I was ready to retreat to the woods. When the Pope outlawed birth control... Then the Vietnam War, the ecology problems. I saw what they were teaching was the only way." Farley Jones, 28, of Washington, D.C., was describing the reasons why he joined the Unification Church of Sun Myung Moon. "It conveys tremendous hope despite the darkness of the world" Jones continued.

The Unification Church claims to be "the new church for the new age," the age when the kingdom of God on Earth will come into being. That was the message that Jones, Mr. Moon and about 75 other young people brought to Philadelphia this week.

Pessimists might say the world does not need another religion, only a will to use what we already have. But the Unification Church wags a lot about where young people are.

Considered from a Christian theology standpoint, Unification doctrine can only be called heresy. Jones explained the Church holds that God's purpose for Christ on earth was thwarted. It was not supposed to end in the crucifixion but in the founding of a God-centered works.

Christ, he said, was the God-centered man who was to have formed the God-centered family. From that, in expanding concentric circles, the Kingdom of God would have come into being. Jesus death cut short that plan. Mr. Moon, a Korean who suffered under Communist hands, and now is a dedicated anti-

Communist, claims this is the age of the "second coming," that "through marriage, man and wife are to establish a "trinity" with God. He also argues that God's suffering over man's sins is nearly over.

This is the age where God and man will unite and the Kingdom of God will begin," Jones said.

The "contemporary prophet" who is establishing the pattern for the new family and thus the kingdom, is Mr. Moon, depicted on flyers and posters with wife and two children. Many church members have never seen the entire family.

"Mr. Moon feels he is carrying out the Divine plan. He has had a sense of mission from God from childhood," Jones explained. Some 75 young people have left professional jobs, schools and their homes to tour with Mr. Moon for 40 days while he plants the Unification seed all over America. They will continue the crusade for the next three years.

What he represents to many of them is total commitment to God and the carrying out of God's plan.

Jones had studied at Princeton and was doing graduate work at Columbia University in English literature when he gave it up to work full-time for the church in Washington DC (The Church claims 1.5 million members in 25 countries). He and his wife were one of the 777 couples married in Korea last year in what the church says was the largest marriage ceremony in history. (Actually 791 couples were joined there, but the Church likes the mystic 777.)