

This week in history, April 13-19:

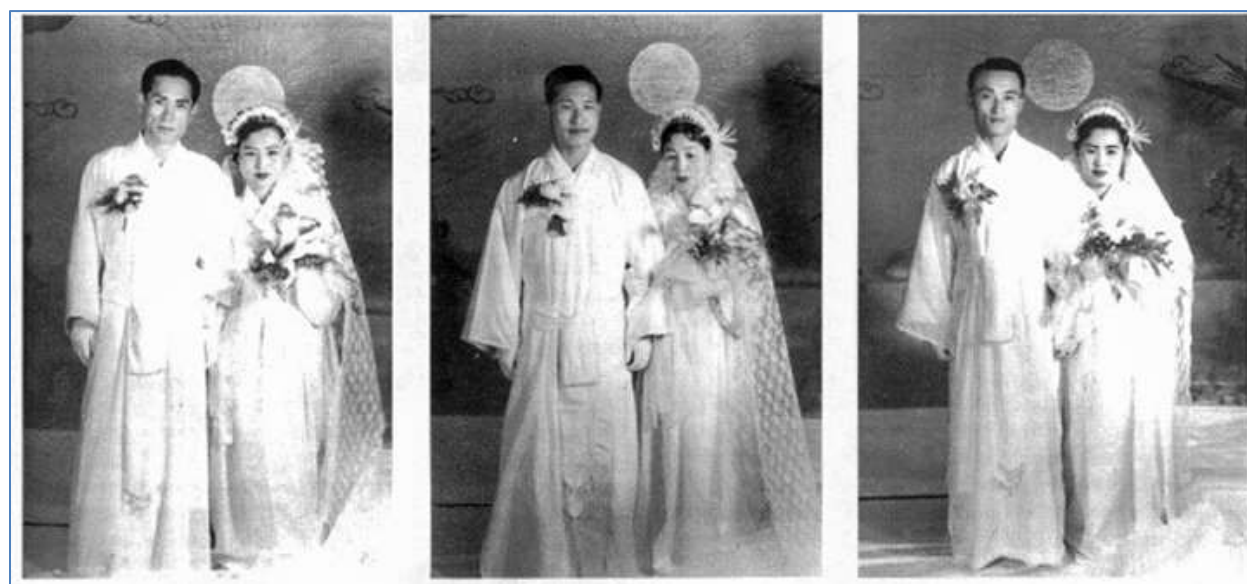
Michael Mickler
April 13, 2020

April 13, 2004 Proclamation of Liberation and Release



True Father delivered a Proclamation of Liberation and Release on April 13, 2004. He noted that three days earlier, on April 10, he had declared the "release of the angelic world," the "release of Cain and Abel," and the "release of the Parents of Cheon ju, Cheon ji, Cheon ji-in" [Parents of the Cosmos, of Heaven and Earth, and of Heaven, Earth and Humankind]. He said he was completing spiritual conditions on many levels that are needed for God to exercise "His authority of all-immanence, all-authority, all-power and all-transcendence." Since the Coronation Ceremony for the Kingship of God (January 13, 2001), True Father had proclaimed various realms of liberation. In the Proclamation of Liberation and Release, True Father distinguished between Hae Bang (liberation) and Seok Bang (total and complete release and freedom). True Father added Seok Bang to the Family Pledge on August 20, 2004, meaning that not only sin but any record of sin would be eliminated.

April 16, 1960 Three Couples Holy Marriage Blessing



On April 16, 1960, the fifth day following True Parents' Holy Wedding, True Parents blessed three couples in Holy Matrimony. They were Kim Won-pil and Chung Dal-ok; Eu Hyo-won and Sa Gil-ja; and

Kim Young-hwi and Chung Dae-hwa. There were a number of providential conditions connected to these couples. True Father noted that they represented the families of Adam, Noah and Abraham. They also were chosen as the resurrected figures of Cain, Abel and Seth in Adam's family. In addition, they were in the position of Jesus' three main disciples and restored archangels. True Father stated that he required "three disciples" in the position of spiritual children "who will be loyal to him and follow him through persecution, even at the risk of their lives" as a condition for his Holy Wedding. True Father, thereby, engaged the three couples ahead of his wedding. One of the couples had been previously married, one had been previously engaged, and one was "matched" immediately before their engagement. In this way, they were intended to represent all marital situations. The three couples joined 33 additional couples who were blessed in marriage the following year as the Unification Church's original 36 couples.

April 16, 1980

True Father Declares the End of the First 21-Year Course



Unification theology teaches that the course of creation and restoration unfolds according to the three stages of formation, growth and perfection. True Father applied that principle in conducting his ministry. He initially applied it to his individual course upon embarking on his public ministry after World War II. The 21-year course with which Unificationists were most familiar followed True Parents' Holy Wedding in 1960. True Father described how True Parents walked a family-level course for seven years, followed by a national-level course in which the Unification tradition stabilized itself within Korea, and then a worldwide course during which True Parents planted Unificationism globally. True Father declared that 21-year course to be completed on Parents Day, April 16, 1980. He said that it was to be followed by another 21-year course centered on Unification blessed families. This course, he noted, would be centered first upon deterring the advance of communists and then liberating them. To do so, he said Unificationists must "be superior in God-centered character and in strength of knowledge, experience and organization." The new 21-year course would

be centered upon "Home Church," which True Father described as the methodology to "liberate the entire world centered on the true love of God."

April 17, 1935

True Father's Easter Revelation



In his autobiography, *As a Peace-Loving Global Citizen*, True Father traces circumstances that led to his profound encounter with Jesus on Easter morning, 1935. In particular, he notes his exposure to suffering which included the suffering of Korea under Japanese colonial authorities and his family's suffering, which included the loss of five younger siblings during his fifteenth year. From this time, True Father began to immerse himself in prayer, often at desolate locations. He recounts, "The night

before Easter in the year I turned sixteen, I was on Mount Myodu praying all night and begging God in tears for answers." Then, in the early morning, having spent the entire night in prayer, True Father stated that "Jesus appeared before me ... in an instant, like a gust of wind, and said to me, 'God is in great sorrow because of the pain of humankind. You must take on a special mission on earth having to do with Heaven's work.'"

True Father said that Jesus' manifestation "caused my body to shake violently, like quaking aspen leaves trembling in a strong breeze." He said he was "simultaneously overcome with fear so great I thought I might die and gratitude so profound I felt I might explode." Jesus, he recounted, "spoke clearly about the work I would have to do ... saving humanity from its suffering and bringing joy to God." True Father said he was "truly afraid." He wanted "somehow to avoid this mission" and remembers, "I clung to the hem of his clothing and wept inconsolably."

April 17, 1960
The Day of the Resurrection of Shimjeong Proclaimed

Just after Parents' Day was established in 1960, True Parents proclaimed the Resurrection of Shimjeong (Parental Heart) on April 17. It was the day on which all Unificationists who had accepted True Parents inherited the potential to be restored as sons and daughters of the True Parents on the shimjeong level. "If you believe in me," True Father said that day, "spiritually you become my sons and daughters on the shimjeong level."

April 18, 2003
Clergy Take Down Crosses



True Father believed that "deep-rooted conflict between major religious traditions" constituted the background of "violent wars all over the world. It followed that religious leaders should take the initiative in restoring peace. This lay behind True Father's proposal for an interreligious assembly or council at the United Nations. It also undergirded his thinking about the Middle East. True Father taught that Christian, Jewish and Muslim leaders should resolve their differences as a condition for the cessation of violence. However, this necessitated that Christian clergy acknowledge that "the era of the cross" had passed and, in fact, remove their crosses, which had been a barrier

between the first and second Israel.

The "Take Down the Cross" initiative crystallized in early 2003. In February, True Father asked Unification Church and American Clergy Leadership Conference leaders to educate Christian clergy in Unification theology. At the beginning of March, he called upon clergy to remove crosses from their churches. The goal was that on April 18, Good Friday, 120 ACLC clergy nationwide would have a public ceremony to take down the cross. That goal was met. As reported by Michael Jenkins, who at the time was the president of HSA-USA: "123 clergy took down their crosses over the Easter weekend ... supported by another 135 clergy. ... All told, 258 clergy directly affirmed the taking down of the cross, proclaiming an end to the era of bloodshed and sacrifice and the beginning of a new era of faith and resurrection." Though controversial in some quarters, their action launched the Middle East Peace Initiative (MEPI) which brought 10,000 clergy and Ambassadors for Peace to the Holy Land over the following two years.

April 19, 2000
True Mother Completes 12-City US Tour



Giving a public speech every day for 12 days in a row, True Mother crisscrossed the country, completing the 12-city United States leg of her 2000 World Speaking Tour from April 8 to 19. The tour had been undertaken following Phase One of the 400 Million Couple Holy Blessing and True Father's 80th birthday. True Mother spoke on "The Path for America and Humanity in the Last Days" to capacity audiences throughout the country. She challenged the United States to fulfill its providential destiny in living for the sake of others.

For the tour finale in New York City, approximately 3,000 people squeezed into Avery Fisher Hall, a concert hall that is part of Manhattan's famous Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. True Mother received awards and gifts from the Nation of Islam, the True Family Values Clergy Coalition, and the Family Federation. She then selected from a basket the number which would indicate the lucky recipients of 24-carat "Pure Love" rings. At the end of the program, True Mother presented the Living for the Sake of Others Award to persons and organizations who had demonstrated the spirit of living for the sake of others.