

Unificationists Rob and Sally Sayre Create Treasury of Testimonies from Couples Blessed in 1982

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From left to right: Abby Sayre, Sally Sayre, Rob Sayre, Laurel (Sayre) Nakai, Miles Nakai and Koichi Nakai.

Unificationist Rob Sayre, who was Blessed in marriage to Sally West Sayre in the now famous 1982 mass-wedding ceremony at Madison Square Garden, is calling upon the other 2,075 couples who exchanged vows that day to participate in an online repository of testimonies, with matching-, wedding- and current photos.

Sayre began this ambitious project, which is titled “2,075 Couples Blessing Memories,” in January of 2012, when he proposed the idea to the Blessed Family Association and received funding for a website. He has since contacted District Pastors and Unificationists overseas to spread the word, as well as created a website (2075blessingmemories.org) that now displays more than 500 photos and 30 stories and a Facebook group that has more than 600 members. A book is planned as well.



A cover for the anticipated book containing photos and testimonies from participants of the 1982 Blessing.

“I attended my 40th High School Reunion the summer of 2011 and had so much fun connecting to old friends with whom I had grown up and shared so many wonderful experiences,” Sayre wrote to Unificationnews.com when asked what had inspired 2,075 Couples Blessing Memories. “The organizing

committee for the reunion had produced a book for the event, and it is a treasured part of my library now.

“I then thought that the couples who were Blessed in 1982 by Rev. and Mrs. Sun Myung Moon, our True Parents, could do something similar for the 30th anniversary of our Blessing in the summer of 2012. Many of the participants in this Blessing had worked closely together in the 70's, were matched directly by True Father and have had personal experiences with him. As a group, we are still connected in many ways, including the matching of our children. Some of the participants of the 1982 Blessing are passing away and this will continue to occur at a more rapid pace. I wanted to capture these testimonies.”

Thirty years after their marriage, Rob and Sally Sayre now work as a career and marketing consultant and public school teacher, respectively, in New Tripoli, PA and are the proud parents of three and even prouder grandparents of five.

“I grew up in a college town in Colorado,” said Sayre. “My parents, neighbors and all my parents’ friends were veterans of World War II. It was not until later in life that my mother shared with me the stories of their participation in events that had shaped the 20th century. I had grown up among heroes and had never known it. The generation of people who shared the work and vision of our True Parents, in large and small ways, I see as similar. I would like their stories told.”

"Through this project, my wife, our two kids and I can have a better understanding of what it was like for our parents to be part of a ceremony as historic as the 1982 Blessing," said Koichi Nakai, Sayre's son-in-law. "An important part of our faith is honoring our parents and ancestors, and so memorializing 30-year-old pictures and testimonies of the generation before us on the internet, which anyone can access, will help young Unificationists respect the commitment so many of their parents made to God and Rev. and Mrs. Sun Myung Moon with the hope of creating a better future for them."

To learn more about the 2,075 Couples Blessing Memories, visit 2075blessingmemories.org or contact Rob Sayre