

We Are an Offering

Dae Oh Son
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Mr. Dae Oh Son (left) with other members of the Korean Folk Ballet Staff, Moo Kyung Lee and Suk Koo Shin

I am very humble in making comments on our experiences in America, because I do not know the whole situation in America. I am very confined within the realm of my experience or that of the Korean Folk Ballet.

As you know, the Unification family members in Korea do not have so many opportunities to go abroad or to participate in foreign activities. There are several exceptions, such as Col. Bo Hi Pak, David Kim and others. But for the general members there are not as many opportunities.

But in Korea, Reverend Moon always taught every family member, "We must sacrifice for the whole world, not just for Korea. We must work for the whole world. So even though you are working in Korea, you should think that you are now working not for Korea but for the whole world." This is the basic attitude of faith in the Korean family. So it is quite natural to us to go abroad for the first time in America; it is not so unfamiliar. I think that because we share the same heart and the same Divine Principle, it was very easy for us to adjust to America. The staff members and all the Korean sisters do not feel that we are in America or in some foreign country. It is just like home. It is a very great experience for us.

So I am convinced that we can bring unity in our family transcending national backgrounds, even when we cannot speak the same language. We know each other very closely.

Another thing we have realized is that all the Western and American family members are working so hard and so beautifully.

The IOWC brothers and sisters, for example, are just beautiful. They are really wonderful brothers and sisters. We and the IOWC members and the New Hope Singers are very close these days, through this eight-city tour. They really deserve to be called Father's true children. We respect them.

All day long they stand on the street and distribute fliers and pamphlets, but they look so happy and so alive. This is also a great source of stimulation of our faith. When we were in Chicago, I spent one day with them, from the early morning to late at night, experiencing the same situation. I felt, "This is a beautiful job." There are many kinds of jobs, even in our church, but I now think this is the best one. But it is the most hard working. But I realized that Heavenly Father takes care of them, physically and spiritually many brothers and sisters have told me that they can feel Father directing them, giving them direct help.

This training in America will become a great foundation to win the victory all over the world. But I realize why Reverend Moon has pushed them so hard. This is not for the present day, but for the future, when they must struggle with the Communists. We must prepare for that circumstance. I think they are really wonderful heavenly soldiers, brave, solid soldiers.

Regarding American society, it is so highly systematized, and every time we meet a situation, it is very artificial, not natural. This is quite different from the environment in Korea.

So we are always put in an artificial environment, and these circumstances are not so good for the life of faith. It is very difficult to keep our faith constant or very deep, because of so many artificial hindrances and such material abundance.

We miss nature very much. To have deep meditation or to make my mind pure is very difficult.

Reverend Moon used to go to the sea, or off by himself. I think he misses that. In Korea it is very easy to get that chance. Here we travel often and stay in motels, not in church centers: so the spiritual atmosphere has to be restored. That is very difficult.

I think that the structure of American society is designed to make people fall. The American social structure is like an archangel structure. So within such a society, how can we keep our faith strong? This is a very important and realistic question to us.

Nowadays I am thinking of answers. Some people have a difficult time spiritually. Something like this originates for two reasons: one is the American society, the other is the educational system within our church.

First of all, within our church I think we need a very good educational or training system. We have to constantly provide each of our young family members with spiritual guidance, spiritual food, the Divine Principle. Without that, it is sometimes confusing for people to understand why they are working at a particular mission. There are so many different kinds of elements and temptations. So if we are to get the victory, we must teach the young people, study the Principle, and have prayer, prayer, prayer.

The quality of the leaders must be developed. There are many young followers now. We must take care of them, but also push them. But in the back, we must take care of each person individually. If someone has a problem within himself, we must find him, talk with him, and inspire him. We must solve these problems. This is, I think, my special concern.

The Unification Church movement is good, but this is a faith, not only a movement. So the movement is external. The internal part of faith, deep meditation, and prayer, must be parallel. Reverend Moon speaks so powerfully, but you sense his deep mind. There is a huge root of faith, so in any case he can never waver. But we don't have that kind of root. So we must practice.

We have learned so much from our church's activities in America. They are so well coordinated, with much wonderful assistance from scientific materials. The publicity is very beautiful. I don't think the Korean people can keep up with the American people on that point.

But Korea should do something for the Western families. That is, I think, spiritual guidance, the inner faith. I realize at last, "Oh, we have another mission than they do." Actually, we have learned so many things through the give and take and the stimulation coming from each other. That is very good. So we never get bored in America. Every day is a new day to us.

All we have to do is to have the consciousness of being a sacrifice, thinking, "I am an offering on Father's altar." Without the depth of that consciousness, the life of faith is very difficult. We must move so fast, so we cannot take care of all our family in detail. In that case, how can we keep our faith from being easily hurt? We must have the consciousness of being an offering. We almost always think about ourselves, "Oh, what am I doing now?" So eventually people become confused and lose everything. Actually, we are the offering now; we are like Isaac, being offered by Abraham. As you know, the offering cannot have any consciousness of being, in itself. Also, it cannot have any consciousness of possession.

This became much more realistic to me when I arrived in America than when I was in Korea. We must be an offering. I realized that much more realistically and concretely. We can overcome everything if we have that consciousness of being an offering.