

The historical development of True Parents' strategy for building God's kingdom

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True Parents launched the Middle East Peace Initiative in Washington DC in February 2003

I wish to present the historical development of True Parents' strategy for building God's kingdom. As we reflect back, even forty, fifty years or more, we see the development of a strategic plan, the root of which was understanding God's nature and heart in depth and bringing God's truth to humanity. True Parents come as religious leaders and are the product of Heaven's blessing and guidance and protection.

The roots

After religion, the second most fundamental aspect of human life is the family, our means to reproduce the species, which determines the quality of the species. The man–woman relationship forms the nuclear family, which expands to an extended family and is the basis of tribes, ethnicities, races. The original nation-state concept is built around the idea of a state that is for a group of people of the same nationality.

One major issue about family is that it creates tribes and ethnicities. One of the challenges throughout history is learning how to build bridges so that we do not remain locked within tribal and ethnic identities. In the study of the family, this is termed "endogamy versus exogamy" -- meaning whether you marry within the tribe or you marry outside of the tribe. True Parents have led the way in promoting global exogamy, so that we may build a global family through the blessing and through the intermarriage of all God's sons and daughters.

These constitute the root of their strategy for peace, building on religion and the transformation of human beings based on religion and a new ideal of the family.

Societal transformation

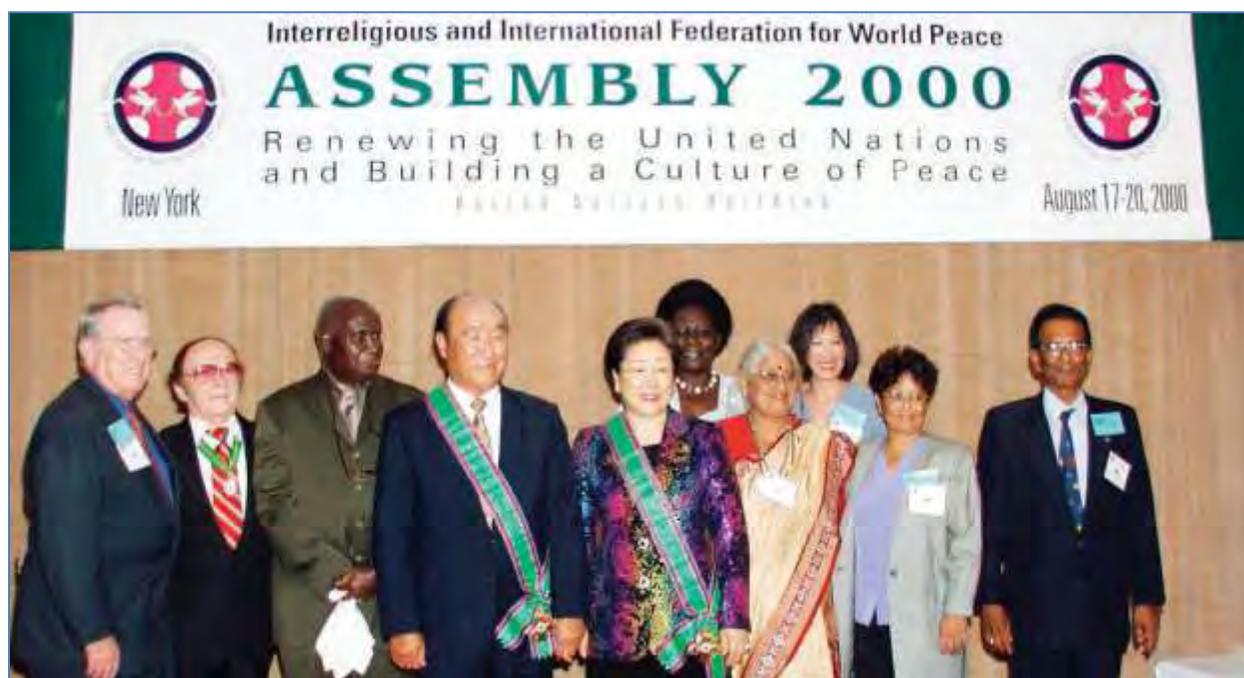
True Parents quickly understood that beyond this root, they had to create a wide range of institutions. One of the earliest areas where they applied religious ideals to a sector other than religion was the arts. We

quickly see the formation of the Little Angels as an expression of God's heart and God's truth more widely expressed and expanded, carried around the world by global ambassadors. Other entities, such as the New York City Symphony and Universal Ballet soon followed.

CARP was another instrument of True Parents' peace strategy, or means to transform society, by working with youth and students to transform it. The Victory Over Communism movement and the CAUSA movement in the Americas addressed the rise of communism.

True Parents began working with academics and intellectuals early; they launched the Professors World Peace Academy in 1973 to reach out to scholars. One of the first institutions they started after arriving in America was ICUS, the International Conference on the Unity of the Sciences.

True Mother is continuing that process. We need that sector serving God's will to transform society.



Both True Parents spoke at the United Nations on August 18, 2000

Media

In the early 1980s, they emphasized the development of media, such as the *Washington Times*, the *Segye Times* and *Sekai Nippo*. In New York City, we had *Noticias del Mundo*, a Spanish language newspaper, and throughout sixteen nations in Central and South America, *Tiempos del Mundo* began publication. We also had *World and I* magazine and *Insight on the News*. True Parents formed the World Media Association as a group to convene media leaders.

Sports

Early on, True Parents supported a woman in Washington DC who worked with city youth in track and field on a team called the DC Striders. True Parents focus on sports goes all the way up to the Il Hwa soccer team and the Peace Cup tournaments. They began the Inter-religious Peace Sports Festival. In the modern Olympics, athletes compete representing different nation-states, but True Parents promote harmony among religions using athletes representing their faith backgrounds.

Principles underlying laws

True Parents started a high-level prestigious think tank in Washington DC. Though some of its projects were not sustainable over time, the Washington Institute for Values in Public Policy lasted about five years. True Mother, in a similar vein created the Academy of Arts and Sciences, because we need the best minds working to find solutions to the world's critical problems.

In education, academic societies like PWPA and ICUS evolved in some ways toward institutions such as Sun Moon University and the University of Bridgeport. In Montevideo in 1996, True Parents created the World University Federation to form a federation of collaborating universities.

True Parents worked in the area of government: We have the Summit Council of former heads of state, and in America, the American Constitution Committee.

We've long worked with the United Nations, promoting good relations with diplomats from all nations. As early as 1975, True Parents set up a UN PR Team in the United States. To this day, we are actively

engaged in the UN, not only in New York but also in Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi and other UN centers.

Faith-based interaction

Religions and interfaith work have been central to True Parents' efforts. HSAUWC was as much the start of church as it was an ecumenical movement to unify Christianity -- Protestants, Catholics, Orthodox and their many denominations -- so that the body of Christ, Christianity, could be a unified movement. True Parents started a range of organizations, particularly out of the Unification Theological Seminary in America -- the New Ecumenical Research Association (New Era), which led to "the God conference" (the formal name was God: the Contemporary Discussion) which was a series of conferences with theologians and other scholars of religion. This occurred annually, as did the ICUS series, but the God conference focused on faith leaders from all religions. This expanded.

True Parents convened three major Assemblies of World Religions and a wide range of interfaith initiatives and programs.

The World Culture and Sports Festival included the various providential organizations and had a sports dimension that CARP managed for several years and included the Blessing Ceremony, starting in 1992 until about 2002.

1990 was pivotal in True Parents' providence. The World Media Association and the Summit Council were instruments for True Parents to go to Moscow in the Spring of 1990 and meet President Gorbachev. Their vision had been to "march on Moscow," like having the Washington Monument rally in Moscow. The relationship with President Gorbachev, I think, was providentially important.



IAPP participants in the Palace of Westminster, the British Parliament

A Syrian Islamic leader

Another important relationship True Parents formed in 1990 was with Ahmed Kufaro (1915–2004), the grand mufti of Syria, a visionary, interfaith-oriented Muslim leader. True Parents seized upon the moment to build a relationship with him. He attended the Assembly of the World's Religions in 1990. True Father initiated a series of forty-day seminars for Muslim leaders -- first from Syria and then from Lebanon, Egypt, Jordan, Indonesia, etc. True Parents saw the potential direction of the world, through the Soviet Union on the one hand and global Islam on the other.

True Parents seek to build a base, what we'd call the Abel base. Sheikh Ahmed Kufaro, the grand mufti, was the top person in Syria. This was about critical matters, about how history was going to unfold, about how many people were going to live or die. True Parents feel that heart, so these relationships with these people were not external in nature -- not friendships in a simple way. They were about finding the person God had prepared and building on that.

Think about Syria today for just a moment: Hundreds of thousands are dying -- the children, the refugees... It's the number one crisis of our world today with millions of displaced persons and refugees fleeing this war-torn country.

This explains True Parents' effort to build on a relationship with Syria's grand mufti and to educate Islamic leaders from Middle Eastern nations. They came. True Parents paid for them to come to the New

Yorker Hotel and spend forty days studying the Principle. True Parents would host them at East Garden at their graduation time. 1990 was a critical moment.

In the early 1990s, True Parents began an important new initiative: They launched two new providential organizations, the International Federation for World Peace, which grew out of the Summit Council and the meeting with Gorbachev; and the Inter-religious Federation for World Peace. These represented the "mind" and the "body." They launched them in Korea in 1991. In 1992, they launched the Women's Federation; in 1994, the Youth Federation for World Peace and in 1996, the Family Federation for World Peace. We see a specific, strategic development there.

Then, in 1999, True Parents merged these two spheres -- of the mind and the body -- creating the Inter-religious and International Federation for World Peace as one organization. Throughout this process, True Parents were creating discrete entities with specific missions, empowering and inspiring them but then consolidating them. IIFWP covered both inter-religious and international. Religion and politics had been separate. We call it separation of church and state, but True Parents say we must learn how to collaborate.



Clerics in the upper house

For both True Parents, their first speech after creating IIFWP was at the UN on August 18, 2000. Keep in mind that 2000 was a year before 9/11, a tragic turning point for global extremism. Mother spoke on the work of FFWPU, of WFWP and of IRFF. She expounded on the importance of women and the family.

Father spoke about the UN's need to create an inter-religious council in the UN, allowing religion to have a place at the table. He said it should be the UN's senate or the upper house. True Parents were on the dais with other leaders: The late Prime Minister Heath of England (1970–1974); US senator Robert Dole (1969–1996) who had persecuted our movement; two time president of Costa Rica, Óscar Arias Sánchez and President Walesa of Poland (1990–1995) both Nobel Peace Prize laureates. Makarim Wibisono, then chair of the UN Economic and Social Council, introduced True Parents. True Parents returned six months later to conduct the World Peace Blessing in the United Nations, which was controversial to say the least. True Parents, then, were excited about the UN providence.

Intensive touring, speaking

Powerful events were happening, so True Parents did a fifty-state tour of America. They wanted to conclude the tour in May at the UN, but when we went to secure a room at the UN,

we were blocked. After 5:00 AM Hoon Dok Hae at East Garden, a couple of us reported to True Father about the UN blocking us. True Father, with True Mother there, said something like, "We need to create our own UN, an Abel UN." Increasingly True Parents were emphasizing the concept of an Abel-type UN.

In 2003, we started the Inter-religious International Peace Council. In 2005, we launched the Universal Peace Federation, and True Parents took the word around the world. Dr. McDevitt and I were on that tour with True Parents, covering a hundred and twenty nations, one nation a day.

Father sometimes spoke three, four, five, six, seven, eight hours. We'd get home late at night, get up early the next morning, pack, have breakfast, get on the plane to go to the next country -- day after day after day, with True Parents giving the message. That was 2005, through the late fall and winter.

In spring 2006, True Mother did a global tour again to even more nations, accompanied by True Children, who went to different continents. I remember Hyo Jin nim in Africa. Sun Jin nim and In Sup nim were with us in South America and the Caribbean. True Children were attending True Parents. Some of the True Grandchildren had been blessed that spring.

Many of them then went on tour in the summer, a third tour. Members of the clergy did a fourth tour. True Parents were taking their message and their whole foundation and offering it to the world.

Restoring nations

Regarding strategy, in 2000, True Parents asked UPF to organize Hoon Dok Hae conferences in Washington DC, to just read True Father's speeches -- not interpret them or teach from them. We would come to the podium and simply read. True Father had all our national chapters send delegates -- a political leader, a religious leader, a media leader and a woman leader.

For national restoration, you rely on no single sector. You diversify your investments. You must make good relations with people in all these sectors, because they play a critical role in the nation and in transforming it. On this basis, the Ambassador for Peace initiative started.

Father also started WANGO, the World Association of Non-Governmental Organizations. We need the religions. We need all these sectors to build partnerships, teaching them but also learning from them.

At this time, True Mother is leading us forward as we build on this incredible foundation, taking that foundation to higher levels. As someone testified, True Father is thrilled with True Mother's leadership. I believe that sincerely. There is no disjunction between True Mother's leadership and True Father's.



Father speaks at a Legacy of Peace event at the United Nations to honor Alexander Haig

Background to the IAPP

One area where True Mother is carrying forward True Father's leadership is the IAPP. In 2005, International Leadership Conferences (ILCs) had something called Parliamentarians for Peace. In 2007, Sri Lanka invited us to give lectures on governance to their Parliament. The Speaker of the Parliament and a special envoy of the Nepali prime minister attended it. We have had Malaysian parliamentarians meet in New York and in Washington DC.

Yet, in Korea this past February True Mother instructed us from out of nowhere (in the sense that no one suggested it to her) to launch IAPP. She had captured this idea of focusing on parliamentarians. Sun Jin nim delivered True Mother's address at the Korean National Assembly to an audience of well over a hundred and fifty parliamentarians from about fifty different nations, including Korea, such as Congresswoman Kim Eul-dong, our host. The resolution to launch the IAPP was signed there. In Kathmandu, Nepal, we had the first of a series of regional-level IAPP inaugurations, which included our Asia, Greater China and Oceania regions. Over three hundred parliamentarians came, many from Nepal but also from various other nations, so we called it the Asia-Pacific ILC. President Tong of Kiribati (2003–2016), the Sun Hak Peace Prize laureate; and President Note (2000–2008) of the Marshall Islands attended, as did one or two Korean legislators and two from Japan.

The Little Angels came and deeply touched and moved hearts. They sang in the Nepali language. They had memorized two or three songs. People were moved to tears. They performed for the Nepali young people, who screamed and shouted when they began to sing Nepali songs. Hoon-sook nim came. Yeon Ah nim delivered True Mother's speech in Nepal to a packed house.

Impressive African nations

We then held an IAPP conference in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, for the twenty-five primarily French-speaking nations of West Africa. This was equally important. The government of Burkina Faso co-sponsored it with UPF, just as in Nepal, we had a governmental– civil society partnership. It featured

high-level panels and speakers, representatives of their parliaments.

Twenty-four nations sent parliamentary delegations. The competent, elevated discussions on climate change, on extremism, on strengthening marriage and the family impressed me. These people have a lot of experience. They talked about human development and elimination of extreme poverty and of course spoke about True Parents' vision. Wonderful people! We have to thank our African brothers and sisters. We convened the launch in their Parliament House. Everyone signed. We had a Peace Road celebration, which included horses!

We went to London, to the Palace of Westminster where the House of Commons and the House of Lords meet. Our patron was Lord Nazir Ahmed at that event. Sun Jin nim gave True Mother's address. Also attending was Erna Hennicot-Schoepges, president of the National Assembly of Luxembourg and a member of the Sun Hak Peace Prize Committee, among many other prominent figures.



Father was eighty-five when True Parents went on a one-hundred-city tour in a hundred days to found the Universal Peace Federation in nations throughout the world over in 2005

The Americas

October 6–8, we held the inauguration for Central America and the Caribbean; October 10–12, for South America, convening in Paraguay. The event for East African nations took place November 5–7 in Zambia. We were happy that Kwon Jin nim and Hwa Yun nim represented True Parents in those venues.

The event in Japan took place November 15–17 and in Washington DC, November 28–December 2. There, we announced the Sun Hak Peace Prize finalists. This will all build up to the first week of February. True Parents' birthday will be on February 2, and the Sun Hak Peace Prize Award will be on February 3.

To be able to participate in many of these providential organization's activities I have had many blessings in my life. To have our True Mother here, we are blessed. To be with our True Mother, for the first time in history, we experience what the feminine aspect of God is. We are truly seeing the Divine become flesh in the feminine aspect, seeing the power and creativity of masculinity and femininity harmonized -- as we learned in the Principle of Creation -- so we are deeply blessed to be alive at this time.