

Report on the 12,000 couples Inter–Faith Peace Blessing Ceremony and ILC (Strong Korea) in Mindanao, Philippines.

Reporter: Regional President Dr. Chung Sik Yong
April 15, 2012

With just over 320 days left until the Foundation Day of Cheon Il Guk, miracles are happening in mission countries around the world under the blessing and heavenly fortune of God and True Parents who have opened the ‘Era of Victory, Liberation, and Completion of the True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind.’ As we approach the critical last stage of the providence, True Parents have been in a state of complete alarm and this has been reflected in True Parents’ words in a recent hoondokhae session – “Eating doesn’t feel like eating, sleeping doesn’t seem like sleeping, resting isn’t truly resting.”

Under these circumstances, 12,000 married couples blessing ceremony and a ‘Strong Korea’ event took place in Mindanao, Philippines in Asia to celebrate the opening of the International Leaders Conference (ILC) hosted by UPF in Asia as a step beyond Korea, Japan and the United States. Under special directions from True Parents to advance the providence of a ‘Strong Korea’, Chairman Kook Jin Moon of Tongil Foundation delivered the keynote address on this day.

On 3.10 by the heavenly calendar (March 31st, 2012) in the third year of Cheongi, a mass of more than 35,000 people gathered and overcrowded the blessing hall to participate in the 12,000 couples Inter–Faith Peace Blessing Ceremony, a contrast to the original expectation of 20,000 people in Sultan Kudarat, a zone in the southernmost island of Philippines, Mindanao. In one word, this was a historical scene where the name of our True Parents, the source of the blessing, was made known to the whole world, a time when religions could all become one and harmonize and a miraculous time when Heavenly Father’s presence was felt very strongly throughout the blessing. All those who participated in this event came to realize how great and huge the victorious foundation of service set up through the indescribable indemnity paid by True Parents is. Gasps of rapture filled the hall. The event could take place as UPF (the Unification Church) and the state government in that area became one; it was a place of great harmony between Cain and Abel, an event where all religions centered upon True Parents could transcend the national, cultural, and traditional barrier to realize the model of ‘One Family Under God’. It is no exaggeration to even go as far as to say that this event is a world–wide example

of 'One Family Under God.'

Mindanao Island is located in the southernmost part of Philippines. It is the second largest island in the country accounting to one third of the whole territory. The island has a population of roughly 20,000,000 people and is 94,630 square kilometers wide. Some Islam believers within Mindanao established Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) to fight against the government for their independence; the island saw no end to such conflicts and terror despite the continuous effort placed by the government and the UN to prevent it and bring peace for over 50 years now. No measures could resolve the conflict-thorn situation there. Very often, Mindanao would be reported on the news as an unstable area and for incidents such as the kidnapping of foreigners and other public disorders.

Even during the blessing preparations, the place was full of danger as bombs exploded here and there. Our Filipino brothers and sisters and members who had gathered from all of Asia went door to door, opened Divine Principle workshops, and boldly proclaimed about the True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind despite all the dangers around them. The number of people who received the Divine Principle workshops before the blessing ceremony was over 40,000. Our members risked their lives with a determination to 'die if they must', to convey the word and proclaimed True Parents to be the Messiah despite all the dissuasion from the government and people around due to possible dangers.

While moving from one place to another, everyone would take every single opportunity to do hoondokhae even within the buses. The spiritual world could not but be inspired and be mobilized to help the members who thought hoondokhae was the best condition to offer and with heaven on their side, did their utmost best. Last year, around 2,000 Christian ministers, Muslim leaders, and many tribes received lectures on the Original Substance of the Divine Principle. This foundation enabled the blessing to be successfully held too. I realized one more time that only the Divine Principle, True Parents' words, hoondok and the absolute faith to proclaim about True Parents can become the driving force to move the spiritual world.

Over hundreds of buses, vans, trucks, jeepney (local transportation) and other transportation means swarmed from 36 cities all over Mindanao for the blessing ceremony. Just watching the bus lines and the state government park and road turning into parking lots was a quite a scene. It was like going back to the day when True Parents fought a fierce battle against Satan at

Madison Square. The Sultan Kudarat state government mobilized around 750 soldiers, policemen, and plain clothed policemen in to maintain the safety and order throughout the event. In addition, starting from the location of the ILC in Davao City to the blessing site, the Sultan Kudarat provincial government made sure soldiers and police officers guarded the whole way, a six-hour distance. Thanks to these efforts, the whole event was held under perfect order.

The prepared gymnasium to hold the blessing was completely filled with 16,000 participants and the remaining mass of around 19,000 participants had to take part through a screen outside the gymnasium; a spectacle beyond our imagination. The state government provided lunch and transportation to all 30,000 participants and over. They also hosted a closing banquet for the VIPs who took part in the International Leaders Conference. In addition, the provincial government provided free food and lodging as well as other services to enable around 170 of our members to do activities for around two months in Sultan Kudarat. The government invested **so much money** just for the blessing not to count other expenses. At the ILC venue, the Mayor of Davao City hosted a welcoming banquet for both ILC guests and members, totaling more than 400 people.

A lot of media, radio, television and newspaper reporters flocked to the blessing site and had to compete to cover the blessing. There were 250 leaders from 28 countries in Asia including the former Nepalese Deputy Premier, more than ten parliament members, religious leaders and others participated. Chairman Kook Jin Nim gave a lecture on a 'Strong Korea' and it was a big success with around 400 participants including three local governors, eight mayors, four local parliament members, many religious leaders, and other distinguished guests taking part. It was the first time in the history of seminars within Asia to conduct a self-supporting conference where guests personally paid for their plane tickets, accommodation and other services.

Koon Jin Nim's lecture on 'Strong Korea' during the ILC (International Leadership Conference) became a turning point that aroused alarm among participating leaders from Asia on China's belligerence. Many people were quite surprised because they expected a vague ideal for world peace but instead were given detailed ways to bring about peace on a substantial level. During the Q and A session after the lecture, participants including those from China gave very sharp and challenging questions to Kook Jin Nim who gave them wise and clear answers. From the very start, Kook Jin Nim proclaimed that Father was our True Parents, Messiah, and our savior. He went on with the lecture where he testified about the accomplishments and greatness of

Parents from beginning to end. Kook Jin Nim suggested directions Asia should follow in the future, and also a clear and detailed vision and plan. Furthermore, Kook Jin Nim allotted some time to individually meet the top leaders of each denomination and the key peace ambassadors; everyone he met confessed True Parents as the messiah without any hesitation. I could realize the big impact of the Divine Principle Education and could experience firsthand the passionate fever for hoondok and the divine principle that is taking over the Philippines. True Parents could realize what the state government and UN could not achieve in Mindanao by giving it new hope through Kook Jin Nim.

About 10 leaders representing the world's main religions offered prayers and carried out the Holy Water Harmony Ceremony. The congratulatory address was given by the former governor, Datu Pax and present governor, Datu Suharto and the current president's Pres. Noynoy's aunt (a former governor) Dr. Margarita Cojuangco. Both present and former governors emphasized that True Parents was sent by God and clearly expressed the greatness of True Parents throughout their congratulatory address. The former governor and the chairperson of this event, Hon. Datu Pax testified that joining UPF was the best decision in his life and was very proud to have done so. He went on asking the audience if there were any saints in history who had achieved communal harmony through such a blessing ceremony with the purpose of harmonizing all religions and repeatedly emphasized the greatness of the Father Moon. Next, Chairman Hyoyul Kim who was representing True Parents at the blessing, sang 'Danny Boy' instead of the prepared congratulatory speech as the addresses preceding him were quite lengthy. The song was greatly appreciated by the audience through a lot of clapping and cheering. Under the special permission of True Parents, the regional leader as a couple officiated the blessing ceremony representing True Parents. When it was time for the Invocation of the Blessing, the participants could watch the actual video of True Parents' Invocation of the Blessing that was given during the last blessing in Korea that was sent by the World Mission Headquarters. Thanks to this, we felt that True Parents was present at the blessing ceremony. One participant cried so uncontrollably upon hearing True Parents' voice giving the Invocation.

After the blessing ceremony, the Mindanao Peace Launching Rally and the establishment of 37 UPF chapters in Mindanao was celebrated along with the welcoming banquet prepared by the government by all the leaders who participated in the ILC and UPF representatives from all over Mindanao. Representing the International President Rev. Hyung Jin Moon, Dr. Thomas Walsh gave the opening and closing address of ILC and clearly expressed True Parents vision of Cain

and Abel and his message helped a lot in understanding Father's vision. During the closing ceremony, a governor endlessly praised True Parents for his greatness and his gratitude towards UPF. The government presented True Parents with a plaque of appreciation to show their thanks. On our way back after the event, many leaders and members shed so many tears in gratitude to True Parents and God for enabling a safe and successful event.

What made this achievement possible was because righteous people like Noah such as Hon. Datu Pax accepted True Parents as the Messiah. Hon. Datu Pax is very well known and is called the King of Peace in Mindanao for having devoted his whole life to peace in the area. After being called by God 21 years ago, he has prayed five times a day for the peace of Mindanao and fought for the peace of Mindanao overcoming moments of death so many times with the heart of a martyr. He became associated with UPF in 2008 and accepted True Parents after participating in Divine Principle Workshops in Thailand last year and early this year. Fearlessly Datu Pax exclaimed that God had chosen Father Moon to unite religions which is essential for world peace. We received death threats and warnings while preparing for the blessing, but this did not stop us from going district to district to proudly proclaim about True Parents. After Hon. DatuPax received God's calling, he became a mayor, governor and then a member of the parliament under God's guidance. Currently, his son, Hon. Datu Suharto "Teng" Magudadatu, Al Haj, is governor of Sultan Kudarat; his daughter is a mayor and his son-in-law a parliament member. Hon. DatuPax will run for the governor representing five provinces in Mindanao in May next year. Having understood the providence of Mindanao, Hon. Datu Pax is very determined to change Mindanao which name contains the meaning of 'the people coming out' into a Moondanao, the place where people come out and armed with the words of the truth. His determination to build a heavenly kingdom of peace centered on the Messiah Moon where the people would all praise and call True Parents the Messiah, savior and the King of Kings is indeed very strong.

The victory of this blessing ceremony could truly take place through True Parents' blood, sweat and tears and was a historical and world event with substantial result. It was a time when we could feel God's actual presence and work. Everyone was captivated by the True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind's love and status at the blessing site. Now, the headquarters in the Philippines is moving ahead with plans to conduct the 40 days separation and three-day ceremony while at the same time carrying out seven-day divine principle workshops to educate the participants again and also plan on maintaining the 100th hoondok fever going on in order

to nurture patriotic martyrs for peace to build Cheon Il Guk.

Now we only have 326 days left until the proclamation of the Foundation Day. At times, I resent the movement of the second needle within the pendulum clock. I wished time could stop. In order to make good use of every single minute, I want to move ahead giving my utmost best to completely liberate True parents. With our hearts in this state already, how would True Parents feel as they face the last stage of the providence? There is no greater blessing than being able to live with True Parents in the same age; however we realize the significance of our responsibility as we know we would bitterly regret it throughout history for failing in our missions while living in the same age with True Parents.

Today, many leaders and members around the world have inherited True Parents' heart towards the Cheon Il Guk Foundation Day and are struggling towards the realization of the providence. Thinking about them, we hope this can become precious time for everyone to once more make a new start.

Thank you.

Regional President of Asia, Dr. Chung Sik Yong



Early-morning hoondokhae session with around 200 members and leaders



A scene showing a meeting with VIPs



Commemorative photo with VIPs



Scene showing Kook Jin Nim giving a lecture on a 'Strong Korea'



A scene of the Kook Jin Nim's lecture on 'Strong Korea'



Participants asking questions after the lecture



Kook Jin Nim answering questions



Soldiers and police officers guarding the blessing site



A scene of the parking lot



A scene of the wedding ceremony



Outside the blessing ceremony



VIPs on the blessing ceremony stage



Former governor and co-chairperson of the event



Current Governor Noyonoy and Dr. Margarita, former governor and aunt to the current president



