

The Peace Blessing Festival of Heavenly Parent's Holy Community

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Cheongshim World Peace Center



At the November 3 Peace Blessing Festival of Heavenly Parent's Holy Community, in the Cheongshim World Peace Center, Dr. Young-ho Yun, as secretary-general of the FFWPU International Headquarters, gave welcoming remarks in which expounded on the meaning of "gratitude."



"As I was preparing these opening remarks, I studied the origin of the term 'gratitude,' because 'You are Heaven's Tribute' [the theme of the third Peace Festival] means that Heaven is grateful for you. In English, 'Thanks,' is related to 'think.' [They are phonetically related as are 'song' and 'sing.']. So 'thank you' means 'I think about what you have done for me, and I remember what you have done for me.' That's where 'thank you' comes from. In Japanese, they say, 'arigato gozaimasu.' 'Gozaimasu' just makes it honorific. With 'arigato,' 'ari' means 'to live,' 'to exist.' 'Gato' here, is not the word that means 'cake;' here it means 'rare,' as in 'to be alive is rare.' So, in Japanese, 'arigato' implies 'You are so precious.' In Korean, we say 'kamsahamnida,' which originally comes from

'komapda' or 'komapsumida.' 'Komapsumida' is related to 'komahada,' which means 'to revere as a holy entity.' This is the meaning within 'kamsahamnida.' The terms 'gratitude,' and 'thank you,' are profound. Since we have heard the meaning, let us look at everyone participating today -- the person next to you -- and say, You are so precious; you are Heaven's tribute.... Beloved peace associates from around the world, in our daily lives, if you live with gratitude, you will enjoy richer, fuller lives."



Masters of Ceremonies

The MCs for the third Peace Festival were a senior blessed couple, Noh-hi Pak and his wife Lanyoung Moon, who received the Blessing among the 430-couple blessing group in 1968. Among various other posts over the years, Dr. Pak was chairman of the Tongil Foundation, the managing director of the Little Angels and executive director of the Korean Cultural Foundation. Dr. Moon was born in North Korea. She and her parents fled to South Korea when she was a young girl in 1950, at the outset of the Korean War. During the risky journey south by boat, her father went ashore to find food but did not return. Suspecting he had been captured by North Korean soldiers, his wife and daughter had to continue to

South Korea without him.



Dr. Moon was for many years the chair of the Women's Federation for World Peace International. She was also a chair of the Korean Council for Reconciliation and Cooperation between South Korea and North Korea (KCRC). KCRC is an umbrella organization for various NGOs dedicated to Korean reunification. A branch of KCRC also exists in North Korea. In her capacity as the chair of KCRC in South Korea, Dr. Moon visited North Korea many times. As a couple Dr. Pak and Dr. Moon were national messiahs to Nicaragua and True Parents' emissaries to Europe.

As masters of ceremonies of the third Peace Festival, the couple smoothly combined their opening remarks. Dr. Moon began by saying, 'It is hard to believe that it has been nearly sixty years since we first believed in True Parents, who have led the providence to build a beautiful and good ideal world; sixty years have passed since we decided to follow this path.' Dr. Pak followed, 'Though there were high, steep mountains, at every important crossroad on this sixty-year journey of life, we were fortunate to have been able to hear God's word when we were teenagers.

When we were still naïve but full of dreams, we met Heavenly Parent and True Parents. That we could receive the Blessing from True Parents is the greatest benefit in our lives -- a grace we would not exchange for anything and that we are extremely grateful for. I sincerely hope that the peace-loving peace associates here today can feel our joy, our heartwarming emotions and gratitude.

Dr. Moon then said, 'This is the third Peace Festival. Our family watched the other Peace Festivals from home through Peacelink and received deep grace. The themes of the first two Peace Festivals were 'You Are Heaven's Blessing' and 'You Are Heaven's Joy.' The theme today's Peace Festival is 'You Are Heaven's Tribute.'" Dr. Pak added, "Today's Peace Festival is more than a celebration. There will be a Blessing Ceremony for all the peace-loving associates who chose to receive the blessing. Alongside the Peace Blessing Festival will be a Registration Ceremony of cheonbo couples, all of whom are treasures of heaven. We sincerely hope we can all offer gratitude to True Parents for the grace and the love that Heavenly Parent is giving us today. Please give a thunderous round of applause for True Parents' Third Peace Blessing Festival."



Shim Cheong and Chung Hyang

The first part of the festival was a theatrical performance. Korea has highly cherished and emphasized the value of filial piety, children's love and obedience toward their parents, as well as fidelity between husband and wife. Korean folktales often emphasize these qualities. Two of the most outstanding Korean folktales are "The Tale of Shim Cheong" and "The Tale of Chung Hyang." The "Tale of Shim Cheong" is about a pure young woman who threw herself into the sea as a sacrifice so that her blind father could regain his eyesight. Her filial piety allowed her to be resurrected. Her father experienced the restoration of his sight, and she became an empress.

In the "Tale of Chung Hyang," a young man, Mong-ryong Yi, sets his eyes on the most beautiful young woman in his village, Chung Hyang, and he falls in love with her. He visits her to tell her that he wishes to marry her but first he must leave to take a difficult government examination that will allow him, if he passes, to become a high government official. In Mong-ryong Yi's absence, a corrupt official takes over as the village mayor. The mayor pursues Chung Hyang and tries to seduce her, but she fights him off. He has Chung Hyang arrested and confined to a cell, and then he ordered her to pay a fine. Having passed the examination, Mong-ryong returns and frees Chung Hyang. It cannot be easy to take two famous folk tales

that everyone throughout the nation knows, and harmoniously blend them in a pleasing way. Yet, audience members around the globe were likely delighted by "Shim Cheon Hyojeong," a new story with similar elements as well as unique elements that set them apart from the source plays.



A Peace Performance and Blessings

To prepare the atmosphere for the Blessing Ceremony, Moon Shin-yeo, the daughter of Hyo Jin Moon and Yeon Ah Choi, sang "Going Home," which the MCs described as "a song that reflects our longing for our original hometown, the original world of peace." Dr. Young-ho Yun and the Korean regional presidents and their spouses presided over the Blessing Ceremony on behalf of Heavenly Parent and True Parents. Peace associate couples took part in the ceremony from all five subregions of heavenly Korea as well as from countries across the world; through conferencing software, numerous churches filled with brides and grooms were visible. In addition to representative couples onstage, many couples from Korea and other nations were present in the Peace World

Center.

Following the Holy Water Ceremony, for the recitation of the Blessing vows, a large video image of True Mother wearing a golden hanbok appeared at the back of the stage, toward which all the couples were facing. As she does at each Blessing Ceremony, True Mother read the vows aloud and the couples responded. She then prayed for several minutes. The couples exchanged rings.

True Mother read the Proclamation of the Blessing: "We, in the name of True Parents, proclaim in front of all of heaven and earth that these virtuous men and women, couples, participating in this Hyojeong Cosmic Blessing Ceremony, officiated by the True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind have officially received the Holy Blessing through the grace of Heavenly Parent and the True Parents of Heaven Earth and Humankind."

Dr. Pak then announced, "With this, the marriage blessing of the brides and grooms who participated in the third Peace Festival Peace Blessing Ceremony and the Registration Blessing of CheonBo couples has been established and proclaimed to all of heaven and earth."

Blessing Testimonies



The groom, Jeon-pal Choi, in a newly blessed couple expresses gratitude



I am from the Methodist church. I was ordained as a pastor. Heaven Parent guided me to the Unification Church through a dream and after I listened to the Divine Principle, I learned that Heavenly Parent consists of heongsang and seongsang and that God is a God of true love, with an external form and an internal form and he is absolute, almighty and omnipotent. Until now I just knew that God was almighty and omnipotent, but he is also a God of tears, resentment and bitterness -- all those things. He is a God of the heart and of true love. When I understood that he consisted of all those elements, I couldn't stop the tears from rolling down my face.

Even if we are Christians, everyone must go on his own course of salvation. When I Came to the Family Federation, I realized that way to salvation was not through the individual but through the family. The

more I prayed, the more I understood that the only way for me to receive salvation was through the Blessing Ceremony. So my wife and I received the Blessing directly from True Parents. We were so grateful to participate in that Blessing Ceremony.

The way was then open for us to live with Heavenly Parents twenty-four hours a day. We were truly happy and truly grateful. My wife and I, to express our gratitude for having received the Blessing are taking on the responsibility of guiding Christians back to the Family Federation. We will invest all of our efforts into fulfilling this mission.



The groom, Monk Chow Wong, in a newly blessed couple expresses gratitude



I am from Haenam [in South Jeolla Province] the Gyeongbo Temple. I am the only son and the only heir in a whole line in our family. In Buddhism, to have a proper and good world, we must first become proper and good people ourselves. The individual spirit is important. The individual must be whole and upright.

Based on this principle, I completely immersed myself in the training of my body and mind. Through that, I could question what was wholesome, what was right, what was wrong. Through this I came to understand clearly that I could complete training of my internal self and that my training in the Buddhist field was completed and that the next step was to find my other half, not only to concentrate on my own religion, which is Buddhism, but also to connect with other religions and with the world, to communicate with one another, to become one. I realized that I had to play the role of connecting people in this way.

With that heart, I came to meet Rev. Sun Myung Moon. I came to learn about the work he was doing, and I came to believe that the work he was doing is work that we all have to do. As a person who knows what is right, through my training, I have felt a clear calling -- I need to work with him. So for the past twenty or so years, though inadequate, I have participated in various activities whenever in the future opportunities arise for me to contribute toward this cause, I will invest myself completely to make sure that this cause is fulfilled.

I believe that the way of the family is not only for us, but it is the only way that will lead us to happiness and to a wholesome, right world. I am completely certain about this. Some time ago, I was able to meet a partner that I thought was my complete other half. I am deeply grateful to Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon for bestowing on us the Blessing. Through that sacred blessing, as a true member of the Family Federation, until the day we bring about one family under God, Cheon Il Guk, until we bring about a heavenly unified Korea, I will continue advancing on and on.