

## The third anniversary of the 1800 Couple Blessing in the New Yorker

February 8, 1978

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*Rev. Kwak speaks at the anniversary of the 1800 Couples*

The third anniversary of the 1800 Couple Blessing was celebrated February 8, 1978. As many of the couples as were in the area, gathered in the Terrace Room of the New Yorker, introduced themselves and their mission and that of their spouse, if absent. Then we shared a lovely Korean meal.

During the ice cream and cake, President Salonen shared some of his own difficult moments during the blessing. Those of us present smiled and chuckled in recognition of similar communication problems with our own spouses. Then President Salonen introduced Rev. Kwak who spoke on the internal significance of the blessing.

Rev. Kwak stressed that before the blessing we may think of our own individual relation to God and to the True Parents. However, after the blessing, we are no longer separate individuals. We have become part of the True Parents' precious lineage and have the responsibility to pass that lineage on to our descendants. This internal fact distinguishes

our blessing from other marriages.

Thus, no matter what our external condition, our main responsibility is to cultivate internal harmony and joy to give to our descendants.

In comparison to the experiences of early families of the Church our own external difficulties today are nothing, but we share the same opportunity to be reminded through hardship of our internal value and that of our children. Experiencing external difficulties actually helps us to keep our internal objective purpose centered on God.

Rev. Kwak reminded us of Jacob, whose whole life was spent setting the condition to achieve victory for God. Externally his life may not have been exemplary, but internally it was of deep significance to God. Similarly, the entire history of Christianity does not compare in value to the moment of Jesus' victorious resurrection.

Always conscious that our blessing is a gift from God and True Parents rather than a reward for our work, we must develop a joyful internal condition to pass down to our next generation, said Rev. Kwak. The internal meaning of attendance is expressed through living a God centered life, establishing our family, and inheriting God's lineage. Our responsibility as blessed couples is to achieve internal joy and harmony. And our success, he concluded, will be represented in our child, God's child.