FFWPU Europe and Middle East: Toru Goto Inside the Room Where Try to Break Faith

Knut Holdhus
September 22, 2026

Toru Goto going through an intense faith-breaking session led by professional faith-breaker Takashi Miyamura and surrounded by former members of the Unification Church and family members. Illustration: Dola AI

Toru Goto speaking during the online conference by PnR-T, September 19, 2026

Japan: A firsthand account of life inside a room turned into a prison - 12 years of confinement, pressure, and attempted coercive faith-breaking

Part 3 of "My Experience of Abduction, Confinement, and Forced Deconversion", a testimony on 19th September 2026 by Toru Goto (後藤徹), a Japanese member of the Family Federation and victim of attempted coercive faith-breaking - locked up for over 12 years in apartment turned prison. This first-hand witness account - of high relevance for the current dissolution case against the Family Federation in Japan - was delivered at a Zoom conference organized by Peace and Reconciliation Together (PnR-T), a Dutch-registered foundation focused on reconciliation, peacebuilding, dialogue, and healing historical conflicts.

Continued from part 1: Apartment Turned Prison: 12 Years to Break Faith

Continued from part 2: Escaped from 1st Confinement, But Abducted Again

At around 2 a.m., the van stopped in front of an apartment building in Niigata, far from Tokyo.

With my arms restrained by my father and older brother, and surrounded by a large number of people, I was forced into a room on the sixth floor.

When I looked around the room, I saw that the windows and doors had been locked so that I could not freely leave.

There was no television or radio, and I was cut off from information from the outside world.

Illustration Toru Goto used during his online testimony on September 19, 2026

It was a room where, under my family's surveillance, there was no way I could escape.

This photograph is a reconstruction using the same type of equipment that was actually installed there.

I said to my family,

"What is this? Do you really think such a violation of human rights is acceptable? Abduction and confinement are crimes."

Carried out a campaign of criticism, ridicule, and theological challenge in Niigata designed to break Goto's faith: Faith-breaker: pastor Yasutomo Matsunaga of the Niitsu Evangelical Christian Church

My older brother Tsuru replied,

"This isn't abduction and confinement. It's protection. We will settle this matter no matter what sacrifices we have to make. You should be prepared as well."

Before long, a Christian pastor began bringing former members to the place where I was confined in order to carry out the faith-breaking.

Day after day, in that closed space from which there was no escape, I was forced to listen to criticism of the Unification Church and the Unification Principles.

I had been prepared for the possibility of being confined again, but the suffering was far beyond anything I had imagined. I prayed,

"Heavenly Father, if I endure this, surely an opportunity to escape will be given to me. Please give me the strength to endure."

After approximately three and a half months of confinement, I once again decided to pretend that I had been deconverted in order to escape. I told my father,

"I've thought about this a great deal, and I've realized that the Unification Principles are wrong. I'm sorry for all the worry I've caused you."

My mother's expression brightened.

I felt conflicted about deceiving my family.

As I watched my mother rejoice, I also thought about how shocked she would be if, after escaping, I returned to the Church.

Nevertheless, I felt that as long as I continued to maintain my faith, there was no way I would be released.

I wrote a declaration stating that I had left the Church.

A believer appealed to the public, using a panel display to highlight the illegality of "kidnapping and confinement", 3rd November 2024, in front of JR Hakata Station, Hakata Ward, Fukuoka City, Kyushu, Japan. One of the panels shows Toru Goto who was forcibly detained for 12 years and 5 months by faith-breakers and family

However, because I had escaped by pretending to have been deconverted during my first period of confinement, my family did not trust me.

The pastor gave me an assignment: I was told to write a detailed account of my life from the time I joined the Unification Church until I decided to leave it.

They continued checking me to determine whether I had really been deconverted.

Even more than six months after I had declared that I had left the Church, I remained confined in a room.

Once the confinement exceeded one year, my sense of isolation from the outside world became stronger day by day.

I kept thinking about the woman with whom I had pledged my future through our Marriage Blessing. How worried must she have been? She must have been desperately searching for me. Those thoughts weighed heavily on my heart.

In order to become free, I had to conceal my true feelings and pretend that I had lost my faith. At times I even had to speak ill of the Unification Church and its teachings. Continuing to deny my own true feelings in this way became an enormous source of suffering for me.

After that, I was moved between two more locations, and for the final approximately ten years I was confined in an apartment in Tokyo.

Even after two and a half years of confinement, there was no sign that I would be released.

I was reaching my psychological limit from having to conceal my true feelings and continue pretending that I had been deconverted.

In loneliness and hardship, a believer has one weapon. That weapon is prayer. I prayed desperately in the bathroom, in the bath, and late at night with the futon pulled over my head.

I began praying: "What is God's will? What should I do?"

Several days after I began praying, I received an inspiration:

"Declare your faith and fight openly and honestly!"

I was astonished. The false deconversion I had maintained for two years would become meaningless, and the intense faith-breaking sessions would begin again. Honestly, I thought,

More victims: Four of the 4,300 Japanese members of the Family Federation who became victims of kidnapping, forcible detention and attempted deprogramming (faith-breaking). Here at a conference in Tokyo 10th September 2023. From left: Toru Goto, Hirohisa Koide (medical doctor), Ms. S, Hiromi Nakajima

"Please, no. I can't go through this again."

But during prayer, a passage from the Old Testament came to mind:

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified […] for the Lord your God goes with you wherever you go."

Courage began to return to my utterly discouraged heart. I said, "Heavenly Father, I will fight," and made a vow to God.

I called my older brother and said in a loud voice:

"Actually, I just pretended to have given up my faith. Even now, I believe that the Unification Principles are the truth, and I believe that Reverend Sun Myung Moon is the Messiah."

Then I slammed my fist on the table and said,

"You people are the ones at fault for doing this. Don't mess with me!"

To be continued. Part 4 coming soon

Continued from part 1: Apartment Turned Prison: 12 Years to Break Faith

Continued from part 2: Escaped from 1st Confinement, But Abducted Again

Related to inside room turned prison: Lawfare: State Uses Legal System in War on Faith

More, related to inside room turned prison: Scholar Questions Secrecy in Dissolution Case

And more, related to inside room turned prison: Shocked Author: "Japan Ignores Basics of Justice"

Still more, related to inside room turned prison: Legal Inconsistencies A Blow to Democracy

Even more, related to inside room turned prison: Court Accused of Using Speculation

Also related to inside room turned prison: MEXT's Legal Spin and "Dissolution at All Costs"

Also related to inside room turned prison: UN Report: Japan's Lawfare Against Faith Minority

And also related to inside room turned prison: Protesting No Transparency in Closed-Door Trial

More, related to inside room turned prison: Dangerous Flaws in Dissolution Order Decried

Also related to inside room turned prison: "Lawyers Lying and Shaming Japan" for 50 Years

And also related to inside room turned prison: Japan Following the Way of China

And also related to inside room turned prison: Japan's Dissolution Case Echoes China's Playbook

More, related to inside room turned prison: Media/Legal Expert: Communism Behind Persecution

And more, related to inside room turned prison: Militant Lawyers Dictate Government Policy

More, related to inside room turned prison: Collusion to Rob Minority of Its Rights

And more, related to inside room turned prison: State and Media Creating "Today's Non-Citizens"

Still more, related to inside room turned prison: Japan Copying China: State Seizure of Churches

And still more, related to inside room turned prison: 12 Religious Freedom NGOs Denouncing Japan

More, related to inside room turned prison: 4300 Abductions and Forcible Detentions

And more, related to inside room turned prison: Japan: Families Fear for Graves of Loved Ones

Yet more, related to inside room turned prison: Lawyers Manipulating, Coercing, Lying

Also related to inside room turned prison: Kishida Follows Anti-Family Federation Minister

Also related to inside room turned prison: Militant Lawyers Dictate Government Policy

Still more, related to inside room turned prison: Malicious One-Sided Government Source Selection

And still more, related to inside room turned prison: Japan Urged to Make U-Turn

And yet more, related to inside room turned prison: Dangerous Precedent to Crush Religions

Even more, related to inside room turned prison: Japan Following the Way of China

Yet more, related to inside room turned prison: Japanese Communists' Final War

Still more, related to inside room turned prison: Political and Social Activism behind Oppression

Still more, related to inside room turned prison: Dissolution Case: Rule of Law on Trial 4th March

The Kingdom Within

September 21, 2026 • The News Desk

Share:

From expectations of an external kingdom to discovering the kingdom within when providential hopes remain unfulfilled

The Kingdom Within

Part 1 *of a sermon by Dr. Michael Balcomb, President of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification in Europe and the*

More Posts

Tax Rules Put Overseas Religious Work At Risk
September 25, 2026

The Inner Kingdom And The Outer Kingdom
September 24, 2026

Mother Han Seeking Bail And Release Extension
September 23, 2026

Inside The Room Where They Tried To Break Faith
September 22, 2026

Escaped From 1st Confinement, But Abducted Again
September 20, 2026

Apartment Turned Prison: 12 Years To Break Faith
September 19, 2026

Father Moon's Washington Monument

Middle East, given online at an international Sunday worship service for the Nordic countries on Zoom 20th September 2026.

See part 2: The Inner Kingdom and the Outer Kingdom

My topic this morning is "The Kingdom Within". And my scriptural reference is Luke 17:20, which is a very well-known scripture. There are actually two distinct translations that I will refer to. The first one is the *King James Version*:

> "When he was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, he answered them and said, the kingdom of God does not come with observation, nor will they say see here or see there. For indeed the kingdom of God is **within you.**"

Preaching about the Kingdom within: Jesus Christ, here recreation of Christ as depicted in the Shroud of Turin, showcasing the intricate details and historical significance of the burial cloth associated with the crucifixion of Jesus. Author: Shroud of Turin. License: CC ASA 2.5 Gen.

The *New International Version* is slightly different:

> "Once, on being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, the coming of the kingdom of God is not something that can be observed, nor will people say here it is or there it is, because the kingdom of God **is in your midst."**

Both translations are possible from the Greek, ἐντὸς ὑμῶν, entos hymon. To put it simply, **"within you"** points to the personal and internal realm, while **"among you"** (or in your midst) points to the community and social space.

The second reading is from True Father, and he is really talking about this issue of the internal and external:

> "The unification of heaven and earth and of the cosmos are not the biggest problems. These are decided by the achievement of mind-body-unification. If my own mind and my body are still fighting, what do I gain by the world becoming one? Where would I go in such a world?"

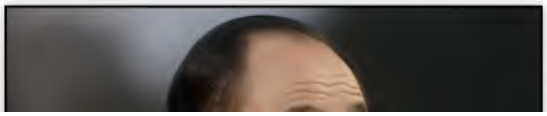
And finally, a reading from True Mother, from *Champumo-ron 2 [The second book of a two-volume series published in 2025, composed of excerpts from True Parents' messages and arranged by topic]*:

> "The people of Israel, who were living in difficult circumstances, expected that the Savior and Messiah promised by heaven would appear in splendor. They believed that when the Messiah appeared, the things they were longing for would happen instantly and the course of history would change. They thought Israel would rise up and Rome would collapse through miraculous events. But things did not unfold that way."

Now, I was reading this passage from *Champumo-ron* this week and I suddenly thought to myself,

> "Gosh, just change a couple of words here, and this would apply to us today: *'The people of Unificationism expected that the kingdom would come in splendor, that things would change. But it didn't work out that way.'"*

Looking Back: Providential Deadlines and Crises



On Friday we celebrated the 50th

Rally At 50
September 18, 2026

Search...

Categories

Send us a message
First Name * Last Name
Email *
Email Address
Your Message *
Submit

Sun Myung Moon speaking at the Washington Monument rally on 18th September 1976. Screenshot from video by FFWPU, improved resolution by Grok xAI, September 2026.

anniversary of the Washington Monument rally. I was there, by the way. When we had the Washington campaign, it was very intense. I was just a young member. I'd been a member for about four months, and we met at Belvedere [in Tarrytown, New York] every Sunday morning, and Father gave us really intense speeches.

Father in those days was speaking in very eschatological terms: "The Kingdom is coming now," "This is the time of transformation." If you read the Washington Monument speech, you'll see that Father was speaking about the 200th birthday of America as being the turning point of the battle between good and evil.

There was no doubt in our minds that the Kingdom of Heaven was coming soon. We had a certain sense of a providential deadline. For me, since that's when I joined what is now called the Family Federation, I thought that was normal – to work on a strict providential deadline.

Later on, I learned that this mindset was not new. Actually, eight years before, when True Father came to Washington D.C. he met a group of members with a burning question. The first members who joined the Unification Church in America were almost all very spiritual. And they all believed to a man (and woman) that the kingdom of God would be coming in two or three years because one of the first missionaries to America, Lady Young Oon Kim, had told them that.

That time period had already expired. So when they assembled in Washington D.C. to meet True Father for the first time, they were not happy campers. In a meeting before Father arrived, a few of them – we're talking maybe about 10 or 12 people – cornered Young Oon Kim, and they challenged her,

> "Hey, you said the Kingdom of Heaven was coming by 1967. It's not here. What happened? Have you been lying to us?"

Dr. Young Oon Kim *(Kim Yeong-oon), here in the Summer of 1956 in Seoul. Photo: FFWPU, improved resolution by Grok xAI, September 2026*

Young Oon Kim (1914-1989), a great theologian in her own right, said,

> "Yes, I did tell you that. And I told you that because that's what Father told me."

So of course they thought, "Right, we're going to see where this ends up." They said, "We want you to ask Father why he told you this when he must have known as the Messiah that it wasn't true."

The next day they were meeting and Father gave a talk. And then he asked for questions. And Young Oon Kim stood up and said,

> "Yes, Father, I have a question from the American members. They want to know why you were lying when you said the Kingdom of God was coming last year." (She might not have said exactly those words, but Koreans do speak their mind!)

And Father said:

> "Yes, I did tell you that. And I told you that because that's what God told me. God told me the Kingdom of God was coming last year, and it didn't. And I'm living with that as well. And I'm asking you to join me, for as long as it takes."

I mention that story because now, 50 or 60 years later, our movement arguably faces its greatest crisis ever. I hear a lot of members asking candidly,

> "What's going on, Mike? Our movement in Japan is dissolved, and in Korea it is on the brink. True Mother's in prison. And our organizational structure seems to be in disarray. Where is the Kingdom? Where is it? Tell us!"

Because we all joined a movement that was promising the Kingdom of Heaven, and we don't see it, I think that's a very reasonable question. And True Mother's confinement – tomorrow marks a full year – makes it even more pertinent.

Continued in part 2: The Inner Kingdom and the Outer Kingdom

***Featured image** above: Dr. Michael Balcomb speaking in the River South branch of the Family Federation in London on 20th September 2026. Screenshot from video by FFWPU.*

***Related to discovering the kingdom within:** Mother Han: The Dangers of Guilt by Position*

Related to discovering the kingdom within: Mother Han: Beyond One Trial – the Wider Stakes

Related to discovering the kingdom within: At Issue: Religions Taking Reality Seriously

Also related to discovering the kingdom within: Religion Between Engagement and Withdrawal

Also related to discovering the kingdom within: State Failure and Non-State Peace Projects

More, related to discovering the kingdom within: Detention: Harsh Cell Conditions Spark Outcry

And more, related to discovering the kingdom within: Official Statement on Recent Media Coverage

Also related to discovering the kingdom within: Defense Challenges Core Claims of Indictment

And also related to discovering the kingdom within: Unificationism Emerging as a World Religion

More, related to discovering the kingdom within: Decline of Family Values Creates Social Crisis

And more, related to discovering the kingdom within: Unificationism, Industry, and Cold War Survival

And more, related to discovering the kingdom within: Movement Promoting Family as National Solution

Yet more, related to discovering the kingdom within: "Church Closure" Risks in South Korea's New Bill

Still more, related to discovering the kingdom within: Mother Han Nominated for Nobel Peace Prize 2026

Also related to discovering the kingdom within: Democratic Party's Assault on Family Federation

And even more, related to discovering the kingdom within: Mother Han (82) in Poor Health in Damp, Cold Cell

And still more, related to discovering the kingdom within: Korean

Crisis: "True Democracy Must Serve Heaven"

And yet more, related to discovering the kingdom within: Faith Leaders Protest State Assault on Religion

And more, related to discovering the kingdom within: Trump Raises Alarm Over Church Raids in Korea

Even more, related to discovering the kingdom within: Mike Pompeo Calls Probe of Co-Founder "Lawfare"

Still more, related to discovering the kingdom within: Korean Faith Crackdown: USA Urged to Confront It

Yet more, related to discovering the kingdom within: Korean Bribery Scandal: Media Clears Federation

Related to discovering the kingdom within: Lawfare: State Uses Legal System in War on Faith

More, related to discovering the kingdom within: Shocked Author: "Japan Ignores Basics of Justice"

Still more, related to discovering the kingdom within: Legal Inconsistencies A Blow to Democracy

Even more, related to discovering the kingdom within: Japan: Court Accused of Using Speculation

Also related to discovering the kingdom within: MEXT's Legal Spin and "Dissolution at All Costs"

Also related to discovering the kingdom within: UN Report: Japan's Lawfare Against Faith Minority

And also related to discovering the kingdom within: Protesting No Transparency in Closed-Door Trial

« Previous
Escaped From 1st Confineme...

Next
Inside The Room Where The... »