FFWPU Europe and Middle East: Michael Balcomb on Making the Kingdom Real

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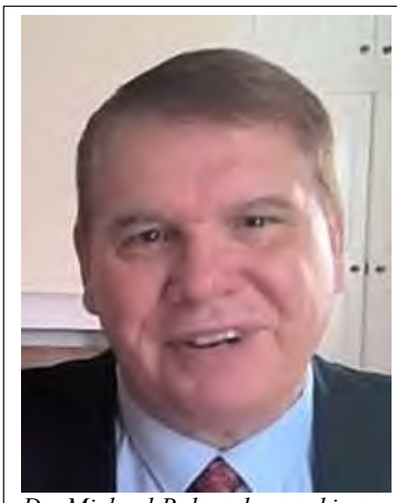
September 27, 2026

Beyond the spiritual escapism of the "kingdom within". Illustration: ChatGPT


Dr. Michael Balcomb, speaking online on 20th September 20, 2026

Beyond the spiritual escapism of the "kingdom within": Moving from an internalized faith toward a Kingdom that transforms the world

The Kingdom Within

Part 3 (final) of a sermon by Dr. Michael Balcomb, President of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification in Europe and the Middle East, given online at an international Sunday worship service for the Nordic countries on Zoom 20th September 2026.

Continued from part 1: The Kingdom Within

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

There is a trap and a temptation which I think it's worth thinking about today. We can be tempted - and I think we are being tempted as a movement - to withdraw into this entirely spiritual path, treating "The Kingdom Within" as the main goal. I candidly see this as escapism or denial, pushing all the work back on God, and expecting all the results only in the far the future or after death.

We can look at two men who took this "Kingdom Within" thinking to extremes in relatively modern times, like Russian Leo Tolstoy, who underwent a radical conversion and wrote a book "The Kingdom Within" and proceeded to give away everything and renounce the world. But he did so without consulting his wife, leaving her to look after their 13 children and causing the whole family great grief.

Or then there was Mahatma Gandhi, whose extreme asceticism became expensive and complicated for others to maintain. Later in life he resorted to bizarre demonstrations of self-control that today would be considered abusive [See editor's note below].

Yes, they were both saints, in their own way. But they missed the real point of life.

The True Parents teach us that all three blessings given by God in Genesis 1:28 must be fulfilled: to be fruitful, multiply, and take dominion. While we used to say that fulfilling them in the right order was the

key and the wrong order led to the fall, in truth they have to be fulfilled in parallel and indeed cannot be fulfilled independently or alone.

This is why the True Parents' second motto - "Live for the sake of others" - is so important, to prevent the accomplishment of the blessings from being just selfish. We must not lose sight of the real goal: the Kingdom in substance. True Mother calls it "God's original dream".

Leo Tolstoy and his wife Sofia Tolstaya in Crimea in 1902

Mahatma Gandhi and his wife Kasturba on their return to India from South Africa in 1915

Serenity in Difficult Times

Still, some might reasonably ask: Is it even still possible? Or have we blown it by our mistakes - and let's be honest about our real thinking here - by the mistakes of others?

I would say "not at all." Father Moon taught that the light and the dark follow each other naturally:

"Nothing stands still in the universe, and everything has its turn. The sunny side is bound to become the dark side eventually, and the dark side is bound to turn sunny sooner or later. Therefore, once you are ready for the dark side, trained and conditioned to endure cold weather and difficulties, when you experience the sunny side, it is totally heaven for you. But the person who can deal only with the sunny side of life, and does not know how to cope with the difficult times will feel he is in total hell when the dark side comes around, which it inevitably will."

When things go wrong, it is not necessarily or always a sign of spiritual disfavour, punishment or judgment. It is part of the natural cycle.

During my visits to the True Mother in confinement, I have witnessed her absolute serenity firsthand. She is unchanged no matter what happens. Back in November last year at the detention center, and then just three weeks ago as she entered and left the court.

Going into the court, none of us knew what the judges would say. We were of course hoping for acquittal. I am sure she was too. But when she came out, I didn't see someone looking worried or distressed, but actually looking amazingly peaceful - no panic, no anger, no bitterness. Later we learned she told her lawyers, "Let's pray for the judges. They did their best. And this fight is not over." Her mindset is focused on how God can use the situation.

A New Thing

For our community, this is a testing time. I reflect on the Word of God in Isaiah 43:18-19 given to the people of Israel when they had lost everything - the Kingdom, the nation, the temple - and were in exile in Babylon:

"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."

I believe God is doing a new thing today. We are not going to be satisfied with the Kingdom within, though we will work on ourselves more diligently. We are not going to stay satisfied with a Kingdom

amongst us, if it does not include everyone. We have to do it all: within, among, and throughout.

We're not going to win the world by theology or intellect or debate. The only way it will happen is if people can look at us and think,

Dr. Hak Ja Han, aka. Mother Han, being wheeled into the courtroom by her grandson Moon Shin-chul at Seoul Central District Court 31st August 2026

"I want what they have. They seem to be at peace. They seem to have something wonderful."

We have the teaching and the Blessing of True Parents. That light has to shine again. The troubles of today will one day be forgotten. But right now is an opportunity for all of us together to make a new start. We can't do it by ourselves; we have to do it as one family. And I know, and I can trust, that we will do it here together.

Thank you very much, everybody.

Continued from part 1: The Kingdom Within

Contrinued from part 2: The Inner Kingdom and the Outer Kingdom

[Editor's note: Late in life, Mahatma Gandhi practiced brahmacharya (celibacy) through controversial experiments to test his self-control and conquer sexual desire. He slept naked in the same bed as young women, including his teenage grandnieces Abha and Manu. While Gandhi insisted these tests were entirely spiritual and free of sexual contact, modern critics and historians widely view these actions as a serious abuse of power and emotional exploitation.]

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Trapped: 13 Breaking Faith Of 1 In Locked Room

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AI image by Dola AI, September 26, 2026

Trapped and surrounded, Japanese Toru Goto faced a daily campaign by professional faith-breaker, family members and former believers to make him renounce his faith

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The Kingdom Within

September 21, 2026

***Part 4** 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.*

Toru Goto speaking during the online conference by PnR-T on 19th September 2026. Screenshot

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

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

Continued from part 3: Inside the Room Where They Tried to Break Faith

Several days later, Takashi Miyamura (宮村峻) appeared. It was our first meeting in approximately ten years. He had been involved in the faith-breaking efforts during my first confinement and had in addition played a major role in the "deprogramming" of my brother and sister as well.

Miyamura arrived with former members who had been taken away through abduction and confinement and had subsequently become involved in activities opposing the Family Federation, then called the Unification Church.

And from that point onward, the real battle began: a battle between those who sought to destroy my faith and me, as I struggled to preserve it. But at that point, I still had no idea just how intense that battle would become.

After Miyamura appeared, the atmosphere in the confinement room changed completely.

***One of the many confinement apartments** that existed all across Japan. Here, the location of the **8th floor apartment** in Ogikubo, Tokyo where Toru Goto was held captive and dehumanized. Photo: National Association of Victims of Abduction, Confinement, and Forced Deconversion*

At this point, I would like everyone to understand something important. This was not a discussion about religion taking place in a free and voluntary setting. I was locked inside an apartment. I could

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free and voluntary setting. I was locked inside an apartment. I could not freely leave through the front door, and the windows were also locked.

Even if I became tired of the discussion, I could not simply stand up and leave. I could not go outside and ask someone for help. There was no telephone, and I could not even send a letter. The people confronting me were free to leave the room whenever they wanted. But I was not free to leave.

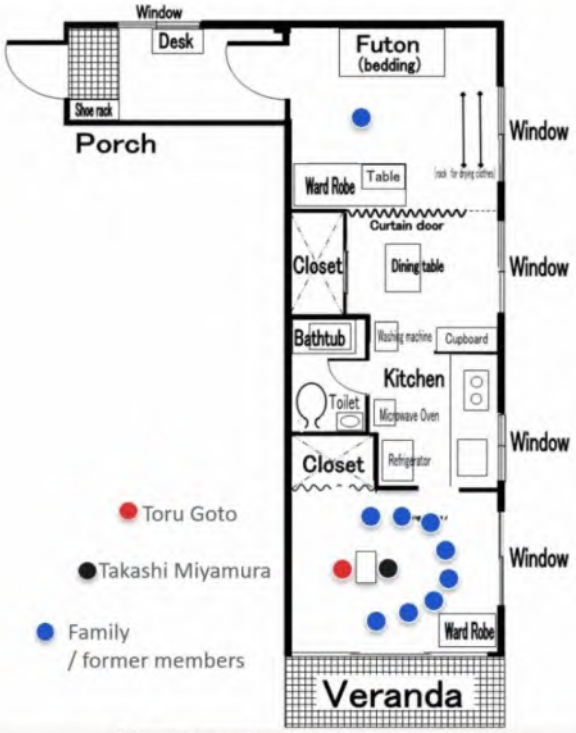
It was under these circumstances that the faith-breaking efforts were carried out with the aim of making me renounce my faith.

Takashi Miyamura began coming every day at around 6 p.m., after dinner, bringing former members who had had their faith broken through abduction and confinement.

Miyamura, the former members, and my family would surround me.

At times, as many as twelve or thirteen people – my family, Miyamura, and former members – would gather in the Japanese-style room.

Please look at this



Plan of the apartment where Toru Goto was confined for approximately ten years. Illustration: Toru Goto

diagram. (illustration to the right) The red circle represents me. The black circle represents Mr. Miyamura, and the blue circles represent my family and the former members.

This apartment was where I was confined for the final approximately ten years. My room was the Japanese-style room furthest from the entrance, at the very back of the apartment.

To get to the entrance, I would have had to pass through the kitchen and the Western-style rooms, and there were always family members along the way. The layout was such that if I headed toward the entrance, they would immediately notice and stop me. The entrance itself was locked with a chain and other restraints.

And this was on the eighth floor. Security locks had been installed on the windows, so I could not escape through them either.

In other words, if I tried to reach the entrance, my family would stop me, while escape through the windows was also impossible. It was a setting extremely convenient for those confining me.

I would sit in front of the table while criticism of the Church, the Unification Principles, and Father Moon was directed at me from all sides.

This would continue for about two hours, until around 8 p.m.

Miyamura called me names such as "idiot", "stupid", and "devil". Abusive language came at me from every direction.

At one point, an agitated female former member threw hot tea in my face.

This was not a discussion. In a room from which I could not escape, one person was surrounded by a large group. It was nothing less than a collective attack – a form of psychological assault.

I could not stand it any longer and said:

> "You are the ones violating human rights! What do you think freedom of religion means? Let me out of here!"

Miyamura replied:

> "You have no right to claim human rights. I am not confining you. Your family is protecting you. If you want to be released, ask your family."

I was also told that I would not be allowed to leave until I was capable of thinking for myself.

In the end, I was placed in a situation where I had no idea when my confinement would end unless I accepted what they were telling me and abandoned my faith.

What made it even more painful was that it was not only the words of Miyamura and the former members.

My own family, who until shortly before had been bringing me meals, also became involved in the faith-breaking efforts. My brother and sister verbally attacked me harshly. On one occasion, my brother pointed at me and shouted,

> "If it were up to me, I'd beat you half to death!"

My sister also told me,

> "If you keep this up, you'll stay like this for the rest of your life, so you'd better be prepared."

When I could no longer bear it and tried to get up from my seat, my brother grabbed me and forced me back down.

I pleaded with them:

> "This is abduction and confinement. Freedom of religion is guaranteed by the Constitution. Enough is enough. Let me out of here."

My brother simply replied:

> "This isn't abduction and confinement. This is emergency protective custody."

He would not listen to me at all.

There were also occasions when my brother slapped me.

To be continued. Part 5 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

Continued from part 3: Inside the Room Where They Tried to Break Faith

***Featured image** above: Toru Goto verbally abused by professional faith-breaker Takashi Miyamura in a dehumanizing way in locked*

room in Tokyo. Illustration: Doia AI, created for illustrative purposes
26th September 2026

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