

FFWPU Europe and the Middle East: Big Celebration - FFWPU's 70th Anniversary

Knut Holdhus
June 7, 2024



Mother Moon cutting the cake at the celebration of the 70th anniversary of the [FFWPU](#) in Gapyeong, South Korea on 6th June 2024. On the left Yeon-ah Moon, the daughter-in-law



Gwang-seok Song 7th June 2024



Soo-sung Lee, Prime Minister of South Korea 1995-1997

70th anniversary of the founding of the Family Federation 1st May 1954 celebrated in style

The 70th anniversary of the [Family Federation](#) was celebrated in grand style 6th June 2024 in the main hall of the movement's training center in [Gapyeong](#), South Korea. National Assembly members and religious leaders participated together with [Mother Moon](#) and leaders and members of the [Family Federation](#) of South Korea and Japan. Most anniversaries in South Korea are celebrated according to the Oriental lunar calendar. This year the movement's [founding](#) date 1st May falls on 6th June.

Gwang-seok Song, the head of the [Family Federation](#) of South Korea, presented on 7th June to leaders and members gathered in Gapyeong an overview of the anniversary celebration.

He described how from the small clay house in Beomnaegol (범내골) in the South Korean harbor city of Busan, to the tiny "House with three doors" in Bukhak-dong (북학동) in Seoul, and then to the larger Cheongpa-dong (청파동) original headquarters church, a miraculous development has taken place.

The [Family Federation began in 1954](#) with the name [Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity](#). Despite fierce persecution and abundant hardships, members have continuously carried out work to spread the word globally, and as a result, 70 years later, according to President Gwang-seok Song it has developed into a global religion expanded to more than 200 countries around the world.

At the commemorative events 6th June, [Mother Moon](#) delivered an inspirational message. She expressed her gratitude for being able to celebrate the 70th anniversary together with everyone. [Mother Moon](#) spoke about our Heavenly Parent, who has waited for a long and arduous 6,000 years, and said she was deeply grateful to Heavenly Parent for allowing the work of the [Family Federation](#) to progress so that a temple

dedicated to our Heavenly Parent will be completed next year.

She encouraged all members to fulfill their responsibilities and contribute to the great task of realizing a unified Korea and a unified world.



[Mother Moon](#) speaking on 6th June 2024 in Gapyeong, South Korea

There were two congratulatory speeches, the first by Soo-sung Lee (이수성), who served as the President of Seoul National University before becoming the 29th Prime Minister of South Korea from 1995 to 1997. He is a respected elder in Korea, admired across academic and political fields. He sincerely expressed his respect for [Father](#) and [Mother Moon](#).

Former Prime Minister Lee stated that since its founding in 1954, the [Family Federation](#) has promoted the values of [true love](#) and true families worldwide and has contributed to the development of a healthy society. He testified that Founders [Sun Myung Moon](#) and [Hak Ja Han](#) have both been lifelong teachers of peace and love.

He also testified that [True Parents](#) have dedicated their lives to the salvation of humanity and the establishment of a world of lasting peace. He expressed his hope that the [teachings](#) and words inherited from the [True Parents](#) will blossom even more beautifully by the 100th anniversary.



[Myeong-cheol Jo](#) 6th June 2024

The second congratulatory speaker was Myeong-cheol Jo (조명철), the former Governor of South Pyongan Province in North Korea, who defected to South Korea in 1994 and became a member of the national parliament there and a professor.

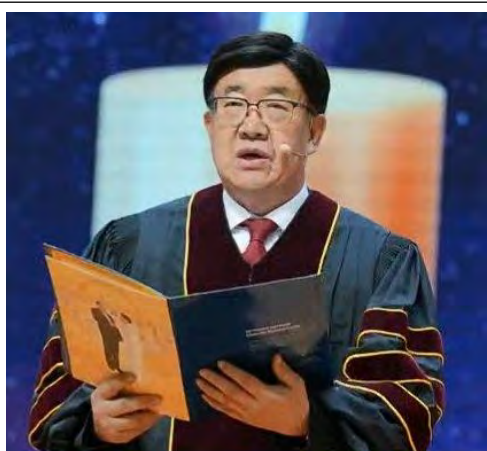
In his congratulatory address he expressed that he stood on the stage to repay the love he received from [True Parents](#), confessing his gratitude to [Mother Moon](#), who embraces all humanity with a mother's love.

Jo shared that he had been deeply shocked when he heard the news that [Father Moon](#) had criticized the North Korean Juche ideology at the Mansudae Assembly Hall in Pyongyang in 1991. He testified

about the remarkable life of the [True Parents](#) that he had directly experienced in North Korea.

No foreigner visiting the country had ever said that North Korea's ideology and system were wrong. Jo had never seen a single person tell that to the elite and the president. There were so many politicians, so many business people, so many NGO leaders, religious leaders who came to Pyongyang. But each time they felt intimidated. Instead of telling the truth, they praised North Korea's system.

However, [Father Moon](#) was different. He told President Kim Il-sung that the Juche ideology is misleading, that communism is wrong. The system that denies God is wrong. In front of the North Korean president, [Father Moon](#) spoke confidently and courageously. Jo described him as an incredible person.



Yeong-hwan Kim, joint vice-chairman of the Korean Christian Federation

He emphasized that the members of the [Family Federation](#) ought to follow the [True Parents](#) in paving the way for the reunification of North and South Korea, so that freedom and human rights would soon be guaranteed for the citizens in the North too.

The two speeches were preceded by greetings by religious leaders. Representing Christianity, Pastor Yeong-hwan Kim (김영환), joint vice-chairman of the Korean Christian Federation, delivered the benediction.

Following this, representing Korean Buddhism, Bong-shin Do (도봉신), Chief Executive of the Jogye Order and Supreme Leader of Geumgang [temple-stay meditation

program in North Korea], offered a meaningful prayer that greatly honored the birth of [Father](#) and [Mother Moon](#).



Bong-shin Do, Chief Executive of the Jogye Order of Buddhism

Then, representatives of Christianity, Buddhism, the [Family Federation](#), and Cheondoism, a Korean religion, held a ceremony for unity, praying for religious harmony and the reunification of North and South Korea.



Gi-seong Lee of the [Family Federation](#)

Next, Gi-seong Lee (이기성), head of the [Family Federation](#)'s main center for spiritual training, offered a memorial prayer to our Heavenly Parent. In his prayer, he expressed a strong wish to console the [sorrowful heart](#) of our Heavenly Parent, who has sought his lost children for 6,000 years.



Religious leaders performing a ceremony for unity 6th June 2024

Following this, Yong-cheon Song (송용천), international president of the [Family Federation](#) delivered a commemorative address.

In his address, he expressed a deep gratitude to Heavenly Parent and the [True Parents](#) for guiding the providence over the past 70 years. He also encouraged the leaders and [blessed](#) families in their dedication on the front lines of the providence.



Dr. Yong-cheon Song speaking at the 70th anniversary 6th June 2024

President Song emphasized how the [True Parents](#) had encouraged members to expand the work from the early days of the movement and succeeded to lay the foundation for a global base by sending missionaries to Japan and the USA despite the difficult circumstances in the years following the Korean War. Song conveyed his gratitude to the elder pastors and members who had dedicated their blood, sweat, and tears to make the current global foundation.

Following this, there was a time to watch congratulatory video messages from religious and

political leaders from around the world.



Members assembled when what is now called the [Family Federation](#) was [founded](#) 1st May 1954. [Father Moon](#) seated in front. Photo taken in Bukhak-dong, Seoul 3rd May 1954

A painting depicting [Mother Moon](#) in her early days in Cheongpa-dong in Seoul, was presented to her.

There were also performances by the Little Angels, a dance troupe of young girls, and a congratulatory song by tenor Cheol-ho Lim.

The [True Parents'](#) Award and the [Family Federation](#) President's Award were presented to seven individuals with 33 years of service and five individuals with 15 years of service.

A large choir consisting of members from the city of Cheonan performed two beautifully arranged songs.

Text: Knut Holdhus, written based on report by Gwang-seok Song, President of the [Family Federation](#) of South Korea, at a meeting for leaders and members gathered in Gapyeong, South Korea on 7th June 2024. Translated from Korean.

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Holy Wedding anniversary celebrated in style by thousands

A grand celebration of **Father and Mother Moon's Holy Wedding** anniversary was held on 24th April 2024



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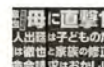
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at the Hyojeong Cultural Center, a large indoor stadium located in Gapyeong, northeast of the South Korean capital Seoul.



Mother Moon at the celebration 24th April 2024. Photo: Screenshot from live transmission by PeaceTV.

In 2020, **Mother Moon**, **Hak Ja Han**, designated this anniversary as the most important Holy Day of the **Family Federation**. From 2021, two more of the movement's Holy Days have been celebrated together with the anniversary.

The more than two hours long program in Gapyeong attracted an audience of 20,000. They witnessed flowers and gifts being presented to **Mother Moon** on her 64th Wedding anniversary. The **Holy Wedding** of her and her late husband **Sun Myung Moon** took place in 1960.

For members of the **Family Federation** and others that event was truly historical and deeply significant.

After **Mother Moon** had cut the splendid celebratory cake, she made several important points in her deeply spiritual speech. She reflected on how different **God's providence** in the world today would have been if her **Holy Wedding** in 1960 had taken place with the support of Christianity, and if Christianity had understood what Jesus really meant when he said he would return.

Instead, **Father** and **Mother Moon** had to walk a wilderness course for several decades.

She pointed out how **God** for thousands of years prepared a chosen people to receive not only a new Adam – Jesus – but also a new Eve. None of those specially prepared at the time, understood what **Mother Moon** called the "essence of Jesus". That's why he had to walk the way of the cross.

However, what God has started, must be completed. So the Creator has to restore the couple He wanted to be an ideal for all humankind, the first man and woman. They should have become humanity's good ancestors.

Jesus came 2,000 years ago as the "Only Begotten Son", but there could be no "Only Begotten Daughter". When **Jesus called Sun Myung Moon** in 1935 to complete what Jesus had started, the young Korean man did not become a new "Only Begotten Son". Jesus holds that position for all eternity.

Instead, **Father** Moon became the second coming of the Messiah. And through his **Holy Wedding** in 1960, the position of "Only Begotten Daughter" could finally be restored. Together **Father** and **Mother Moon** became the **True Parents** of humanity and could accomplish the **ideal** that Adam and Eve should have realized thousands of years ago.

Two distinguished religious leaders offered congratulatory remarks. First, the venerable Hong Pa, Supreme Leader of *Daehan Kwan Um Zen Buddhist Order*, spoke. He said,



The venerable Hong Pa. Photo: Screenshot from live transmission by PeaceTV.

"Today we celebrate the 64th anniversary of Rev. **Sun Myung Moon** and Dr. **Hak Ja Han Moon**, who is the officiator of today's **Blessing**.

They have devoted their lives to the practice of **true love** and living for the sake of others. As global citizens dedicated to peace, as well as **Parents** wiping the tears of humanity, they have established a strong foundation for eternal peace and human happiness, and their actions exemplify the core

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teaching of Buddhism, which is to become self-aware, bring awareness to others, and live an exemplary life in harmony.

And looking back at the countless conflicts, disputes and antagonism that humanity has perpetrated over the millennia due to selfishness, we can see that **Rev. and Mrs. Moon**, in solidarity with righteous visionaries and world leaders, are forging a path of peace and happiness through the **Blessing** in particular.

So this extraordinary way of overcoming all barriers, including religion, race, nation and ideology, should be recorded in human history as a remarkable achievement.

So I would like to express my utmost respect and gratitude to all of you who are devoted to leading lives dedicated to achieving world peace and human happiness. I am humbled by the dignity that the brides and grooms receiving the **Blessing** today uphold, and I cannot help but admire the true value of life that you represent. My hope is that you will enjoy a life full of happiness by firmly realizing the ideal of a true family."

Congratulatory remarks were also given by Johannes Ndanga, Archbishop and President of Apostolic Church Council of Zimbabwe. He said,

"Although I lead the African Christian Council International, I am also from a family that received the **Blessing** from the **True Parents**. My wife and I are also a victorious **blessed** couple.

I would like to confess that Dr. **Hak Ja Han Moon** is my spiritual mother and I also want to confess if we look at the many fruits – as the Bible teaches – that you shall know the righteous by their fruits. If you are righteous, you see the righteousness through the fruits that she produces and by such fruits, I want to confirm also that Dr. **Hak Ja Han Moon** is the **Only Begotten Daughter** of our Heavenly Parent.

Mother Moon came to Africa, the land of tears, to transform it, for it to become a heavenly Africa, an Africa of peace, Africa of prosperity and Africa of happiness, transcending all barriers of religion, national borders, race and ideology.

With only Heavenly Parent's **true love**, I was deeply touched to learn about **Mother Moon's** noble and sacrificial journey.

I also came to realize the maternal aspect of **God** through **Mother Moon**, the **Only Begotten Daughter**. This is indeed a great blessing and amazing grace, not only for me, but for all religious people who believe in **God**."



Archbishop Johannes Ndanga. Photo: Screenshot from live transmission by PeaceTV 22nd April 2024.



Dr. Samuel Radebe. Photo: Screenshot

Video messages from a dozen religious and political leaders were shown on large screens in the indoor stadium. Dr. Samuel Radebe, Founder of *The Revelation Spiritual Home*, South Africa, said,

"Beloved **True Mother**, Mother of Peace, I am truly honoured and privileged to wish **Mother Moon** a happy Heavenly Parent's Day, happy True Parents' Day and

happy **Holy Wedding** anniversary."

Bishop Don Meares from the megachurch *Evangel Cathedral* in Maryland, USA, said,

"**Father** and **Mother Moon** affirmed the call of Jesus to become **True Parents**, and we want to encourage you now to become parents in your family, pledging your faithfulness to God, your fidelity to one another, and love for all of mankind.

Mother Moon, we thank you so sincerely for calling the unity of the body of Christ and praying as Jesus did, that we might all be one."



Bishop Don Meares. Photo: Screenshot from PeaceLink



Paula White-Cain. Photo: Screenshot

Paula White-Cain, American televangelist and advisor to Donald Trump during his presidency, said,

"We celebrate this special occasion of lifelong love and deep commitment.

We are so very grateful for you, dear **Mother Moon**, for your love, for your suffering, for righteousness, and for your encouragement around the globe that America and the world can only be revived and return to **God** by repentance and turning to him."

Goodluck Jonathan, President of Nigeria 2010-2015, said,

"The True Parents' **Holy Wedding** anniversary serves as a beacon of hope and inspiration, reminding us of the importance of love, unity and family bonds in fostering a more peaceful world."



Goodluck Jonathan. Photo: Screenshot



Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. Photo: Screenshot

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, President of the Philippines 2001-2010,

"May all the attendees of these joint events always keep in mind what the founders of this peace movement advocated, that world peace and prosperity are achieved through religious harmony, the embrace of diverse cultures and traditions of countries throughout the world, and good and strong family ties."

The largest part of the program was a dramatization of **Father** and **Mother Moon's** life, expressed through narration, dance, song and music, accompanied by a gigantic video display on a large screen behind the stage, showing highlights from their life.

It was narrated by famous Korean singer Aeri Park and entertainer Myeong-gon Kim. Well-known singers like soprano Mi-ja Park, tenor Jae-hyung Kim, soprano Yi-ji Choi, tenor Moon-ho Park performed



Yi-ji Choi. Screenshot



Mi-ya Park. Screenshot

A large choir



accompanied by a symphony orchestra performed some of the holy songs of the [Family Federation](#). The keen observer



*Moon-ho Park.
Screenshot*

would notice that the lyrics of one of the songs written more than 60 years ago, had been changed.

“Oh, the Lord has come; oh, the Lord has come” became “Oh, the Lord has come; our Lady now is come”.

“He has come to the mountainous land” was changed into “They have come to the mountainous land”.

“He is our Saviour and King” became “They are our King and our Queen”.

Such a change is fully in line with [Mother Moon](#) emphasizing that [God](#) is both our [Father and Mother](#) and the Messianic mission requiring a man and a woman.

The anniversary celebrations were followed by a [large wedding for 2,100 couples](#).

Text: Knut Holdhus, written based on live transmission via PeaceTV.

Featured image above: [Mother Moon](#) lighting the candle on the cake at the celebration of her [Holy Wedding](#) anniversary 24th April 2024, assisted by her daughter-in-law Yeon Ah Moon. Photo: Screenshot from live transmission by PeaceTV.

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