

FFWPU Europe and the Middle East: Edy Iversen Martin-Prével's Testimony: Remembering 11th September 2001

Knut Holdhus
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(Lower Manhattan, New York City) The explosion following the plane impact into the South Tower (WTC 2), from a roof along Church with Murray or Warren Streets; to the left are Millennium Hilton Downtown and 1 Liberty Plaza, to the right is 7 WTC

American peace activist looks back on efforts towards world peace initiated by Father and Mother Moon in the aftermath of 11th September 2001 terror

by Edy Iversen Martin-Prével



Edy Iversen Martin-Prével

It has been 23 years since the horrible terrorist attacks that took place in New York and Washington DC. I had just buried my husband in Florida and moved to DC to become a public relations director for a non-profit there. I will never forget seeing on television the planes slamming into the World Trade Center and then the violent attack on the Pentagon as well.

Immediately after hearing about the attacks, [Father Moon](#), concerned about a possible World War III, asked the American Freedom Coalition members to organize conferences in all 50 states with religious leaders from all faiths, and political leaders as well, and to get them to pray and work for peace. We organized several conferences in Washington DC, of which I was a part.

My twin sister Betsy and several pastors were some of the first responders to Ground Zero in New York, where they saw firsthand the consequences of this tragedy and ministered to the

victims that survived.

At that time, I knew I had to do something desperate and went to the Capitol every day to speak to the legislators to try and bring them to a major conference for World Peace. Despite the incredible danger, I prayed tearfully for the protection of our country, placing my hand every day on the Capitol Building. I took a directory of all the legislators and prayed for each one for forty days.

I stood in the freezing cold and besieged God in front of the White House for the protection of our President, hoping somehow, we could bring him to one of our events as well. No matter how hard we

tried, we could not reach him. He was being blocked from meeting with us. It was an incredible disappointment.



From interreligious prayer march in New York soon after the 11th September 2001 attacks. Interfaith Prayer Breakfast and Day of Prayer and Healing march in Harlem, New York, September 23, 2001

[Father Moon](#) predicted if we went into war with Iraq, there would be worldwide religious repercussions and tried desperately to bring Muslim, Christian, and Jewish leaders together with the leading politicians to stop this. Unfortunately, despite all our efforts, we were not successful, and the rest is history. Unfortunately, today, you can see the remnants of 11th September, 23 years later, and conflicts are still going strong: terrorism, war, and hatred between religions that supposedly teach love, forgiveness and peace.

Living in Europe and being so close to Russia and the Middle East, war is an everyday reality that affects us even in France. Also, so many of our dear brothers and sisters who work for peace in these countries are affected as well, and their children are being forced to fight

against their will in wars against neighboring countries. It is an utter heartbreak.

As a longtime peacemaker, I can only hang my head in shame, that as of today we have still been unsuccessful to bring this world together and to help others to realize we should be truly "One family under God". If the debacle of Covid could not wake us up, what will it take for the world to realize the value of each human being's life?

Today, I ask for a special prayer for all those killed and affected by 11th September, and prayers for continued peace in this world. I will never stop believing in the ideals we have worked our entire lives to accomplish. Also, I pray the world will see the reality of the vision of [Father](#) and [Mother Moon](#) and their extraordinary efforts as peacemakers to bring the enemies of the world together.



[Father](#) and [Mother Moon](#) honouring peace activists after the 11th September 2001 attacks. Photo from event in New York 19th-22nd October 2001

I am blessed to be a part of that, despite not fully accomplishing our goal yet. Still, I know, even tired, and old as I am, we cannot give up believing and trying to love and bring this world together. This is my hope, and [God's](#) desperate heart to heal this world.

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Mother Moon's Peace Message

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• May 9, 2023 • Knut Holdhus



Peace message highlights one family of humankind under God

A speech [Mother Moon](#) gave at a special plenary of Peace Summit 2023, an international peace conference with dignitaries from around the world, held at the Lotte Hotel, Seoul, South Korea from 2nd to 6th May 2023.

Respected leaders from Korea and overseas, I warmly welcome you.

Today we are speaking about peace – peace in our world. Throughout human history people have sought to realize a world of peace, yet we have always experienced war and conflict. How and when will peace come to humankind? Originally, the Creator's intention was to be our Parent. The invisible Creator created a man and a woman in the image of **God** as our first ancestors. **God** gave them time to mature and waited for the day when they would perfect their characters. Nevertheless, the man and woman who were to have been our first ancestors failed to uphold **God's** divine commandment, and their descendants are the fallen human race of the present day.



Over the course of history, the pursuit of goodness has led to the birth of religions that reflect the region in which they originated. Righteous individuals who were committed to goodness

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Committed to goodness emerged from every corner of the globe and pursued their mission.

Despite this, when we observe the problems of the world today, we find that conflicts and disputes between religions, wars based on

ideological differences, and numerous countries pursuing their own interests, make the word "peace" feel distant, though it is close. Is there really any hope for us in the present time? The issue is that we cannot rely on a human-centric approach. Although all religions move in the direction of goodness, they have not been able to find the right answer.

What I would like to say is this: Would the Creator of the universe, as our Parent, simply watch quietly as the children suffer? I cannot describe the entirety of Heaven's providence in the short time I have to speak, but what **God** waited and waited so long to see was for central people to emerge from among fallen humanity, a man and a woman who could attend **God** as their Parent. In other words, **God** has been waiting for the birth of the **True Parents** who can save everyone in the fallen world. The result of Heaven's work was that these **True Parents** were born to the Korean people.

Our Heavenly Parent's dream is to share life in the **kingdom of heaven** on earth together with good sons and daughters who have received **True Parents' Blessing**. However, the path to achieve this has not been easy. Yet, through the Korean people and the Korean Peninsula, something like a miracle occurred, and we could see the completion of the heavenly providence and the culmination of human history.

To put it another way, through the **True Parents**, the dream of our Heavenly Parent who has waited 6,000 years and the desire of all humankind can finally be actualized. [...]

Many faiths have created temples where they can attend **God**. However, they have not understood the fundamental nature of the Creator. Heaven's circumstances in relation to the Korean Peninsula after six thousand years... I know there are many religious leaders present today. To save humankind, **God** carried out the providence of salvation, and this is clearly in evidence in the Old Testament. Through the people of Israel, Heaven sent the Savior, whom **God** could call "My Son", who would atone for the wrongs committed by fallen humankind.

However, the Son alone is not enough. In accordance with the principles of creation, **God** created a man and a woman. The only begotten Son was unable to complete that task. The people of Israel, the Jewish leaders, and Mary who gave birth to him, did not recognize the Messiah. In the end he went to the cross. Before he died, Jesus promised to return. Two thousand years have passed since Christian history began with the disciples of Jesus anticipating his return. However, does Christianity understand the essence of Heaven's providence? Yet a miraculous event has occurred on the Korean Peninsula through the **True Parents** [...].

Today, our planet suffers immensely due to ignorance. Due to the lack of rainfall resulting from climate change, one third of the population of the nation of Somalia, located southeast of the Sahara Desert, have been displaced as migrant refugees and are hoping for aid from the rest of the world. How is it that this beautiful Earth, which **God** created for humankind, has suffered such changes? All of you gathered here



Somalia. Public domain image. Cropped

today are righteous people that Heaven has blessed. We cannot merely stand quietly on the side-lines. The sole path to our resolving these issues and safeguarding our future is attending Heavenly Parent as our center and working together.

I gratefully receive the kind hearts of the distinguished participants here who have congratulated me on my **80th birthday**. Although it is a small offering, I wish to donate \$800,000 for the sake of the world. [Applause]

We all need to celebrate that we are living in this miraculous time, attending our Heavenly Parent. This is something to take pride in. I pray that we will all join hands together in this historic and providential flow of blessing, and that we will realize the dream of peace for all people and one family of humankind under our Heavenly Parent.

Mother Moon spoke without manuscript in Korean with simultaneous translation into several languages. This is the official version of the English translation, corrected and published by the International HQ of the Family Federation 8th May. Abbreviated version.

Featured image above: **Mother Moon** giving her peace message 3rd May 2023 in Seoul. Photo: EEWPII

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