

FFWPU Europe and the Middle East: Michael Balcomb - Preparing Holy Temple for God and Becoming One

Knut Holdhus
September 23, 2024



Cheonwon Gong taking shape

Preparations underway for holy temple in South Korea, and how you can become a holy temple yourself, like the Bible says



*Michael Balcomb giving sermon
September 15, 2024*

Part 2 of extracts from a sermon titled "In Our Parent's House", that Dr. Michael Balcomb, the President of the Europe and the Middle East Region of the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#), gave at the Sunday service in North London on 15th September 2024. Slightly edited.

See [part 1](#)

The second reading comes from the well-known chapter in 1st Corinthians.

"Don't you realize that all of you together are the house of [God](#), and that the Spirit of [God](#) lives among you in his house? If anyone defiles and spoils [God](#)'s home, [God](#) will destroy him. For [God](#)'s home is holy and clean, and you are that home." (1. Corinthians 3:16-17 - Bible Gateway)

And we use it a lot in the [Divine Principle](#) where Paul says,

"Do you not know that you are [God](#)'s temple and that [God](#)'s Spirit dwells in you?" (RSV)

I always thought that that meant me personally, and that it was a direction to keep yourself pure and holy because [God](#) is living in your body as his temple. Actually, that meaning comes a bit later, but in this chapter, the "you" is plural.

Paul is addressing the whole congregation, just like we are this morning. In other words, do you not know that "North London" is [God](#)'s temple? This entire congregation and [God](#)'s spirit dwells in all of you together.

And if anyone is lost or struggling or even - it says in the scripture - quite strongly damaging the temple of [God](#), he will be damaged, even destroyed.

But I feel, as a community, and I certainly speak for myself, I don't often feel that way. I feel, "Well, me,

maybe my wife, my family, I can manage that."



Spirit-filled congregation

But do I really think that our congregation is the temple of [God](#), the dwelling place of [God](#)? We sang that this morning.

But we need to up our game, especially as we start preparing for what's going to happen next year. Of course - as well as that temple in Korea that's going to be dedicated - the hope of our Heavenly Parent is that our communities and our homes will likewise become a place where the Heavenly Parent feels completely at home.



Meant to be temple of God: Girls, Lisbon, Portugal

community, to love each other and care for each other.

Because if we don't, no building is going to change that. Right? It's entirely a matter of relationship.

So, as I said, I started to think over time,

"Maybe physical buildings are not so important. It's all about the family, the relationship, myself."



Artistic image from 2021 of Jesus from multiple sources, including the Shroud of Turin

But I think that's an overcorrection. We know that Jesus said things like,

"Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." (John 2:19)

On another occasion he said,

"My kingdom is not of this world." (John 18:36)

But we have to realise that this is already after it had become clear that his original purpose to build the [Kingdom of God](#) - starting in Israel and spreading throughout the world - would no longer be possible.

It is a mistake to think that God is only interested in the spiritual, that the [Kingdom of Heaven](#) is something that may happen in a distant future or only in the spiritual realm.

No, it has to be created right here on the earth. This is where [God](#) would like to see his [kingdom](#). This is

where he'd like to see his children living in peace and justice. [...]

Sometimes people ask me, "What does the ideal world look like?"

I say,

"It's very simple. All the nations of the world uphold the word of [God](#) as the final authority. And the families live in peace. They're blessed. They're generous. They care for each other. They care for the nation. The nation itself welcomes foreigners and is committed to taking care of the planet as the gift of [God](#)."

It's very simple, actually. Religion, politics, those sort of things don't really enter it at all. It's simply the manifestation of the three blessings.



Fighters from the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah's training exercise in Aaramta village, Lebanon, May 21, 2023

But the world today is not like that, right? In his prayer, William [person in congregation] mentioned Russia and Ukraine, Israel, Gaza, Palestine, Yemen, Syria, Afghanistan. The list is endless. [...]

So what do we do? Do we throw up our hands and say,

"Look, let's face it, this is a moving target. It's a carrot that's always a little bit out of reach. And frankly, we will never live in that kind of world. Let's give it up."

Or we could do what [Mother Moon](#) is trying to do, which is to show a model somewhere. For

[Mother](#), that model is at the Cheonwon Goong and the HJ Cheonwon campus that we have there.

If you haven't been recently, I strongly recommend you to go again.

But for us that model is right here, isn't it? It's in our community. It's in our families. It's in our homes. That's what we can take responsibility for. And if we give up or don't do it or settle for something less, then, of course, that's a disappointment to our Heavenly Parent.

To be continued. Part 3 coming soon

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2025 Dedication: Sanctum To Feel Holiness Of God

• September 22, 2024 • Knut Holdhus

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Sanctum to feel holiness of God to be officially dedicated April 2025 in South Korea

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See [part 2](#)

We spent a lot of time overseas this summer, first in the United States, and then we went to Korea to celebrate True Father's Seonghwa anniversary. And this year was a particularly meaningful



From [Father Moon's gravesite in Gapyeong, South Korea](#). Photo (2024): Screenshot from [PeaceTV](#)

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celebration for me because we conducted the pledge service and the prayer service right there at **True Father's** gravesite. It was a beautiful, sunny day, and I really felt the peace of that place and **True Father's** presence.

But going to Korea is really quite tough. It's far away, especially when you've flown right around the world from America. So we decided afterwards, "Let's take a few days and go to Japan and just unwind. We had a beautiful time on the island of Shikoku. Apart from the fact that a typhoon was bearing down on us, and we had to keep moving, it was great.

It was on the way back, while we were changing plane in Shanghai, that I got the message to come back to Korea. [...]

We turned around in 20 hours, and went back to Korea. "Why?" you may ask. Well, that's what I want to share with you this morning.

I was called by **True Mother** in person, "Come back to Korea! I want your opinion. I want your insight." Not from me personally, perhaps, but the insight of someone from the UK or Europe, on the Cheonwon Goong, the peace palace that **True Mother** has been building these past few years in Korea and help her make a plan so that when we finally dedicate it and enter it next April, it will be a ceremony that the whole world can enjoy.



Mother Moon at international leaders' meeting in Gapyeong, South Korea 6th September 2024. Photo: Screenshot from PeaceTV.

So she asked me, "So, what do you think? Is this better than the palaces of Europe?"

You have to think quick in a moment like that. The first answer is, "Yes." But why is it better?

And suddenly it occurred to me, no, I've been to many palaces and castles in Europe and I'm sure that all of us have. But one thing I've noticed is that on the whole, they have a shadowed history, right? They've been used for purposes that are not particularly holy. And in some of them, you can still feel an atmosphere of fear, because the castle, the palace, represented the rule of force.

But here at Cheonwon Goong, I felt something very different. And I told **Mother**,

"I feel a different spirit here. This place has been created as a home for **God** and his family, or her family. It's just a place of love."

And **Mother** said,

"Yes, you're absolutely right. And moreover, once it has been fully dedicated and offered to **God**, it's yours. It's not mine; it's yours. And you, my children, are the ones who have to make it work and help the building to represent the vision behind it, which is a world of peace and justice."

So I'd like to say that I was completely united with this and sort of floated down the stairs and thought, "Wow, wonderful! At last, the house of **God** is ready."

But I didn't, because, honestly speaking, I've been brought up or have thought,

"Well, **God** doesn't really need a house, does he? I mean the whole of heaven and earth is the house of **God**. The whole creation is the house of **God**. Buildings are not that important."

But then I thought to myself,

"Yeah, but would you really feel that way if you felt that **God** is your Father, your Mother?"



My mom is 94 years old, and about a year ago she had a stroke and for a while she had to be in hospital and then in a rehabilitation centre. But finally the day came when she

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Dr. Michael Balcomb at international leaders' meeting in Gapyeong, South Korea 20th August 2024. Photo: Screenshot from PeaceTV.

could come back to her own house.

However, she couldn't manage to live by herself as she did before. And so each one weekend a month, me and my three sisters, more or less got up there to help her. At the other time, she has carers, but for her, it's so important to be in her own home and not in an institution where maybe physically everything would be more comfortable, but spiritually and mentally it would be so sad.

Maybe it's stretching the point. But I began to think along these lines,

"What about our Heavenly Parent who's longing to be with his, with her children all the time?"

But at the moment, could it be that the churches, mosques, synagogues, and temples of the world are a little bit like institutions, like putting **God** into an institution? It's comfortable; people come to worship, but actually it's not the same as being home with your own family. Maybe something to think about there?

The first



A modern artistic depiction of the First Temple in Jerusalem, also known as Solomon's Temple. Israel Museum, Jerusalem, Israel. Photo (2022): Tombah / Wikimedia Commons. License: CC ASA 4.0 Int. Cropped

reading we had [...], comes from the time when King Solomon dedicated the temple in Jerusalem 3,000 years ago:

"But will **God** really dwell on earth? The heavens, even the highest heaven, cannot contain you. How much less this temple I have built!

Yet give attention to your servant's prayer and his plea for mercy, Lord my **God**. Hear the cry and the prayer that your servant is praying in your presence this day. May your eyes be open toward this temple night and day, this place of which you said, 'My Name shall be there,' so that you will hear the prayer your servant prays toward this place.

Hear the supplication of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place. Hear from heaven, your dwelling place, and when you hear, forgive." (1 Kings 8:23-27)

And if you look into it a bit deeper, you'll see that it was a long project. It took seven to ten years, with enormous expenditure, and forced labour as well.

So finally it was done. And you could imagine it would have been possible for Solomon to feel,

"I've done it, I'm great. I've built the temple of **God** that my father promised to."



Cheonwon Goong starting to take shape. Here, in August 2024. Photo: Screenshot from PeaceTV.

But it's clear from the scriptures that even at that moment, he was really thinking,

"Will, in fact, **God** live in this temple?"

And it says, "You who are bigger than all of heaven and earth."

But the interesting point is what **God** says in reply, [...]

"Yes, I will be in this temple, and I will hear your prayers. And not just your prayers. I'll hear the prayers of anyone who turns their face towards this temple, including and especially the foreigner, the people who are not even from the people of Israel. So, yes, you can count on it."

But there's a condition:

"If you keep my statutes, if you keep my law, if you keep close to me, I will definitely hear your prayers, and I'll answer them. If you forget and you start to drift away, then I will leave this place and it will become just a pile of rubble. And people who pass by will be appalled."

That's the word in the Bible: "appalled". They were thinking,

"What happened here? How could it be that this great temple, dedicated at such expense and with such a heart, now lies ruined?"

And of course, that's actually what happened. Before too long, the people did lose sight of the promises they'd made. The nation was divided, the temple was destroyed, and **God** didn't have a home anymore.

Continued in [part 2](#).

Featured image above: *Dr. Michael Balcomb giving his sermon in North London 15th September 2024. Photo: FFWPU*

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