

Bridge between Earth and Heaven Ceremony

Robert and Janice Maddox
May 3, 2015



The paradigm shift continues here at DEEP Origin with our recent Bridge Between Earth and Heaven Ceremony. Why not between “Heaven and Earth” you may wonder? Simply because this was an effort to open the veil from this end.

Four of us gathered on this side of the veil, while countless people in spirit gathered on the other side. Among the invited were all ascended brother and sister from our church as well as friends and famous/influential people in history. [Note: the Unification symbol on the banner is a mosaic composed of over 300 images of ancestors, friends and ascended church members, those whose pictures we had]. We sang songs, read a few passages from the Cheon Seong Gyeong and took turns reading the section on Returning Resurrection from Divine Principle for the benefit of those in spirit who don't yet know it's advantages.

Then we prayed. We opened our hearts and we urged spirits near and far to us to come across the bridge; to know we are aware of their presence and have not forgotten them; to believe in us, feeble as we may seem like babies who are barely aware of more than our own immediate surroundings; to recognize this bridge of heart as a real and substantial link that penetrates the veil because of our earnest desire; and to come be a part of our lives here on earth. While we prayed, Robert saw an army of faithful soldiers, men and women, march across the bridge in serious formation encircling us and placing their shields firmly in the ground around us.

After our prayer we held a meeting with spirit world in the “upper room.” The concept is from the time the Apostles met with Jesus, and from a channel the night before we knew True Father wanted to meet us there too. He said:

Please recognize in yourselves the capacity to embody this truth, to suspend your disbelief so that we can be present together. Ceremonies and offerings are significant and important but they are the external declarations surrounding the internal experience of the “upper room” that I wish to share with you. To do this work you simply need to surrender all pretenses and be who you are in your heart before God.

When True Father came we asked him questions about the providence, about our church, about our ceremony and about ourselves. He answered us each in turn and intimated he felt like he was playing with his children, teaching us to count on our fingers: 1,2,3. We enjoyed his presence and after a short time he said he would come again, but for now we should talk to some others present who wished to speak. Several different ancestors came forward and we talked some more. Before we knew it, a ceremony we had intended to do in two hours became four.

To conclude, we offered a closing prayer and three cheers of mansei to let the banquet begin. We had a simple offering table, but from experience we know the one in spirit world has amazing food and spirits people celebrate with music and dance to their heart's content.

The Resurrection Connection

We base our understanding and knowledge about spirit world from our church life, of course, and the insights from others we respect who are spiritually open. According to Swedenborg's descriptions of spirit world—in many ways accurate for the times: The process for finding our place depends exclusively on our hearts. Our actions on earth are merely reflections of our love, or lack of love, in extremes. While on earth we can often hide who we really are inside, in spirit world we cannot. After a person crosses the veil and realizes they are on the other side, they find it hard to come back to make amends, even though they very much want to.



There is a way however, called Returning Resurrection, and people intuitively know this when they adjust to their reality in spirit world so they naturally want to come back to their descendants to help them, or in the case of their enemies, they want to come back to haunt them, but they find it difficult to exact any influence on people on earth because we are not conscious of the spirit world to any useful degree. In many ways, spirit people can be with us due to the common bases we have, but their influence on our behaviors and judgments is largely on a subconscious level. Over the centuries, millions and millions of people in spirit have practically given up paying attention to those on earth because we don't recognize their presence. This saddens them (and God) because the process to lift their own spiritual vibration depends largely on their supporting the good work of people in earth, and our response.

Interestingly, the works of evil spirits almost has more effect on our lives. Divine Principle states: "The works of evil spirits... (has) the effect of punishing earthly people to help them make the condition to indemnify their failures, which have frustrated God's past efforts to cleanse them of their sins." In other words, heaven allows evil spirits to torment people on earth. Then, if people willingly endure the suffering and overcome, they will have successfully paid indemnity and are entitled to enter a higher sphere. The evil spirits who have tormented them receive a corresponding benefit as well. This must be understood in light of God's love and original design rather than from the viewpoint of God being a God of wrath and judgment.

Historical Insights into Spirit

Emanuel Swedenborg explains:

The spiritual world is a place where a person's inner nature becomes the whole of their being. Friends and relatives become the new arrival's guide to the spiritual world, and, with the help of good spirits, the person's true inner nature will gradually be revealed. This first state depends on how long it takes for a person's outer nature (what they outwardly say and do) to harmonize with their inner nature (what they truly feel and believe). Anyone who has become totally transparent in this life, whether transparently loving or transparently hateful, is fully ready (to find their

corresponding environment). In the second state after death, the person becomes aware of the deeper parts of his or her inner nature. They start saying what they really think and act according to what they feel without worrying about appearances or making other people happy. They act according to their inner values—the way someone on earth might act when nobody else is watching or when they're sure they won't get caught. People who are truly good inside will be kind and generous to others, while people who are inherently evil will be openly selfish and cruel. While we can all be generous or selfish sometimes, inherently good spirits will work to rid themselves of selfish impulses, while inherently evil spirits will justify their bad behavior and thereby embrace it as part of themselves. At this point, like is drawn to like, so the sorting out begins. No "judge" passes sentences of guilt or innocence—we seek out kindred spirits because that is where we feel at home.

Internal Education and a Natural Migration of Spirit

As the Divine Principle teaches us, no one forces people to go to a particular region of the spiritual world, but people find their own place by their own will according to the spiritual level they attained on the earth. Even Swedenborg was able to see that the higher realm spirits had a time of instruction where they learned how to lead a better life in connection with those on earth, but it has been a long and arduous road to get people on earth to do good and so raise the level of goodness on earth even as evil encroaches day by day. We are familiar with Heung Jin Nim's workshops in spirit world from testimonies by other spiritually open people. He himself describes his efforts to raise people's awareness in this way (from a book on the Chung Pyung providence):

In the first lectures I explain to them concretely what each of them looks like and why, and I let them see their spirit selves. These spirits never had the chance or the interest to observe their appearance closely. They never lived in an environment where they could see themselves with their own eyes. In the workshop they are shocked to see what they look like. Some cry out when they discover how strange they look. What they see when they look at their own body is (a result of) their actual life on earth. Also, they learn clearly where in the spirit world they will go for their dwelling-place.

Next, I let them feel how painful it is to stay in their dwellings. I leave them alone there until they see that there is no way they could continue living in such a place. I wait until they repent and make a heart-felt pledge after realizing for themselves how wayward their lives on earth were. Then I call them again to the spirit world workshop.

They are informed about their descendants on earth—what kind of life they live, their problems and sufferings. They are given the opportunity to study the situations and sins of their descendants in detail. They receive practical education on the natures of the evil spirits who infest the bodies of their descendants and what they should do to take control of these evil spirits. As they learn their descendants' situations they become more serious, because those descendants who liberated them and gave them the chance to receive the Blessing still suffer from the influences of evil spirits.... These spirits then return to the earth to help their descendants break free from the dominion of evil spirits over their minds and bodies.

The ancestors are very sincere about fulfilling their responsibility to cleanse their descendants' sins, which, as they learned during the workshop in the spiritual world, were passed down from ancestors like themselves. They sincerely want to help their descendants to overcome their problems. Although they don't have a body, they want to work with their descendants as if they were their body.

The spiritual world is the world of mind. Once you are set in your mind and in your habits, it is not easy to change. Therefore it is very difficult for people of different backgrounds to travel to each other's regions. In the spiritual world thought is reality itself, so differences in thinking are manifest as high walls, or as steep cliffs with wide holes or many falling stones, making it difficult to move from place to place. Therefore, it was so difficult for spirits who lived in some remote region to venture outside their accustomed place, let alone come to earth and help their descendants. In most cases those spirits who take an interest in physical people only do so because they want to get revenge for their suffering as a result of what happened to them on the earth. This is why so many people on earth suffer. When these transgressions are not cleared up on earth they are passed down to the next generation.

Anchoring Our End of the Bridge

We take our cues from what True Father taught us and through the example of his many, many ceremonies and declarations. Even Heung Jin Nim acknowledges: "Through (Father's ceremonies) countless boundaries between different regions were broken down. Of course not all the obstructions disappeared in (an) instant, and spirits still cannot easily go anywhere they please...(yet) it is much easier

to go from one place to another.” Our Bridge Ceremony represents the efforts of two Blessed couples to sustain the focus on our relationship to spirit world and to allow free passage and communication between us. We recognize our ancestors now want to help us more than ever. We know True Father is there working to raise our consciousness and awareness of the dynamics between our two realms. We don’t have to fear those in spirit when we deeply understand how the Principles of Resurrection work in our lives; we simply have to become subjects of love while finding a way to still honor their position as elders and let them love us in return. No matter what experiences we have it is our response to them that allows God’s synchronicity of love to heal us and make us whole.

Recognition of the need for further internal education of both our ancestors and ourselves is a large part of the motivation for our internal process work.

We hope you will find inspiration of your own to cross the bridge and talk to your ancestors, and enemies alike, and invite them to heal through you and your life.

Aju!

Additional Sources:

Divine Principle

<http://www.swedenborg.com/emanuel-swedenborg/explore/spiritual-world/>

<http://www.tparents.org/Library/Unification/Talks/DaeMoNim/DaeMoNim-020101.htm>