

## Witnessing - *About the first year of Cheon Il Guk*

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In the article “Vision 2020: What Am ‘I’ Supposed to Do?” I said that we are supposed to focus on the family during the first year of Cheon Il Guk. By suggesting that we should focus on the family, I did imply that we should not witness. Given that witnessing is one of the main activities in our life of faith, and given that we all know that we should do it, I did not feel the need to emphasize it in that article. However, one concern among the feedbacks I received about the abovementioned article, made me feel that I had to clarify what I explained with regard to the first year of Cheon Il Guk.

Every Unificationist knows that the providence is at a different level today. Prior to the year 1994, the providence was at the individual level and centered on individuals. From 1994 onward, the providence moved to the family level and has been centered on families.

During the individual level providence, providential activities were conducted through centers. Most of us lived in centers and were full-time members. Centers were like households with the leader filling the role of the patriarch and the center mother the role of the matriarch. The people that we witnessed to were brought to the center where we stayed. That is where our guests studied the Divine Principle. And when it came time for them to go to a workshop, they went to either a camp, which also played the role of training centers, or they went to another center, which was an actual training center.

The brothers and sisters in the centers were like siblings belonging to the same households. The atmosphere we created in the centers was unique because we were families tied not by physical blood, but by spiritual blood.

It was a period during which physical blood ties were not as important as a relationship with God—our Heavenly Parents. We went to sleep with God’s providence in mind. We woke up, showered, ate, and went through the day with God’s providence in mind. Our witnessing activities were done with this type of mindset and atmosphere. And we did a great job of this. Guest who came to our centers felt something different. They felt a type of love that they never felt anywhere else. It was a love that captivated them. It was a love that they could not identify. All they knew was that they wanted to be part of that family and community. This is the type of love and atmosphere that True Mother wants us to rekindle. This, however, does not mean that True Mother is asking us to return to the center life the way it used to be in the past and start ballooning the membership. I don’t think that’s what True Mother wants from us. True Mother is focused on fulfilling the providence. She is focused on crossing the ‘T’s and dotting the ‘I’s. This means that True Mother wants to make sure that any providential door that True Father opened is closed before she transitions to the spiritual world.

Though True Mother was by his side all the time, it was True Father who led the individual providence in the era of the Unification Church from 1954 to 1994. That is forty years of the Unification Church, which was also a forty-year period of the individual level providence. True Father declared the beginning of family-focused providence in 1994. And progressively, since the beginning of that decade, the providence has migrated to era dominated by women—the era of the family. And today, more than ever, there is no doubt that this is truly the era of women—the era of family. Hence, the providence cannot be the same way it was forty years ago. Or even

twenty years ago. While some of us are stuck, the providence has already migrated. While some of us are still migrating, the providence did not wait for anyone. It has already migrated. We ought to catch up with the providence.

The True Parents proclaimed January 13th, 2013 (heavenly calendar) as the Foundation Day. This date falls in the midpoint of the forty years of the family-focused providence. To recapitulate, the individual level providence lasted forty years from 1954 to 1994. The family level providence will also last forty years from 1994 to 2034. The year 2034 will also conclude the twenty-one-year period of the providence of Cheon Il Guk. Is this a coincidence? (See my article, “The Fulfillment of the Cheon Il Guk Providence,” written on May 7, 2013.)

Given that the providence is at the family level, for us to rekindle the love and atmosphere that True Mother wants us to rekindle, we need to make sure that our families are strong and cohesive. It does not mean that witnessing will be a walk in the park just because a couple is harmonious. A couple may be harmonious but still experience challenges in gaining new members. That is not a failure at all when we consider what True Mother wants us to do.

True Mother wants us to proclaim the Divine Principle and the True Parents to the world. If a couple that lives in harmony witnesses to some people out there who refuse to become members, the harmony that these people feel from the couple will mark and stay with them. And if they know that the True Parents have something to do with that harmony, it is already a big plus. That’s what True Mother wants us to do. But to effectively fulfill this, we need families.

Remember that in the era of the Unification Church, we lived in centers. As I’ve explained above, centers were like households with the leader standing in the position of the father, the center mother in that of the mother, and the members as siblings. Today, in the era of Family Federation for World Peace and Unification, that structure is supposed to be satisfied by the households established by blessed couples—central blessed families. The harmony and love that guests felt when they came to our centers in the era of the Unification Church, they are now supposed to feel them in when they come in our households. This is why True Parents initiated the providence of cell churches and small groups. This is why there is Tong bang kyok pa.

Families are supposed to witness and educate their guests in their families. Those guests who want to learn more can be sent to workshops organized by the tong bang kyok pa, cell church, local church, or the district church that a family belongs to.

I think this explains why we need to focus on establishing families of Cheon Il Guk from year one of the Cheon Il Guk providence.

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