Golden Age Newsletter April 2025

Richard Buessing and Carol Pobanz
April 9, 2025

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Hello Goldies, Welcome!

This month features the book by Pat Hickley, a Godism article, several testimonies and a simple Comfort recipe!

This Month's Message

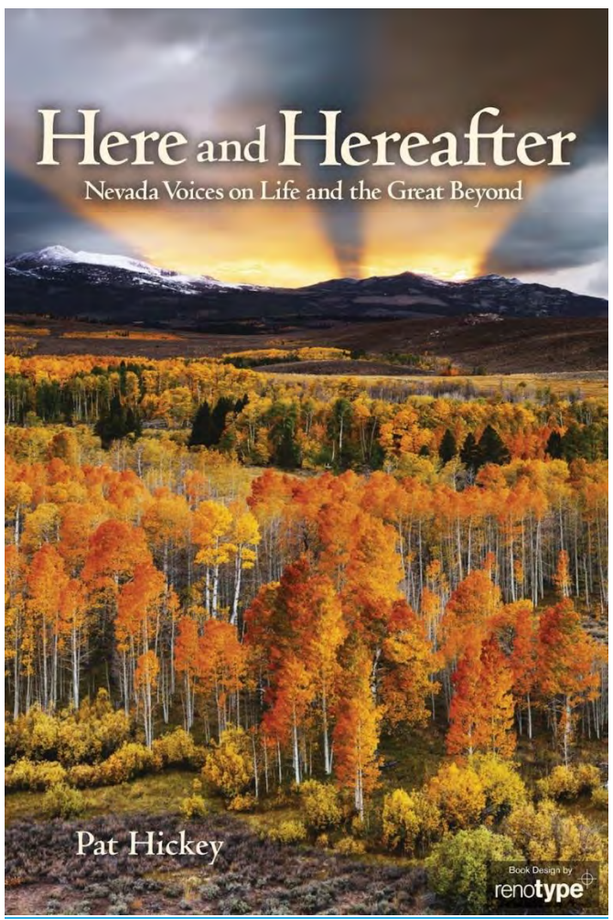


Photo credit: Pat HIckey

“Here and Hereafter
Nevada Voices of Life and the Great Beyond”

by Pat Hickey

“Pat Hickey’s literally spirited *Here and Hereafter: Nevada Voices on Life and the Great Beyond* (Jack Bacon & Company) offers the personal views of an impressive list of nearly three dozen of the state’s movers-and-shakers on the subject of their place in eternity. Among them: politicians Harry Reid and Brian Sandoval, journalists Jon Ralston and Steve Sebelius, business tycoons Elaine Wynn and Lance Gilman, magician/atheist Penn Jillette, and former heavyweight champ Mike Tyson.”—**John L. Smith, Nevada Newspaper Hall of Fame**

Thirty-three years ago, I got a chance I never expected to receive. Before a morning of fishing in Alaska, the Rev. Sun Myung Moon gave me the opportunity to ask him for some personal advice. Not expecting it, I anxiously asked him; “What should I do now that I’m back in my hometown?”

His answer was simply: “Return to your family roots and live a life of conscience.”

A tall order for such short guidance, I have tried to live up to his admonition in both my public and private life. It’s why I wrote the book you are viewing at: [pathickey,net].

During the painful period of COVID, I spent three hours with each of these 34 notable Nevadans—discussing their lives, their legacies, and their personal views on life after death or the spirit world, as we would understand it.

Because the Principle of Creation describes the connection between the two worlds in much fuller and compelling detail than has previously been understood, I’ve been especially curious about the ongoing relationships with

those I have loved and worked with in my time as a columnist and elected person here in my home state of Nevada.

Fully expecting to “see them again” and have continuing relationships in the “great beyond” with many of these same persons, I decided to talk with them about their personal view on the subject of the afterlife. Being that many of them are also in the autumn of their existence, some had already begun their life reviews.

One part of the Divine Principle that has always fascinated me was the notion put forth about the “merit of the age,” referring to humankind’s gradual spiritual enlightenment throughout the course of history. I felt it was really true as I conducted my interviews.

Learning the current views of many of the current figures I spoke in-depth with, left me reassured that many persons are sensing what you have already come to know. Let me share just a few brief quotes from persons you know…

*“It would be a pretty small universe if we only see members of our own faith in the next existence.”—**Harry Reid, Senate Majority Leader** (*a Mormon)

*“I look at life differently now. It was like dying and being reborn. I’ve seen that death is beautiful, and how dying has gotten a bad rap. The afterlife is just another life we haven’t experienced yet. My life has been bad, but this has made me better.”—**Mike Tyson, boxer*** (a Moslem)

*“I don’t believe anybody has the answers to existence. The fact of the matter is, I don’t know, and ‘you’ don’t know for sure either. I’m going to need some evidence.”—**Penn Jillette, Las Vegas magician*** (an Atheist)

In the book’s Afterword, I concluded: “*Personally, I hope our conversations continue. Because if they do, it will mean that we have not only met in this simple book, but just possibly in that place they call the great beyond.*”

I fully expect to meet them there as well. If God is all we imagine—I suspect we’ll all be in for a few surprises. Hopefully, they’ll be pleasant ones!

If you would like to order a copy of the beautiful hardcover book ***Here and Hereafter*** with photos, email me directly (tahoeboy68@ gmail,com) and I’ll send you a **signed and personalized copy for $29** including shipping and handling, or you can order through the website at: pathickey,net.

Thank you! Pat

Unification Thoughts

Godism on Conflict and Strength

This was written a few years ago as a response to a young community member's question about Godism's position on *war*.

Although this is stated clearly and directly in Godism's source texts, it may not be widely known. So the main sources will be quoted here, with minimal commentary, since they're self-explanatory.

For those who've attended the rare extended workshops, or who've read the Principle carefully, these passages won't be new. But for those who've *not* been to extended workshops or who've not read the entire Principle, the passages might be challenging and require prayer and reflection....

To read more, please click here!

Testimonies, Thoughts and Tributes

Photo credit: Christine Libon

Marriage Testimony

by Christine Libon

As the wife, this is my small testimony. Right now our marital relationship is quite good. Retiring from our jobs was very good for us. It took away the stresses and exhaustion that added extra tension to our relationship. It gave us time to be together and do more things together. It also helped us understand how important it is to create a peaceful atmosphere at home. We are both very grateful to have each other in our senior years....

To read more, please click here!

In Danger of Losing My Life

By Anne Marie Maylar

At the age of 21 years old, I was in danger of losing my life and God intervened through a Black man. I will forever be grateful to God for protecting me but also for this man, who responded to the need at hand.

It was November 4th, 1972, late at night. That day I had traveled from Rennes to Paris to meet someone with whom I had communicated via a couple of letters in the prior month....

To read more, please click here!

True Parents' Life

By Michael Downey

“Looking back, my life has indeed been like a dream. At the youthful age of sixteen, with nothing but the buoyant spirit and aspirations of youth, I was called by Heaven and began to live for the will of God. This left no room in my heart for any worldly ambitions I may have cherished. It has never been an easy path, but I have followed it for more than eighty years, looking nowhere but straight ahead. This was the life I was destined to lead, with no choice but to shake off the embrace of my beloved parents, brothers and sisters who clung to me, wanting me to stay with them. They endured great self-sacrifice and walked a thorny path of sorrow and suffering for my sake.” – *Moon Sun Myung*

I also heard the call and shook off the embrace of my parents, brothers and sisters, the society and nation. I joined the Unification Church when I was 21 years old. In those days joining meant all in as a full-time missionary....

To read more, please click here!

Health and Recipe

Comfort

Contributed by Christone Libon

On a damp, gray day, feeling a bit tired, perhaps you, like me, crave a little comfort.

As a child, I loved eating chocolate pudding - the instant kind from a small box made by JELLO - it's a fond memory. Often, I would ask my mother for a serving of it immediately after she cooked it, while it was still warm (which she considered a bit unusual). But the warmth made it even more comforting. Pudding is my number one favorite comfort food.

Chawanmushi, savory Japanese steamed egg custard, is a close second. I discovered it in The Complete Asian Cookbook. The recipe called for tuna and, even though I used canned tuna, it was so delicious! I found a Chinese recipe for steamed eggs on YouTube and included the link at the end of this article, because it seems similar and quick to prepare.

These days, chocolate is not good for my health; neither are egg yolks. I have found that simple cornstarch pudding comforts me just as well; and yes, I still eat it warm. To make it, I use Turbinado sugar from Colombia (Batey brand) because no other sugar surpasses its flavor, IMO. Once you've tried this sugar, you probably won't ever use another kind. The only drawback is that it takes a little extra time to dissolve (hot water speeds the process). I use Evaporated Milk and Cornstarch – that's it!

Of course, you could add vanilla or whatever other flavor you want:

2 teaspoons Turbinado sugar

2 Tablespoons Hot Water

Stir 'til sugar dissolves; set aside.

Put 3 Tbsp Cold Water into a saucepan.

Do Not turn on the fire yet.

Add a rounded Tablespoon of Cornstarch.

Stir until dissolved.

Add ½ cup of Evaporated Milk

Add the Sugar solution

Now bring it slowly to a boil Stirring Constantly!

Steamed eggs link below

youtube,com/shorts/nLLACKA1fi0?si=F31r9i-S6f-CWRoR

Bulletin Board

Dear Golden Age Members

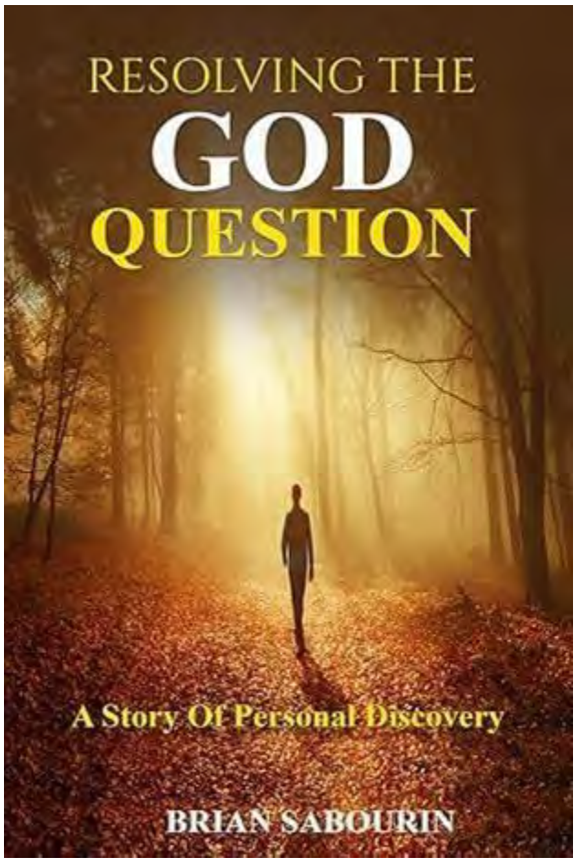
After a devastating illness to her husband 2nd generation member, Yeol-Shim Francesca Bell-Miller has taken on the sole financial support of her couple.

Please consider helping them by employing Yeol-Shim's service to help on your memoir, manuscript or other written materials. She has written to me:

"I've been posting about my current situation on my Facebook and the Love & Support for Sunhyun Miller Facebook page. I have mentioned my recent circumstances and subsequent shift to becoming the sole income earner of my and my husband's household. I ask for just a few minutes of your time to help me support Sunhyun and myself. Please post this ad:"

Thank you so much,
Francesca Bell-Miller

Resolving the God Question: A Story Of Personal Discovery



by Brian Sabourin

Paperback – February 8, 2025

Have you ever wondered about the existence of God? I think everyone does at some point in their life, but doing something about it is not common. There have been many people throughout history who have discovered God's existence, and their stories fill books. Yet, despite history's examples, religion has been on a steady decline for many decades in both the US and other countries around the world. Several Pew Research Center studies conducted over the past few years show that this trend is even accelerating. One Pew study that focused on American Christian trends said that "since the 1990s, large numbers of Americans have left Christianity to join the growing ranks of U.S. adults who describe their religious identity as atheist, agnostic or 'nothing in particular.'" If this trend continues, one wonders what America will be like just 20 or 30 years into the future. In Resolving The God Question, the author shares his personal story from having been one of the faithless statistics, to becoming one of the faithful. It is a true story of personal discovery that happened quite unexpectedly and, in a place most people would never look. Resolving The God Question reveals the down-to-earth decisions and challenges faced by the author as he embarked on the path to life’s greatest discovery.

Photo credit: Carol Pobanz

The Golden Age Newsletter began as a small Clifton Senior newsletter about 3 years ago.

ARTICLE GUIDELINES

Purpose: The Golden Age newsletter has been created as a means to keep our elder community connected to one another. Articles are not in any way meant to proselytize or push a point of view.

It is a place to share God's Love – what is positive in our life as a result of finding our Heavenly Parent and True Parents.

Motto: "This is the Dawning of our New Age" – We are always in the process of redefining ourselves as we grow older and as we add experiences to our lives. Therefore, we must consider how God can use us even when we may be decreasing in our physical capabilities.

The e-newsletter is broken down into eight sections:

1. A Featured Message of Inspiration – Helping others to feel hope and inspiration for the establishment of CIG.
2. “Unification Thoughts” – any educational article on the "Fifth Realm of Heart" – Grandparents’ heart
3. History Byte – A short article on a positive memory, a funny or affectionate story about experiences in the church with True Parents or with brothers and sisters or an article about the development/experience of helping to develop one of True Parents’ providential projects or events.
4. Arts and Culture – A sharing about one's talents, hobbies or interests and how this relates to sharing God's love (to family, community, nation or world).
5. Tributes and Testimonies- a personal testimony of one or more life learning experiences or a Tribute to a spouse, friend, or leader
6. Health – An article that relates to health (physical or mental), possibly providing a link to an article you think might be interesting or important to other seniors.
7. I Love being a Grandparent – stories about grandparenting or about things to do with grandchildren
8. Recipe – Preferably a healthy recipe along with 2-3 paragraphs about what makes it a good or memorable recipe.
9. Book Review – report on a book that inspires thoughts toward a world of peace
10. Bulletin board – reports on personal activities, or request help on a project

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Did someone forward this to you? Subscribe to the Golden Age Newsletter here!

Here and Hereafter

Nevada Voices on Life and the Great Beyond

Attend a Book Signing

Meet the author and get your owned signed copy of Pat Hickey's latest book.

Upcoming Events

About the Book

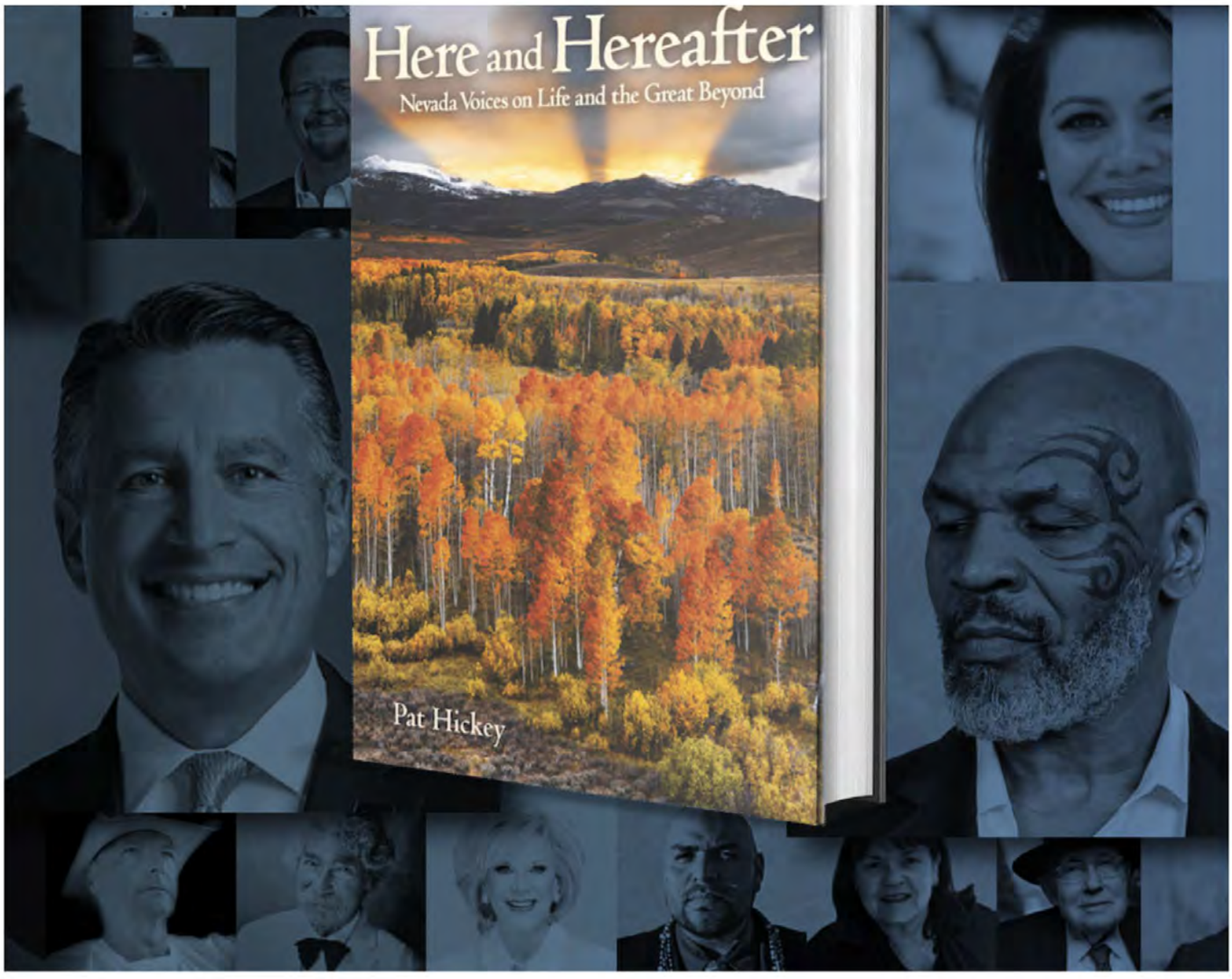
"Here and Hereafter: Nevada Voices on Life and the Great Beyond" is an evocative exploration of the human experience, seen through the eyes of those who call Nevada home.

Authored by Pat Hickey, this compelling narrative delves into the profound questions of life and the afterlife.

Through intimate interviews and insightful reflections, Hickey captures the diverse voices and stories that shape the Silver State, offering readers a unique perspective on what it means to live, love, and ponder the mysteries of existence.

Whether you are a lifelong Nevadan or simply intrigued by the enigmatic allure of life after death, this book promises to resonate deeply and leave you contemplating the here and the hereafter.

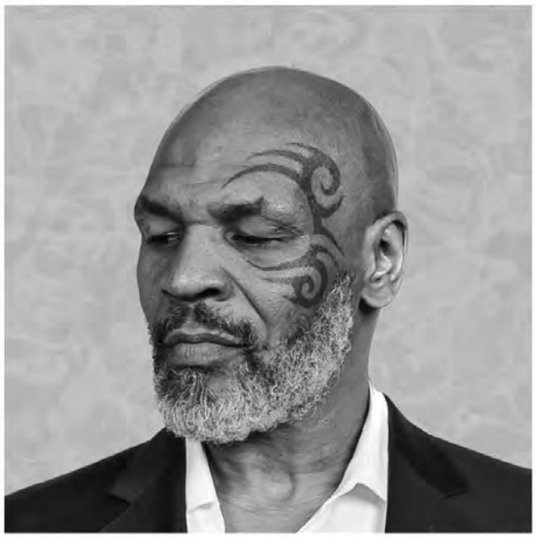
Order Now



Voices from the Silver State

Meet a Few of the 34 Inspiring Individuals Featured in the Book

Harry Reid



Mike Tyson

Brian Sandoval

Teresa Benitez-Thompson

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Testimonials

Here and Hereafter readers will be challenged by author Pat Hickey's life-long exploration of the unknown and his fascinating discoveries along the way.

Warren Lerude

Pulitzer Prize Winning Journalist

An important book which takes on a thorny subject which many gingerly side-step or ignore. With respect and reverence Hickey has interviewed a cross section of the living on the subject of life and the afterlife. His distillation of these reflections through multiple prisms is a remarkable testimony to his skill and sensitivity.The book is a thought provoking read without theological bombast or theories. It explores a great mystery with dignity.

Dr. Muazzam Gill

Former State Dept. Official

To write the book, Pat Hickey interviewed a diverse group of Nevadans about their lives and views on the afterlife. Each story is unique and told in a charming style. Hickey is one of Nevada's finest writers, so the book is an easy read.

Patty Cafferata

Nevada Historian & Author

Nevada Historian & Author

With the same measured voice that has made his Reno newspaper column so popular, writer Pat Hickey asks some of Nevada's movers and shakers a particularly pointed question: Where do you think you're going in the afterlife? The answers found in Here and Hereafter are sure to delight and intrigue believers and skeptics alike.

John L. Smith

Nevada Newspaper Hall of Fame

Pat Hickey takes a seemingly unrelated group of Nevadans and finds a common thread in each of their stories — an appreciation for Nevada, where anyone can write, or rewrite, their own story. Masterful writing.

Guy Clifton

Author, "You Know You're a Nevadan"

Pat Hickey's beautifully illustrated book offers a treasure trove of known Nevadan voices that will bring a smile and nod with every page.

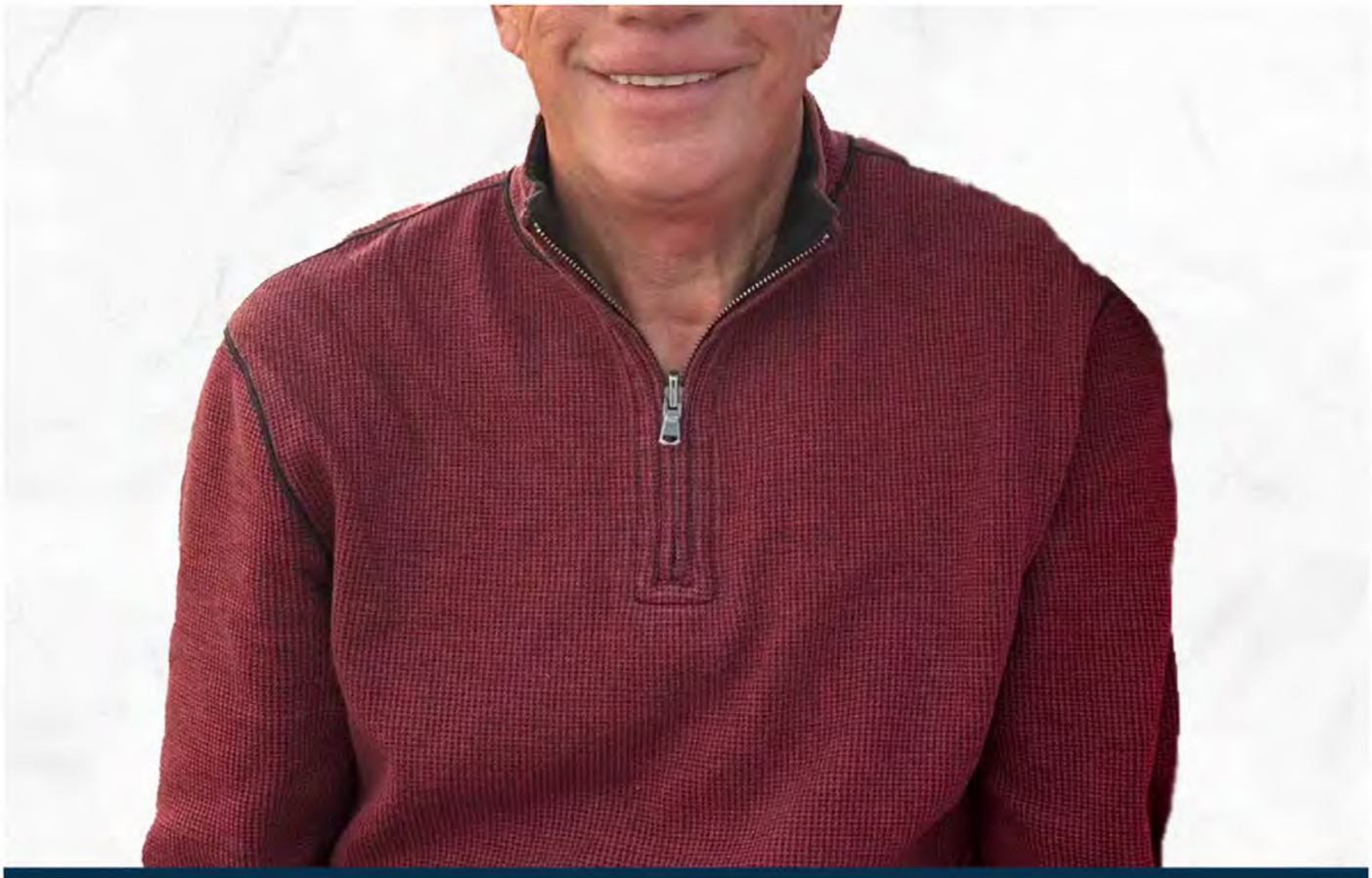
Jill Derby, Ph.D.

Nevada Author & Activist

About the Author

Pat Hickey was born in Carson City and grew up in Lake Tahoe, the place where his Irish ancestors settled in the 1870s. Pat has been a ski bum, a seeker, a reporter, an assemblyman, an education advocate, and a proud parent and grandparent. His "Memo from the Middle" Sunday column is carried in the Reno Gazette Journal.

Pat received his Master's Degree from the Reynolds School of Journalism at the University of Nevada. His lifelong interest in life after death is matched only by his fascination with the lives he and other Nevadans are currently leading.



Pat Hickey

In addition to being the author of this book, Pat has been a ski bum, a seeker, a reporter, a politician, a proud parent and grandparent, and the "Memo from the Middle" Sunday columnist for the Reno Gazette Journal.

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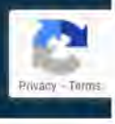

Godism on Conflict and Strength

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Although this is stated clearly and directly in Godism's source texts, it may not be widely known. So the main sources will be quoted here, with minimal commentary, since they're self-explanatory.

For those who've attended the rare extended workshops, or who've read the Principle carefully, these passages won't be new. But for those who've *not* been to extended workshops or who've not read the entire Principle, the passages might be challenging and require prayer and reflection.

I think that was what many First Gen had to do, back when we were in our 20s and the world situation made us long for peace, or even mobilized us to advocate for it.

Just FYI, the term *Godism* is being used here as referring to the thought of Abonim, as recorded in *The Eight Great Textbooks* and *Unification Thought*. Although Abonim specifically called Unification Thought "Godism" (see The Holy Books on Unification Thought), his overall thought is nevertheless expressed throughout his speeches and sermons.

There are four sources quoted here:

1. the *Exposition of the DP* textbook (https://dplife.info/chapter-5-the-period-of-preparation)

2. the *Outline of the Principle, Level 4* study guide (https://store.familyfed.org/collections/books/products/outline-of-the-principle-level-4-color)

3. the *Bible* (so many online; here's just one: https://biblehub.com/)

4. *New Essentials of Unification Thought* (https://store.familyfed.org/products/new-essentials-of-unification-thought)

Here then are the details from these four sources:

1. From the *Exposition of the Divine Principle*

Preparation 4.3.5 (pp. 374-375) *The Providential Causes Behind the Second World War*

First, the war broke out to fulfill the worldwide indemnity condition at the growth stage to restore God's three great blessings.

...The second providential cause behind the war was to have the people on God's side overcome Jesus' second temptation on the world level.

...The third providential cause behind the war was to lay the growth stage foundation for the restoration of God's sovereignty.

COMMENT: *As evident in these three causes (see Exposition of the DP, p. 374 or 4.3.5 The Providential Causes Behind The Second World War), there is no mention of genocide in the 1940s as indemnity for rejecting Jesus. His words of warning (Luke 23:28) to the mothers of Israel were that they need not weep for him, but for themselves and their children. That warning came true just 70 years later, when Jerusalem was razed to the ground by the Romans and caused the Diaspora.*

Preparation 4.4 (p. 376) *Is the Third WW inevitable?*

...At the consummation of human history, Satan's side and God's side will strive until they each attain sovereignty over a world. This is why the democratic world and the communist world stand confronting each other. Consequently, it became inevitable that there be world wars, first to divide and then to unify these two worlds.

The First and Second World Wars had the providential purpose of dividing the globe into the communist world and the democratic world. Afterward, yet another war must take place to bring about their unification. This conflict is the Third World War. It is inevitable that the Third World War take place; however, there are two possible ways it may be fought.

One way to bring Satan's side to surrender is through armed conflict. However, at the conclusion of the conflict, there should come an ideal world in which all humanity is to rejoice together. This can never be built merely by defeating enemies in battle. Afterward, they must be brought to submission internally, that everyone may be reconciled and rejoice sincerely from the bottom of their hearts. To accomplish this, there must come a perfect ideology which can satisfy the desires of the original nature of all people.

The other way this war may be fought is as a wholly internal, ideological conflict, without the outbreak of armed hostilities, to bring Satan's world to submission and unification in a short time. People are rational beings. Therefore, a perfect, unified world can be established only when people submit to one another and participate in unification through a profound reawakening.

By which of these two ways will the Third World War actually be fought? It depends upon success or failure in carrying out the human portion of responsibility.

COMMENT: *The use of force as well as its limitation is understood.*

2. From the *Outline of the Principle, Level 4* textbook:

Preparation for the Second Coming, IV *D. The Third World War:*

Seen from God's dispensation, the Third World War will inevitably take place. However, there are two ways for that war to be fought.

First, the satanic world could be subjugated by a wholly internal fight through ideology. God does not desire judgment or destruction (Ezek 33:14-16), but salvation. Thus he desires to induce Satan to submit ideologically, and with the least amount of external sacrifice. If this fails, the satanic side will inevitably attack the heavenly side. The heavenly side must then defeat the satanic side by force. The manner in which the Third World War takes place depends on how these two worlds, which bear the responsibility of the Last Days, carry out their tasks.

Whatever the manner in which the war is fought, there must be a fundamental ideology by which mankind can be led to the ideal world. This is so, because even if the submission of the satanic world is gained through an external fight with weapons, the ideal world can only be realized through an ideology of a higher dimension, one which all people can follow freely and with joy.

Ideology is the driving force which will establish the ideal world of the family of man. Thus, the ideology needed must be an ideology of true love which can break down barriers between tribes and nations and solve the serious problems among races and cultures. Furthermore, this ideology must be able to give mankind hope and conviction concerning the realization of the ideal world. It must also be an ideology that can bring spiritual inspiration and a change in character and give the youth a positive viewpoint toward life. It must completely reveal the falseness of other ideologies, especially that of the Communist ideology, Marxism-Leninism, which is the culmination of all the Cain-type views of life.

If the Third World War ends in victory for the heavenly side, the indemnity condition for the restoration of God's Three Blessings will have been met. The heavenly side will have overcome, on the world-wide level, Satan's third temptation of Jesus, thus, establishing

through indemnity the complete foundation for the restoration of God's sovereignty.

If this takes place, the work of Christ at the Second Coming will bring about on earth the ideal world of God's sovereignty, and man's dominion over the Creation will be completely restored. The ideal world which God had originally conceived of at the time of creation, which he has been painstakingly trying to establish on earth through the long period of history since the Fall of man, will be the result. This ideal world is the world in which man and the entire cosmos attend God and become harmonious with each other. This ideal world is called the Ideal World of Cosmic Ideology.

COMMENT: *The third world war is inevitable, but there are two ways to fight it. That rests largely with the actions of the aggressor side.*

3. Two notes about *strength* in the scriptures

a. From the Old Testament

In Psalm 144, King David thanks the Lord for his martial strength. The New King James version describes it as "A Song to the Lord Who Preserves and Prospers His People". The lyrics are:

Blessed be the Lord my Rock,
Who trains my hands for war,
And my fingers for battle—
2 My lovingkindness and my fortress,
My high tower and my deliverer,
My shield and the One in whom I take refuge,
...
11 Rescue me and deliver me from the hand of foreigners,
Whose mouth speaks lying words,
And whose right hand is a right hand of falsehood—
12 That our sons may be as plants grown up in their youth;
That our daughters may be as pillars,
Sculptured in palace style;
13 That our barns may be full,
Supplying all kinds of produce;
That our sheep may bring forth thousands
And ten thousands in our fields;
14 That our oxen may be well laden;
That there be no breaking in or going out;
That there be no outcry in our streets.
15 Happy are the people who are in such a state;
Happy are the people whose God is the Lord!

COMMENT: *David thanks God for his martial might; he understands that it is purpose to protect and preserve Israel's prosperity and peace.*

b. From the New Testament

We know the teachings of Jesus about meekness and forgiveness—turning a cheek, giving a cloak, giving one's life for friends, etc. But he also believed that there are certain instances when defensive strength is warranted. Luke 22:36 records that Jesus once told his disciples to obtain *swords*, since they would be traveling to areas that could be dangerous for Christians:

35 And He said to them, "When I sent you without money bag, knapsack, and sandals, did you lack anything?"
So they said, "Nothing."
36 Then He said to them, "But now, he who has a money bag, let him take it, and likewise a knapsack; and he who has no sword, let him sell his garment and buy one. **37** For I say to you that this which is written must still be accomplished in Me: 'And He was numbered with the transgressors.' For the things concerning Me have an end."
38 So they said, "Lord, look, here *are* two swords."
And He said to them, "It is enough."

COMMENT: *This revealing passage shows that Jesus clearly acknowledged the practical value of strength. In it, He unambiguously recognized the deterrent role of arms, when there was a providential purpose at stake.*

4. From Unification Thought

IV. Changes in History (pp. 363-366)

The laws of creation and the laws of restoration, which have been discussed above, have all been at work in history, but the most important laws are the law of give and receive, the law of repulsion, the law of indemnity, and the law of separation. Among these, the law of give and receive becomes the "law of development" in historical change, while the other three together become the "law of turning." (The law of turning is also called the "law of the struggle between good and evil.")

It has already been explained that history has been developing through give and receive action; that is, developments in the political, economic, cultural, and all other fields take place through harmonious give and receive action between various pairs of subject and object, such as spirit and matter, people and the environment (society and nature), government and people, organization and organization, individual and individual, people and machinery, and so on.

Development refers to growth, progress, improvement, and appearance of a new quality all of which are irreversible types of forward motion. These phenomena appear when correlative elements of subject and object engage in give and receive action centering on a common purpose. On the other hand, struggle occurs between subject and subject, the two subjects having different purposes and different interests. When a struggle takes place, development or progress will be either suspended or reversed. Accordingly, any development or progress appearing in history took place, without exception, through give and receive action.

Subject and subject oppose and struggle with each other according to the law of repulsion. In human history repulsion between one subject and another refers to the conflict between one leader and another. One example is the struggle between the leaders of the bourgeoisie and the royalist aristocrats under Louis XVI, namely, the struggle between new leaders and old leaders at the time of the French Revolution. The two parties were separated according to the law of separation, with one party on the relatively good side (the position that was relatively closer to God's providence) and the other party on the relatively evil side (the position that obstructed God's providence). The subjects formed good and evil camps, respectively, by attracting people, who were in the object position to their respective sides (separating the people into two parts), and fought each other. The question of which leader is good and which is evil is a matter to be decided on the basis of the extent to which a leader is in accordance with God's providence. In many cases, however, the leaders in an existing society carried out tyrannical rule, leaning toward self-centered desire, and so God would often establish new leaders on the good side and would promote His providence through them.

In the struggle between good and evil, if the good side wins, history turns toward a better direction. Subsequently, when history reaches yet another new stage, another leader, who is even better, appears. Then, the old leader comes to stand in a relatively evil position, and a new struggle between good and evil starts. Again, if the good side wins, history turns once more to an even better direction. Finally, through this process, history reaches the stage of perfect goodness, that is, the stage of the ideal of creation. Only then will the struggle between good and evil come to an end. Thus, struggle does not actually bring about development; rather, it effects changes in the direction of history.

In a struggle between a good subject and an evil subject, if the evil side happened to be stronger, God would attempt to bring the evil side to surrender by using the law of indemnity. To explain further, God would guide the leaders on the good side to walk the path of suffering under persecution by the evil side. With that as a condition, He would work to have the leader on the evil side submit in surrender. In case the leader on the evil side would not surrender, He would influence the people on the evil side to isolate their leader. That way, the leaders on the evil side could not but surrender in the end. That is the working of the law of the struggle between good and evil. Accordingly, this law may also be called the "law of taking back by being struck," or the "tactic of taking back by being struck." It has been by virtue of this law of indemnity that religions have been propagated throughout the world until the present time, even through persecution.

In the ongoing struggle between good and evil, when the good side does not fully accomplish its responsibility and the evil side wins a victory, then naturally history does not turn to a better direction but is, instead, prolonged in its existing direction, remaining as it is. After a specified length of time, God again raises a good leader and

works to win victory over the evil side. This is the way God has been guiding history, from behind the scenes, toward a better direction. Therefore, human history has not been the history of class struggle, but rather the history of the struggle between good and evil.

In this way, history has developed through the give and receive action between subject and object, and has changed its direction through the struggle between good and evil. In other words, history has undergone changes in direction through the repetition of the process of development and turning. The process of historical changes can be illustrated in fig. 8.1:

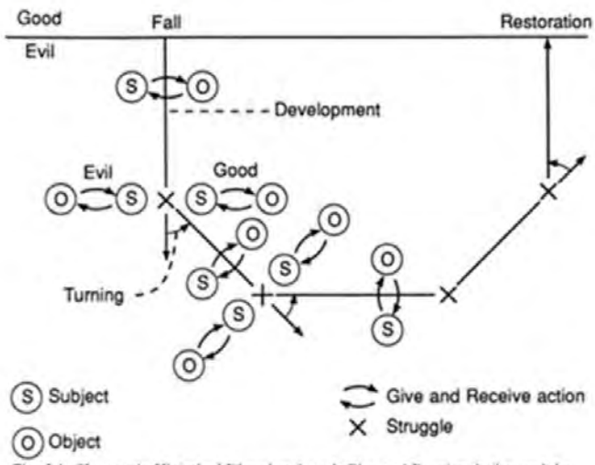

Fig. 8.1. Changes in Historical Direction though Give and Receive Action and the Struggle of Good and Evil

From what has been said above, we can understand that history has undergone changes in two respects, namely, in the direction of development (progress), and in the direction of restoration (turning). Development here refers to the development of science, economy, culture, etc.; restoration refers to the recovery of the lost ideal world originally intended – the world of love and peace.

The reason these two directions have existed in history is that human history is the history of re-creation and at the same time the history of restoration. The future world will be a world of highly developed science, and at the same time a highly ethical society. A scientific civilization will be attained through development, while an ethical society will be attained through restoration.

Restoration is achieved through the struggle between good and evil, but this does not necessarily refer to military conflict involving armed forces. If the evil side obediently surrenders to the good side, then it is possible for peaceful social change to be accomplished. In fact, the final struggle for putting an end to the struggle between good and evil, namely, the struggle through which the Messiah completely subjugates Satan, will be carried out peacefully, even if it is called a "struggle." That is, the Messiah will subjugate Satan peacefully by means of true love. In this way, history has been changing, following the two directions of development and restoration. Development will continue forever, whereas restoration will come to an end when the original ideal world is finally restored, after which the ideal world of peace and true love will continue forever.

– IV. Changes in History

COMMENT: *UT gives a more detailed explanation of historical events, breaking them into alternating phases of development and restoration. Again, it is clear that force is a last resort. Thus, the decades of international conferences on peace that facilitate explanation, discussion, understanding, and hopefully reconciliation. Force is clearly not optimal; it does not facilitate development and progress; but it sometimes is a necessary temporary measure to turn things and prevent heaven's side from being extinguished.*

– originally written July 2022; updated March 2025

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Marriage Testimony

photo credit: Christine Libon

As the wife, this is my small testimony. Right now our marital relationship is quite good. Retiring from our jobs was very good for us. It took away the stresses and exhaustion that added extra tension to our relationship. It gave us time to be together and do more things together. It also helped us understand how important it is to create a peaceful atmosphere at home. We are both very grateful to have each other in our senior years.

After being newly married and blessed, I personally began to see my husband's shortcomings. Sure, I was kind of righteous and pointed out the things my husband didn't do correctly. Though my intention was to help my spouse improve, focusing on his faults blinded me so that I was unable to appreciate his good points. One major bad habit became a nearly insurmountable obstacle.

With prayer, commitment to eternal marriage on both our parts, perseverance, guidance from our pastor and other exemplary married/blessed couples, and "time," we have been able to overcome. But there were times when I wanted to give up. I didn't even want to go to my pastor/counselor for help because I knew he would say "stay together," and in those challenging moments I did not want to stay together. In desperation, I did seek counsel and it helped. And the support from other couples helped both me and my husband.

More than a few teachings from True Parents strengthened and supported us as well. "The woman should be like water flowing over the jagged rocks and making them smooth." Well, this was a far cry from how I was in daily life. "Man and woman start 180 degrees apart; when they unite, the entire cosmos becomes one." This continuously inspired me. I should have read and accepted key points from books like *Women are from Venus; Men are from Mars*. It could have saved me years of struggle, but my nature is to learn from trial and error… which I did. I had to learn to control my emotions, and not allow them to dictate my reactions.

Other sayings proved helpful: "Pray, pray, pray, and see a little (tiny) change; pray more and see a little more change," one Japanese sister told me. I considered myself to be a patient person; this statement made me realize that much more patience was required. "The husband and wife are each other's savior (the children are also their parents' savior)." I know that this is true. My husband knows me,

both my shortcomings and my virtues, better than anyone. And so, husband and wife have the potential to help each other immensely, if we are committed to the end.

I recognize that though, externally, my husband doesn't seem to be churchgoing or religious, he is internally very religious. We have totally different personalities. My husband holds many things inside himself. When he notices my fault, he silently decides how to deal with it, how to nurture me in a sense. I very much appreciate of this trait of his.

photo credit: Christine Libon

〈 Godism on Conflict and Strength

In Danger Of Losing My Life 〉

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Blessed Family photos by @Fukuya.Sano

In Danger Of Losing My Life

By Anne Marie Mylar

At the age of 21 years old, I was in danger of losing my life and God intervened through a Black man. I will forever be grateful to God for protecting me but also for this man, who responded to the need at hand.

It was November 4th, 1972, late at night. That day I had traveled from Rennes to Paris to meet someone with whom I had communicated via a couple of letters in the prior month. He was a member of the Unification Movement.

I had arrived late morning to the place were several of these members were living and I had studied during the afternoon the Divine Principle with special concentration on the chapter called "The Fall of Man". It is that afternoon, and because of that chapter, that I decided to become a Unificationist too. The teaching made sense and gave answers to questions that I had asked my Catholic priest in the past, for which he had no answers.

That night, late, I was supposed to lodge with my boyfriend, but when we got together that evening, I reminded him what I had told him once before. *I am looking for something, and when I find it, I may very well go in a different direction and actually leave him.* I told him, that I found what I was looking for and could not stay with him that night. He made some effort to keep me and reminded me that being alone in the streets of Paris at night was dangerous. However, my thought process completely by passed this as I was adamant to leave his apartment that night at that moment.

I found myself walking alone, towards a train station where I could find refuge for the night. It was very late, no one was on the street. However, someone did come, a gentleman. I did not want to pay attention to him, but he talked to me and told me that it looked like I was running away. I answered that I was leaving one life behind and going towards another. I did not want to respond I was not sure if he was a good person or not.

I arrived at the train station minutes later and found it closed. I did not know where else to go. So, I sat down, my back against the wall, my belonging nested near me. I was determined to face whatever may come. I did not know anything about big-city life; I was in extreme danger and I did not know it at the time.

Quickly, four young men in their late teens appeared, walking

towards me, two on my left and two on my right. It was obvious to me that they were up to no good. I did not feel scared, I was ready to battle with them. (I was so naïve.)

However, before they could reach me, the gentleman from earlier appeared, walking towards me with a strong stride. He was between the two from the left and the two from the right. As he came closer, the four young people started to walk backwards and quickly were out of sight.

He told me, "You cannot stay here, it is too dangerous." To which I responded, "I do not know this town, it is my first time in Paris." He then pointed to a nearby restaurant, told me the place was open all night and I would be safe there. He asked me if I had any money, and I said, "Yes" but he did not believe me, so he gave me some. He watched me get up and walk towards the place. His gaze in my back. I stayed there all night. The next morning, I walked towards a brand-new life.

As of late, I have thought of this man "often". I have thanked God in my prayers for protecting me. I also prayed for this person, for his ancestors, and his descendants. That night God needed him, and he responded. He absolutely deserved my grateful thoughts and my prayers. I am hoping that someday I will meet him again.

〈 Marriage Testimony

True Parents' Life 〉

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True Parents' Life

by Michael Downey

"Looking back, my life has indeed been like a dream. At the youthful age of sixteen, with nothing but the buoyant spirit and aspirations of youth, I was called by Heaven and began to live for the will of God. This left no room in my heart for any worldly ambitions I may have cherished. It has never been an easy path, but I have followed it for more than eighty years, looking nowhere but straight ahead. This was the life I was destined to lead, with no choice but to shake off the embrace of my beloved parents, brothers and sisters who clung to me, wanting me to stay with them. They endured great self-sacrifice and walked a thorny path of sorrow and suffering for my sake." – *Moon Sun Myung*

photo credit: Michael Downey

I also heard the call and shook off the embrace of my parents, brothers and sisters, the society and nation. I joined the Unification Church when I was 21 years old. In those days joining meant all in as a full-time missionary. I dropped out of Ohio University and moved into the center. The opposition in America at that time was mostly the far Left and Christians. With the help of the mainstream media, the hate for the Unification Church, Moon, Sun Myung, brainwashing, and the word *cult* turned the whole nation vehemently against us. The whole nation included my parents and brothers and sisters ,who all had some hope for me. They hoped that I would become somebody and not a despised cultist. They must have suffered a lot. My grandmother blamed the Marine Corps for not taking care of me when I got out. For me, I had a righteous calling and all the negativity was simply wrong. But my family suffered when I turned away from them.

In 1992 I was in New York, building fiberglass boats. My parents were in North Carolina, close enough for a Christmas visit. I made all the arrangements including money from the company for bus fare. At the last moment, due to a rash of kidnappings by parents, Moon, Sun Myung ordered that no one should go home for Christmas. Mr. Kamiyama enforced it literally. I had to call and tell my parents I could not come. We cried on the phone. This was a big break.

I continued following my calling but I knew the disappointment was huge. Of course, they couldn't be proud of me. There was nothing I could do and communication became spotty. Many years later, I followed Rev. Moon's direction and returned to my home town. There was a lot of hope that I could repair the damage done but it was not to be. They welcomed me home but the gulf was still huge. We couldn't talk about anything significant. I was 40 years old with no education and no job. Selling flowers on a street corner was not enhancing my reputation in my family's eyes. I struggled along until my father passed away. Then I returned to my calling. I worked for a

church-owned company in Seattle and became the local pastor and state leader.

Finally, I received another call. In the Old Testament, Elijah was taught that God was not to be found in the thunder, lightning, or fire but in the still small voice. My calling came in a still small voice to come to Korea. I made the announcement, packed my stuff, said goodbye to my family and left for Korea. My wife asked how long I would be gone and off the top of my head I told her 10 years. She thought I was joking and laughed. I was gone for twenty-one years. After three years my wife followed me but my son stayed in America. By clinging to me, my wife saved our marriage. As I look back now, I see that my move could be interpreted as neglect or even abandonment. It had to be difficult for him. I know high school, where it is so important to fit in. It had to be tough to have a father who was the pastor of a despised cult. I was sure I had my calling but I still feel the consequences of my actions. Today I am living with those consequences. For many years I didn't take care of my body, didn't eat right, or exercise. I'm living with those consequences too. As hard as I work now, it's uphill. When I look back, I'm sure I've led a life of meaning and value.

〈 In Danger Of Losing My Life

How to Keep a Critical Mind Without Judgement 〉

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