

Wolfgang Schwawaller Unification Church Missionary in Hong Kong, Thailand, India, Nepal, Afghanistan, Greece, Russia and the Philippines

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Wolfgang Schwawaller (1951-) joined in Frankfurt in 1974 missionary to Hong Kong in 75, to Thailand, to India 76, to Nepal, to Afghanistan in 80, to Greece, to Russia in 92, Cain National Messiah to Philippines in 96.

Wolfgang grew up in Frankfurt in the 1950s, difficult years after the war. As they were poor, he often had a job when he was pupil or student. His father was righteous. His mother was a rather religious person, and Wolfgang thought this is why he could eventually join the Unification Church. Her ancestral merit was transferred to him and the spirit world must have guided him very much in his youth to join the Lord of the Second Advent. During his youth, he began to be interested in spiritual matters and to read the Bible and other religious Scriptures. He was meeting different religious groups and searching true friends. He had

the desire to life in foreign country and to be helpful to others as to become social worker. He felt a presence in the nature. He was afraid by some friends taking drugs.

He was approached by Udo Frisch, in September 73, in Frankfurt's street, who invited him to come in the Center where he attended to several lectures on the Principle in the evenings. He felt it was the right group but he has some personal matters to solve. He came back one year later and joined the Unification movement in October 74 in Frankfurt. He was inspired by the dedication of the members but it took him sometimes to understand really the Principle about the purpose of the coming of the Messiah in the fallen world. But he wanted to follow the True Parents and never regretted it.

So he attended a 21-day workshop in Camberg and after he was sent to the Munich Center studying the Principle in the morning and witnessing in afternoon. And every weekend, he drove the guests in Camberg for a workshop. He was successful in witnessing and had several spiritual children: Manfred, Ulla and Hans, ...

In 1975, he volunteered to be a foreign missionary; he was only six months in the church. While the missionaries from America were older blessed members who had received inspiration from True Father personally in forty-day workshops in Barrytown, the Germans had a forty-day workshop in Camberg with Paul and Christel Werner. Then in April 75, he was sent as a missionary to Hong Kong where he met the Japanese and the American missionaries. But he could stay only until December 1975.

He went 4 months in Thailand. In 1976, while Lek Thaveetermsakul was in his second year at the university, he was introduced to the Principle by Mr. Wolfgang Schwawaller.

He finally arrived in India in May 1976 until June 1979, then in Afghanistan and in Nepal (1980).

In 1976, their first Center, two provisional rooms on an animal farm, was located in the outside of the city of Bombay with one hour travel to reach the center of the city every day. On the way he saw many scenes of hopelessness. He was flabbergasted by such a misery he saw in the city, so many beggars. They had to overcome everyday insects and heat, and with no convenient furniture.

Wolfgang was living with Sara, the American sister and Kazuhiro, the Japanese brother speaking English to understand each other, but they need constant endeavor to overcome many cultural misunderstandings. They rented a small office in the city to invite the guests. They conversed about many topics with them as God, spiritual World, purpose of life... Then they were teaching the Divine Principle. Indian people are very interested about spiritual world, so it was easy to speak about our teaching, but the challenge was to putting things into practice to change. They opened up a small school in Calcutta by cleaning up and reconditioning a garage and transforming it into a small classroom. They had until 10 young pupils (7 to 12 years old) from the neighborhood with Anita as teacher, an Indian member of our church. Every day she was teaching three to four hours. Most of the parents couldn't afford to send their children to school. It was such a joy to see their "Little Indians" sitting in that overhauled garage and studying. For the first time in their lives these kids were dealing with books! A whole new life was opening up for them! These years among the Indian people were very rich, he learned so much from them: they are very warm-hearted

people easy to relate to them and people wanted to be friend with a European and they invited him in their families to share Indian hospitality.

He appreciated the deep relationships inside the family. It simply seems to be deeper and more intimate, than in the Western world.

They paid more attention to the collective than to the individual as in the western world. Many times he was invited by Indian families whose sons and daughters supported our Church mission. He could see very clearly how these two worlds (East and West) need each other and were able to supplement each other. So Wolfgang wished to serve the Indian people, to convey the heart of God and this new message to them.

In April 1979, Wolfgang received a telegram with the assignment to go to Afghanistan. He thought: "Oh my God, now Afghanistan!" But Wolfgang was always ready to accept any assignment. A military coup had taken place there in 1978. The Afghan communists, supported by the Russian secret service (KGB), established a brutal reign of terror. As a result, the German and American brothers had to leave that country for security reasons. Wolfgang was well aware that the Russians were in the country and it would be dangerous. The very first thing he did was to go to a sports shop and buy running shoes, thinking that if a bomb hit, he would be able to run away faster. So he prepared himself physically as well as mentally and spiritually with many prayers for his new task. In April 1979, he flew to Afghanistan, not knowing how delicate the situation really was. Even in the reception hall, he was put off by the bombastic red banners and communist slogans. Later, the hotel staff told him that enquiries were made about the reason for his coming to Afghanistan. The hotel manager, an Indian and a member of the Sikh religion, became his friend and protector. He always answered to the questions by: "I am a businessman from Germany who wanted to buy Afghan carpets." But apparently he was being suspected of being an American CIA agent. When he heard about this, he stood there for a while, stunned, struggling to figure out what he should do. He lived in a small, shabby room in a simple hotel because he was very thrifty.

He prayed a lot and meditated. He also read intensively the speeches by True Father, which gave him very strong inspiration to seek to be one with heaven and to receive guidance and physical protection; otherwise he was completely on his own. So he always had to motivate himself. His life was totally in God's hands. It was not possible to speak openly with people about our teaching that was clear to him. After the coup, the population was basically no longer open to foreigners. Since he was living in a hotel, he hardly had any close contact with Afghans, because the whole political situation did not allow him to talk to people outside. Nevertheless, sometimes unexpected opportunities arose to learn a lot about the people and their traditions in everyday life and to get to know them better. For example, one day he visited a cinema in Kabul to watch an Indian film. Suddenly the film stopped in the middle, but nobody around him was surprised. Very quickly he could understand why: it was prayer time and the cinema-goers were walking out. Some unrolled their little prayer rugs, faced Mecca, and started praying, which impressed him very much. Fifteen minutes later, the film resumed. Through that experience he felt an urgent desire to learn more about Islamic world and religion, and bought a Koran in the English language at the bazaar. He knew that proselytizing was not tolerated. He had a very profound, nevertheless shocking, encounter with a Muslim young woman and her brother. She showed great interest in our teaching and activities. This did not go unnoticed by her brother, who kept verbally attacking her. Finally, he threatened to kill her if she joined our movement. After that she never came back. This was followed by another very frustrating situation for him: most of the guests in his cheap hotel were from Pakistan, and were waiting for a visa to go to America. He talked a lot about religion with them. One day he was invited to speak about the Christian faith in front of several Muslims. This was much more difficult than he had imagined, because he was attacked by fundamentalists every time he spoke about Jesus. For them, Jesus Christ was a prophet and nothing more. Afterwards Wolfgang was completely exhausted.

Sometimes he wondered why he was there. Every day he had to fight for his life to be there for God to work through him. But he would never refuse a mission given by God. He really enjoyed the beautiful countryside near Kabul together with his Afghan friends and experienced the warmth of the people that made him feel he belonged to them despite all the religious obstacles.

The day before the military attack by the Russians, on 24th December 1979, he felt the need to celebrate the birth of Jesus. His Pakistani friends at the hotel were very glad to attend. He gave them money to prepare a local meal, and the celebration was a complete success. How happy Wolfgang was to celebrate Christmas with Muslims!

But then everything changed: the war began. He was really afraid that a bomb would fall on his hotel, and he would have had no chance to survive. He had taken the precaution of sleeping under the window to avoid stray bullets. He had done everything possible to protect his life. But at the same time he thought 'God is watching over me' and somehow he could feel that. During his time in Kabul, he went to the German Embassy every few days to pick up his mail. He had good relations with the embassy staff. But after that military takeover by the Russians, he was told: "Mr. Schawaller, we can no longer guarantee your safety; we request that you leave Afghanistan immediately." On 14th January, 1980, his 29th

birthday, he left Kabul and flew to New Delhi in India. He was happy and grateful to have made it out of there alive. He was sure that he was able to lay at least a spiritual foundation for that country.

In 1981, when Wolfgang was missionary in Yemen, there was a matching in Camberg by True Father; he was matched by picture with Brigitte Breit from Austria.

Then he went as missionary to Bahrain and Cyprus until September 82.

On October 14, 1982, he attended the Blessing Ceremony by True Parents in Korea. He got a wonderful spouse and now they have beautiful children: two boys and two girls.

Wolfgang spent 10 years in Greece (Oct 1982- Dec 92). When he worked with the Middle East Time, they had the visit of our True Parents and we might see him on a picture in their offices in Athens on Nov. 24, 1989 with Zoe-Anne Bennett, Thomas Cromwell, Floyd Christofferson and Jennifer Symon.

In October 1992, all foreign missionaries were called to Kodiak in Alaska for a special fishing seminar and they were asked to go to CIS (former USSR). So in December 92, Wolfgang went to Russia with his wife and his 3 children and spent God's Day (Jan.1st, 93) in Moscow. The infrastructure was poor and it was difficult to buy food and especially milk for their baby. But it was a great time to work with Dr Seuk to learn to love and serve Russian people who were before the enemy of God. But Russians are nice and deep hearted people and most of them hated the communist regime. Wolfgang worked for 4 years in Kaliningrad (former Konigsberg) where his mother was born!

The International Education Foundation (IEF) in Russia supported an association of master teachers who trained and mentored colleagues in the use of My World and I and other character education resources.

Military ethics was the topic of a Moscow gathering on Oct. 4-7, 1994 that was sponsored by IEF in conjunction with the Russian Military University, the most prestigious institution in Russia for educating military officers.

Teacher Training Seminars were held frequently throughout the Federation to introduce teachers to the curriculum and to support those already engaged in intentional moral education. For those schools wishing to establish character education programs on a school-wide level and become "model schools" in their community, IEF had been offering an annual workshop since 1998. Representatives of prospective model schools received guidance on how to teach values through every aspect of the school environment, beginning with the curriculum.

Wolfgang worked very close with the "Kaliningrad Ministry of Education". With their help they could send more than 100 teachers and school directors for training to their My World and I seminars. They distributed in the Kaliningrad region 2000 copies of My World and I. 50 schools were using the material to teach their student.

Beginning in autumn 1998, a professor from Bridgeport University in Connecticut conducted research in 17 Ivanova schools on the success of the IEF curriculum, especially its impact on the moral growth of teachers. In May of 2000, educators associated with the International Center of Character Education (ICCE) toured participating schools in Samara. In 2000, master teacher and director of IEF in Ivanova, Valentina Luganskaya gave a keynote address at a character education conference in San Diego, co-sponsored by ICCE and IEF. On the banks of the Volga River, in the city of Tver, halfway between Moscow and St. Petersburg, stands the Upper Volga Institute (UVI). Since 1997, the private institution has provided higher education with an ethical focus, offering Bachelor of Arts degrees in sociology, psychology and economics. UVI is a project of IEF in collaboration with a group of local professors. The university aspired to participate in the World University Federation and make a contribution towards world peace. Siberia was the setting of an international discussion on sustainable development in July 2001. Americans, Iranians and Egyptians joined with Russians in Buryatia near historic Lake Baikal and the border of Mongolia to explore different perspectives, including an IEF presentation on the impact of character and the environment. One highlight was a session featuring an exchange of views by American and local students.

Wolfgang completed 21 years foreign mission on God's Day (January 1) of 1996. True Parents gave awards to all the foreign missionaries who completed 21 years of mission during a special ceremony in the New Yorker Hotel. They were also given the opportunity to take an individual picture with True Parents.

In June 1996, all foreign missionaries were called to attend a seminar in Chung Pyung in Korea for 40 days where they might repent and shed many tears for their past mistakes, Wolfgang went there with his wife and at the end of seminary he picked up the country of Philippines to be National Messiah. So they returned to Russia and they prepared for their news mission in Philippines. On their way back to Germany in a minibus with their 3 children, they had a terrible accident where they were hurt, especially their

young daughter who fell in a coma. Nevertheless, Wolfgang contacted Dae Mo Nim in Korea and explained, what had happen. After 3 days she woke up, the doctors considered it as a miracle. Later on he found out, that Dae Mo Nim had sent many good angels to help her daughter survive. When he asked her daughter Eleonora later what she had experienced in her coma, she said: "I saw strong lights all of the time". When they came back from Russia, his whole family was in the hospital; they had no home and no money. So, his family had to stay in Austria, the land of his wife.

From 1996 to 2001, Wolfgang tried very hard to go to move to Philippines, but can't for financial reasons. He was there 6 times so far, and spent a substantial time with the Philippine movement. He came in Manila in March 1997, it was his second trip; he saw so many couples receiving the pre-blessing. In April 1997, he returned from his second trip from the Philippines. When he left around 30.000 or more previously married couples (PMC) have so far received the pre-blessing within only one month. This took place within only 30 minutes or sometime more. It depended. It's almost like home church work in an area.

Teams of 3 members went door to door and introduce the Blessing. Our members explained about the blessing and the whole family wanted to receive the blessing. The Philippine people liked to receive God's blessing. From those couples eventually they could make core members with their children. Philippines members ask if this couple knew other couples who wanted to join the blessing. They brought many other couples. Then the other couples brought others. It's almost like the "domino-play" effect. Since a month, they are buying 2 hours radio time. In this way, they inform and educate those PMC blessed couples (which so far received the preliminary blessing) about virtually everything. The radius of the radio station was 200 km. They taught DP, gave important notice and international news related to our worldwide church activities. The American National Messiah and Wolfgang, the German National Messiah, were interviewed. The church wanted to buy more time at this station and had many more station set up in the Philippines. It's a question of money. The Philippines is one of the most prepared countries to accept True Parents in Asia. It's a traditionally Catholic country and the people are very religious by nature.

Letter to True Parents as National Messiah: "I hope and pray that my letter to you both will reach you in good health. True Parents and today's providence are always in my prayers. I know you are both very busy, but I hope my concern in writing to you about the National Messiah (NM) Providence will not bother you too much... On our way back to Germany, in Poland, traveling in a minibus my wife and our three small children were seriously hurt in a car accident. Our youngest daughter E. (four years at that time) fell in a coma due to her serious injuries... I was told that the son of one National Messiah died as well as the daughter of another National Messiah after their appointment... During the first three years, many National Messiahs went to their assigned countries. But as time went by, many of the Abel and Cain National Messiahs had to pack up and go to their native countries, because of financial difficulties ONLY. Many Korean and Japanese National Messiahs faced the same problem and went back home as well. We do have a National Messiah Forum (on the Internet), in which mostly Abel and Cain National Messiahs are present, 125 in all.

I counted about 35 to 40 National Messiahs and their families, who are actually present in their assigned nations and personally me, I feel very sorry and sad about their low presence in the respective countries... In June of 2001, during the True Day of All Things celebration which I attended as well, you scolded all National Messiahs present in East Garden, why we haven' accomplished to meet the Heads of State in our mission countries in order for you to be able to meet them on this day. I felt deeply saddened, because I knew there were too many nations, where the National Messiah was no longer present. I was wondering if you knew this, and if you got the realistic reports about the National Messiahs situation? Dear Father and Mother, please guide us, so we can have hope again to perhaps one day make it to our assigned mission country, save its people, in order for Heavenly Father to become the King of Kings of each nation."

Letter to True Parents as National Messiah: "...When the Iraq war started, I wrote five Open Letters to US President Bush at the White House. In my third letter, I mentioned your idea about the establishment of an Inter-Religious Council in the United Nations. This Open Letter I sent to UN General Secretary Kofi Anan as well. I sent copies of my five Open Letters to 600 important e-mail addresses around the world as well. This included ALL political parties in the U.S., 70 US Senators and the same number of U.S. Congressmen and Congresswomen; to the Presidential Prayerteam.org; to U.S. soldiers on websites; to American/German clubs and associations in the U.S. and in Germany; to all German political parties; to Prime Minister Toni Blair in Great Britain and to Prime Minister John Howard in Australia. It included posting to many newspapers in the U.S., as well as to international newspapers. The Open Letter was sent to all of the U.S. and British Embassies around the world, the German Embassies, and finally to the U.S. Embassy in Vienna. The officer-in-charge of the public affairs section at the U.S. Embassy in Vienna, responded to each Open Letter to President Bush very positively. He wrote back, that all of them were forwarded to G. W. Bush at the U.S. State Department. By now, the officer-in-charge of the U.S. Embassy knows very well, that I am a follower of Rev. Moon.

All five Open Letters were published on a couple of websites.

My intentions were to witness on the Internet and let VIP's know, that you have the solution to the religious conflict the world is facing right now."

He took up a job with an American-Jewish Humanitarian Organization, in Vienna, Austria, helping persecuted minorities in Iran to immigrate to the United States. Its headquarters is in New York. In 2004 he was with this job now for three years. But very often in his heart he is crying out, because he wanted to go back to the frontline.

During the recent years Wolfgang has explored new ways of witnessing through the internet and he discovered the incredible potential of social media in the proclamation of True Parents Words.

Wolfgang Schawaller testified: "This was my own website, called "The Unification Church and I". I posted everything about myself, about my mission countries, about my mission experience and I always testified about True Father. One thing I wanted to mention is that I was sent out by TF as a missionary in 1975 and our mission was to witness to the Lord of the Second Advent, True Parents. My whole life was to witness. Just to witness. So I started my website to witness just for TF. This is my life. My life is dedicated to witnessing. I realized that witnessing is not just approaching people on the street anymore, but we can also reach them through the internet. With this specific experience I had in 2002 with George Bush, I thought that there is a big chance to witness through the internet"

On October 25, 2017, Wolfgang Schawaller shared: "From my 21 years mission experience I want to say what I learned most: It is to respect and love other fellow-human-beings, because everyone is a child of God. Where I worked and lived, people always looked different from me, they had different colors; they spoke and behaved totally differently from where I came from, Germany. I became color blind and open to other cultures, religions and traditions. All the cultures and different traditions have so many common elements anyway, and have so much to offer, to make one day this planet earth a place where there is no more war, poverty and crimes. And this I truly believe. But bottom line is: 'Respect and love for others, which in divine translation is, to live for the sake of others'."