

How I Joined the Unification Movement in Uganda

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By divine providence, I happen to be a professor of Comparative Religion and Culture at Makerere University in Kampala. In this context, when on duty, in 1976, I received a visit of three young men, a William Connery (US), Ulf Ingwersen (Germany) and Hideaki Kamiyoshi (Japan). They expressed interest in educational issues, and Hideaki registered as an occasional student in Religious Studies and Philosophy.

It was only in 1979, after Idi Amin's departure, that the three young men approached some ten university professors at Makerere University and introduced us to the

Professors World Peace Academy (PWPA). We began to get literature from other PWPA chapters and were invited to different regional and international conferences. One of those was the International Conference for the Unity of the Sciences (ICUS). We were also introduced to another organization, the Assembly of World Religions. During the various international meetings, we were informed that the brain behind these and other organizations was none other than the Reverend Sun Myung Moon. In fact, he made a point to attend and greet members at the opening and closing sessions of these meetings. I remember meeting him thus over twenty times!

At one of the ICUS meetings in the 1980s, in Seoul, we were among seven hundred participants. Father Moon explained about the principle of Creation, the Fall and the Providence of Restoration. He explained about the chance given, to anyone who believes, to be restored through the blessing to the state of Adam and Eve before the Fall. He asked how many wanted the blessing. Almost all participants from whatever background raised their hands (me included) and expressed their desire for the blessing.

It is in that context that later I was blessed with my Japanese wife, Tshucida Kazuko at the 360,000 group in August 1995. Papa and Mama Moon are our beloved True Parents. They, at times, appear to us in dreams! We know them physically and they are with us spiritually daily. They are our saviors and Lord of the Second Advent. They remain our best friends and confidants. They are also our media with God and our ancestors who passed on. Together with all of humanity, they teach us to always live in love, goodness, justice, happiness and peace.

We are trying to internalize many more of their teachings. First, we take note of the life of Papa Moon. We have come to know him as a peace-loving global citizen. We know the deep meaning of his names, that Sun, Myung and Moon mean "the bearer of light, life and truth." He is very strong with a great sense of justice and love for others. We are to emulate him!

We also note that he has been given a number of titles and attributes that define his nature and character or inner qualities. Some of these, include Jaja (grandfather, in Uganda), True Father, liberator of God's heart, king of kings, returning Christ, full inheritor of God's love, Master of Science, Father of four hundred clans, founder of the Unification Church, professor of Peace and Conflict Studies, the anointed Messiah (Mukombozi in Swahili, for savior), great teacher, wonderful leader, loving husband, friend of all, chairman of PWPA, of ICUS, of the Ambassadors for Peace, and so on.

We take note of his own testimony concerning his unique spiritual experience and journey. It says, On Easter morning, April 17, 1935, while on a mountain praying for his people and his nation, he encountered Jesus in a vision who asked him to continue his life's work. Twice he refused but on the third request, he accepted the calling and promised God to do three things: To unite Christianity and all religions (human relationships and connections), to heal the divided human family and to comfort the grieving heart of God, who suffers from three big headaches (atheism, lack of cooperation among religious people against evil, and the moral crisis afflicting especially the youth). Rev. Moon's one thought in life to-date has been to bring about world peace. His testimony ends with a quotation where he says, "God Himself told me that the most basic and central truth of this universe is that God is the Father and we are the children. We are all created as the children of God. So, God is the parent of us all in the cosmos!" Clearly, Rev. Moon is a profound thinker. We are meant to emulate him. So help us God! Glory be to our beloved True Parents!