

Time for a Recommitment to Peace

Sam Zakhem

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The World Leaders' Convention for the Advancement of the Reunification of Korea and Peace in Northeast Asia, 2013

Cheongshim Peace World Center

Chung Pyung, Korea



Ambassador Sam Zakhem at the rally in Korea.

True Parents, Your Excellency's, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are very pleased to be gathered here in this significant and holy place on this, one of the last weeks in 2013, to affirm and rededicate ourselves in pursuit of True Parents' noble vision of peace, of a world where humanity lives one family under God. Over the past couple of months international relations here in North East Asia have become increasingly polarized. In the skies, we see China asserting its right to defend a much increased corridor of airspace; and the United States, Japan and Korea all refusing to acknowledge this claim. On the seas, we see skirmishes between vessels with different flags over ownership of fishing and mineral rights, as well as over the possession of several small islands in dispute since World War II. On the land, we see North Korea trying to develop a nuclear arsenal even as millions of North Koreans suffer in hunger and

poverty.

All of this is of course far different than the bold vision of peace that Father and Mother Moon have been declaring here in Korea, and around the world throughout their lives. The most powerful teaching of True Parents is that we must love our enemies and bring good fortune to them through dialogue and understanding.

In this light they called for the religious leaders and faith leaders of the world to form an interreligious body at the U.N. to support the heads of state to realize peace without war.

Though we are living in times of great crisis and tension, True Parents give real solutions and ways in which enemies can be reconciled. The Middle East Peace Initiative which I have been part of was founded by Father and Mother Moon has continued to develop dialogue and marches for peace in Jerusalem, Palestine and Jordan and throughout the Middle East have given real hope to the elected officials, religious leaders and to all people of faith.

Their teaching on the Blessing of marriage and family is universal and gives us the path in which we can develop the love that is necessary to transform all of us into one global God loving family.

We have seen Father and Mother Moon's work blossom in America through the Ambassadors for Peace and religious leaders coming together. The *Washington Times* which they founded has continued to influence America by promoting Faith, Freedom and Family.

Even so, Father Moon's time in America was not always easy. In particular, I would like to take this special opportunity to offer an apology from America to Father and Mother Moon. Thirty years ago, Rev. Moon was sent to jail in America. He served over a year in Danbury Prison, accused of the flimsiest of charges. Hundreds of Christian Ministers, and more than 40 civil and religious groups filed amici briefs in support of him, and one Senator who was then the head of the Judiciary Committee for the U.S. Senate said – "In the case of Rev. Moon, injustice rather than justice was served".

In a Senate hearing Father Moon said he loved America and was willing to go through any injustice for the sake of freedom and peace. Today I want to help set the record straight, and say clearly that the righteous leaders of America do not and never did agree with the way he was treated and we want to say we are "sorry" to Father and Mother Moon.

In closing I wish to state that " I served my state of Colorado, in both, The House and the Senate; and I served Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H W Bush, as Ambassador, but I am most proud of being an Ambassador for Peace serving Father and Mother Moon, who are bring all of us together for peace under one God. " Thank you and may God bless you all.