

## Building a Fortress of Peace

Toru Miyahara

February 5, 2020

To the General Assembly of the World Clergy Leadership Conference  
KINTEX, the Seoul Metropolitan Area, South Korea



Good afternoon. Thank you for allowing me to speak on behalf of the Japanese clergy. In Japan, Shinto and Buddhism are widespread throughout our social culture as traditional religions. Christianity has a history of four hundred and seventy years, during which there have been three revivals. However, it is still a minority religion.

The devoted work of many Catholic missionaries since St. Francisco Xavier (1506–1552) produced hundreds of thousands of Christians in the first half-century. Later, many people were martyred as acts of national persecution. In addition, the ban on Christianity enforced a crackdown policy that lasted for two hundred and fifty years. Surprisingly, during that time, some kept the religion secretly, and the freedom of religion was obtained a hundred and fifty years ago.

In the nineteenth century, Catholic missionaries came again, and new Protestant missionaries made a significant contribution to Japan's modernization and youth education. Japan was reborn as a democratic nation after the defeat of seventy-five years ago, but its Christian spirit has not spread, and atheism and communism threaten it.

### **Father safeguarded our youth**

In anticipation of this situation, Rev. Sun Myung Moon, True Father, sent a missionary in 1958. He protected Japanese youth from atheism, communism and moral decadence and taught them about God's ideals and God's heart.

About a decade later, deeply impressed by Rev. Moon's message, pastors came up in the Ecumenical Movement. Rev. Shinichi Nakamura acknowledged, "Rev. Moon is the second coming of the Lord," and was immediately blessed by Rev. Moon and his wife, Dr. Mrs. Hak Ja Han Moon. He was the pioneer of the clergy conference. After that, an ecumenical organization was established but did not develop sufficiently in Japan.

Meanwhile, young missionaries with vision, trained by Father Moon and Mother Moon, were sent out to the world. The women followed, too, leaving their families behind. Young men and women of the Unification Movement have traveled to the world mission field, in return for the benefit from Western Christian missionaries who have devoted their lives to Japan.

### **My course of faith**

I have been a Christian pastor for many years, under Father Moon and Mother Moon's tutelage and I am inheriting the spirit of Rev. Nakamura. My wife has been involved in missions in South America and North America for thirty years.



*Dr. Luonne Rouse, co-chair of the World Clergy Leadership Conference, had called his wife and fellow co-chair, Mrs. Marie Rouse and various other women of God to speak at the formal founding of WCLC.*

When I stand here and look at you, I see the fruit of the sincere effort of Japanese pioneers. And I express my gratitude to True Parents. I want to pay my utmost respect to True Parents, who have completed two thousand years of Christian history following the mission of Jesus Christ.

Last December 28, I participated in the launching of WCLC and witnessed the power of the Holy Spirit far beyond imagination. And I received a heavenly vocation again. "The lion has roared, who would not fear? The Lord God has spoken, who would not prophesy?" [Amos 3:8] From now on, I have to make another prophecy to the Christian churches in Japan. "Arise! Shine, for your light has come, the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you. Though darkness covers the earth and thick clouds, the peoples, upon you, the Lord will dawn, and over you, his glory will be seen." (Isaiah 60:1-2)

### **Japan must truly revive**

As I told my brothers and sisters at the WCLC Founding Conference last December, I will organize a JCLC in Japan that can contribute to the development of the WCLC movement. JCLC will be the keystone of reconciliation among religions. I am determined to build a fortress of peace.

In the future, a Christian revival must occur again in Japan. Churches that do not cooperate will perish. Only those who are with us will survive. We have to bring revival once more. God is alive. The work of the Holy Spirit has finally strengthened through True Parents. Therefore, we must say, "Christians are not those who scream, 'Lord, Lord,' but the ones who do the will of our Father in heaven!" The clergy members of the world, brothers, and sisters, please pray for the awakening of Christianity in Japan. And let us hold hands to create a new spiritual awakening around the world. Thank you very much. God bless you.