

Father's Life in His Own Words - Part 56

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Students expelled from Ehwa University later graduated from Sookmyung University instead

Witnessing to the Young Intelligentsia

The Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity (HSA-UWC) was founded on May 1, 1954. In 1955, True Father embarked upon a remarkable witnessing project aimed at attracting many good young people from the top Christian universities in Korea. Yet things did not unfold smoothly.

Yonsei and Ehwa Universities were like a man and woman who had not fallen. If they had become one with Christianity in a parent - child relationship, it would have been the same as a family four-position foundation. Included in this is the formation of individual families, clans seen as families and ethnic groups viewed in the same way. If they had been able to unite with the government, based on Christianity, the national level would have been attained. If that had happened, True Parents' ideals would have made a solid beginning in Korea.

In order to clean up Satan's world entirely, I had to fight with champions from all different walks of life. We have to meet challenges in order to go upward. We had to challenge ourselves because we were challenged by opposition from the Republic of Korea. The person I challenged was Dr. Rhee [Korean President Rhee Syngman]. At that time, Korea was Christian-oriented, and the professors of Ehwa University and Yonsei University were at the highest level. I challenged them to listen to me. I also challenged church ministers to listen.

If we could have won over all the students, men and women, at Yonsei and Ehwa, Syngman Rhee would have been naturally pulled into things. If this had happened, since Rhee had courage, and had power over General Hodge,[\[1\]](#) if Rhee had stood up and claimed that we could conquer the world through God's will, through this religion and ideal, we could have won over America and there would have been a way to spread out to the world.

Syngman Rhee had been educated in America and was fully American. His wife was Austrian; he spoke Korean like an American. He became a symbol of Asia and overrode whatever General Hodge said, he did this while stressing the autonomy of his people. This was somewhat impressive.

When the negotiations for the release of North Korean anti-communist prisoners of war were going on, since the UN was against their being released, Rhee released them all in a single day. This is a historically famous episode. At first, people criticized him for this, but later thought he had done something very good. That was a messianic way of thinking, and history should remember it.[\[2\]](#)

Dismissals and expulsions (March - July, 1955)

We set the fire of truth among Ehwa and Yonsei students. I said, "These [first generation] people are no good. You second-generation members must light the fire. You must build the path to peace and justice."

The Ehwa University incident refers to three hundred and eighty female students being blown by that spring breeze. Eighty of them a day packed up their bags to leave. They left their homes by climbing over the fence, or saying they were going to a public bathhouse... When their parents stopped them from going out, they said, "Why can't I go? If I am not allowed to go out, I would rather die. Kill me."



Father with student members on Namsan in Seoul (1955)

They did not want to go to school, even if meant they'd die. Even if I smelled bad, or my feet smelled, they thought I smelled like perfume. They didn't want to go to school at all. And when they did go to school, they felt as if they were eating sand. Every day incidents would happen.

One smart lady teacher, Professor Kim Young-oon, who had graduated from a theological seminary and who was teaching in the Department of Christian Social Work at Ehwa University, came to investigate the teachings of our church. She listened to the Principle and joined the Unification Church within a week. In an instant, the other professors of Ehwa University became completely taken up with this. Some three hundred and eighty students in the dormitory listened to the Principle and were absorbed by it.

Witnessing expands, opposition increases

People say that I stole the congregations of other churches, but I never did that. In 1954, I even said let's not set up a church. People came to listen to the Principle. I told them to return to their own churches, but they didn't want to. If I chased them out of the front door, they would come back through the back door, and if I chased them out of the back door and locked the front gate, they would climb over the fence and come in.

Christians began to dislike us. From their perspective, never before had there been an enemy like our church; if a smart person listened to the Principle for just a day, he could change completely within a week.

Korean Christians are renowned worldwide for working hard and for their loyalty to God. But the Unification Church emerged, taking away all the smart people from Christian denominations. This is why at Ehwa University, the whole school was turned upside down in two months, and the school put pressure on the students, threatening them with expulsion or other extreme measures. That brought about remarkable, cataclysmic results.

The power behind the university incidents

Wasn't it because all the students of Ehwa University and Yonsei University came to us that this group expulsion occurred? How many months did it take? Not even three months. This happened in about two months, within just sixty days.

I wanted to win over Ehwa and Yonsei within six months. I came with the confidence that if this could be

accomplished, within seven years Christianity would bow before the truth the Unification Church is teaching.

Who caused these incidents at Ehwa University and Yonsei University? Christians were at the forefront. The Liberal Party [under Syngman Rhee] played a leading role. It strongly opposed me. Lee Ki-beong, Maria Park... Why didn't Ehwa University and Yonsei University listen to what I was saying? They were afraid that I would take over their universities. They thought, "Oh dear, the Christian missions department is supposed to guide the university, but if we listen to what Rev. Moon is saying, our university is going to be led by him!" They would have said that, had it also been the case with Korean church denominations, they would also have ended up being led by me. There was a big fuss. So the expulsions went ahead.

Kim Hwal-lan and Maria Park became the main force and told untruths about me at Gyeongmudae,^[3] and, by moving the heads of five government ministries, they tried to get rid of the Unification Church and bury me completely.

If the incidents at Ehwa and Yonsei had not happened, everything would have been connected to Gyeongmudae, and the whole of Christianity would have been connected. At that time Kim Young-oon was a professor of religious studies.^[4] Since all their main teachers joined the church, wasn't it inevitable that Kim Hwal-lan would oppose us? Even though Kim Young-oon informed them properly, a few people from the established churches opposed us and things turned out the way they did. If the Ehwa and Yonsei universities had been restored, and if they had not opposed me, all of Korean Christianity would have been restored.

Yonsei University: 1 professor 2 students; Ehwa University: 5 professors 14 students

Since Ehwa University was receiving support from America with the missionaries in the background, they felt in danger of being absorbed by the activity led by the little known Unification Church. So the countermeasure they took was dismissal. The professors and students involved were given an ultimatum: "Will you choose the university or the Unification Church?"

It was an emergency for the university, because they had to stop a flock of students joining our church. They made them choose between the two. How could they give them such a choice? The university had students whose families belonged to a variety of groups. There were even many children of shamans. So why was the Unification Church barred? This was the work of Satan. They opposed us but then gave in. The president of the university asked everyone to choose between the Unification Church and keeping their place. Where in the world does such a law exist?

At that time, five professors resigned and fourteen students were expelled. Nothing like it had ever happened before.

So six intelligent professors^[5] resigned and sixteen students^[6] gave up their studies.

Because of this, the Unification Church was persecuted. I remember the pain of being persecuted.

We began our work in 1954, and in 1955 the Ehwa University incident occurred and turned the whole country upside down. Didn't people say, "Strike down that Moon guy and kill him!"?

I was alone in the world.

^[1] General Hodge was commander of the U.S. forces in Korea (September 1945 - August 1948) during the U.S. occupation of Korea

^[2] As Father has said elsewhere, however, Syngman Rhee and his government failed to grasp the opportunity to support the providence by giving the fledgling church the freedom to operate. Rhee died of a stroke in Hawaii in 1965.

^[3] The former name of the presidential residence (now, Cheongwadae)

^[4] Miss Kim was a professor of New Testament Studies, Church History and Comparative Religion

^[5] Yonsei University: Park Sang-re; Ehwa University: Yang Yoon-yeong, Han Chung-wha, Choi Won-pok, Kim Young-oon, Lee Jung-ho

^[6] Ehwa: Kim Suk-ja, Choi Sun-wha, Kang Jong-won, Lee Ge-sun, Lim Sung-hee, Park Yong-suk, Chung Dae-wha, Ji Mal-suk, Park Sung-gu, Kim Kyong-shik, Soh Myong-jin, Kim Jung-eun, Sa Gil-ja, Shin Mi-shik; Yonsei: Hwang Hwan-che, Yu Kyong-gu