

Family Federation's Loving Care and Investment: The Best Chance to Visit North Korea

An interview with True Mother by Weekly Chosun (a Korean National Major Weekly Magazine), published on May 25~31, 2015 issue. Translated by Steve Sakuwa of Tongil Foundation.



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지난 7월 11일 오스트리아 수도 빈의 힐튼호텔 연회장을 한 한학자 통일교 총재. 왼쪽: 안희영

한학자 통일교 총재

“북한, 통일교에 지극정성 방북 시기 보고 있다”

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“냉전시대 아무나 할 수 없었던 지하선교를 우리는 했어요.” 한학자(72) 통일교 총재가 잠시 톤을 틀어놓았다. 입을 열었다. “남편인 문선명 총재가 유럽에서 이론 성과 중 제일 중요한 게 뭐라고 생각하느냐”는 기자의 질문에 대한 답이었다. 한 총재는 냉전시대 동구권 선교의 기지였던 오스트리아에 “39년 만에 왔다”며 “내가 온 다음에 유럽 35개국에서 2500명의 식구

들이 있다. 32시간을 운전해서 왔다는 분들도 있다”고 말했다. 내가 한학자 총재를 만난 건 지난 5월 11일 오스트리아 수도 빈의 힐튼호텔 숙소에서였다. 한 총재는 빈 시가지가 훤히 내려다보이는 15층 펜트하우스 응접실에서 한 교 기자들과 만났다. 한 총재는 전날 빈 오스트리아센터에서 열린 통일교 유럽신교 50주년 기념행사에 참석했고, 이날은 빈에 있는 유엔 제3사무국에서 ‘유

엔 70주년: 한반도의 긴장관계 해소를 위해라는 주제로 열린 콘퍼런스에서 연설을 했다. 한 총재는 이후 국내 기자들과 간단한 행사를 벌여 인터뷰를 했다. 통일교 측에 따르면, 한학자 총재가 기자들과 인터뷰를 한 건 이날이 처음이라고 한다. 안희영 통일교 대외협력부장 은 “2012년 성화한 문선명 총재는 물론이고 한학자 총재도 한 번도 언론 인터뷰를 한 적이 없다”며 “이번에 한 총재님이 이

례적인 결정을 했다”고 말했다.

남편의 뒤를 이어 통일교를 이끌고 있는 한학자 총재는 국내에서 적지 않은 관심을 받았다. 무엇보다 문선명 총재가 일교 ‘통일교’의 관공을 손조롭게 유지해 나간 것이 세간의 관심사였다. 통일교는 국내에만 13개 계열사를 둔 자산 1조3000억 원 규모의 통일그룹 등 막강한 재력을 바탕으로 교세를 일궈 왔다. 전 세계 신도수는 일본 60만명을 비롯해 300만명가량. 특히 한 총재는 문선명 총재 사후 자녀들과의 관계로 주목을 받았다. 그들을 책임지던 4남 문국진씨와 종교 부문을 맡고 있던 7남 문정진씨가 모두 손해를 만든 것 여의도 파크원 부지를 둘러싸고 통일교 측과 소송을 벌이는 등 갈등을 빚어온 3남 문원진 글로벌리제이션(GIF) 이사장에 대해서도 ‘살맛을 넣으려고 교회 재산을 원상복귀해야 받아주겠다’는 입장을 보여왔다.

한학자 총재는 자신과 맞서는 아들들은 내지는 반면 지난 3월 5년 문선진씨를 세계평화통일가정연합(통일교) 세계회장으로 임명해 주목을 받았다. 통일교 측은 “현재 한 총재는 문선명 총재 못지않은 카리스마적 조직을 장악하고 있다고 했다.

이날 인터뷰 자리에서 본 한 총재는 70대라는 나이가 믿기지 않는 건장한 모습이었다. 분이 높은 목소리는 힘이 있었고 열혈도 좋았다. 한 총재는 “건강관리를 위해 좀 걷는다”며 “나이 들어서까지 이렇게 움직여야 하나”고 말했다. 한 총재는 유럽신교 50주년을 맞아 이번엔 유럽을 일주한 후 미국에 들러 라스베이거스에 설립되는 통일교 교육원 개소식에 참석하러 귀국했다. 42일간의 해외 일정을 소화할 예정이라고 한다.

이날 인터뷰 자리에는 문선진 세계회장을 비롯해 문연아 세계평화여성연합 회

“하나의 세계로 나가는 길을 인도할 수 있는 많은 지도자를 배출해 내려고 합니다. 거기에는 내가 아끼지 않을 거예요.”

장, 문훈숙 유니버설평화재단 등이 자리를 함께했다. 문연아 회장은 한 총재의 장남인 문국진씨의 부인이다. 문훈숙 단장은 1984년 통일교 최초 순교자로 공인된 여성 순교자였다. 이들 딸과 며느리들은 인터뷰 동안 미동도 하지 않고 한 총재의 말을 경청하는 모습이였다.

한 총재는 신교 50주년을 맞는 유럽에서는 통일교 신도들이 젊은이들을 중심으로 늘고 있다고 강조했다. 한 총재는 “유럽은 기독교 역사와 문화의 꽃”이라며 “유럽에서는 젊은 사람들이 (통일교로) 모인다. 그게 미래의 희망”이라고 했다. 통일교 측에 따르면, 현재 유럽의 통일교 신자는 2만5000명가량 독일, 영국, 프랑스 등 3개국에 각각 2500~3000명가량이라고 11월말 정도는 동유럽에 있다고 한다. 통일교 측은 동성결혼이 허용되고 전통적인 가족이 흔들리는 지난진 진보 흐름에 대한 반작용으로 통일교가 유럽인들에게 주목받고 있다고 설명했다. 한 총재는 오스트리아에서 열린 유럽신교 50주년 행사에서 프랑스와 알바니아에서 창설된 신도가 많이 늘었다고 있다고 가장연한 청소년 교육센터 건립 비용으로 두 나라에 각각 100만유로씩을 전달하기도 했다.

한학자 총재가 강조한 냉전시대 동구

권 지하선교는 ‘승공운동’ 차원에서 1968년부터 시작됐다고 한다. ‘프라하의 봄’ 이후 체코슬로바키아를 중심으로 지하선교를 벌여 공산권 체코에만 100명가량의 신도를 확보했지만 신교사들이 투옥되는 등 심한 탄압을 받았다는 실정이다. 1974년 4월에는 현 슬로바키아의 수도인 브라티슬라바 감옥에 투옥돼 있던 신교사가 순교하는 일도 벌어졌다. 당시 통일교는 동구권 지하선교를 ‘나비처럼’도 명명했다. 신교 교육을 받은 신도들이 아무런데도 알리지 않고 주변에 “교회를 떠났다”고만 말한 뒤 ‘나비’가 돼 동구권에 들어갔다는 것이다. 빈 오스트리아센터에서 열린 유럽신교 50주년 행사에서는 1984년 통일교 최초 순교자로 공인된 여성 순교자 등 ‘나비들의 영성’ 소개되기 시작했다.

한 총재는 말년에 초종교활동과 평화운동에 전념했던 문선명 총재와 달리 자신은 신교에 주력할 의향을 내비쳤다. 한 총재는 “아시아 신교에도 집중하고 있다”며 “미국·인도·네팔 등에서 확장을 하고 있고 라오스·베트남 등에서는 청소년들이 많이 모여들고 있다고 했다. 한 총재는 문선명 총재 사후 후속세대인 피스키행사를 중단하는 등 통일교가 벌여온 일들에 대한 일종의 구조조정을 했다. 이와 관련한 총재는 “문 총재가 하셨던 일을 다 계속하면 좋죠. 하지만 우선이 먼저인 거예요”라며 핵심 과제에 집중할 계획임을 밝혔다. 특히 한 총재는 젊은 지도자 육성에 우선적으로 투자할 계획을 밝혔다. “내가 70억 인원을 내 자식도 생기고 길을 열어주려는 사람인데, 사회사업을 할 수 있으면 좋겠죠. 앞으로는 더 할 거예요. 미래의 지도자, 하나의 세계로 나가는 길을 인도할 수 있는 젊은 지도자를 배출해 내려고 합니다. 거기에는 내가

We carried out underground evangelist activities when no one else could during the Cold War.” Head of Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU) Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon (72) pauses for a beat before speaking. This was her answer to the reporter’s question as to what she regarded as her husband, Rev. Sun Myung Moon’s, biggest achievement in Europe. Dr. Han is visiting Austria, the location of the headquarters of Eastern European evangelism during the Cold War, for the “first time in 19 years.” She continued, “2,500 members gathered from 35 nations across Europe to come see me. Some people drove for 32 hours to attend our event.”

We met Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon at the Hilton Hotel in Vienna, Austria’s capital, on May 11th. She received Korean reporters in the penthouse sitting room on the 15th floor, which boasted a breathtaking view of the city. Dr. Han had previously attended the “50 Years of European Evangelism” event, which was held

by the Family Federation at the Austria Center on the previous day. Before meeting us, she gave the keynote address at an international conference held at the UN Office in Vienna under the banner, “The UN at 70: Toward a Resolution of Tensions on the Korean Peninsula.” She then held a meeting with Korean reporters.

According to the Family Federation, this is the first interview conducted between Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon and the press. “Neither Rev. Sun Myung Moon, who passed away in 2012, nor Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, has ever conducted a press interview,” said Public Relations Manager Ho-Yeul An. “The interview was an unexpected decision on the part of Dr. Han.”

Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, who is continuing the work of her late husband in the Family Federation, has received a fair amount of attention in Korea. Many have been watching her to see whether she will be able to inherit and develop “the Kingdom of the Family Federation,” originally started by Rev. Sun

Myung Moon. The Tongil Group maintains assets worth 1.7 trillion won and manages 13 subsidiary companies in Korea alone. The church is estimated to have about 3,000,000 members worldwide, including 600,000 members in Japan. Dr. Han has received notable attention for her relationship with her children since her husband's death. She had her fourth son Kook Jin Moon, who had overseen Tongil Group, and her seventh son Hyung Jin Moon, who managed the religious aspect of the Church, step down from their positions. In regards to her third son Hyun Jin Moon, who is embroiled in a lawsuit with the Church for property in Yeouido and other various disputes, Dr. Han's stance is she will accept after he repents for his mistakes and return the property to its rightful owner.

In contrast to Dr. Han's treatment of her sons, this March, she appointed her fifth daughter Sun Jin Moon as the International President of FFWPU. "Dr. Han commands the organization with just as much charisma as her husband, Rev. Sun Myung Moon," said a representative of the Family Federation.

When we met with her today, she looked astonishingly young and healthy for her 70 years. She spoke in a high, strong voice and shone with a healthy complexion. "I walk a bit to maintain my health," she said. "I have to stay healthy because I plan to continue traveling even in my old age." After touring Europe to celebrate 50 years of evangelism on the continent, Dr. Han plans to visit the United States to attend the opening ceremony of a Family Federation education center in Las Vegas. She will continue her 42-day world tour before returning to Korea.

Dr. Han was accompanied to her interview by Family Federation International President Sun Jin Moon, Women's Federation for World Peace International President Yeon-Ah Moon, Universal Ballet Director Hoon-Sook Moon and others. President Yeon-Ah Moon is the wife of Dr. Han's first son, the late Hyo Jin Moon, and General Director Hoon-Sook Moon is the wife of her second son, the late Heung Jin Moon. General Director Hoon-Sook Moon brought the Little Angels with her on this visit for performances in Europe. During the interview, Dr. Han's daughter and daughters-in-law did not budge an inch, as they sat resolutely, listening quietly and courteously to her words.

Dr. Han said that the congregation of the European church, which is celebrating 50 years of evangelism, is growing in number, particularly among the young people. "Europe is the flower of Christian history and culture," said Dr. Han. "Many young people flock to the [Family Federation] of Europe. That is my hope for the future." According to the Family Federation,

the congregation of the European church is about 25,000 people, with about 2,500 to 3,000 members each in Germany, England and France, and about 10,000 members in Eastern Europe. The church also explained that it was receiving attention in Europe for its views in opposition to same-sex marriage and other progressive ideas, which they regard as leading to the destruction of the traditional family. Dr. Han discovered at the "50 Years of European Evangelism" event that the congregation of young people was growing rapidly in both France and Albania. She donated 1,000,000 Euros to each nation to help build youth education centers for the Family Federation.

Dr. Han told us that the underground evangelist movement in Eastern Europe during the Cold War began with the "Victory over Communism" (VOC) movement in 1968. The underground evangelist movement began in earnest after "Prague Spring" in Czechoslovakia, and brought about 100 new members in the Czech Republic alone. Many of the evangelists, however, were imprisoned or faced with oppression. In April of 1974, one evangelist was even martyred in a prison in Bratislava in present-day Slovakia. The underground evangelist movement of the Family Federation at that time was dubbed "Operation Butterfly." The members who had received training as evangelists worked in absolute secrecy. They told their loved ones simply that they had left the church, then becoming "butterflies" as they entered the Eastern Bloc. At the "50 Years of European Evangelism" event in Vienna at the Austria Center, a video was shown commemorating the Family Federation's first martyred evangelist in 1994 and other evangelist "butterflies."

In contrast to her husband, who focused strongly on interreligious and peace movements, Dr. Han hinted at focusing her strength in the autumn of her life on evangelism. "We are also focusing on evangelism in Asia right now," she said. "We are expanding our congregation in Thailand, India, Nepal and other nations, and many young people are joining in Laos and Vietnam as well." After Rev. Moon's death, Dr. Han has measurably restructured the Family Federation by halting the Peace Cup and other enterprises. "Of course I would like to continue the work of my husband. However, first things come first," she said as she explained her plan of focus. Dr. Han plans to concentrate on educating young leaders as a top priority. "I think of the seven billion people on earth as my children, and I need to open up a path for them. I hope to also be able to continue the social work if possible. I am working now to produce many new leaders of the future who can lead the world. I will spare no expense in this effort."

In 2013, Dr. Han founded the Wonmo Pyeongae Foundation, a scholarship foundation worth 100 billion won. The Foundation is very active, having carried out an event in March in which about 2,000 students from 68 nations were presented with 10 billion won in scholarships.

Dr. Han also hinted at plans to visit North Korea, a nation with which the Family Federation has maintained a friendly relationship. "I have lived my life for the sake of others. I can accomplish anything if I live for the sake of the nation. The time is approaching for a visit to [North Korea]."

The Family Federation explained that Dr. Han received an invitation to visit North Korea from Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un. In 2012, after the death of Rev. Sun Myung Moon, Kim Jong Un sent his condolences to the bereaved through Peace Motors President Sang-Kwon Park, along with an invitation for Dr. Han to visit North Korea. Then Vice Chairman of the National Defense Commission of North Korea Sung-Taek Jang and Workers' Party of Korea Director of United Front Department Yang-Gon Kim visited an incense altar erected in honor of Rev. Sun Myung Moon at the World Peace Center in Pyeongyang, and Kim Jong Un sent flowers in condolence to Rev. Moon's seventh son Hyung Jin Moon, who visited North Korea previously. "North Korea takes very good care of us. My husband had a very deep relationship with Premier Kim Il Sung. Kim Jong Il and Kim Jong Un have continued to respect the will [of late Kim Il Sung towards the Family Federation]," explained Dr. Han.

The Unification Movement manages about seven or eight local subsidiaries in North Korea, including Peace Motors, the Botonggang Hotel and the World Peace Center. After turning over management and shares to North Korea, they began searching for a new enterprise. The Family Federation turned over all shares of Peace Motors, the first equity joint venture between North and South Korea, and the North Korean Joseon Minheung Company over to North Korea after Rev. Moon's death at the end of 2013. "We are looking into establishing a distribution company similar to E-Mart in Pyeongyang," said a representative.

The Unification Movement manages about seven or eight local subsidiaries in North Korea, including Peace Motors, the Botonggang Hotel and the World Peace Center. After turning over management and shares to North Korea, they began searching for a new enterprise. The Unification Movement turned over all shares of Peace Motors, the first equity joint venture between North and South Korea, North Korean Joseon Minheung Company owned a 30% share and Peace Motors owned a 70% share. Peace

Motors signed over their share to North Korea for free at the end of 2013, following Rev. Moon's death. "We are looking into establishing a distribution company similar to E-Mart in Pyeongyang," said a representative.

"I didn't want to speak about difficult topics," began Dr. Han in response to a question about the doctrine of the Family Federation. The Family Federation doctrine has largely been regarded as heresy by the Christian Church. "That is a mistake on the part of the Christian establishment. My husband emerged on the scene speaking of true love and living for the sake of others. He did not fight with the Christian Church. They cannot say anything against us from a theoretical standpoint. They are lacking in a theoretical standpoint compared to us. They came to fear us. That is why they continue to try to paint us in a bad light."

"Christian people do not know what they should believe and what they are waiting for," said Dr. Han. "Jesus came as the second Adam. However, he was unable to find a partner and begin a family. That is why he needed to come again. At that time, he said that he would come and hold the banquet of the lamb. It appears in the Book of Revelation. What does this refer to? It is referring to marriage. Over the course of 2,000 years, Christianity needed to lay the foundation for the begotten daughter of God. Christians are unaware of this fact."

Dr. Han referred to herself as the "Only Begotten Daughter," and to herself and her husband as the "True Parents," with the implication that she and her husband established the family that Jesus was unable to create. "The completion of the family is crucial. At the beginning of time, God told man to establish families, but the true family was lost," she said. "The providence of restoration is the completion of the ideal family. The True Parents fulfill the model of that ideal."

Dr. Han, who was born in Anju, Pyeongannam-do, married Rev. Sun Myung Moon at the age of 17. She gave birth to seven sons and seven daughters by him. She considers her meeting Rev. Moon as a providential event. "When Korea was under Japanese rule, my uncle studied pharmacology at Waseda University. When he graduated, he was supposed to return to our hometown, but instead he entered the army in South Korea. When I went with my maternal grandmother and mother to visit him, the Korean War began, just after we crossed the 38th parallel. Heaven led me out of North Korea."

"My husband received a revelation to go to North Korea, which was under Communist rule at the time. On his way there, he was imprisoned in Heungnam Prison." After the Korean War broke out, "the Soviet

Union boycotted the UN Security Council. In the meantime, the UN decided to send troops to Korea, which eventually led to the release of my husband from prison. All of that was the will of heaven," said Dr. Han. Rev. Sun Myung Moon, who was born in Jeongju in Pyeonganbuk-do, was imprisoned from February, 1948 to October, 1950 in Heungnam Prison. The day before his execution, he was released from prison by the UN troops, explained the Family Federation. After establishing the Family Federation, Dr. Han did everything together with her husband. "We have the same goal," she said. "The Messiah couple, who is to come in the last days, must complete the history of the providence of restoration and indemnity. I was young when we got married, but I determined to take responsibility because I was chosen as his wife, so what could we have possibly ever fought about?"

Throughout her trip to Europe, Dr. Han emphasized the importance of expanding the church even after

Rev. Moon's passing. At the "50 Years of European Evangelism" event in Austria, she spoke about olive trees, which take 15 years to put down roots in the barren earth of Israel, but live for over 2,000 years. "I hope that after 50 years of putting down your roots, Europe as well will be able to become a pivotal continent in the mission of fulfilling God's providence of restoration."

Dr. Han has changed greatly since her husband's death, according to the Family Federation. She also established the "Cheon Il Guk Constitution" in August, 2013. According to the Family Federation, "the Cheon Il Guk Constitution stipulates the makeup and rights of the Cheon Il Guk Supreme Council, which is the highest legislative organ of the church. Dr. Han granted the Supreme Council with all of her authority and power in the instance in which she could not fulfill her duties."