

3 Unification Factions Clash at Belgium Conference!

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Participants at the Belgium Conference on "The Life and Legacy of Sun Myung Moon and the Unification Movements in Scholarly Perspective"

Greetings!



Richard Panzer and Kerry Williams with Scholars sitting in front starting from right, Eileen Barker, Massimo Introvigne, Jean Francais, Bernadette Rigal-Cellard

Just returned from a fascinating conference on "The Life and Legacy of Sun Myung Moon and the Unification Movements in Scholarly Perspective" hosted by the Faculty of Comparative Study of Religion and Humanism in Antwerp, Belgium. As noted by Dr. Massimo Introvigne, one of the conference organizers, this was the "first time scholars from the three branches (FFWPU, Unification Sanctuary, Family Peace Association) dialogue between themselves and with scholars of new religious movements."

Dr. Eileen Barker from the London School of Economics and author of *The Making of a Moonie* gave a keynote speech on the Unification Movement since Father's passing. She and the other scholars have championed the human rights of adherents of new religious movements (NRMs), especially in Europe where there have been strong state persecution of NRMs such as the Unification Church. A professor of Religious Anthropology, Dr. Tony Van Loon, reported that when he met with Father in Danbury prison in 1984, "Rev. Moon only had concern for the world."

Dr. Eileen Barker from the London School of



Sanctuaricians from Germany, Italy, Poland and USA in front of Antwerp City Hall

I don't have room to report on each of the presentations here in depth, but it is planned to publish all the papers given in a conference journal. Here are some key points of interest to Unificationists.

UTS professor Andrew Wilson described Father's "8 Great Textbooks" as a "motley collection" of scriptures and described "Owner of Peace, Owner of Lineage" as "not one of his best." He explained that one of Mother's motivations for declaring herself the Sinless Only Begotten Daughter is that relying on the authority of Rev. Moon would leave her vulnerable from others who fancy themselves more knowledgeable than she. **One of the scholars present commented, "so she changed the theology in order to keep power."**

Andrew also praised Mother's direction to all Unificationists to call God "Heavenly Parent," lamenting "Christianity's fixation on the male side of divinity." In response to his critique of Cain-Abel relationships as a "testosterone-filled, win-lose model," I responded that a true understanding of voluntary subjugation of Cain by Abel would be "win-win." Kook Jin Nim's tearful support for his younger brother when he was anointed by Father as his successor was another example of a heavenly win-win.

The next day Kerry Williams took apart Andrew's arguments in her paper ["Only One God: The Debate on God as 'Heavenly Father' vs. God as 'Heavenly Parents'."](#) pointing out how Judeo-Christian nations, far from oppressing women, have raised their status far above that of women in any other country in the world.



Sanctuarrians from America, Poland, and Scotland

Regarding the issue of who is Sun Myung Moon's legitimate successor, Andrew explained that Hyung Jin Nim "broke with Mother after being appointed in America." In my presentation the next day, a shorter version of my [May 7 presentation](#) on the "Sinless Only Begotten Daughter vs. the 3 Generations Kingships," I exposed this deceptive generalization by pointing out that it was Mother who fired Hyung Jin Nim from 5 different positions in Korea within 2 weeks after Father's passing and that she fired him from his position as American church

president in early 2013 after demanding that he immediately stop teaching about Absolute Sex and finally refused to meet with him unless he agreed to endorse the new Family Fed constitution, which he could not do because it would go against Father's clear direction for how the Unification Movement should be led after his passing.

Kerry Williams also wondered why Andrew neglected to mention that Father crowned Hyung Jin Nim three times as his successor and heir in January, 2009. She noted that when asked why he crowned his youngest son three times, Father answered, "because I know you sons of bitches aren't going to believe me unless I do that."

Many of the scholars were furiously taking notes during these fiery debates and asked for copies of my and Kerry's presentations. The Family Federation narrative that Hyung Jin Nim just left on his own for ambiguous reasons was exploded as a lie. Mother's actions to change, replace and desecrate Father's 8 Great Textbooks and her creation of a new theology to legitimize her seizure of power is now in the historical record for scholars to analyze in coming decades.

UTS church historian Michael Mickler was critical of all three factions. He noted how both Hyun Jin's Family Peace Association and Hyung Jin Nim's Unification Sanctuary see God as the "internal masculine subject" while Mother has re-interpreted core Unification doctrines from a matriarchal perspective.

Dan Fefferman described the tensions between the freedom-oriented American Freedom Coalition/Washington Times/American Leadership Conference led by Dr. Bo Hi Pak and peace-oriented initiatives led by Rev. Kwak.

One area of agreement between representatives of Sanctuary and Preston Moon's Family Peace Association was their joint critique of Mother's replacing the 8 great textbooks with her own scriptures, even going to the extent of going to the Sung Hwa Press and demanding that Father's sermon volumes 594 to 615 be destroyed and replaced with new versions that did not include any criticisms of Mother or church leaders. Another area of agreement was their opposition to "gender neutrality." Young Jin Kim from the Family Peace Association explained that God created male and female with different intentions, purposes and responsibilities.

A strong area of difference is Preston's claim that he is the rightful heir, not Hyung Jin Nim. In response, **Hamish Robertson, the Sanctuary leader in Scotland, described a meeting he observed at the Cheon Jeong Gung palace where Preston refused Father's direct request to stop his programs for one year in order to spend that time with Father.** Hamish also referred to the [video of Father telling Mr. Kamiyama](#) in 2010 that Preston had disunited with him many years earlier.

A sobering, but hopeful final presentation was given by Willy Fautre from the *Human Rights Without Frontiers* organization that worked with Toru Goto to gain judicial vindication from Japanese courts after many decades of indifference to kidnapping and deconversion violations of the rights of Unificationists and other minority religions. Dan Fefferman noted Kook Jin Nim's, Hyung Jin Nim's and In Jin Nim's sincere and ultimately fruitful efforts to fight against kidnapping and deprogramming in Japan.

Many Sanctuarrians, including myself, strongly felt True Father's spirit, transforming what could have

been a dry academic conference into a lively rebuke to the Family Federation and Preston's Family Peace Association, which both control billions in resources and organizations that exist on a foundation that Father, along with many faithful brothers and sisters, built with his own blood, sweat and tears. The truth about Mother's determined actions to erase Father's words and anointed lineage is now part of the historical record for the whole world to see. Father's forthright and courageous spirit reveals itself in the words of his Teshinja/resident body, Hyung Jin Nim, every week and indeed, every day. In the long run, it is God's power, not money and organizations, that will be the true and lasting resource that will grow in the years and decades to come.

May God bless you and your families!

Sincerely,

Richard

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