

Moon and wife 'True Parents' but children suffered estrangement, tragedy _ and reality TV

The Associated Press
September 4, 2012



The late Rev. Sun Myung Moon, the Unification Church founder who died this week at 92, had 13 children with his second wife, Hak Ja Han Moon. He and his wife are revered by followers as the “True Parents,” but their children have suffered estrangements, deaths, suicide, lawsuits, public bickering, the airing of intimate secrets — and one reality TV show appearance. Here’s a look at some of the more prominent Moon children:

HYO-JIN MOON

The Moons’ eldest son, born in 1962. Hyo-jin reportedly died of a heart attack in 2008. He was a musician and producer and recorded more than a dozen albums, according to a church-affiliated website. His former wife, Nonsook Hong, claimed he was an alcoholic and drug addict who beat her, including while she was seven months pregnant with their fifth child. He was given huge amounts of cash by his mother that he used to buy cocaine and throw parties, Hong told the U.S. television news program “60 Minutes” in 1998. She said she was chosen by the Rev. Moon to marry Hyo-jin when she was 15.

HYUN-JIN PRESTON MOON

Preston, born in 1969, went to Columbia and Harvard Business School and twice competed in the Olympics for the South Korean equestrian team, according to the church-affiliated website. He played a leading role in church business and media interests, including the Washington Times newspaper, but he has also been involved in rifts with his siblings and parents. His company sued his mother’s missionary group in 2011, demanding the return of more than \$22 million the company claimed was sent without its consent to her group. A court ruled that the money was a loan but ordered it returned, the church said. Preston is still in charge of a church organization in the United States, Unification Church International, but church officials said they have asked him to leave the job.

HYUNG-JIN SEAN MOON

Harvard-educated Sean, born in New York in 1979, is the Moons’ youngest son and the church head. He practiced Buddhism when younger, shaving his head and wearing monastic robes, and said he turned to the religion after a brother died in what U.S. officials called a suicide. He said he worried about his father’s reaction to the religious decision but the Rev. Moon told followers not to criticize him. He titled a book of his essays, “A Bald Head and a Strawberry.” He was chosen to lead the church in 2008. He is more fluent in English than Korean, and many of his English sermons are designed to appeal to young followers.

KOOK-JIN JUSTIN MOON

Justin, 42, was the last of the children born in South Korea and also went to Harvard, the church website said. He runs the Tongil Group, the church's business arm, and owns U.S.-based gun manufacturer Kahr Arms.

YEON-JIN KAT MOON

Born in the United States, she is a graduate of New York University in journalism and economics, according to the church-affiliated website. She also briefly appeared on a TV reality show in the U.S., "Survival of the Richest," in 2006. Press reviews of the first episode reported her family fortune as \$989 million and said she claimed to suffer from "chronic boredom" — and that she was voted off the show by the other rich kids at the end of the first episode.

YOUNG-JIN MOON

The 21-year-old committed suicide in 1999 by jumping from the 17th floor of a hotel in downtown Reno, Nevada, local officials said. He had been visiting the University of Nevada campus and considering whether to study hotel management there or at home in Las Vegas, according to church officials interviewed at the time. Young-jin was said to not be heavily involved in the church. A church newsletter said his November 1997 wedding "set the stage for the blessing of 3.6 million couples worldwide."

HEUNG-JIN MOON

The 17-year-old died in 1984 when the car he was driving collided with a tractor-trailer in New York. He had been engaged to the prima ballerina daughter of Bo Hi Pak, the head of the church's Korean Cultural Foundation, and their wedding went ahead as planned despite his death. He was wed posthumously in a "spiritual" marriage to Julia Moon, a prominent figure in South Korea's arts scene.

UN-JIN MOON

Un-jin, another daughter, told "60 Minutes" in 1998 that she was estranged from her parents. When she told her parents that her husband beat her, they responded that she deserved it, she said. She also told the TV program that she knew Moon had at least one illegitimate son.

SUNG-JIN MOON

Sung-jin was born in 1946 to Rev. Moon and his first wife, Choi Sun-kil. He lives in Japan, according to church officials and a church defector, Lee Young-sun.