

The Reverend Sun Myung Moon And His Church

EXCERPTS FROM LETTERS OF PARENTS & FRIENDS

The Unification Church teaches and practices respect for the rights of others in their religious beliefs and practices. We only ask the same for ourselves in return. In this Bicentennial year, shouldn't we remind ourselves that this is what America is all about? In response to the urgings of many people who recognize the intolerance and prejudice of recent attacks against the Church, we are presenting the following excerpts from letters of persons who are not Unification Church members but who, as parents or friends of members, hold well informed opinions. We urge you to find out for yourself what it is in Reverend Moon's message that has inspired so many intelligent, creative young people to joyfully dedicate their lives to serve God and their fellow man.

The Unification Church has done a lot for our three children. The teachings of the Church have given them a positive direction in life. By studying the *Divine Principles*, they have learned the meaning and purpose of life. They have learned to actualize their teachings, applying them in their daily lives. This has helped to mold their characters, which is evidenced by their behavior in society. They have grown to be beautiful children, both academically and spiritually. My words do not do justice to the feelings we have for this wonderful organization.



Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Rechlis
California

Having neither particular love nor dislike for Reverend Moon, it strikes me as peculiar that no public outcry occurs when, for example 30,000 young people are being brainwashed by the University faculty to become asocial, antisocial, doperidden, dishevelled, dirty, promiscuous and bent on destroying our society!

When a number of them reverts to dynamiting and bombing this is considered merely a regrettable, but unavoidable aberration.

On the other hand, the clean-cut, courteous, decent looking young people whom I have observed as being members of Reverend Moon's society are for some reason considered most reprehensible! So much so, that special organizations, ... and 'deprogramming' is considered necessary.

Could it be that the 'Moonies' are interfering with the well laid plans of those who are turning American Youth towards the Left?

Mr. Charles Langdon
California

Besides being a parent of a four year member of this Church, I have also had a great deal of first hand experience with them and would like to contribute the following observations I have made about the Unification Church:

1. Moral practices are superior to any other group in my experience. The highest standards are taught by Rev. Moon.
2. Spiritual dedication is unparalleled.
3. The Church is trying to turn the United States to better practices and this may be more urgent than some think!
4. The *Divine Principle* (Church teachings) represents an historical landmark of theological analysis and revelation (whether we believe it all or not).

The Unification Church is strong, has substantial means, and member for member is the most dedicated group that I know of. The local levels and headquarters practices are almost unbelievable in religious commitment. They represent a small scale example of the ideal brother-sister relationships advocated by Jesus and the New Testament authors.

Mr. Fred B. Crist
Delaware

Our 21 year old son, Warren, has with our blessings and affirmative support been an active member of the Unification Church for two years. Typical of this age, as a University of Colorado freshman, Warren had little sense of purpose or goals and little regard for society or himself. Upon joining the Unification Church and understanding its principles, vague indifference was replaced by challenging purpose, drifting by productive leadership activity, sloth by the desire to favorably impress, unconcern by a desire to learn about contemporary problems and solutions. Happiness and personal fulfillment are his daily companions.

Mr. Leslie H. Deming
New York

PROTECT RELIGIOUS FREEDOM!

The following is taken from an unsolicited essay by Dr. T.S. Miyaday. The author is unknown to Unification Church officials but his thoughts are deeply appreciated.

Our country was originally settled by people from England who believed in the freedom of religion. Our federal and state constitutions guarantee that freedom. There are also statutory laws that prohibit religious discriminations. To every law-abiding American, the freedom to worship according to one's own belief is as precious as the freedom to express one's legitimate ideas.

The Rev. Sun Myung Moon, who has been busy spreading the Gospel according to his own religious belief, has become the object and victim of religious bigotry, parental selfishness, psychological headline hunters, and sensational journalism.

[Also,] there was and is an unmistakable sign of racial prejudice. This is regrettable and unfortunate since it originates from a source that is normally the loudest in denouncing racial prejudice aimed against its people. It is hoped that it was strictly individual or isolated in character, and not representative of the wonderful people that inhabit a large part of Metropolitan New York.

When a young bird has grown enough feathers, it leaves its nest. It is instinct. It is natural. When a son or daughter becomes old enough to be independent, he or she will leave home. If fathers and mothers will only look back into their own youthful days, they

will recall that they have also left their parent's house, and they should know that they should not deny to their adult children the same right they themselves had exercised earlier in their lives.

It is the consensus of knowledgeable people that the students and followers of the Unification Church are in good hands, and are well taken care of by the Rev. and Mrs. Moon. The atmosphere

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and the teachings are such that they will become good Christians and good citizens. In this modern troubled and confused world, we need more Christians, and even non-Christians, who can spread peace and good will among all mankind.

Generally speaking, most newspapers and other news media are very careful in their

reporting, and make reasonable effort to verify the source of their information. As a rule, they do not publish materials that are based on rumors or prejudiced opinions. There are, of course, exceptions to a general rule.

During the recent months, there were several sensational news media that published erroneous reports about Rev. Sun Myung Moon — reports that were based on rumors, wild psychological opinions, and the "say so" of a self-appointed protector of someone else's fully mature children. The publishing of harmful rumors with malice aforethought is bad. But to mix rumors, opinions, racial and religious prejudices, half-truths, and even untruths to create a journalistic "hash," and to present such a questionable product to the unsuspecting public is downright dishonest, and is criminal in nature.

The freedom of the press cannot abridge the freedom of religion and the right to worship according to one's belief. America is a Christian nation, and no person can be deported from the United States for preaching the Gospel no matter what any sensational tabloid or other self-appointed protector of someone else's adult children may say.

Dr. Thomas S. Miyaday
New Jersey



We are parents of a 25 year old daughter who has been a dedicated member of this church for two and one-half years and we know, first hand, of the positive and beneficial effects of their objectives and diverse worldwide programs.

Anyone with an open mind and a sincere desire to seek new truths would be spiritually impressed with the total and unselfish dedication of all those who are full-time members of the Unification Church.

If one is concerned about their religious credibility then only a brief observation of their programs and member participation would be sufficient to ascertain the most significant manifestations of any worthwhile religion — unselfish love and a total commitment to seeking God's will.

We do not believe all of their theology and philosophy. By the same token we do not embrace all the tenets of Catholicism or some other denominations but they certainly have the right to propagate and teach their theology. And the same right belongs to the Unification Church.

Mr. and Mrs. William James Calhoun
Alabama

My daughter, Lynn Doerfler Kim, [has been] a member of the Church for the last six years. I personally visited the Washington Center on two separate occasions, spending one day to two days there at each time. I met all of the people in the Center and found no evidence of any type of activities such as "brainwashing" or exploitation of youth. What I did find was a group of people dedicated to the work of God.

Two years ago Mrs. Doerfler and I visited our daughter in Seoul, Korea, where she was active in the mission activities of the Church. I met many of the leaders of the Church in Korea. I found them to be fine, dedicated people. They have religious beliefs that do not coincide with my personal religious beliefs, but then neither do the beliefs of the Mormon Church, the Unitarian Church, the Roman Catholic Church.

The Unification Church is dedicated to the love of God, to the sanctity of the family, to the avoidance of alcohol, drugs and illicit sexual activities. I must rate them on a very high scale.

Mr. Joseph H. Doerfler
Wisconsin



My husband and I are Presbyterians. Our son, Gilbert, has been a member of the Unification Church for about five years.

I was skeptical about the Unification Church until I had the opportunity to visit it recently. I have never seen a group of young people with higher morals or more dedicated to improving mankind. The opportunity of seeing so much consideration and love for one's fellow man is almost unheard of today. I am ashamed to say that so many of our so-called society of good church goers, both Catholic and Protestant, do not begin to live the real Christian life like this group of dedicated young people do. The change in our son has made us very happy.

Mrs. June Roschini
Florida



About six years [ago] my daughter decided to become a member. As a mother, naturally, I was quite concerned in the beginning. Rather than sit around at home and worry, I decided to learn all about it. I went to the Church Centers and listened to many lectures, attended services

and participated in the many activities of the Church. I did not depend on hearsay, rumors, news media for my information. I studied the books, pamphlets, [etc.] published by the Unification Church....The Church teaches the members to honor and respect their parents, grandparents and relatives....I have heard Reverend Moon speak three times on his Day of Hope tours, and have personally met him. I can say that I stood in awe with humility and deep gratitude to this great man.

Mrs. Shizuko Nishio
California



My home for a few days was the US Headquarters for the Church. I've never received so much genuine love and attention. The people there were truly wonderful to me. And I can truthfully say that the people I met there are everything we had hoped our young people would be. It is hard to believe God gave me a son that is such a fine person.

They (Unification Church members) are not hypocrites, or puppets, and they are not brainwashed. That is a bunch of hogwash. They really feel deeply about what they are doing and are dead serious that their cause is good. But most importantly, they are doing this out of their own free will and truest desire. They are not made to do anything against their will.

Mrs. Peggy Moffitt
Texas



I am the father of Marilyn Cohen and the father-in-law of Barry Cohen, two members in good standing of the Unification Church. Marilyn's mother, now deceased, was Jewish and I am Jewish as are both parents of my son-in-law, Barry.

I wish to point out that the "hate campaign" letters written by Rabbi Maurice Davis of White Plains, New York, are entirely without foundation.

Since Marilyn and Barry have joined the Unification Church they have both come to reach their full maturity and I think that the Unification Church has played an important part in this development.

Mr. Samuel W. Zell
Maryland

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I would like more information on the Unification Church. Please have the nearest local Unification Church representative contact me. I would like to know how to join the Unification Church. I appreciate your efforts to protect religious freedom. Here is my contribution to help pay for this ad.

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