

God's glory revealed in Israel: Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

RALLY FOR SHALOM, PEACE AND SALAAM

Peace Under One God: Mission of Peace & Reconciliation

by Rev. Michael Jenkins

Again we saw the power of God open up all gates and remove all walls and barriers every step of our journey on the 3rd pilgrimage to the Holy Land, October 22, 2003. This time not only were the sons of Abraham in the vanguard to bring liberty and reconciliation, but also representatives of the 7 former enemy nations that worked for 40 days in New York to establish the Abel UN also marched side by side through the old city of Jerusalem. Their presence together proclaimed that God's Kingdom is coming on the earth now that the internal causes of division between these nations have now been solved through the 40-day course which concluded with the rally

in Jerusalem.

Brothers and sisters from 7 nations walked directly under the guidance of our True Parents, marking a covenant with God here in the Holy Land in a rally where 2,000 gathered from Islam, Christianity and Judaism. In one of the most tense cities on earth, we proclaimed that peace is now inevitably coming to the Middle East because the sons of Abraham have experienced the love of God and also understand the call of True Parents to build true families and end the divisions of history.

Over 140 clergy, imams, and Blessed Central Families from the US came to the Holy Land. They were joined by over

260 brothers and sisters from Europe, Korea, and Japan, so our core group of over 400 Blessed Central Families, having gone through 40-day course, were united as one. Archbishop Stallings, Rev. Jesse Edwards, and many chairmen of the ACLC fearlessly returned to the Holy Land for the third time, pledging to God that with True Parents' love and guidance we will solve the problem of the Middle East.

We were also joined by Taj Ham-mad, Frank Kaufmann, Andrew Wil-son, Michael Mickler, and many others, each having prayed sincerely whether this really was their time to come here. Many had to consider the fact

that just days earlier there was an attack on American citizens which claimed three lives in Gaza, the same area that we traveled to one month earlier, and the very place where we traveled again today. Because of that reality, many did not come with us on this journey.

Some of those who did come because they felt the call of God were still nervous and concerned, yet with our opening night of prayer in which Archbishop Stallings preached the word of God, the atmosphere became one of feeling God's anointing and Holy Spirit all around us. Rev. Jenkins also brought a message calling on everyone to be clear in their minds about their decision. He said, we cannot guarantee anyone's safety here. We are in a spiritu-

al war, the outcome of which determines how quickly God's Kingdom

see **GLORY** on page 12



NEW FUTURE PHOTO

Let Us Perfect the Peace Kingdom

This was the Keynote Address given at the Inaugural Assembly of the Headquarters of the Interreligious and International Peace Council (IIPC), October 15, 2003, Seoul, Korea.

Wherever we look today—ahead or behind, left or right, to the east or west, south or north—we see a world of hopelessness filled with war and disease, racial conflict and religious struggle, and immorality and corruption. With more than 200 countries, large and small, scattered across the five oceans and six continents of the world, and struggling against each other, which country could possibly solve the problems humanity faces today? What has happened to the United Nations, which set out some fifty years ago as a model for peaceful world governance? It has become a forum only for people suffering from extreme selfishness who are slaves to political power relationships and are frantically pursuing the interests of their own countries. It has become so crippled that it is incapable of taking even one step forward. It is not just incapable of bringing about world peace; the United Nations can neither present solutions nor offer hope in response to the totally unpredictable situations confronting the world today.

Ladies and gentlemen, as I stand here today, my heart is filled with excitement and inspiration. Let us all first give thanks to God. A new day of hope is dawning for humanity. The dawning of the peaceful *Cheon Il Guk* (God's Kingdom) where His grace and love will shine on all the world, is being announced with a great cry that is shaking the Earth to its core. Today, I would like to convey to you one part of God's Word for all people living in this age, by speaking on the topic, "Let Us Perfect the Peace Kingdom through the Peace United Nations."

Meeting Point of Good and Evil

Over six billion people are living in the world today, but no one has clear knowledge about the origin of humankind. History began through some indistinct process—whether it was good or bad, we don't know. That history has continued to the point where today the world's population exceeds six billion. Since the origin and process are unclear, the end can only be unclear as well. Thus, in the world today, we see continuous disorder and confusion. If humanity had found the correct path in the beginning, we would have traveled on a

one-way path to the Kingdom of God on earth and in heaven, without any confusion or disorder. The fate of humankind, after losing sight of this one-way path as a result of the Fall, however, has been to drift down the river of history as something good at times while evil at other times, rising at times while falling at other times.

Why would a path that human beings traveled in goodness suddenly start to go downhill? We did not want to go downhill, yet went down nevertheless. This is the issue. We wanted goodness to continue, but we went down. Why would goodness decline? When human life violates the absolute, fundamental principles of goodness, it will deteriorate. What does this mean? It indicates an intersection of good and evil. All kings and presidents in this world live without any knowledge of when their sovereignty will rise or fall. All sovereigns want things to be good forever. Any sovereign who is not in harmony with or aligned with the standard of true goodness, however, will certainly be defeated and perish.

Who, then, is in charge of good and evil? We know that even the most powerful royal dynasty cannot influence good and evil by its supremacy. In other words, no sovereign, on his or her own, can adjust good and evil according to his or her own wishes. We cannot deny that good and evil are determined by some unseen power lying in the background.

Each nation has its own laws. National laws exist to establish goodness. Each nation's constitution was enacted for the purpose of safeguarding goodness, and there are no laws that were established for the purpose of destroying goodness. That is why anyone who breaks a nation's laws is sent to prison. The problem, though, is that in any given country the standard of goodness can be applied incorrectly, depending on the temperament of the sovereign.

That is the reason that humankind has always languished at the crossroads of two paths until this day, with one path leading to prosperity and the other to ruin.

Human beings have a dual structure. The mind is a "positive" (plus) standing on the side of Heaven, and the body is a "negative" (minus) standing on the side of Satan. Mind and body were originally intended to form a complete oneness automatically, but this did not happen because of the Fall of our original ancestors. Instead, the body attempted to take the position of another positive, and this brought mind and body into mutual contradiction. Ultimately, this led to Satan conquering the human body. By means of the Fall, Satan took the bond of love, connected humanity to the satanic lineage, and let human beings multiply themselves. This is the problem. This struggle between mind and body has become a chronic ailment more terrible than cancer or AIDS. That is why we must, no matter what the cost, push the body back into the position of negative. By the law of the universe, poles with the same charge repel each other. When a pair of subject and object partners forms a complete oneness, however, they receive heavenly fortune and the universe automatically protects them.

If there is an absolute subject entity, an absolutely objective entity that is a partner to that subject entity, will come into being. This can be seen in the course of my life. America and the entire world stood in opposition to my life as absolute subject, which began when I received Heaven's command. Yet, the side that struck the absolute subject eventually became the negative realm and was absorbed. This is because anyone who receives opposition while standing on the side of goodness is protected by his or her surroundings, that is, the universe. It is because I knew this principle with certainty that I was

able to fight and win in the struggles involving individuals, the struggles involving nations, and the struggles involving the world. We see in history that God always proceeded in the direction consistent with fundamental principles, that is, toward the purpose of true love, but that the Devil has used forces opposed to this to establish himself as a destructive enemy power. Satan struck the first blow by causing the first human ancestors to commit the Fall, and he has come to control families, tribes, nations, and the world. The first people to go to hell were the first ancestors of humanity, Adam and Eve. They could not enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Please understand that the created world first came to be occupied by the satanic realm.

What, then, is the Devil? He is a being that attempts

to take God's people, make them his own and control them. He is a shameless criminal that kidnapped someone else's child, turned that child into his own, and then tried to claim legitimate ownership of that child. Now he is worried that all his sin may be exposed and that he will lose everything, so he sits blocking the plans for the future that God, the author of Creation, is being led by His conscience to carry out. In so doing he is blocking the liberation of God and humanity. He has occupied the bodies of all human beings, and has completely spoiled love, which God considers of such importance that He treats it as His first ideal. The free sex that you see in the world today is an example of this. The Devil creates confusion on the path of love, and prevents us from exercising total control over our consciences. These are two of Satan's strategies and tactics.

Ladies and gentlemen, free sex is Satan's trap. People in the world who have a lot of money are falling into the trap Satan dug for them because of their riches. These people enjoy sensual pleasures, but they are dying. To establish his defensive line, Satan gives material blessings to evil people, so that they can never escape from the quagmire of moral decadence. You need to understand that alcohol, tobacco, drug abuse and free sex are Satan's four main weapons. Satan uses these to put people into a stupor of carnal satisfaction, and then he has them board the train to hell. This is the reason I teach that people must stop this tragic advance into hell, become true people who are not accused by their own consciences, and return to the life of true love. This is the only way that people can make their mind and body one and board the train to heaven.

Despite indescribable opposition and persecution, I have lived my life of more than 80 years walking the path of sacrifice, at times at the risk of death, to realize peace through the recovery of true love. I have never faltered, not even for a moment. Even when Satan threatened to kill me, I maintained an absolute "plus" position and overcame everything. This made it possible for me to acquire the absolute "minus." In a word, it has been a life of following the original fundamental principles of Creation.

The Absolute Necessity of True Parents

I have lived according to the fundamental laws of the universe. I am a single-minded man who has walked Heaven's path, absolutely refusing to compromise even in the midst of the worst hardship and adversity. I could do this, because I knew for a certainty from the outset that when I have followed this path to the position of the victor, God and all of creation will greet me with joyful cheers.

Satan has always mocked Heaven and me, and boasted of his domain of power: "My weapons will never rust. Even the omniscient and omnipotent Creator God cannot defeat me in this fight. See how the side that is focused on the body completely tramples the conscience. Love has been completely degraded, just as I planned. Has this

C A L E N D A R

NOVEMBER 2003

- 3 Daemo-nim's Ascension (1989)
- 5 True Children's Day (10/1/60)
- 8 Shin Sun Nim's Birthday (10/4/90)
- 10 Shin Hoon Nim's Birthday (10/6/94)
- 11 Yun Ah Nim's Birthday (10/7/78)
- 18 Shin Ha Nim's Birthday (10/14/98)
- Shin Chool Nim's Birthday (10/14/99)
- 22 Jin Whi Nim's Birthday (10/18/63)
- Shin Young Nim's Birthday (10/18/86)
- 23 Tiempos Del Mundo Established (1996)
- 27 Heung Jin Nim's Birthday (10/23/66)
- 28 Hye Shin Nim's Birthday (1963)
- 29 3.6 Million & 36 Million Couples' Blessing (1997)

DECEMBER 2003

- 1 Declaration of the Opening of the Gate for the Blessing of the Spiritual World (1997)
- 4 Opening of Columbia Road Church (1977)
- 14 Shin Pyung Nim's Birthday (11/11/96)
- 18 Summit Council for World Peace Inaugurated (1981)
- 22 35 Previously Married Couples' Blessing (1976)
- 26 Un Jin Nim's Birthday (11/23/67)

FOUNDER'S DISCOURSE ON UNIFICATIONISM

Through the Peace United Nations

not become a world of fun, where grandfathers pair with granddaughters and sons with mothers? How can such a world of evil ever be reestablished as God's ideal world? Who could accomplish such a task?"

God, though, has shouted back in this way: "Just a moment, Satan! Isn't it true that through the active work of Rev. Moon, the True Parent, true love's realm of influence in the earthly world is increasing? The True Parent is the owner of true love. He is the king of true love. Satan, is it not true that you are helpless in the presence of true love?"

Ladies and gentlemen, how are we to restore true love? This is the responsibility of the True Parent. The True Parent must establish the original world where the conscience is always victorious, that is, the world of absolute goodness that is most treasured by humanity. The secret for accomplishing this is simple. When faced with True Parents, true love, true life, and true lineage, the false parent, Satan, is completely helpless, no matter how much he may kick and struggle. To align ourselves completely with God's Will, God and human beings must form eternal relationships as subject and object partners, centered on true love. Satan has no way to wedge himself into such eternal relationships. When you begin to live by altruistic, true love, you will receive the Holy Marriage Blessing and be connected to the true lineage. Then your eternal life will be assured. True love, true life, and true lineage will expand eternally through your descendants. True Parents are absolutely necessary in this process.

All people without exception are descended from the Fall. As a result of the Fall, we have become like those whose eyes look normal but who are actually blind. Can the blind save the blind? Someone sent directly by God must come. This person must be someone who stands in a position unrelated to the Fall, closely examines the world, and has the ability to save humanity from the path of death. I have come in that precise position. God sent me with His seal of approval as the Savior of humanity, the Messiah, the returning Lord, and the True Parent. Humanity needs only to restore the absolute realm of the conscience by following the teachings of the True Parent. Then, absolute ownership will also be recovered. The realms of absolute love, absolute life, and absolute lineage will also be recovered.

You must first find the path leading to oneness with God. How is this possible? Where does the foundation of love for the sake of others originate? It originates with your love organ. Your reproductive organ is your palace of love, palace of life, and palace of lineage. Until now, humanity has lived without knowing the truth that it is through the love organ that bonds of life are created, love is realized, and the connection of lineage is established. Now we see that no truth is more precious than this. Satan has controlled humankind for thousands and tens of thousands of years by means of the reproductive organ. He turned things

around 180 degrees in order to bring about the human Fall. If the Fall had not occurred, there would be no need for such words as "Savior," "Messiah," "Lord of the Second Advent," and "True Parent." Because the True Parents of humankind have returned to this earth, humanity can now be liberated from Satan's yoke. It has become possible to recover all that was lost through the Fall. Through the original mind, it has become possible to recover the original value of human beings. We can accomplish a worldwide realm of absolute goodness that will not tilt toward Satan ever again.

Become Tribal Messiahs

What does the True Parents' realm of victory mean? It means that complete victory has been achieved in the fight against Satan. Victory was achieved in the realm of individuals. There was victory on the level of families. Complete victory was achieved on the level of tribes, societies, nations, and the world. It was a steep path that was never easy. I overcame every difficulty and won the victory however, and on January 13, 2001, I dedicated to Heaven "The Coronation Ceremony for the Kingship of God," which accomplished the miracle of liberating even God. On the world level, I am also the one who is rooting out communism and pouring life into Christianity in America. This is a part of the True Parent's responsibility. The True Parent forgives with true love and embraces even the collapsed communist countries. I am liberating and pouring life into the communist realm.

Ladies and gentlemen, beginning some ten years ago, I have been commanding all blessed families to become tribal messiahs. This means they must become the new ancestors of their tribes. All your ancestors throughout history have cherished the hope and earnest desire for tribal messiahs. The True Parents who have won all the victories as the Messiah of humankind bequeath to you their foundation, and on this foundation you must become victorious messiahs on the tribal level. Families that have received the holy marriage blessing from me and have

joined the ranks of blessed families must now become leaders who guide the world and saviors who save humanity as tribal messiahs. You must become devoted children and patriots that erase the grief of God, who has been waiting for this time for thousands and tens of thousands of years. You will work in all countries of the world as the vanguard, expanding the realm of victory gained by True Parents, who have been victorious over Satan's vicious opposition and persecution and have now

Refugees

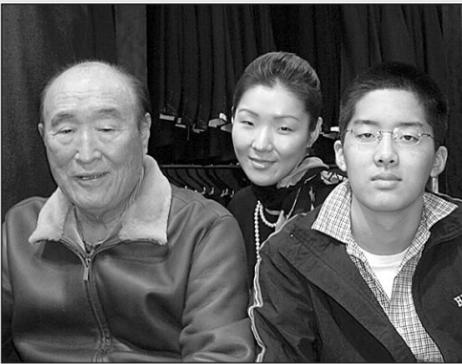
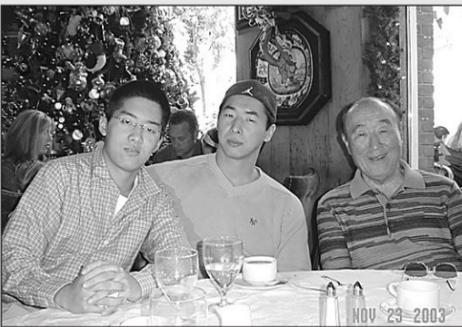
Ladies and gentlemen, humanity is in a position of having to recover its homeland. A person who temporarily leaves his homeland can return, but a person who has lost his homeland cannot return whenever he chooses. At the moment that history began, we lost our homeland. We were expelled and have lived as nomads. We have not been in a position to return, and we have not even known the way back. So we have lived as wanderers without a home-

land, roaming aimlessly for thousands of years. Those who came alone from North Korea as refugees and now live as people without a homeland will know this mortifying and weary life. All your friends, siblings, and even your parents were taken from you. You know your homeland exists, but it is not a homeland that you can go to anytime you choose. You don't even know the way there. People in this position must carry on their lives under extreme circumstances. It is a position of extreme sadness, where you must start from point zero and build a new life for yourself without the benefit of any foundation. Even if you have the good fortune to become rich and become prominent in society during your life as a refugee, nothing can take away the sad longing, deep in your heart, to return to your homeland.

In the same way, people who have become lonely orphans as a result of the Fall, committed by the original ancestors, have lived until now in the pitiful position of people who have lost their homeland. God, who is the owner of our homeland, solemnly waits for our return, but until now we have lived without even the desire to return. We have become such a shameful sight that we dare not even lift our heads before heaven and earth. During

the course of the world's population expanding to more than six billion, people have experienced such misery in their lives as to be unable to discern night from day. The feeling in God's heart must surely leave Him unable to speak as He looks upon the distress His children are in. When a child meets with tragedy, no one feels more sorrow and pain than the parents. God created us as His children.

see **PERFECT** on page 4



True Family Photos

November 22, 2003

by Won Ju McDevitt



bequeathed everything to you. You will liberate the world and establish it anew before Heaven. In relation to the Messiah of humankind, a tribal messiah is like a branch growing from the main trunk. When leaves sprout, blossoms bloom, and fruit ripens on these branch messiahs, that fruit will possess 100 percent of the value of the original Messiah. You will advance into the realm of protection, where good spirits can protect you.

PERFECT from page 3

What, then, is God's heartfelt desire? It is to liberate His children by any means possible, so they can find their way back to their homeland. Religion is God's strategy to open this way. Through religious movements, He laid a foundation so that we could return to the homeland together, transcending our various environments, languages, cultures, ethnic backgrounds, ideologies, systems, and philosophies. He has countless times come to see the situations in which each of you lives. He waits anxiously for the day when you can return to your homeland.

You must understand that God is the vertical True Parent who has conducted His providence in ways that were appropriate to each historical period and culture. He did not do all this for the benefit of any particular religious body or any particular country. It was a manifestation of God's true love for the sake of your liberation. It was an effort to lay a bridge that would allow you to return to your homeland in freedom. So please remember that you each stand in the position of representing not only your families but also your country and all of humanity, and even all your ancestors in spiritual world and all the descendants who will be born in the future. We must achieve this precious, liberated state and fulfill our responsibilities before Heaven and humankind.

We have such longing for our homeland, because there is love there that exists for our sakes. The love of our mother and father, of our older brother and sister and of our younger siblings, the love of our wife and children and of our relatives can be found everywhere in the homeland. In the homeland, all these relationships and bonds are connected in altruistic love; we want to embrace them all at once. The traveler who yearns for his homeland longs to return home as a proud liberated person, so that he can embrace the mountains, rivers, grass, and trees, give love to his family and relatives, and sing joyous songs. Having been vanquished and expelled from the homeland, and having lost the connection of heart rooted in their homeland, people have been unable to return and have been doomed to wander through eternity on a lonely path until eventually going to hell. Now, however, we can be liberated, and the path to the homeland that we can never forget, even in our dreams, has been cleared. This is surely the day of greatest blessing for humanity. You are going to recover the homeland lost by Adam and Eve.

Four Generations in Harmony

When you go to your homeland, you do so in the position of the perfected Adam, the perfected Jesus, and in the position of a representative of the returning Lord. God will reside in your family. The four generations of grandparents, parents, children, and grandchildren will live together in harmony. The grandfather must be attended as the ancestral root. The root of history lives in such a family, and the root of the heavenly kingdom extends itself

into such a family. This would be a family where the Kingdom of God on earth has taken root. Also, the root of the kingship that will continue forever will be put down in such a family. The roots of the past, present, and future are represented by the grandparents, parents, and grandchildren, respectively. The root of the past represents the spirit world, the root of the present is a palace representing the present world, and the root of the future will establish the grandchildren as princes and princesses living in a palace of peace representing the two worlds—that is, the spirit world and physical world. The mission of the tribal messiah is to establish the families of God's kingdom of Cheon Il Guk, where four generations—grandparents, parents, children, and the children's children—live as one family that is attending the eternal God. This is also God's heartfelt desire. The mission is to establish families that God, if He were to go to another land, would want to return to. It is to prepare families where God can feel comfortable visiting anytime, just as a parent would visit the home of a child. That is a life of service to God. In such a family, God becomes, vertically, the subject being of conscience. Your own mind will follow this vertical

the wife's reproductive organ, and the wife is the owner of the husband's reproductive organ. If they are to establish themselves as each other's owner, they each must stand centering on a love that is for the sake of their partner. It is to obtain this position of ownership that people marry. For what purpose, then, do we want to obtain the position of owner? It is to use that position to occupy God. God is the subject being of the three great loves. As the owner of the cosmos, He is the teacher of true love, owner of true love, and parent of true love. These are the true "three great subject ideas." All these teachings and truths will be realized centering on the lives of true families. When they are expanded, societies, nations, and even the world and cosmos can be changed to form the Peace Kingdom.

The tribal messiah who returns to his or her homeland must have an imposing and resolute demeanor. There can be no complaining. It is our destiny to go this way, even if we must go weeping bitterly. Those who understand the circumstances of the Father—how for thousands and tens of thousands of years He waited with a heart filled with grief for the loss of His children—cannot travel this path without shedding tears. Your steps, as you go

so He finally sent me to correct these things and to tear down the barriers of war and conflict for all eternity. In doing so, He gave me the qualification to be the Savior, Messiah, returning Lord and True Parent who appears in the world as the substantial body of God Himself. Recently, God Himself sent me a letter in which He comforted me on my difficult life and offered me encouragement. In addition, many people in spirit world, including the five great saints, many prophets and kings who appeared in the course of history, and even notorious murderers such as Hitler and reprehensible Communists such as Stalin and Lenin have received my teachings, repented, and sent me letters expressing gratitude.

Looking back on my life, I can say that humankind, which should have properly attended and served the True Parent, Rev. Moon, with absolute faith, absolute love, and absolute obedience, instead made him go through a wilderness course lasting some eighty years, interspersed with persecution and suffering. I am not the type of person who would ever let such things discourage me or make me give up, however. If I were, God would never have sent me to earth as His representative. As I clawed my way through indescribable suffering and adversity, I never once reproached God or turned away from my mission. I always worked for the ultimate fulfillment of God's Will. You who do not know Heaven's providence have probably lived your lives only for the purpose of fulfilling your own desires. By contrast, I have lived my life in accordance with Heaven's Will and as a public person of the cosmos. Without the slightest deviation, I have lived by practicing the true love of a True Parent so as to gain victory in the course of indemnity needed for the salvation of humankind.

Respected and distinguished guests, humanity has now entered a historical realm when we only need to focus on the future and march forward forcefully with hearts filled with hope and desire. We have seen the birth of the "Abel-type United Nations," which will lay bare the unreasonableness and the absurdities of the existing UN and provide fundamental solutions to the various problems facing humanity today. On October 3, more than 1,500 leaders

from around the world who follow my vision gathered in New York City, and accomplished the founding of this historic and providential "Abel United Nations."

An Abel UN is a Peace UN

It is already 38 years since I met former United States president Dwight D. Eisenhower and explained to him the necessity for an Abel United Nations. Because of the ignorance of those in charge who could not understand the significance of the hour, the fulfillment of that aspect of the providence was delayed until today. Now, Heaven can wait no longer. This year, by the demands of the providence, many righteous people who follow me made a stand to rid themselves of their enmity for each

see **PERFECT** on page 5

True Parents at East Garden

November 19, 2003
Photos by Rev. Ken Doo



subject being and bring your mind and body into unity as your own vertical subject being. In this situation, parental love, conjugal love, children's love, and sibling love—that is, the four great realms of love, or four great realms of the heart—will be perfected. This is how a family must be in order to exist eternally through continuous spherical movement connecting up and down, front and back, and left and right as one.

Ladies and gentlemen, why is it necessary to marry? We marry in order to obtain the position of owner. A man or woman alone can only be half a person. That is how it works in God's Creation. That is why God separated the ownership and placement of the reproductive organs, which are the love organs. The husband is the owner of

to plant the seeds of love, must be filled with hope. Once these seeds of true love are planted, no one will be able to steal them. They are the seeds of the heart of true love. The families and countries where these seeds sprout will remain forever in God's possession: those families will become distinguished families of Heaven producing God's representatives generation after generation, and those countries will become great nations under Heaven.

Fruition in the Providence

Ladies and gentlemen, we have come to a providential time of great urgency when God's providence for human salvation must be brought to a conclusion. God's heart and love for humanity has been the heart of a parent who loves a child. God could not ignore the immorality and wickedness of this world,

Central Focus on the Middle East Peace Initiative

by Rev. Dr. Chung Hwan Kwak

On the foundation of the establishment of the Interreligious and International Peace Council, or "Peace UN," and the series of pilgrimages and rallies in the Holy Land, Father has recently given direction for a major, providential mobilization related to the Middle East Peace Initiative. Father has asked that, centering on December 22, as an Interreligious and International Day of Prayer for Peace in the Middle East, 3 million people from around the world gather, primarily in Israel and Palestine, but also in regions and nations around the world, for the sake of peace in the Middle East and the world. To successfully fulfill this direction, we will need a unified effort from our entire movement and all Ambassadors for Peace. Of course, we will also need the support and cooperation from the Israeli government.

The primary sponsor of this event is the IIPC, as the principal project of IIFWP International. Co-sponsors will include the American Clergy Leadership Conference, Women's Federation for World Peace, United Press International Foundation, Youth Federation for World Peace, and many other NGOs from around the world.

Father appointed Rev. Kwak as the Chairman. Under Rev. Kwak there will be an Executive Committee led by Dr. Sun Jo Hwang, Dr. Chang Shik Yang and Mr. D. M. Douglas Joo, with each taking central leadership responsibility for a key aspect of the events. In particular, Dr. Hwang is overall responsible for international mobilization, Dr. Yang for the rally. In addition, all IIFWP Regional Chairs, as well as Dr. Abe, are serving as Senior Advisors.

Dr. Thomas Walsh and Rev. Michael Jenkins will direct the Steering Com-

mittee that includes Mr. James Flynn, Mr. Taj Hamad, Dr. Frank Kaufmann, Mrs. Karen Judd Smith, Mr. Shunichiro Yoshida, Mr. Hod Ben Zvi, IIFWP's Secretary General in Israel, and others.

In terms of mobilization, Korea, Japan, America, Europe and the Middle East are each asked to mobilize as

ly the youth, to attend this emergency peace effort. The world's future is at stake, and we can make a difference.

In addition to the main rally in Israel, each nation is asked to hold a large rally on December 22, including a candlelight vigil, as part of the Interreligious and International Day of Prayer

to address the root causes of conflict in the Middle East and to outline a path to peace that builds on the vision, strengths and methods of Father's teachings and practice. This Symposium will involve 120 participants, with 80 coming from the Middle East, and an additional 40 from around the world.

Finally, beginning in the first week of December, an advance team and task force will assemble in Israel to lay the groundwork for the rally. This team will include 120 of our core members and committed Ambassadors for Peace. The advance work will include meeting religious leaders, political leaders, scholars, media, etc., throughout Israel, and promoting the rally and the Middle East Peace Initiative. This team will also focus on all necessary preparations for a successful rally. We are asking that our core members and Ambassadors for Peace apply/volunteer to be a part of this special task force and arrive in Israel by December 1.

Please begin to prepare to support this effort of the newly launched IIPC or Peace UN. This initiative will establish the unique contribution of Father's teaching and movement to bringing practical results to this region of such long-standing heartache for God and humanity.

We are in the final stages of God's providence and the resolution of the problems in the Middle East will unlock the way to world peace and will awaken the world to our Father's mission and true value. Please pray, and take action. If you receive any special inspiration, insight or suggestion related to this mobilization, do not hesitate to share this. Meanwhile, many updates and follow-up communications will be sent out in the near future as plans are put in place, policies clarified, etc., for the Middle East Peace Initiative. ❖

True Parents in Korea: Teo Ham Mountain, and Kyong Joo Bul Gook Temple

November 16, 2003
Photos by Won Ju McDevitt



many volunteers and participants as possible. In some cases, planes, busses, even boats will need to be chartered, rather than relying on traditional commercial airline schedules. Volunteers from all nations are also invited, as our goal is to have every nation represented. Please do not only think of adult individuals. Encourage married couples and entire families, and especial-

ly the youth, to attend this emergency peace effort. The world's future is at stake, and we can make a difference. In addition to the main rally in Israel, each nation is asked to hold a large rally on December 22, including a candlelight vigil, as part of the Interreligious and International Day of Prayer

for Peace in the Middle East. Part of our mission is to gather 3 million signatures from persons who affirm the ideals of the IIPC. Countries will be able to connect to the central rally in Israel through high-speed internet broadcast and satellite downlink.

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other. Religious leaders who had previously refused even to sit down together—Jewish clergy representing the First Israel, Middle Eastern clergy representing Islam, and American clergy representing Christianity—gathered in Jerusalem. These traditional enemies took each other by the hand and announced the Jerusalem Declaration. Next, a large number of religious leaders from across religious boundaries gathered in Washington, D.C., the capital of the United States, which represents Christianity, the realm of the Second Israel. These religious leaders proclaimed a resolution from the earthly world in response to the resolution adopted by many leaders—including the five great saints—in the spirit world. On the basis of these declarations in Jerusalem and Washington, a third declaration, the Seoul Peace Declaration, was adopted in Seoul, Korea, on August 15 and announced to the world by its Jewish, Islamic, and Christian clergy signatories. Please bear in mind that these steps were the providential preparations for the founding of the Abel United Nations.

"Abel United Nations" means "Peace

United Nations." The existing United Nations is a Cain-type United Nations, a United Nations of strife. In contrast, the Abel United Nations will be a structure that guarantees world peace. This is nothing less than the most revolutionary and wondrous event to happen since God created humankind. Now the world will begin to change rapidly. More than 120 billion blessed couples on the side of goodness in the spirit world have been mobilized. On earth, tens of thousands of Ambassadors for Peace and millions of other leaders around the world are carrying the torch of the Peace United Nations.

Humanity now has the responsibility to work through the Peace United Nations to build, on the earth, the Peace Kingdom that God and all people have longed for. Attending God as our King, and, aligned internally on Cheon Il Guk and externally on the Nation of the Fourth Israel, it is our responsibility to build a world of peace that represents both the spiritual and earthly realms and that transcends religions and nations.

The Peace UN

I want to make it clear to all the world that I will gladly transfer to the control of the Peace United Nations the entire foundation that I have built with blood, sweat, and tears over more than eighty years. To begin with, the Family Fed-

eration, which now has missions in 191 countries, and dozens of other groups and organizations founded by me will be placed under the control of the Peace United Nations. All media organs, including the *Washington Times* and *United Press International* (UPI) in the United States, the *Middle East Times* in the Middle East, *Tiempos del Mundo* in Central and South America, *Segye Ilbo* in Korea, and *Sekai Nippo* in Japan, will promote the work of the Peace United Nations. Moreover, Sun Moon University in Korea, the University of Bridgeport in the United States, Sunhwa (Little Angels) Middle and High School, Sunjung Girls Middle and High School and other educational institutions will be dedicated to the purpose of educating leaders capable of carrying out the lofty purposes of the Peace United Nations. In the area of sports, too, the Ilhwa Cheonma Soccer Team that has become the premier team in the Republic of Korea, and Sorocaba and CENE, which have become prominent professional football teams in Brazil, will dedicate their energies to the same purpose.

Ladies and gentlemen, I have no lingering attachments to this world. I received Heaven's command as a young man of 15, and I have pursued this throughout my life until now, when I

am more than 80 years old. I will spare no effort in dedicating the remaining years of my life to God and to fulfill the heavenly mandate. Working through the Peace United Nations, I will without fail resolve God's anguish and build God's Kingdom of freedom, peace, unity, and happiness based on true love, on earth and in heaven.

Distinguished guests, please, even now, open the gates to your hearts and receive your calling from Heaven with a spirit of one heart, one body, and one mindset with God. Follow the tradition of the True Parents to practice the life of a true teacher, true owner, and true parent. This path will lead to your becoming representatives and heirs of Heaven and True Parents. It is the path and mission of true love that builds the Peace Kingdom.

Distinguished guests, I pray that Heaven's great blessings will be upon your journey as you precious place deep within your hearts the bond created today by our sharing these wonderful words of Heaven, and that from this time forward you will pioneer a life that is on a new and higher level. With this thought, I will now have my prayer of report read by a representative and offer this gathering before Heaven. ❖

Inaugural Meeting of the Middle East Interreligious and International Regional Peace Council (MERPC)

by Dr. Frank Kaufmann

On September 22, 2003, approximately 40 key leaders from the Middle East (predominantly from Israel) gathered for a ceremonial launch of the Middle East Regional Peace Council (MERPC). The event transpired in the context of a crowded day of interfaith and peace activities. All participants present were active throughout the day's events. These included the historic and miraculous "Peace Under One God, Jerusalem Peace Walk," a symposium for harmony among the faiths in the family of Abraham, and an evening banquet and celebration of multi-faith song, dance, and testimonials. The MERPC inaugural occurred simultaneously with the interfaith symposium.

The Middle East has a number of distinct challenges to function as a "region" due to the unusually intense hostilities among many of the nations in the region. The geopolitical reality makes it virtually impossible for peace-seekers from diverse nations to gather together to share, to learn, to mutually educate, and to work together for common cause. No one nation in the region can serve as an ideal venue for such peace pursuits, since residents from some countries are always forbidden to travel to others. Due to the convenience and benefit of associating

with a wonderful interreligious and international event for peace (the Peace Walk, and the symposium), the inaugural for the MERPC transpired in Israel. For the council to function legitimately, regional meetings will have to occur in all countries of the region, and ultimately solutions must be found to the dissolving the calcified and debilitating postures, which keep the nations of the region so radically apart.



To accommodate this current obstacle we solicited and received statements from several countries in the region, (Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan in particular) which are to stand formally in the record of this inaugural meeting, and so that the seminal moments of this regional Peace Council can be defined as having greater integrity than would come from convening just the important peacemakers who could by serendipity, be present at the time of the meeting.

Two other documents were confirmed for the council. Dr. Frank Kaufmann chaired the meeting, and functioned as its moderator. Dr. Kaufmann used his brief speaking time to give an historical background on the evolution of regional councils, as well as to help veterans of IIFWP grasp how this emerging effort is distinct from extant efforts, which bear similar vision and purpose. Speakers on the dais included, Reverend Hee Sun Ji (IIFWP regional coordinator), Reverend Masatoshi Abe (IIFWP representative for Israel), Professor Eliezer Glaubach (Former City Councilman for the City of Jerusalem), Imam Haitham Bundakji (President and Imam of the Islamic Center of Passaic County, CA), and Rabbi Moshe Chen of

Jerusalem, and Archimandrite Abuna Hatoum of Nazareth. These particular individuals were chosen as presenters for this session for two reasons: 1. Their longstanding involvement, commitment, and understanding of the mission and vision of the IIFWP, and 2. The fact that they represent the three major faiths of the region, which must ultimately must harmonize and take the lead in restoring peace and loving relations in the region. In addition to the representatives of the three predominant religions in the region, remarks were also delivered by IIFWP president Sheikh Ali Bihrani of the Druze faith (a central faith to the region, but one often overlooked despite its significance both spiritually and politically in Middle Eastern affairs).

Following the remarks of the moderator, as well as the designated presenters representing the faiths of the region, many participants added their commentary, encouragement and advice. Several of these speakers are long time associates and contributors to the international, peace work of the IIFWP, as well as individuals who occupy prominent and influential positions in society. Elected officials, ambassadors, ministers in the government, as well as religious and spiritual leaders all contributed in substantial ways to the deliberations marking this inaugural meeting.

At the time of this writing, ongoing work for the MER IIPC, is ongoing in the US, Israel, and in a harmonious, peace team of major Arab nations. ❖

ACLIC Chicago Prayer Breakfast

by Rev. Bruce Sutchar

A great man puts a system into place that will operate successfully even without his personal presence. This will multiply his greatness far beyond his own ability to perform a given task. Thus is the case with the Chicago monthly prayer breakfast. Going on nearly 4 years of history, every month the Chicago ACLC ministerial alliance gathers at a Chicago area church in order to worship the Lord and connect to True Parents providence. Every month a different minister offers to host the breakfast and more and more every month, the ministers themselves invite new guests to the breakfast.

November's prayer breakfast on the 18th was held in the brand new church (the Inspired Body of Christ) of Rev. T.C. Raven. This was the very first prayer breakfast that Rev. Raven has hosted. Rev. Raven is a student and disciple of our dear and long time friend, the Rev. LeRoy Elliott, who has stood up for our True Parents on so many occasions. Throughout his ministry, Rev. Raven and his congregation were loved and cared for by Mrs. Reiko



Jenkins, and even this morning, so many of the church's membership asked about the health and well being of Mrs. Jenkins. Finally the members gathered in the kitchen of the church and left Mrs. Jenkins a long and detailed message of love from Chicago.

As each prayer breakfast is always unique, today's was no exception. First of all, Bishop Ki Hoon Kim is still recovering from the viruses that he picked up from his recent journey to his national Messiah nation of Guinea Bissau in Africa. But due to Bishop Kim's guidance and leadership, the show did go on. Rev. Bennie Owens

kicked off the event as the ablest of co-convenors of the ACLC in Chicago. Rev. Owens is a veteran of two of this years trips to Israel and she is the constant support of Chicago ACLC Chairman, Dr. A. (always on time!) Harold White. Dr. Paul Swanson offered a beautiful (as always) invocation.

A beautiful breakfast was served by Rev. Raven's members and then ACLC National Co-convenor, Pastor T.L. (True Love) Barrett took over the podium. Pastor Barrett gave a deeply moving tribute to the unconditional love and sacrificial effort of Bishop Kim and he raised a substantial offering to give to Bishop Kim to help speed up his recovery. (note: Pastor and Mrs. Barrett graced our Chicago Family Federation by being our special guests at our October monthly meeting—I strongly recommend this activity—first initiated by

Bishop Kim and Rev. Jenkins, as it brings our members and the guest ministers much closer together. Pastor Barrett, in fact, called me a couple of days after the meeting and very warmly thanked us for including him in our inner family.

Our True Family Values Japanese Choir then graced our congregation with 2 beautiful songs and then Rev. Bruce Sutchar (AFC Executive Director of Illinois) presented the Powerpoint slide show explaining the meaning and significance of the commission of Ambassadors for Peace. All of the guests were then invited to attend the December 13th Ambassadors for Peace Conference at the Chicago Hilton and Towers preceding Chicago's 8th annual True Family Values Conference. The presentation concluded as AFC of Illinois President David Rendel presented our host pastor with his "Ambassadors for Peace" plaque and certificate.

Pastor Barrett then returned to close out the meeting in song and the assemblage departed in preparation for our True Family Values Banquet, the trips to Israel and, of course, our December breakfast. ❖



RYS Paraguay: 2nd Gen Build a School

Shoeless children with runny noses and bright smiles eagerly helped the RYS volunteers in building their new school in Puerto Diana, Paraguay this August. The volunteers, mostly high school students from the United States, readily embraced these children, hoping they could make a difference in their lives. Assisting in the construction of a primary school in Puerto Diana, an indigenous community on the Paraguay River in northern Paraguay, was the primary work of the volunteers. Additional experiences in Puerto Leda, Asuncion and Foz do Iguacu, Brazil made this a trip to remember.

The project had a rough beginning as the black out in New York caused some travel delays, but the intrepid vol-

unteers made their way and started with a busy Sunday where they visited three religious communities in Paraguay's capital. A cordial welcome by the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification started the day. Then an afternoon visit to the Pueblo de Dios, a local Paraguayan spiritual community which advocates prayer and sexual purity, introduced the volunteers to more traditional evangelical practices. An evening visit to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints was the highlight of the day for many, as LDS (Mormon) Elders shared about their lives and mission work, allowing the RYS volunteers an opportunity to reflect on their own life of faith.

On Monday, we visited 'las chacaritas' - the slum areas of Asuncion - an area some people warned us not to visit for its dangers. Beyond a tall iron gate, we discovered a local primary school and requested a meeting with the directors. The director and teachers were so happy to have visitors and pleaded with us to stay. They told us that no one comes to help them because they are in the 'red zone' (i.e. danger zone) and that the children are very hungry for attention and love. We stayed the entire afternoon, playing with the children, reviewing their work and embracing them every moment we could. When school finished, there were no parents waiting to greet the children by the iron gate. We walked some of the children home as we made our way out of las chacaritas.

We traveled in two groups to Puerto Leda, a terrific development in the Paraguay's desolate Chaco region. We heard the story from native people of the 'miracle of Leda' - how in four short years, Rev. Takeru Kamiyama and his

team of pioneers had transformed a difficult area into a thriving ranch and center of employment for the region. It was Rev. Kamiyama himself who invited the RYS to come to Paraguay to learn about the region and offer service to local indigenous communities. We discovered that local people considered it an honor to work in Leda and hoped that the development would continue to expand, providing economic stability and improved living for the greater region.

After a day in Leda - where the Japanese pioneers had successfully created a water purification system and brought in generators for electricity - we took a three hour boat journey to Puerto Diana, a community of Native Americans of the Chamacoco tribe. In Diana we had no running water, no electricity and no telephones. Many of the local people had no way to understand the concept of Internet - the children who were often sick and hungry were delighted with the simple technology of a flash camera.

Although the children lived simply, most with no shoes to wear, they were incredibly friendly and hard working. Eight and ten year old Chamacoco boys and girls helped us carry 50 kilogram sacks of sand for the construction. They showed fearlessness at the sight of tarantulas and dangerous snakes (like the one the old lady said would kill us if it pinched us). The children also showed us who was boss on the fútbol (soccer) field, beating our older, yet less skilled, USA team 4-1 in a lopsided match.

We discovered that most of the children in Diana have no opportunity for high school, even though the annual registration fee is only eight US dollars.

Many families are stuck in poverty. Although they have plenty of land available, they have not yet learned rudimentary farming and animal husbandry techniques. Fortunately, a Catholic NGO is now working to teach gardening in the community.

Our time in Diana was too short. We returned to Leda for a day of fishing and relaxation before making the journey back to Asuncion and then to Foz do Iguacu in Brazil. Iguacu means 'big water' in Guaranie - the indigenous language of most of Paraguay and some part of Argentina and Brazil. Foz do Iguacu is Portuguese for Iguacu Falls, considered by many as the most spectacular water falls in the world. On our return we visited Cacupe, the spiritual capital of Paraguay where a Native American hero paid homage to Mother Mary and sights of Mother Mary have occurred over the years. Pope John Paul II visited this site during a visit to South America.

This Friendship Americas project provided more diverse experiences than many other projects. Our work with children was most memorable. Working with a community struggling to develop helped us all be grateful for what we have and expanded our desire to love other people throughout the

world.

A follow-up project is planned for July 1-10, 2004. This project will increase the international participation bringing volunteers from Japan and South America to make the program a more diverse inter-cultural experience.

For more information on this or other projects in Paraguay, about Puerto Leda or Puerto Diana, send an email to paraguay/@/rys.net. ♦



Tripod of Peace: Understanding The Three Declarations

by Robert S. Kittel,

The tripod, more than a dove, may be an image that correctly symbolizes peace. The representation of a dove and olive branch as a sign of peace reaches back to the time of Noah. At the end of the 40-day flood judgment Noah released three sets of doves to check if the waters had subsided. When the second dove returned, "lo, in her mouth was an olive leaf plucked off: so Noah knew that the waters were abated from off the earth" (Gen. 8:11). Ever since the dove and olive branch have symbolized peace.

But peace is more than the end of a period of severe judgment and turmoil. The traditional definitions of peace are: "a state of tranquility," or "the cessation of war." But peace can also be defined as a time of "public quiet, order, concord and contentment," and it is in these later expressions that a tripod may more appropriately stand for peace.

In order not to get a blurred photograph, the camera must be stable—unshaken on any terrain. The four legs of a table or chair can be stable but only conditionally, if the floor is perfectly flat and the bottom of all four legs form a perfect plane. How many times have you been in a restaurant and had your coffee spilt because the table wobbles? Since the tripod can create a situation where the camera will be unwavering, it could symbolize

the qualities of peace that are eternal, unchanging and unconditional. In this scenario, there is one camera supported by three legs. That creates an unshakeable or peaceful environment where the image will not be distorted.

IIFWP has, in essence, over the summer created the foundation for what it believes is a tripod for world peace. Three major conferences held in three of the worlds hotspots have each resulted in proclamations signed by leading religious leaders, political thinkers, former heads of state, and academicians that lay a foundation for world peace. With over a thousand signatures, these documents address the most pressing problems that now stand as roadblocks to peace.

In May 2003, one hundred and thirty one Christian ministers went to Israel on a pilgrimage of reconciliation. Having understood that Jesus originally came to bring peace and did not come to die on the cross, they buried a wooden cross, representing the crosses that they

had already taken down from their churches throughout the United States before beginning this pilgrimage. Then in reaching out to a similar number of religious leaders from the other two monotheistic faiths, namely Judaism and Islam, they sought to reconcile the family of Abraham and signed the "Jerusalem Declaration."

The first leg of the tripod reached back into history, healing wounds of animosity that still prejudice current events in the Middle East. Participants of each faith, as the declaration stated, "wish[ed] to repent for the dark parts of [their] past... for persecuting and killing others." Christians repented for "glorifying the execution which ended Jesus' physical life" while Jewish leaders sought to "liberate themselves once and for all from the burden of Jesus' crucifixion." In the end, Jews, Christians and Muslims pledged to seek Divine grace and forgiveness, to forgive and reconcile with each other, and to build "one family of G-d."

One month later, in Washington DC, the second leg was added. Building upon the Middle East Peace Initiative, participants gathered in the capital of the nation most responsible for establishing the United Nations at the end of WWII. Central to their mission was the call to establish inter-faith assemblies not only at the local and national level, but also "establishing an Interreligious Council at the United Nations."

As an integral part of this, the IIFWP worked closely with the American Family Coalition which assisted conference delegates in visiting members of the United States Congress, both the House of Representatives as well as the Senate. Religious leaders discussed the Interreligious Council initiative and explained to their political counterparts that the family of

true love is the building block for world peace, both in terms of character and moral education as well as a model of government. The relevance of this program could be understood from the headlines on the front pages of newspapers across America; death and destruction was unabated in the Middle East and on the opening day of this conference, the U.S. Supreme Court had just legalized homosexual relationship.

The significance and central point of the "Washington Declaration" was that religions must take a role in overcoming the painful history of conflict, misunderstanding and separation, and are indispensable to good governance. The seventh article in this declaration stated that ideally religions would "manifest the highest moral and spiritual values... would embody true and enduring love... and be the central axis and model of good global governance."

The final part of the tripod of peace was put in place in Seoul, Korea on August 15, 2003. Nearly 360 delegates, from 120 nations convened what was justly called the Summit of World Leaders. The delegates represented one of the largest Interreligious gatherings ever assembled on the Korean peninsula. A subset of these deliberations was a concurrent committee that offered creative and bold steps to solving the 50-year old division of the Korean people. After all, one of the few times that the United Nations advocated military intervention was during the Korean War where 16 nations, including the United States, came to defend South Korea against a communist-backed assault from the North.

The "Seoul Declaration" laid the groundwork for establishing a "kingdom of true love and peace." The seed was sown by participants dedicating themselves to the "fulfillment of God's ideal, for the sake of the coming generations, particularly through the establishment of blessed families of true love that apply the principle of living for the sake of others and go beyond the barriers of race, religion and nationality."

The image that encapsulates this vision was the Closing Plenary session. There H.E. Hamilton Green, the former Prime Minister of Guyana, was flanked by IIFWP Chairman, Rev. Dr. Chung Hwan Kwak, and surrounded

by more than a dozen religions leaders from around the world. After reading the Seoul Declaration by His Excellency Green, delegates stood in line to sign this historical document.

The common theme running through the titles of these conferences was that the world, now more than ever before, was at a turning point. Moral confusion, political turmoil, corruption and the new scourge of global terrorism have made this point self-evident. Unanswered, however, is the question of how we can overcome these impediments to peace.

IIFWP believes that this series of three conferences is far more than a gathering of hundreds of people in areas of turmoil across the world as a show of solidarity and good-will. Lasting solutions to world peace require multiple approaches.

Firstly, historical resentments are real; they cannot be ignored. Hatred is like a ghost of the past that haunts and ferments bad relationships. We are spiritual and emotional beings that are influenced by these powerful, sensitive forces. The history of our past cannot be overlooked in seeking peace; historical enmity must be reconciled by players of this age.

Secondly, peace must be based on models of good governance. The heart of a political thinker who has his or her national self-interest at stake is quite different than that of a religious leader who is answerable to God. Politicians can be likened to an exasperated parent coming to their wits end, demanding that their disobedient children "just stopping fighting." In doing so, they could be appeased with cessations of hostilities and lulled into thinking peace has been restored.

But the religious heart must go further—it calls for the cessation of hatred. Parents, at their best, would use conflicts as learning opportunities and would not be satisfied until the errant sibling expresses sorrow and seeks forgiveness and reconciliation from the wronged party. Any institution that separates the spiritual and religious from the political, educational and financial dimensions of governance will be crippled and shortsighted. It will likely not deal with the primary root of the problem.

And finally, true peace seeks peace more for others than for oneself, more for other nations than for ones own nation. Peace must be altruistic; it lives for the sake of others and is future-oriented, thinking more for the unborn next generation than the living. So without families where God's blessing and love permeate each person's heart, where vertical and horizontal relationships are clearly identified and honored, and where sacrificing for others flourishes continuously... peace will be like an unquenchable thirst. The underpinning of peace both in the individual and globally is the family.

Peace means healing the past, building models of good governance that complement the spiritual and physical dimensions of our human nature, and creating blessed families were we learn through experience the value of living for others. ❖



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God's Children in Hallowed Ground



REV. MICHAEL JENKINS

Rev. Jenkins is the President of the American Church

This is from an address given at the National Won Jeon Dedication, Fort Lincoln Cemetery, Washington D.C. (Maryland), October 9, 2003

I want to give thanks to our True Parents, to Daemonim, to Heung Jin Nim, who have opened the gateway of heaven and earth, that we might be able to not only understand the more profound meaning of our gathering here, but also we can rejoice in the assurance that all is in order and the Kingdom of Heaven is being manifested through our beloved ones who have now taken this step into the spiritual world before us.

I sincerely thank our leadership, Dr. Yang, who has cooperated with Mr. Antonio Betancourt and Mr. Bill Selig, to make this possible. And to the regional directors, Rev. Lee and Rev. Hong, Rev. Schanker and Rev. Daugherty and also the elders in our movement, Mr. Joo and Rev. Kwak, who are working as one with Dr. Yang for the establishment of God's kingdom through the elder son nation.

I really want to thank all the families that are here representing your loved ones, and want to comfort you in your time of suffering and time of transition. Even though it's never easy and no one can truly understand what you're expe-

riencing in your own heart, I think you can be assured that True Parents understand. We were reminded the other day, as Father shared with us about the recent passing of our young people, who are historical figures now, Kwan Jung and also Alexei. Father commented that we don't know about our life.

We must really take from this occurrence a deeper understanding that we must always prepare our mind to be faithful in God, to love Jesus, to love the saints, and to really live according to God's will. Our minds must be absolute, especially now that we are entering the time of the great tribulation. Father warned us to understand that we don't know what sacrifices might come to the blessed central families during this period of transition because now we are standing squarely, face to face, with the evil world and we are proclaiming before heaven and earth that we are going to end evil on the earth and change the blood lineage of all families and usher in God's Kingdom.

Father reminded us that even though he was caught up to the throne of God where he experienced Jesus and total oneness with God as well as the glory of God. Father shared with us that though he had his own internal and personal victories, one after the other, still the price was not enough. Therefore, even his own

children had to be taken into the spiritual world. Hye Jin Nim, Hee Jin Nim, Heung Jin Nim, and Young Jin Nim, four children of our True Parents had to each be called, as Dr. Yang said, for a special place, a special path.

I believe that the relatives we honor today are also those who are called by God. I remember when I look at you and think about the Seung Hwa's we had and tears we shared together that each one of your loved ones had a tremendous impact on all of the national American movement and the world movement. I believe that if you look more deeply into the spiritual world, you'll find that each one of your loved ones actually passed

ward in faith and true love. Every word of truth a blessed central family speaks at this time will eliminate vast volumes of billions of words of the false world. Every step a blessed central family takes from this time will be equal to millions of steps of the forces of darkness. Therefore, the forces of darkness have no place to go but to recede and dissolve.

Beloved blessed families, you have been chosen for such a time as this, and therefore, I believe that upon Dr. Yang's prayer as he was commissioned by True Parents directly to sanctify this hallowed ground as the national won jeon, your beloved families are receiving that heavenly commendation at this time. Some of you may not have overcome your sorrow as of yet, and that's all right. You will if you hold on to God's unchanging heart.

Also, we are at Ft. Lincoln cemetery. We must be cognizant of the fact that we are here on hallowed ground where Lincoln gathered his generals and planned the path of victory that would liberate the conflict of the North and the South. Therefore, I believe that we are also on that battleground. This is a battleground, and this is a battle-

ground where now the proclamation has gone forth that every step we take forward for the Kingdom, starting with today will bear the fruit of victory for God's providence. We're coming to this spiritual place to make this proclamation for the elder son nation, where the families who sacrificed on the front line are laid to rest, to make our resolve that on this day we will now end the forces of evil and turn them into forces of goodness.

I just went to Gettysburg recently, and I want to encourage you also to go there and pray. I was so moved upon going there because it's not only soldiers from the North but also the sons of the South that gave their lives. They both shed their blood that this nation could indemnify the blood that was spilled by the lash of slavery. Both the North and South paid that price. When we go to Gettysburg, you feel that you are on hallowed ground.

In the same manner, we are on a holy ground here. This will become a national place that one day will have greater centrality than Gettysburg. I think it's fitting that we read the Gettysburg Address in conclusion. It was delivered in November, 1863, just four months after the great battle. Also, Gettysburg was most significant because it was the "high water" mark of the Confederacy's power. If the South had won that battle then the destiny of the elder son nation could have been very different. But God worked through the Abel side to bring the proper outcome. From that point on the challenge to the Union declined.

I believe, brothers and sisters, that we are certainly at the high water mark of evil in our culture, in our movies and television, in our world. Let this be a spiritual Gettysburg where the sons and daughters of God truly stand on the cosmic front line with the Second Coming of Christ. Let this be the high water mark of evil, and let our resolve be such that from now on evil just rapidly declines, until purity is exhibited in all relationships between men and women, until the blood lineage is changed between all families, until finally we have a heavenly dwelling place where we all become the true temples of God. ❖



at a very specific time that was related with something to support or to protect God's providence and our True Parents.

Therefore, no one can understand your personal course of sorrow, especially young people who lost your mothers, fathers and your support in life. What we can understand is that there is light on the other side of the dark tunnel. Sometimes you feel like you're just at a complete loss for what to do, how to overcome, and why, why would this great suffering come to my family, who was so dedicated. And yet beyond that darkness and that time of where you don't even know how you can hold on, or what to hold on to, you actually are being forged in the fires of God's dispensation. As each one of you have emerged faithful, and as you continue to emerge stronger and more filial to God's heart, your character, your family and your testimony becomes a rock solid foundation upon which God's kingdom can be built.

I have been blessed with the opportunity to be with True Parents I cannot believe the suffering around Father and Mother's family, around their lives. They have no idea of their schedule, no idea of what God's dispensation will bring. Therefore, at some point they just have to put their children in God's hands.

Many times I saw Mother reach out for the children, trying to stretch beyond the possibilities of the providence, trying to get a moment to even hold the hand of one son or daughter, only to see forces of history just pull her away. She had to let go of the hand of her beloved one. Father and Mother offered their family to God. Not with a cold heart on the "mission" but rather a heart of sorrow and sad resignation that they is no other way but to follow the will of God. With tears they pray that their children will turn to God during the period of loneliness and sorrow. I saw this with my own eyes. Therefore, that kind of suffering, that providential wave has caught your families, and for whatever reason you had to let go of your loved one and you had to let God take His course.

The external foundation of the evil world will collapse the more strongly we stand up, the more clearly we walk for-

Families Gather for Dedication of the National Won Jeon Shrine and Commemorative Memorial Service

by Bill & Donna Selig

Last month, *Unification News* reprinted Dr. Yang's remarks at the dedication service. In this issue, we reprint the remarks of Rev. Jenkins and some of the testimonies.

During the historic ceremony which took place at the front of the Won Jeon property in Washington, D.C., under green tents erected by the cemetery staff, the families of ascended members had an opportunity to speak.

Kitty Wojcik, whose husband, Tom, went into a final coma at the very moment the terrorists struck the Twin Towers in 2001, said, "Everything when you come down to it — is how can you love. ... I really thank my husband because he was a real man. I wish all you men could be loving people who love your wives, children and love God."

Martyn and Izabela Byrne, parents of Jin Joo, who died while serving on STF in North Carolina, traveled from Washington state for this ceremony. Speaking about their daughter, Martyn said, "My heart is really full at this time. ... This year felt like a thousand years. What's in my heart mostly is gratitude for the culture that we've been given by our True Parents of heart, love, beauty, and goodness."

Steve Symonds remembered his wife, Mary, who passed away in 2002. With their son, Will, in the audience, he shared how they first met and how he

constantly feels her presence.

Attending with his five sons, Tom McDevitt honored his wife, Soon Ja, by relating Father's reaction when he heard Soon Ja's passing was imminent. "Don't be afraid, don't hold on, just let her go. She's going to be with absolute God," which was the term Father used at the God conference on the date she passed, Dec. 27. He testified how Soon Ja, though busy in the spiritual world, is guiding their family, particularly in the recent matching of their eldest son, Macklee.

Mrs. Ichiko Marshall, who traveled from Ohio, attended with eight members of her husband's family, who live in the DC area. She thanked everyone on behalf of Donald, who passed away in March. She praised her husband and our Won Jeon site.

For more information about the National Won Jeon and how to purchase a plot, contact nationalwonjeon@aol.com. A plot and crypt for two persons currently costs \$2,000. The price is scheduled to go up in January 2004.

For more information about the Seung Hwa Ceremony and the National Won Jeon, look on-line at www.nationalwonjeon.com and www.familyfed.org under "references."

There is an important new website for members of the Unificationist faith. Go on-line at www.nationalwonjeon.com and learn about the National Won Jeon Shrine and our rich traditions. ❖

Ambassadors for Peace in Queens

by Rev. Mizuguchi

The Queens Church held an Ambassadors for Peace Breakfast Meeting at the Carmichael Diner, Tuesday Oct. 14, 2003. At first, it looked like a repeat of our past experience: an empty room except for a few faithful ministers and a lot of anxious members. However by the time the program got under way one-half hour behind schedule, the room started to fill. We found ourselves in a rare situation where we scrambled for chairs to accommodate an overflowing crowd. About 30 guests squeezed into a dining room fit



for 25 people. Then when you add the 20 or so members to that group, our program was literally spilling over into

the rest of the diner. The manager was happy to see so many people and so many extra breakfasts being ordered.

We were happy to see so many Muslims and Sikh leaders joining us this time. Though congested we were, no one complained while listening attentively to messages from Imam Mohammed Khan of the Islamic Circle of North America and Sikh priest Mukhtor Singh of the Sikh Temple of Queens. Their messages were strikingly similar to what we would preach at our Sunday service, i.e. there is only one God and we are all his children and brothers and sisters. They emphasized morality in man and woman relationships and ethics in human inter-

action.

To round out the diversity present in the meeting, we even had a school administrator and a Chinese pastor! This was unprecedented. You don't know what a miracle it is to have a Chinese pastor attend until you have tried to witness to them (they are quite similar to Korean ministers in their conservatism).

The video presentation "The World at a Turning Point" set the tone for Rev. Michael Jenkins' moving and inspiring testimony of the work of True Father and the Ambassadors for Peace, especially at the historically significant places in the Holy City and Gaza. Rev. Jenkins often made references too many of the dignitaries there and their satisfaction in being recognized was transparent. Rev. Jenkins interaction with the audience can only be described as dynamic and stimulating. He was at once spirited and charismatic. So much so that one recent Ambassador for Peace attendee signed up to go on the Israel Peace Trip on Oct 20th right then and there. He even paid \$1,000 CASH on the spot. Talk about being prepared! This man was an evangelist from India and was in America on a speaking engagement and will be returning to India in November. That is if we don't get to him first! He said



it is a possibility that he and his son would like to devote to IIFWP full-time.

God is always working. It is only when we are working that His power comes through. I don't know about you but for me just to see such an overflowing crowd was refreshing. I can't remember the last time we had a Standing Room Only program. Wait a minute, last Tuesday night October 7th at the Sheraton in Queens was also a SRO. Maybe we are developing a trend. Halleluiah!

Everyone contributed to the program's success. The guests came from ACLC, from AFC, from IIFWP, from those witnessed to by the TASK FORCE, and from local members. But our special gratitude goes to our pastor, Rev. Yuji Mizuguchi, for his superb organization and coordinating efforts that made the execution of this program almost flawless. ❖

ACLC Thanksgiving Prayer Breakfast in Los Angeles

by Rev. Henning

Saturday, November 15th at the McCarty Memorial Church, the ACLC Prayer Breakfast provided a powerful testimony to the True Parents by high-level speakers from several denominations. District Elder Dr. William Johnson of the CME Churches in Los Angeles and San Diego delivered a dynamic keynote address based on True Father's Inaugural Address for the Peace Council on October 3rd.

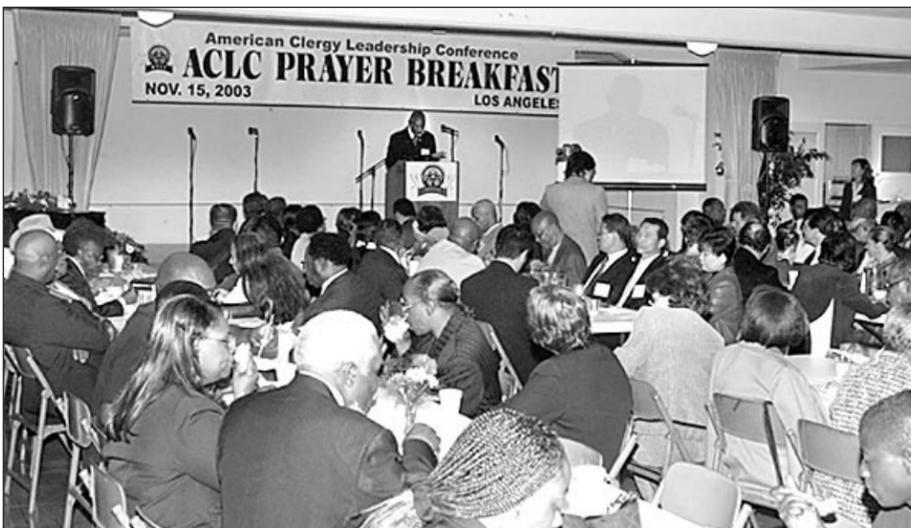
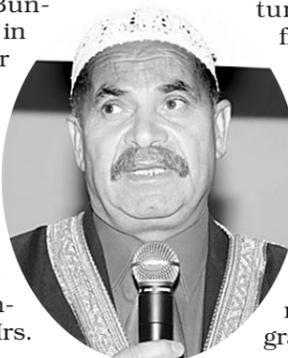
He quoted Father's message and explained it in terms of real experience of the local Christian congregations. He drew a standing ovation. Rev. Leonard Jackson of First AME of Los Angeles, the President of the Los Angeles Council of Churches read from the Beatitudes. Imam Haitham Bundakji read from the Koran in Arabic and English. Pastor Briggs of Christian Light MBC from the read the Founders' Address.

As the readings progressed, views of Christian landmarks and personalities filled the screen and gave way to slides representing Islam and eventually slides of Rev. and Mrs.

Moon and the Pilgrimages for Peace.

The breakfast prepared by volunteers representing three churches was amazing; pastries, eggs, bacon, potatoes, fruit salads and all the extras made a buffet that was sure to please. Following the keynote address the five-minute video of the 3rd Pilgrimage set the tone for testimonies.

The testimonies of the 2nd and 3rd Pilgrimages by Rev. Avan Hardwell of God's Extended Hands Ministry, Chief Gayokla Nichi of the Pikuni Tribe and Rev. Sheri Rueter of the Los Angeles Family Church brought to light the heart-felt experiences of earnest prayers, of life-risking adventure in Gaza, and deep realization in the darkness of the Memorial to the Children at the Yad-Vashem Memorial. Hearts were moved. When the appeal for support of the signature campaign to move from the Cross to the Crown was made, thirty-five clergy returned signed forms. More than ten reported that they want to attend the Pilgrimage as a result of this program.



The Sadoc Christian Singers, who have supported ACLC from its start and are top contenders and often winners of nation-wide Gospel singing competitions, stirred the soul with "It's a God Thing" and "Walking in Jerusalem" among their selections.

The ACLC Breakfast was hosted by the McCarty Memorial Church and the offering went to support their ministry in the center of Los Angeles. Truly this was an amazing event, well-attended by around one-hundred clergy of various denominations and several brothers of the

Muslim faith. At the end all stood and sang "Let Their Be Peace on Earth" and an earth-shaking prayer was offered by Pastor Darrell Wilson of the House of the Redeemed that seemed to summarize all that had happened in this memorable morning. Now, its "Onward to Jerusalem"! ❖



IIFWP Ambassadors for Peace

by Nadine Andre

Over 100 Ambassadors for Peace were appointed in New York City at the New Yorker Hotel on 34th Street, Saturday, October 18, 2003. The Ambassadors for Peace program is one of the many projects sponsored by the Interreligious and International Federation for World Peace, [IIFWP] and was co-sponsored by the American Clergy Leadership Conference [ACLC].

The program was the culmination of a 40 day volunteer mobilization, where volunteers from 8 nations came to NYC to work to support the inauguration of the Interreligious and International Peace Council which took place in



over 4,000 Ambassadors for Peace have been appointed and throughout the world there are over 20,000 including heads and former heads of state including Abdurrahman Wahid, the former President of

international respect, harmony, and cooperation amongst all peoples; the values of "living for the sake of others; and the promotion of a strong and healthy family life, as healthy families are the cornerstones for healthy and vibrant communities.

Among those appointed at Saturday's program were Mr. Singh Mukhtiar and Partab Singh of the Sikh Center of New York, Imam Omar S. Abu Namous of the Islamic Cultural Center of New York, and Mr. Muhammad A. Khan, national coordinator of the Islamic Circle of North America. Other local

Christian and Jewish leaders, and a Buddhist monk from Taiwan, all pledged to work together for interreligious harmony.

The Ambassadors for Peace program also detailed

an initiative where Jewish, Christian and Muslim leaders traveled together to Jerusalem and Gaza to promote peace and march through the Holy City, against the warning by many that the trip would be dangerous. They visited the Al Aqsa Mosque and spent time in Gaza, illustrating a model of peace that has not been forthcoming in that region of the world.

As part of the month long program, on October 3, 2003 a Rally was held at the United Nations to support the inauguration of the Interreligious and International Peace Council. According to the police chief, it was the largest and most peaceful Rally ever held at Dag Hammarskjold Plaza across from the United Nations. The IIFWP is also supporting an initiative that the Philippines has put forward before this session of the UN's General Assembly to establish an Interreligious Council at the United Nations. The underlying premise of all these works is that politics and diplomacy alone cannot create world peace. Without the unity and support of the leaders who represent the world's religions, peace will never be possible.

Mr. Amar Anand, a Sikh and writer from India who was also appointed an Ambassador for Peace said, "Every place is a Holy land and we must be able to find a Holy place within each one of us. Then peace will truly be possible." The Ambassadors for Peace initiative will continue. For more information about this initiative, email nadine@iifwp.org. ❖



New York on October 3, and to appoint Ambassadors for Peace, who are part of a global network of leaders representing a broad range of fields—religion, politics, the media, academia, and civil society—who work cooperatively for the sake of world peace. Throughout the United States

Indonesia, who has called for a reform within Islam to reject violence.

"Peace will never be found through political and diplomatic solutions alone," said Ms. Roshan D'Souza, a seminary student now living in New York, originally from India, who attended the pro-



AIDS: Blazing Cameroon's Candlelight Success

by Jennifer Hyman

The man responsible for helping Cameroon to become the world's largest and most expansive network of International AIDS Candlelight Memorials believes his unprecedented success could be mirrored worldwide, given sufficient resources.

As the president of the Yaounde-based International Relief Friendship Foundation (IRFF), Mike Lamson has used the memorial since 2001 as a catalyst to embolden people otherwise reticent to speak personally about the impact of HIV/AIDS and come together as a unifying, community-wide effort against stigma.

Gearing up for this year's May 18th International AIDS Candlelight Memorial entitled "Remembering the Cause, Renewing the Commitment," Lamson says he intends to continue pushing his efforts further out of the cities and into rural villages.

"Although we only worked in the capital of Yaounde in the first year, we were able to bring in 56 healthcare NGOs to speak at the event, we attracted 8,000 participants and had national television coverage," recalls Lamson.

But even though the first AIDS Can-

dlelight Memorial in Cameroon was such a tremendous success, last year Lamson purposely turned his attention away from the capital, transforming the project into a network spanning 400 villages, with 25,000 participants.

"There are enough NGOs in the capital, as well as the UN, galvanizing awareness efforts," explained Lamson. "But most of these groups avoided the villages because there are over 300 regional dialects."

Lamson soon found that language barriers were easily surmountable when he turned to the fundamentals of peer education, drawing in local partners who best understood the most effective means of reaching out to their community members.

"As an American, not only can't I speak each dialect, but there's no way I can go to the villages and have the same impact as someone from that village, or understand their specific take on the disease," he said.

Consequently, by promoting factual

information and combating rumors with its theme of acceptance, tolerance and honoring those who have died from HIV/AIDS, the Candlelight Memorial's impact was even stronger in rural communities than it was in the capital.

"In many cases rural families don't tell their neighbors why a loved one has passed, and it prevents them from ever really saying good-bye. It becomes something hidden and shameful during death ceremonies," said Lamson. "The AIDS Candlelight Memorial has been liberating, because it plays a definitive role in tackling stigma at the community level."

IRFF will scale up its efforts during this year's AIDS Candlelight Memorial to include 500 villages and perhaps 30,000 participants, but the organization is bearing the heavy financial burden that comes with promoting grassroots activism.

"We get stressed out every year over the expenses, as we spend the month before the Memorial printing up coordi-

nators' kits for villages around the nation," said Lamson.

But Lamson believes the financial and time commitments are worthwhile, given the program's long-term impact and IRFF's efforts to tie the Candlelight Memorial to its yearlong activities, especially on World AIDS Day.

With the government's full support, last year Lamson also helped link the Memorial to the country's annual youth day. He worked with secondary schools in preparing banners and torches used during the youth day's marches, promoting AIDS awareness as a fundamental part of patriotism and citizenship.

Matt Matassa, the Global Health Council's International AIDS Candlelight Memorial coordinator, says Lamson has helped emulate what the Memorial is all about, by working with minimal resources to use the remembrance as a key advocacy tool.

But while Cameroon's success is unique, Lamson insists it doesn't have to be.

"The results are evident because IRFF has decided to promote Candlelight for its means of passive, positive intervention. But I believe our success could be replicated anywhere in Africa, or around the world." ❖



A village-based Candlelight Memorial in Cameroon. Photo courtesy of Mike Lamson

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will come. Therefore, it may require that we give our lives on this pilgrimage in order to fully set the conditions necessary so that God can work a miracle and end the strife.

Recently Father Moon gave us guidance on the occasion of the sacrifice of Alexi and Kwan Jung, two of our young people who died in a car accident. He said that because they died during the 40-day providence to establish the Abel UN and allow the proper order of religious and political cooperation anointed by God, it became a condition upon which God could claim territory back from the darkness.

Father warned us at that time that Blessed Central Families and the Christian clergy should strengthen their minds and resolve. Always historical figures have paid dearly with their lives in order to make the total commitment necessary to change the world's direction from evil to good.

He warned us also that even in his own life, though he sincerely devoted his whole heart and life to God without hesitation about sacrificing himself, still the providence was such that additional sacrificial conditions were needed to completely open the way to the Kingdom. Therefore, four children of our True Parents have died during the course Father's mission.

Blessed Central Families, Christian ministers, imams and all clergy must make our minds that strong. We don't know what sacrifices may be required to usher in God's Kingdom. When we expect to sacrifice and give our lives, then we're ready. This spirit was conveyed to the holy people of God that chose to risk their lives to come on the 3rd pilgrimage. From that moment there was no more fear. Truly the Christians, Muslims and Jews who were part of our conference joined with the 7 enemy nations in one heart. We were ready to march in the old city of Jerusalem, and ready to march from the Western Wall to Al Aqsa mosque and on to Gaza.

On October 22 our march began at the Jaffa Gate, the old gate to the City of Jerusalem that has been there for 2,000 years. Our ranks were strengthened by support from Nazareth. Rev. Nartoum brought over 100 Christians from that holy city. Leaders of the Druze, whose spiritual heritage is traced back to Moses' father-in-law Jethro, and whose people have lived in the Holy Land for 4,000 years, have completely given support to Father and Mother Moon. Sheik Al-Burni, one of the key Druze leaders, brought many, many people to the last march and to this march.

We moved together as one and started to walk through the Holy City. As the faithful chanted, "Peace, shalom, salaam-aleikum," there was confusion, as last time, among those who didn't understand the march and were wor-



ried it would cause violence. Suddenly our march came to a stop. Fortunately, due to the great work of Dr. Glaubach, former city council member, Dr. Shuki Ben-Ami, Jewish scholar, Shelly Elkyam, Miri Kamal, and our beautiful Israeli family who have built a sense of trust with the Israeli authorities for our work, plus the success of the last walk for peace, the Israeli authorities again supported us and the march continued.

Jerusalem March

When our march through Jerusalem was stopped during this 3rd pilgrimage, there were some resisters who didn't want us to continue. Due to the work of Rev. Abe and Mr. Hod Ben Zvi we have an excellent relationship with influential people on all sides in the Middle East. It's truly a headwing foundation. Because of that, the Israeli authorities had a sense of trust for the work we were doing with the Muslims, Christians and Jews. Our march was allowed to proceed. Again we were welcomed at the Western Wall.

We really have to thank Rev. Kwak

of Muslims, Christians and Jews together, joining with representatives of 7 former enemy nations, are genuinely moved and somehow do not feel threatened. In contrast, a march by a group from any one religion alone would create a defensive feeling from other quarters.

The walls have come down between Islam, Christianity and Judaism with this era of Cheon Il Guk. The authority and power of True Parents' teaching about the Abrahamic faiths becoming one was a visible reality as we walked for peace, both in Jerusalem and in Gaza. Special thanks to Dr. Frank Kaufmann, Taj Hammad, and Dr. Andrew Wilson, who each uniquely played a central role in different aspects of the interreligious work. Also Imam Bundakji again played a key role in opening the door to Al Aqsa mosque.

Taj Hammad came on the pilgrimage based on a heart of concern for the Middle East, not out of any direction or responsibility other than his own personal initiative. We are truly grateful for this attitude of faith. Amazingly he arrived just 5 minutes before Imam Khan from NY, Imam Jaami from Texas, and I were to go to Al Aqsa. The support he gave as we entered Al Aqsa mosque was very significant because there is certainly no teacher who speaks Arabic as his mother language who can teach about Father's life and heart the way Taj can.

Just as we did during the 2nd pilgrimage, we visited the imams at Al Aqsa on the day before we were to bring our interfaith group. Again, this proved to be critical in allowing our 600 marchers access to grounds. We have built a sense of deepening trust with the imams there, who have a very sincere respect for Father's life of faith and genuine understanding of Islam as a central religion



and Dr. Thomas Walsh for the development of the IIFWP because the leaders that have been educated through many conferences over the years are now ready to take the action that is required of the peace councils to bring peace on earth. We are witnessing the living reality of the power of the interreligious dimension of the peace councils. Authorities, upon seeing hundreds

created by God.

One of the believers, when they were in meditation after the 5 p.m. prayer, looked up at us as we were leaving with one of our hosts, and said in Arabic, in a very tense and pained voice, "Tell them to help liberate us." It was understood that we were believers from foreign lands and that somehow we were there to help bring reconciliation and security to the Islamic believers.

We had a very fruitful visit. Friendships were strengthened, and even the security staff of Al Aqsa has become more confident of our genuine support and protection of their faith as believers. Interestingly, one of the key imams was leaving the mosque in his car at the same time we were departing and he drove us home.

These are occurrences that could not be planned.

The site of Al Aqsa is built of stone, of which the Western Wall forms the western boundary. It contains the Dome of the Rock, Al Aqsa mosque, and several other ancient buildings in an area covering 35+ acres. Just an hour before our march arrived, Israel's Interior Security Minister Tzahi Hanegbi "visited" Al Aqsa. Hanegbi's tour of the site under heavy guard is reminiscent of a similar "visit" to the holy site in September 2000 by then Israeli opposition leader and current prime minister Ariel Sharon, which triggered the second Intifada against occupation, and a period of three years of intensive conflict, violence and bloodshed. Because of this incident, everyone at the mosque plaza was on edge. Therefore, the fact that the imams still insisted that we be welcomed at the mosque was shocking to many who knew the reality of the situation there. But somehow, as we've been witnessing with the IIPC in action, we bring a spirit of peace and trust which opens the doors and the hearts of those who really love God.

It was an incredible moment in history when 7 nations walked into this holy site together, pledging before God that they have reconciled the enmity and spirit of hatred from the World War II era and have now come to ask God that all enemy feelings can be repaired and atoned for through this growing movement. As we stood upon the steps before the Dome of the Rock, we truly felt the presence of God. Jesus and Mohammed, who are revered by Muslims, are one in spirit in this holy place. Christians coming to this holy place will feel the presence of Jesus and will open their hearts to Mohammed, which is a key element necessary for the genuine reconciliation of these two great religious movements created by God.

The rabbis and other Jews who were permitted to come with us to Al Aqsa also felt a genuine sense of love and respect from the Muslims, opening the way for our understanding that when the religious believers come together as one, the external divisions and problems will be solved. Jews, Muslims and Christians are destined by God to become one. This is the key to the power of the Kingdom of God. We can't express in

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words the joy we felt when Rev. Hapun of the Catholic Church of Nazareth arrived with 150 believers, Christians and Muslims and Jews together. It was beautiful. Coming all the way from Nazareth was not an easy journey, as they have to go through security checkpoints. The joy shone on Rev. Hapun's face when they arrived at the mosque area just in time to be included in our march. This added greatly to the surge of spiritual power we felt at that moment, that we will bring peace to the Holy Land.

Although we are not one yet, the doors are now opened for that unity to be possible. We of the ACLC attribute this to the anointing of our True Parents by Jesus, the confirmation of that anointing by Moses, and the spiritual support we feel from Mohammed.

It was a glorious moment at this holy site, from which it is understood that Mohammed ascended to heaven, and also the site upon which Abraham offered his son. This is also identified as the site of the Temple that existed in Jesus' time. For us to go there on the second pilgrimage was a great blessing from God. To go there again with an even larger group, on a day when tense conflict had occurred just an hour earlier, was confirmation that our unity is deepening and solidifying. My brothers and sisters, the Kingdom of God is coming on the earth. It is now time for us to rise up and believe.

[Father has said that in some ways the Muslim believers are taking the lead in relationship to True Parents to bring the world together as one family, through their families being blessed by God, and pledging to become true parents themselves. An example of this leadership is found in the former president of Indonesia, President Wahid, who as a religious leader personally brought together over 100,000 Muslim couples in conjunction with the April 27th 144,000-couple blessing that was held in Washington, D.C.]

From this place a small delegation, including Sen. Donzella James and Sen. Howard Stephenson from Utah, went with 12 clergy representatives to the Knesset, where under the able leadership of Dr. Glaubach, Dr. Baruch, and Shelly Elkyam the door opened for us to meet the president (Speaker) of the Knesset.

After lunch the rest of the representatives from the 7 nations and the 140 ACLC clergy and members visited the Upper Room. Rev. Jesse Edwards reported, "This time something happened in the Upper Room that had not happened before. As our pilgrims prayed for God's anointing and presence in the very room in which Jesus had the Last Supper and in the same room that the Pentecost occurred after his resurrection, profound confirmation occurred in our believers. People were overwhelmed with tears. Many representatives of the 7 nations began to speak in tongues, which they had never experienced before in their lives. Several clergy from mainline denominations who had never spoken in tongues also were touched with the gift of the Holy Spirit." Our guide shared with Rev. Edwards that in 11 years of doing tours of the Upper Room she had never wit-

nessed such an phenomenal outpouring of the spirit as this time. She mentioned truly this is a sign of the Last Days.

We all reconvened again at 2:00 p.m. at Independence Park near the Knesset, where buses from all over Israel were arriving.

Rally

Shortly after 2 p.m. the rally began at Independence Park, with Rev. Daugherty and a number of clergy from the ACLC singing a very powerful song, "We will pray as David prayed, we will dance as David danced, we will sing as David sang." It was a profound experience to sing in the same area where King David sang, where Solomon walked, and finally where Jesus taught the Gospel. This is a city of destiny. The spring in Independence Park still bubbles with fresh water; it was the original spring that supplied the temple of King Solomon with water. Everything around Jerusalem carries with it a great history connected with God's dispensation.

After Rev. Daugherty sang, Rev. Hatoum, who brought the 150 delegates to the peace march from Nazareth, took the platform. He gave a truly great message in Arabic that was translated for us. The message was that Rev. Moon is the one who is doing the work that is bringing all of Jerusalem together. He went on to praise Father's vision and the efforts made to bring Muslims, Christians, and Jews together. The city of Nazareth was proud to be well represented by top leaders from the Greek Orthodox Community, the Catholic community, and the Jewish community. Over 400 people came from Nazareth for the rally. Rev. Hatoum was there with his wife. They have received the blessing and are now standing as a true parent couple to bless others.

Next, one of the leaders of the Druze religion, Sheik Ali Birani, came to speak. Sheik Birani has made an indispensable contribution to the providence centering on True Parents. As mentioned before, the Druze group emanated from Jethro, the father-in-law of Moses, and has carried a proud tradition among the Bedouin peoples for over 4,000 years. They are also great mediators between the Arab peoples and the Jewish people. Sheik Birani has brought very prominent Muslim leaders, Christian leaders, Jewish leaders. The current head of the Druze faith also came and supported this historic rally for peace under one God.

The IIFWP, centering on Rev. Abe and Hod Ben Zvi, Dr. Glaubach, Dr. Shuki Ben-Ami, Dr. Baruch Shalev, Imam Kiwan, Miri, and Shelly Elkyam and many other key members and leaders have made tremendous relationships with Muslims, Christians, Jews, and many civic and political officials, both in Palestine and in Israel. Truly God has worked to set the stage for a great healing to occur in the Holy Land. That's why though the challenges are great, people



Because the foundation for IIFWP and the Family Federation is very broad and touches scholars and religious leaders alike, we could see that support in the rally, when over 2,000 came together in a city and at a time when rallies are basically unthinkable. We walked together in the old city, called upon the name of the Lord, and then rallied together in Independence Park under the protection of Almighty God. Through this process our strength is edified. But more importantly the hope

of the people of the Holy Land is also strengthened and edified.

One police officer said to me, you can't imagine what this does for us, to see people coming from 7 nations, all over Europe, Asia and America, fearlessly defying the fear of the bombings and the turmoil, standing up with us and proclaiming that Israel will be healed. This gives us real hope. It gives us strength to continue and go beyond our despair. One Palestinian participant in the rally who lives in the eastern part of Jerusalem said, I've never felt such hope that this endless struggle could be resolved. Especially when I saw American Indians come from America. Certainly the heart of the American Indians and the fact that they would come here to help us indicates that this movement and Father Moon have something that can truly heal the Holy Land.

The more we walk this road, the more evident it is that every direction of True Parents should be followed, even if it means we can only make a small effort in that particular direction. Still that small effort will harvest some fruit that God has prepared based on that direction.

The Japanese sisters, who are called volunteers in Israel, also play a key role. As happens in America and other countries, their outreach touches the hearts of the people and gives substantial hope of breaking down religious and racial barriers. Truly the Holy Spirit is represented in them. A large number of Japanese sisters remain in Israel as volunteers because Dr. Abe took it upon himself to give them extra special care. He went to Japan to visit the home of every single volunteer, personally educating their husbands and families as to the dispensational meaning of the calling they share. Because of this deeper understanding, greater sacrifice could be offered. This is why at this time in history we all must educate ourselves more deeply in Father's providence and his words. It's only with that foundation centering on our understanding of Divine Principle that we can truly walk the way of filial piety as sacrificial sons and daughters of our True Parents.

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Sheik Birani also brought a beautiful girl scout troop and boy scout troop from outside Jerusalem. They stood proudly in their uniforms. We called upon them from the rally stage and they waved. It was also beautiful to see Muslim girls sitting there in their full traditional dress and head covering, with smiles and with hearts of joy, truly enjoying a heavenly event. We must always remember that young people, with the same hearts, hopes and desires as our own children, are growing up in this environment. This kind of day gave them hope that their homeland will one day become a happy place for all people.

Rev. Daugherty concluded with

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remarks expressing how we are committed beyond race and religion to become one in the heart of God. This is a time for the Kingdom of God to be revealed on the earth. Let us all rejoice and be glad in it. Rev. Daugherty has played a most central and significant role in keeping the clergy in unity as well as helping them to transition from just talking about Jesus to broadening to embrace all religions and faiths with a sincere heart of Jesus' love.

After Sheik Birani spoke, Taj Ham-mad and Dr. Shuki Ben-Ami became co-emcees. Mr. Hod Ben Zvi really wanted to reach the hearts of the people. Therefore, that portion of the rally was

Jericho Walk/Church of the Living God in Chicago came to the stage. Rev. Bansa's anointing is quite strong, and as expected she burst out from her heart with words for the people of the Holy Land. She cried out to the people, reminiscent of the way Isaiah would cry out unto Israel, saying, we have to solve the problem of the Middle East now. The power and anointing of God is upon us, but we must really stand up, be willing to give our lives to allow God's magnificence to shine. We are living in a time where our faith must be greater than that of Moses as he crossed the Red Sea. But we are religious people. We must end our division and strife. We must come together as one. Particularly we're calling on the Christians and Muslims to reconcile their differ-

smiles, with tears, with love. Then she sang "Amazing Grace." Many religious leaders - Muslim, Christian, and Jew - filled the stage without even being called. Sen. Donzella James from Georgia also took the stage and sang in harmony, "Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now I see."



in Hebrew and Arabic, with no translation, unless you happened to be next to someone who would translate for you. Taj being from the Sudan and dressed in traditional clothing really stood as a great mediator for the people to come to the heart of God.

Dr. Frank Kaufmann, as he has done for so many world level blessings, from Olympic stadium to the 144,000 couple blessing, worked diligently to organize the prayers of the religious leaders, which we sincerely believe bring an anointing of the Holy Spirit and a calmness and serenity in the souls of all participants, regardless of race, religion, and nationality. Dr. Kaufmann, in consultation with myself, Hod, Archbishop Stallings, and several other key leaders, selected Rabbi Chen to do a reading from the Torah. Rev. Betty Tatalajski from Arizona rang a bell of peace, symbolizing the Christian spirit. Rev. Hatoum read the Christian Scripture in Arabic. An imam from Jerusalem gave the Islamic call to prayer, and Imam Mohammed Khan of New York read the Koran. The scripture readings were selected so as to pick the prayer readings that would fulfill the purpose of both giving the word and being the prayer to bring God's blessing to the people.

At this point the crowd was growing, as all the buses had finally arrived. Although it was late October, the sun was very hot, so much so that it was too hot for the participants in the program to sit on the stage as originally planned. Bishop Connie Crawford Bansa of the

ences and to create a unity that will heal the Holy Land, as well as end the worldwide conflict and struggle that's going on throughout the world since 9/11. As a prophet of old would cry out, she cried out, stand up, God's people. Do you hear me? Stand together.

The spirit was really moving, and the crowd jumped to its feet with joy, with

This is reality. We see the glory of God revealed in True Parents' dispensation in Israel. Father has proclaimed through his indemnity period earlier this year, and the proclamation of August 20th that the 4th Israel has now been revealed, which is composed people of all faiths, as well as his proclamation at the IIPC on Oct. 3rd, "The New Elimination of Boundaries and World Peace." The word revealed through that speech tells us clearly that boundaries are not of God. God does not want His children divided. The conditions of indemnity have now been completed, particularly with 7 nations walking faithfully, willing to shed their blood, sacrificing their families and their nations.

My brothers and sisters, the walls have come down. We must believe and we must step forward in faith that there is no barrier between us and the preparation that God has made in the people, in every nation and in every religion. Only when we step forward do we really see the glory of God. If we hold back or wait for it to be demonstrated to us, we cannot see it. It can only be seen when we step forward in faith. Again, the rally revealed these kind of boundaries are coming down. Seeing Jews, Christians and Muslims can sing "Amazing Grace" together on the stage moved the hearts of the American Indian chiefs that came to represent the elder son nation. Chief Hamilton of California and Gayokla Ayala are playing a major role in the unity of the Indian family with True Parents, and they came up on the stage and wept as they also joined in spirit and heart with "Amazing Grace."



These are not staged events. These are not shows. Many times our rallies are following a heavenly spirit that shows the natural coming together of God's people. One Israeli woman who attended the rally shared with me that she never believed she would ever see the day in Jerusalem when Muslims, Christians, Jews, American Indians and the Druze would dance together for joy, and where God's word would be read from the Koran, the Torah and the Bible, in a land where those faiths historically have been deeply divided. "This is a day of the Messiah." Glory to God.

Dr. Yang took the stage and gave the keynote address, which was a summary of Father's Oct. 3 dispensational message, "The New Elimination of Boundaries and World Peace." Then Father's word was delivered in Arabic by Ali Birani, and in Hebrew by Miri. The word of God as brought by our True Parents was delivered in English, Hebrew and Arabic in the Holy Land. The seed of the word was planted in the soil of the hearts of the chosen people of the 4th Israel.

Rev. Jenkins was asked to conclude. He began by saying that since the Jerusalem Declaration at the May conference a healing has occurred that has allowed Jews and Christians to reconcile, and on that foundation the reconciliation of Isaac and Ishmael has now occurred. Therefore, on this 40th day of the condition made by 120 representatives from each of the 7 enemy nations we offer to God this 40-day course. On this foundation we proclaim that Jesus is now welcome to return to his homeland. Welcome home, Jesus! You are welcomed by your original family, the Hebrews, you are welcomed by the Muslims, and you are welcomed by all the Christians. Welcome home, Jesus.

His message continued: Jesus was anointed by God as the 2nd Adam. He perfected himself and brought the blessing of God and through overcoming death he brought forgiveness of sin. However, because he was not understood by his family, by his disciples, and ultimately by the people of Israel at that time, he could not establish the family that God had wanted to see in the restoration of the first Adam and Eve. Therefore, it was Jesus who anointed Father Moon to be the 3rd Adam. He walked under the guidance of the prophets, with consultation from Moses, Mohammed, and all the saints, and with the anointing of Jesus he

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PEACE UNDER ONE GOD: MISSION OF PEACE & RECONCILIATION

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established the true family, become a True Parent. This restores the fall of the first Adam and Eve.

Now he is called by God to extend that anointing to you, calling upon you to have your marriages blessed to change the blood lineage to that of God, under the blessing of your own religious leaders, that you now shall become true parents building true families, to resolve the historical enmity between Israel and Palestine. Father Moon revealed that we must love our enemy. To really manifest that love we should even consider what he calls "exchange marriage." We should marry our enemy. The prophet Mohammed set the example by marrying a Jewish woman to keep peace under God's dispensation.

Also Father Moon understood that the fact that Jesus was not welcomed 2000 years ago became the condition through which the endless struggle between Israel and Palestine could not be resolved. Now that all have repented for this condition of 2000 years ago, it is inevitable that Palestine and Israel, Ishmael and Isaac, will reconcile, weep together in tears, and study war no more. My brothers and sisters, this is the day of the Lord. This is the day that the

Koran has spoken of, that the Torah and the prophets, and the New Testament have spoken of. This is the day that has been prophesied that the Messiah would come.

I would like to invite Archbishop Stallings on stage at this time to join in reconciliation because we are not only to reconcile Ishmael and Isaac. We know that as Christians we did not fulfill our responsibility to bring reconciliation to all humanity. Therefore, together we repent that Christians did not love the Jewish people properly with the love of Jesus for the last 2000 years.

Also we in America must reconcile black and white, as well as American Indian and white. We Americans repent for what was done historically to the blacks. Though my repentance is not enough, it sows a seed that will multiply. Archbishop Stallings, can you embrace your white brother at this time? Archbishop Stallings said, I will gladly

do so.

Our American Indian brothers, will you come forward at this time and embrace Archbishop Stallings and myself as your American brothers? We ask your forgiveness and repent that Americans did not love correctly. Though they were blessed by God, they did not treat the Indians appropriately in God's love. Therefore, we reconcile the sins of man at this time of history.

To the great contingent of 240 Europeans who come to the Holy Land on this pilgrimage Rev. Jenkins cried out, Germany stand up. Do you repent for what you've done in history? The Germans cried out, we do. Therefore, do we forgive Germany? The 2,000 yelled, we do. He continued, Father Moon brought representatives from 7 enemy nations who have been working together to bring the spirit of reconciling enemies to the Holy Land. He called England, Germany, Italy, France, Japan,

Korea, and America to repent and forgive one another. All the nations cried out, we do. Israel and Palestine, we must forgive one another. We must repent together. Can we do this? The 2,000 cried out, we do.

Then white balloons were released, symbolizing the dove of peace, and the anointing that peace would come to the Holy Land.

In conclusion Rev. Daugherty came back to the stage and we broke into the song from the historic march to the UN Plaza on Oct. 3, where 20,000 gathered before history: "Peace, Shalom, Salaam Aleikum,

Peace, Shalom, Salaam Aleikum, Peace, Shalom, Salaam Aleikum, We pray for peace in the Middle East."

Archbishop Stallings shared later that as he was leaving the rally site, he passed some of the Israeli police who were present at the event, and they too were singing these words of hope. ❖



IIFWP Seminar in Buenos Aires

by Miguel Werner

The IIFWP is working now since quite a few years for world peace, the desire to be found engraved in the heart of every individual. This topic brought 200 leaders of different society areas together, assembled in the "Salon Panamericano" of the autonomous city of Buenos Aires, to assist a seminar entitled: "The World at a Turning Point: Considering Different Innovative Proposals for Peace, the Responsibility of the Leadership and a good Government", being held during these weeks in 185 nations all over the world.

"The world is passing through a critical juncture and we have to help usher in the very much needed changes, together with new attitudes, needed to transform the actual crisis into a real opportunity for construction", said the actual President of the Nation, Néstor Kirchner, in his letter of adherence and well-wishes at the beginning of the Seminar, starting at 9 a.m. and expanding itself until late in the afternoon, far longer than the planned time-span, because of the enormous interest of the participants regarding the different topics given at the occasion.

"Principles and the Practice of Peace" was the title of the first presentation given by Ricardo Ayerza, who was talking about the universal foundations of peace. A topic, which brought spontaneous interruptions by the audience, ready to share its concerns and questions. Before that, a spiritual message was given by Pastor Carlos Córdoba, the video "The World at a Turning Point: a Global Vision for Leadership and a Good Government" was shown, and the opening address by Rev. Kwak was read by Gustavo Giuliano, President of the Family Federation in Argentina and Director of the International Education Foundation in Latin America.

During the morning hours, Senator Julio Ledesma, Province of Buenos Aires, gave his impressions about his experiences in Korea during the World Leader's Meeting in Seoul, between August 11th and 16th. 360 delegates (such diverse representatives as are Rab-

bis, Christian Ministers and Muslims, coming from 120 nations, were signing the "Peace Declaration of Seoul", whose central points were the renovation of the UN, a topic which we will go into further detail more ahead.

The Religious Imperative

One of the key points of the meeting was called "The Religious Imperative", developed by Ricardo de Sena, the Interreligious Federation representative to the United Nations. In his presentation: "The Role of Religion in the XXI. Century", he was talking about the



necessity of man, the society, nations and the world as it is to construct peace, which is not at all possible, without contemplating the transcendental aspect, to be found in the soul of every human being.

After describing the advances of interreligious relationships, De Sena was also talking about the folding of religions in the affairs of human beings, the loss of relevance and moral authority into which some spiritual leaders have fallen and that the majority of national and international conflicts, prevailing today, have a religious root and from there on, one should contemplate the voice and comprehension of religious leaders in bringing about a solution towards the human problems and struggles of today. Therefore, part of the slide-show on the giant screen had also images of the ominous September 11th 2001, a show of force of the rawest terror, result of human hatred and resentment.



After that, the conference focused on the central topic of his presentation: a reform of the United Nations. He listed the reasons, or problems, by which it was necessary to give the body of delegates representing and defending the political interests of every country "a soul": terrorism, poverty, crime, drug trafficking, corruption, domestic violence, street violence etc. "These are all profound human topics requiring extraordinary solutions", to which religions may have their input. From this juncture on the imperative should be to conclude on an Interreligious Council as part of the United Nations.

Finally, he commented that the Ambassador of the Philippines to the United Nations in September, at the 58th General Session of the United Nations, will be formally

presenting the proposal to establish this Interreligious Council (with representatives of all religions) in an official manner and not only as a simple advisory or figurative commission. Jose de Venecia, President of the Chamber of Representatives of the Philippines, took up the proposal of Rev. Sun Myung Moon at his speech on August 18th 2000, held in the Cristal Palace of this international organization, founded more than half a century ago.

Family, Values and Public Service

There were still topics left having to do with peace, but more on an everyday level, namely, the peace being constructed in the family through the practice of values and public service, topics being addressed by Andrés Melgarejo, Carlos Varga and Alzira Melgarejo, respectively. Peace starts with the unity between mind and body in the individual, it develops towards harmony in the family and expands itself towards the society, basic points which the different expositions were based on, provoking spontaneous applause and showings of approval by the audience, to whom new perspectives were opened about these, apparently commonly known topics.

What is there to say about the family, which hasn't been said already? The family is not only "The School of Love", "The basic Cell of Society", but also the place where one can experience love at its utmost expression, the only institution created by God. Andrés Melgarejo left this very clear with his explanation of the Blessing (whom God wanted to give to the first man and woman, Adam and Eve) and the Renewal of the Marital Vows. This "is not an exclusive celebration of the Unification Movement"—to reaffirm the love of the couple and restore value to the family—but a calling to all religions, to all cultures and nationalities, to unite through the power of matrimony centered on the love of God, capable to break all divisions and conflicts."

"Character Education which is Incorporating Essential Values", was the title of the exposition by Carlos Varga, in which he explained, again, that education is the invaluable tool by which a society may be transformed. But not just education exclusively dedicated to form professionals, ready to get involved with our modern world of technology and work, but an education, whose backbone are values. To the President of CARP (Collegiate Association for the Research of Principles), this is fundamental, to be able to give young people a sense of direction towards "true love",

preventing them the consequences of "free sex", whose results are abandoned babies, abortion, domestic violence, juvenile delinquency and AIDS, infecting 17.000 people and killing 10.000 worldwide daily.

Professor Alzira Melgarejo, Educational Assessor to the Family Federation and Secretary of the Women's Federation, highlighted the importance of public service it is not so important from which angle the service is done, but rather the attitude to serve your neighbor, to live for the higher purpose, the public good, "the search for happiness through love". She also highlighted the characteristics of an altruistic mind and the "teaching that giving comes before taking and that there is much more joy in giving, than receiving".

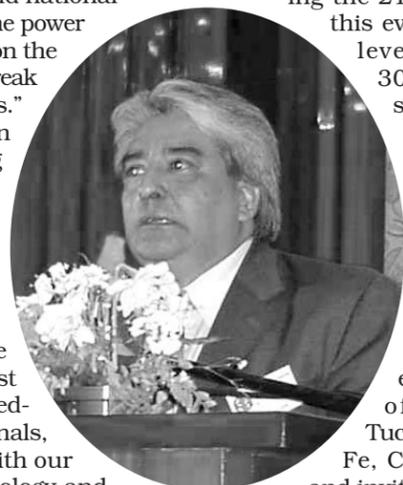
Part of her address was dedicated to Eva Perón, the so-called "flag-bearer of the humble", whose special concern were always the most impoverished. Only mentioning her name, gave cause for applause.

Peace Founded On Truth

One of the fundamental tasks of the Interreligious Federation is to end all barriers traditionally dividing peoples, races, cultures and religions, on which base true peace for the world could be constructed. As part of this work, the Interreligious Federation is distinguishing different leaders of society as Peace Ambassadors, working to tear down divisions and to resolve conflicts, who are models of family and live with a continuous engagement for the welfare of their neighbors and who furthermore comprehend the vision given by Sun Myung Moon.

Luciano Cámara, Secretary of the Interreligious Federation in the country, was explaining this precise role and the mission of Peace Ambassadors, of which Argentina has now 175 (including the 21 new distinctions at this event); on a worldwide level there are around 30.000 Peace Ambassadors. His exposition started with agreeing applause, that "the most terrible deficit of a nation is not to be found with its finances, but in the souls of its citizens". Cámara was very pleased with the presence of representatives of the provinces of Tucumán, Córdoba, Santa Fe, Corrientes and Jujuy and invited all to a "silent revolution from selfishness to altruism" and to a "project for the country, not for a political party", arguing, that the base for well-being is to be found in altruistic behavior.

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DP Study in Northern California

by Kevin Thompson

Divine Principle study nights are an integral part of our church calendar. Every week we have an average of 150 participants, parents and children gather together to hear lectures on Principle and the recent providential directions from True Parents.

This program was started by Bento Leal in his own home as he was teaching his own children and a few other Blessed Children. When we got our new church in 1998 then we were able to expand the program to a church wide weekly event. It has become a major part of our 2nd Generation education strategy. Coupled with the ongoing middle and high school workshops we are trying to guide our children towards the Blessing and a life

of faith with ownership with our True Parents.

Each week the children go to their classrooms and receive a DP lecture and discussion time. At the same time the adults have their own study time led by the Regional Director or the Vice Regional Director. It was very clear from the beginning of the implementation of this program that if we wanted our children to study and be seri-

ous about their DP education then they needed to see an example from their own parents. It doesn't work to drop the children off and then go to have coffee. When the parents set the standard themselves it is a very natural process for the children to unite and be a willing participant.

Recently we finished the school year and graduated the children to the next grade. Many of our kids have gone

through most of their youth with this tradition of studying Divine Principle on a Friday night with my family and friends. Some who have gone on to STF and college have remarked that they now appreciate how valuable this tradition was in helping for the values and habits, which they now incorporate into their life of faith.

Thanks to the sacrifice of the parents and teachers who dedicate themselves each week and put on a quality Principle lecture program.

"My kids look forward to going to church on Friday night."

"It is so helpful to have our daughter grow up immersed in Divine Principle week after week."

"I like the fact that I can study about True Parents at the same time that my mam and dad are also studying." ❖



BUENOS from page 16

At this day, where so many talked about peace, the "religious imperative" and values, a concrete gesture was very well received—a direct connection with the everyday affairs, which are bleeding peoples and cultures and are still needing to be met in this century. Graciela Yanovsky, President of the Argentine Foundation of Nations on Their Way to Truth, was inviting Dr. Omar Hazimih (of Palestine origin) and Dr. Fabian Olemberg (of Jewish origin) to embrace each other and with that gesture all of the participants were holding hands and lifting them up as symbol for unity and world peace founded on truth.

There was still more emotional content to follow. The book "Messages of Peace for a New Millennium", containing peace messages of the different presidents forming the United Nations (including a message by Kofi Annan), was handed over to be given to Sun Myung Moon, founder of the IIFWPU. This was an initiative by Carlos Fortunato Paralta, General Director of the Latinamerican Television Newsbroadcast CIN, who couldn't be present at the event, because the UN asked him to mediate in the conflict between India and Pakistan.

Buenos Aires Peace Declaration

"The Second World War was an evidence to the Fact that the League of Nations was a remnant of lost peace and therefore a renewed system had to be formed", in the opinion of Dr. Jesús Blasnik, President of the International and Interreligious Federation for World Peace in Argentina, who was presenting the highlights preceding the renovation of this international organism founded in 1919, at the finish of the First World War and on the foundations of which, by the end of the Second World War, the United Nations Organization was established in 1945. Blasnik closed the afternoon with his speech about the different landmarks and viewpoints of political and religious leaders, who under-

stood the necessity of changes in this world, especially in relationship to the spiritual aspects of different realms. And again, the imperious necessity to reform the United Nations by creating an Interreligious Council was addressed, to apply integral solutions to the problems, so that the organization may recuperate its lost moral authority in recent affairs (especially regarding the war with Iraq) and to avoid a disappearance, as in the case of the League of Nations.

This proposal, to which the President of the United States remarked that it was "a great idea", when it was presented by Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, Julio Ledesma, Senator of the Province of Buenos Aires, was referring to, while giving his testimony about his participation in the World Leaders Conference held in Seoul, Korea. The Argentinian Legislator, named Peace Ambassador in Uruguay, transmitted to the Argentinian President Nestor Kirchner his experiences in Seoul and explained about the necessity of Argentina giving a favorable vote for the creation of an Interreligious Council as part of the international organism. He even went further on, asking that Argentina may have a role of responsibility together with the Philippines, when the motion will be presented in September.

Before the invited guests were leaving and after the sounds of the Argentine national anthem, played at the beginning and at the closure of the event, the "Buenos Aires Peace Declaration" was signed, stating in its Point No. 3: "We recognize, that as Representatives of the Nation of Argentina, of the religions and races being present, we have in many ways failed to uphold the given ideals; we furthermore recognize, that in some instances we have acted unjustly with one another and therefore, we have to assume an attitude of repentance for this, asking forgiveness and initiating deeds of reconciliation for peace."

The Hope of all Ages

This desire for peace, this profound yearning, was also expressed by some

of the present in their final written reflections and conclusions. Words have this creative force, as well as the persistent desire to realize them. Here are some of the reflections for peace, given during this day, who left all of the participants with a content and grateful heart:

"I felt, that I had to take on some added responsibility, therefore I took the liberty to talk to President Kirchner, so that he may support the motion, which will be presented by the Philippines at the United Nations. Rev. Moon is deserving the highest respects, even though I don't know him that well, as I do know his followers. He is a giving man; he doesn't invest solely in material projects, but in the family as well. That's why I want to make it clear, that we should support this initiative, not only in lifting up our hand, but in being responsible together with the Philippines." (Part of Senator Julio Ledesma's speech).

"On this day we may continue living as politicians, economists, professionals, religious leaders, closed up in an intellectual monastic cubicle or we may permit that the doors of the mind and heart may be opened to receive different proposals, which may enrich us to work for world peace. We may permit a "marriage" between different walks of life and, as part of this collateral effort, permit that God may take control and govern in different areas and realms, with ethical and moral values and with true love". (Reflections of the Evangelical Pastor Carlos Alfredo Córdoba).

"In the name of the Latinamerican News Broadcast CIN, of the Civil Association World Solidarity between Nations, Peoples and Cultures, the Dialogue of Rome and the Argentina Foundation of Nations on the Way for Truth, all these organizations unified to focus the mind on world peace, are grateful to the oppor-

tunity in expressing our convictions, which without doubts sustain, that it is not possible to talk about a peace culture, without being founded in the development and multiplication of a truth culture. One could call it the "re-hirachisation" of ethical and moral values, fundamental for the decisions of human beings, so that we may guide the society out of corruption and onto the road towards a truthful society." (Graciela Yanovsky, President of the Argentina Foundation of Nations of the Way to Truth).

"Where there is truth and justice, peace is an inevitable consequence. The Interreligious Federation wishes, that we may understand its teachings through the creation, the conservation and the taking care of nature and the government, who are nothing else, but divine instructions to direct us to the common good. The family is were the values are 'cooked up'. People are born in families. Men and women should not rival, but compliment each other and in this fashion achieve harmony. We Peace Ambassadors should assume the compromise to show these values in every day life, to 'do extraordinarily the ordinary things', as Mother Teresa said." (Accountant Victor Eduardo Alcaraz, Peace Ambassador, and ex-functionary of the Education Ministry in the Province of Tucumán). ❖

The Second Generation Section

The **Unification News** is adding a new section for all 2nd Generation youth ministries. It will include a variety of reports, articles and testimonies from regions all over the nation. We hope this section will help in the development of your youth ministry.

For information on how to contribute please contact the US 2nd Generation Department's Assistant Planning Team Leader, Rachel Johnson at: 4 West 43rd St. New York, NY 10036, tel: 212-997-0050 ex. 123, cell: (914) 882-6338, or email at: BC2ndGen@FamilyFed.org.

2nd National Strengthening Our Networks and

The 2nd National Educators Conference—“Strengthening Our Networks, Affirming Our Commitment to Education”—was held October 31 – November 2, 2003 at the Unification Theological Seminary, Barrytown, NY.

In reality, this conference began, last November 2002 as soon as the 1st National Education Conference ended. It began with the participants returning to their homes and communities and then implementing what was learned and shared at that conference. Throughout this year, their feedback, commitment, and vision have fueled the planning process for the 2nd National Education Conference, which was held at the Unification Theological Seminary from October 31st to November 2, 2003. Over 115 educators from across the United States as well as one from South America, and representing a variety of ministries and fields participated.

Pre-Conference Workshops

The program began with two all-day pre-conference intensive workshops – one in children’s ministry (taught by Rev. Brian Sabourin) and one in youth ministry (taught by Dr. Kathy Winings). Through both workshops, participants studied, learned, discussed and shared. They were able to continue their journey to becoming professional religious educators. Sunday School teachers examined the vital areas of: the fundamentals of faith in children’s ministry; creating a program in which children learn to love God with all their hearts, hands and minds – creative teaching methods; what constitutes age appropriate education for children; and they looked at new resources and more effective lesson planning for children’s ministry.

In youth ministry, participants considered: the world of today’s teen, the challenges of development; creating an intentional ministry starting with strong program objectives; teaching teens effectively and going beyond the classroom to reach teenagers creatively and energetically.

Opening and Closing Plenary

The main conference opened with a terrific ice breaker by Brian Sabourin and Tony Devine oriented the attendees to the conference highlights that ended with a poignant quote from Father on the heart of being an educator.

During the Hoon Dok Hae on Saturday morning, Dr. Chang Shik Yang connected participants to the current focus in the providence and his recent experiences with True Parents. In the conference opening plenary, Dr. Yang supported the educator’s conference and its goals, and reiterated how important education is to True Father and to the future of our movement. He concluded by affirming that the ultimate aim of education to realize the goal of becoming a true son and daughter of God. Dr. Hendricks explained that UTS anchors a network of alumni across the states and around the world, many of whom are educators and that UTS is well-suited as a cross-departmental home for a Center for Education. Tony Devine reminded everyone that parents are the primary educator of our children and that the task of educators is to support that role by actively engaging parents in the variety of educational programs offered locally.

In the closing plenary, Dr. Winings advised participants to join the Religious Education Association (REA), an organization committed to quality religious education in churches and schools. She encouraged a strong home-centered and church-supported system of education as well as an effective adult education based on adult learning concepts and theories as well as adult issues, questions and needs.

Breakout Sessions

This year there were a total of 15 separate breakout sessions organized under five themes – Children’s Ministry; Youth Ministry; Young Adult Ministry; Family and Schooling. There were offered in three tracks of five sessions from which participants could choose. In looking at each of the 5 themes as a whole unit, it was clear that there was progression and development in each breakout. In Children’s Ministry, the day started with a full plate of ideas and inspiration stemming from years of experience in Laura Nabetani’s session on how to “Get Started in Children’s Ministry.” For those fortunate to attend, they were treated to a wonderful. It was only natural then to take Children’s Ministry one step further to “Designing Effective Lessons” with the help of Rev. Brian Sabourin. This session, together with the final session in Children’s Ministry on

with a look at “Outreach: Discussing Current Issues and Exploring Effective Models.” This was a good area of exploration as participants talked about witnessing by young adults naturally. Rev. Sabourin raised key concerns of youth in this area. From there, participants then had the opportunity to consider how we can “Engage Young Adults in Their Faith Stories.” Through that session, led by Dr. Winings,



mentoring, small group ministry, creative programming and creating a space for our young adults in the church community to support their transition to adulthood were all considered. Finally, this theme was taken a step further with the topic of “Enabling Young Adults for an Active Faith” represented by CARP and STF. Mr. Joshua Cotter and Mr. Gregg Jones were able to share how CARP has developed an experiential education program to support our young adults in living their faith consistently and joyfully.

What about Family Ministry? This theme began with the integration of character education and spirituality education and understanding the way to develop children and youth of good moral character in the home as well as the community. In this interactive session, Tony Devine addressed the numerous opportunities that exist to teach for and nurture good character in diverse contexts. Participants were then treated to the re-emergence of the Blessed Family Association (BFA) and its role in family education. Clearly a topic that reflects the concerns of our church community. The hope and vision of this revived association was shared by Mr. Chad Hoover who further brought out possible in-reach and outreach services of the BFA. Mr. John Williams then concluded this theme with how to “Prepare

Youth and Support Them in Arranged Marriages.” Again, a timely topic considering the recent blessing this summer as he brought out practical ways to prepare our youth for arranged marriages as well as new support for this type of marriage within our culture today.

Finally, we come to our last theme – Schooling and Home Schooling. Two parents from New Jersey, Pam Moffat and Jeff Kingsley gave participants an overview of home-schooling and offered a timely handout with web-based resources in the field – a rich nuts and bolts type of session. Building on the previous session, we were able to look at the types of questions that our own children ask us concerning the real scoop on purity and how to respond to them in the context of the school of love – the home. Again provided by an excellent resource in

the field, John Williams. Finally, Christl Brunkhorst guided participants in a discussion of “Administering a Faith-Based School or Day-Care Program” that provided a look at issues of funding, leadership and personnel.

Best Practice Rotation

After a wonderful dinner, the day ended with one planned session and one spontaneous optional session. The planned session focused on a best practices rotation. These five sessions, in which participants could attend two, highlighted real situations, real ministries, and stories of real experiences in children’s ministry, youth ministry, young adult ministry and schools plus a session on camps and retreats. The panels provided diversity of experience and approach as well as real questions, real issues and possible answers surrounding those themes. Effort was made to give participants the maximum amount of time to discuss, share and ask hard questions.

The spontaneous session, the brainchild of some first and second generation participants, featured a panel of second generation budding teachers and ministers presenting their experiences as being on the receiving end of our church’s educational programs. An excellent session, it demonstrated a clear coming together of both generations in dialogue about future programs.

Poster Sessions

On Sunday, the final day after an inspiring and refreshing Hoon Dok Hae where we could renew our own soul, participants were offered another new feature of the conference – Poster Sessions. With continental breakfast in hand, participants visited a wide array of booths in which fellow participants shared their particular projects, educational programs, or ministries. The sessions featured the international school in Brazil, PowerPoint series of lessons for 3rd grade Sunday School classes, the innovative Roots & Wings program from Northern California, methods of personal financing, and LEAD – a youth leadership innovation.



“Active Learning: Experiencing God in Children’s Ministry,” taught by Dr. Kathy Winings, allowed participants to strengthen their skills in lesson development and a teaching methodology that emphasized whole body teaching, games, and activities.

Youth Ministry likewise had a similar format beginning with “Help, I’m Responsible for Youth Ministry! What do I do?” In that session, Dr. Winings encouraged participants to examine 10 steps to an effective ministry. It set the stage for a look at how to “Engage Our Youth in Service Learning” where participants learned about the basics in utilizing service learning in our own ministries. Mr. Tony Devine and Ms. Lillie Kirkley addressed what to do and what not to do in involving youth in service learning projects, provided a list of key elements of effective programs and this was informed by the best practice of the Bridgeport, CT, Summer of Service program as well as the experience of the Service for Peace club at the University of Bridgeport.

We added a new theme this year with Young Adult Ministry, and it proved to be a wise choice. The morning began



Educators Conference

Affirming Our Commitment to Education

Action Committees

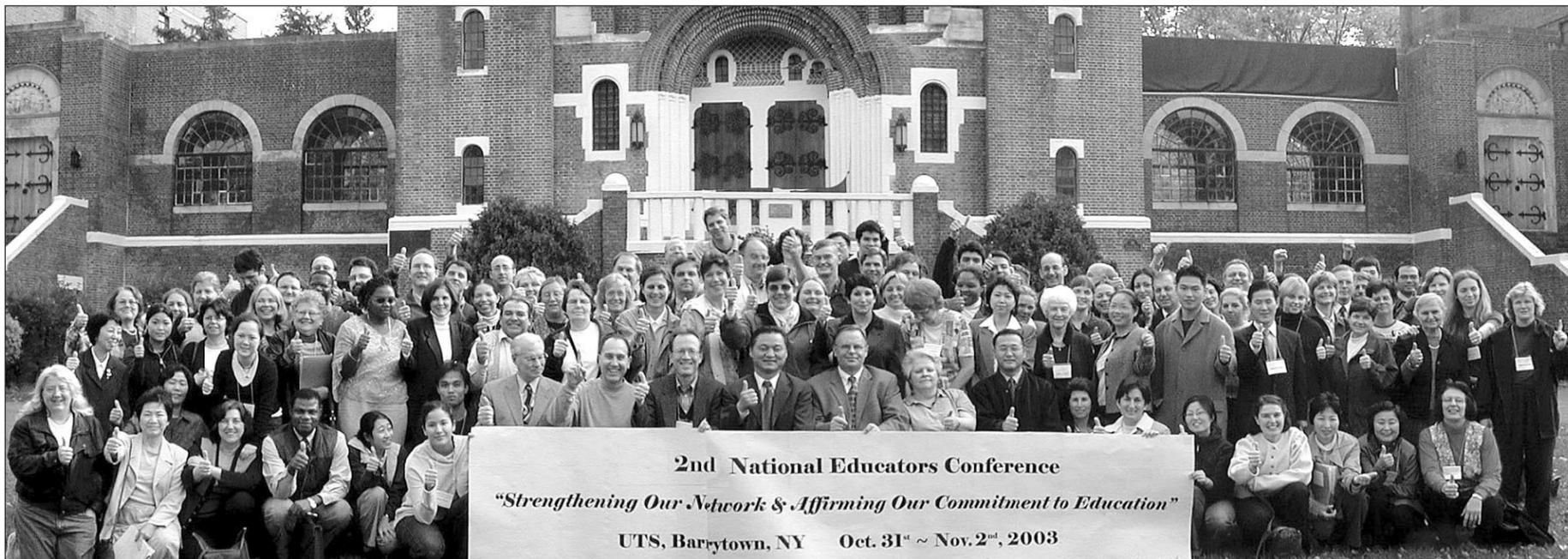
From there, we had the opportunity to meet in one of five Action Committees. They were: Children's Ministry, Youth Ministry, Young Adult Ministry, Camps, and Family Ministry/BFA. Each committee was tasked with choosing a leader,

to be accomplished.

The Action Committees are the real means through which a great deal of work, study, and insight can be developed. Participants are challenged to take their work to another level through contributing to these committees.

Based on their brief time together, the

and activities from teachers in our Sunday Schools targeting spring as its deadline for such a revised curriculum. Youth Ministry – identify effective



defining the basics of its work, and developing a plan of what actions it would take from now with a supporting timeline indicating when these actions were

committees decided the following: Children's Ministry – review the current curriculum and revise it where necessary, and then draw together good lesson plans

teachers in youth ministry and consider professionalism in teaching through a certification process. Young Adult Ministry – develop a pilot seminar in skills development for marriage and relationship-building to be offered in Northern California by early spring as preparation for wider dissemination. Family Ministry – challenge families to find two other families to form a trinity for greater support and encouragement of blessed family life. Camps – develop a leadership training program for camp counselors who then can work in multiple camps across the country; continue to coordinate the scheduling of camps.

intention to create a Center for Education that will be a source of professional development as well as a clearinghouse for ideas and resources. This will be housed at UTS, which also serves as the site for the annual conference. Some immediate tasks for the Education Institute include (1) maintaining communication with the Action Committee chairs (2) planning the 3rd National Education Conference, and (3) the development of a website.

Every participant expressed their gratitude for this unique opportunity to come together as educators with the goal to continuously improve their ongoing efforts and each left with new inspiration, new ideas and wanting to give more.

We would like to thank all of the presenters, panelists, our host UTS, In Soo Kim and the 2nd Generation Dept., our committee members, the educators who traveled far and wide to attend, for their total investment to make this conference a success. Most of all, we all want to thank True Parents and Hyun Jin Nim for the inspiration to gather and unite as educators and in giving a strong root to the effort of educating future generations. ❖

TESTIMONY

John R. Williams

Anyone who walked in a little late to the opening session of the Second National Education Workshop at UTS would have seen scores of mostly middle aged people running around shouting and maybe showing a piece of paper to one another until groups clustered and bewildered individuals found their place. Then you'd hear often feeble efforts to sing "Meet the Flintstones," "The Addams Family" and other TV show theme songs, in a desperate attempt to win the Halloween candy prizes.

On the other hand, if you had to leave a little early, you might be exiting the building to the strains of rock music coming from the chapel as the UTS President and his band performed during worship service. I heard rumors that Pink Floyd's "We Don't Need No Education" was to be included but I was packing my book table and may have missed it.

From this you may gather that this was no ordinary church workshop. Though the

schedule was full enough, the focus was not self-sacrifice but self-satisfaction and professional development. I was impressed with the sincere effort to respond to educators' expressed need for networking opportunities and exposure to best practices. (I also had a chance to sit in on a planning meeting for next year, and there was a real commitment to getting feedback and making it better and better.) There were tracks for educators of different age groups and various activities for each track throughout the program—next year will feature an adult education track. Interspersed among the sessions were social times with lavish spreads of drinks and goodies. The Second Generation staff was cheerful, attentive and working around the clock to care for us.

Even the Hoon Dok Hae program was imaginative. The first morning we were surprised to have Dr Yang give us his honest and heartfelt report on his trips to Israel. On Sunday morning we had the choice of walking Father's trail with commentary and reminiscences by the participants, or going on a prayer walk through the labyrinth lit by candlelight and the dawn. I loved the walk on the trail and ended up talking with an old friend about what she was doing—never imagining the kinds of great things she has done since I last saw her and the great things she is planning to

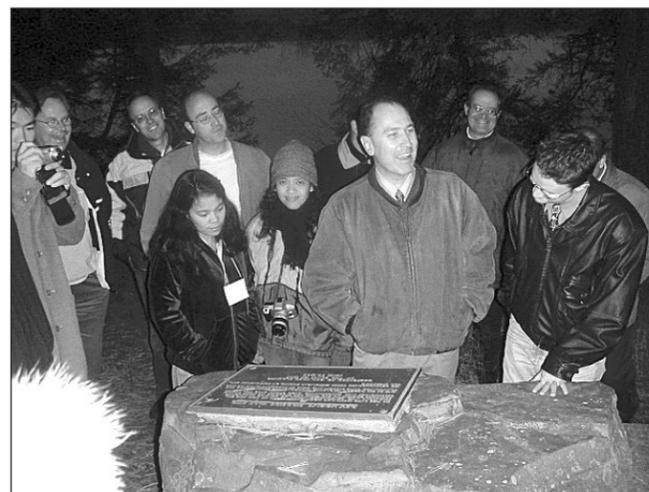
see **WILLIAMS** on page 21

Resource Fair & Networking

Throughout the weekend there was a resource fair where the best educational materials developed by our teachers and educators throughout the country, including professionally developed resources. All of the educators present truly valued the opportunity to network and discover what each was doing in their respective areas of education and learn from one another. All participants were given a contact sheet to network with each other directly and better support one another following the conference.

Conclusion

The dates for the 3rd National Educators Conference were announced, which will be Friday to Sunday, October 22-24, 2004. Also announced was the



STF Explodes to the Worldwide Level

New Educational Materials for 2nd Gen. Now Available

Thanks to Hyun Jin Nim's leadership, over the past 2 years, second generation education and training has rapidly advanced to a whole new dimension. The STF International Assembly came as the culmination of the past 2 years of STF development under Hyun Jin Nim's guidance in the U.S.. The STF originated in the U.S., and expanded to Europe, Japan, and Korea.

Excited STF members from Korea, Japan, USA and Europe gathered with great enthusiasm at Sun Moon University in Chun-an, Korea for their first historical International Assembly, from July 7-12th. For months they had been preparing to meet with Hyun Jin Nim at the Assembly, and to meet with their brothers and sisters from different countries. World CARP Korea, led by Mr. Kyoung Hyo Kim, President of World CARP-Korea, hosted this event with tremendous investment of heart and excitement.

On the first day, over 500 STF mem-

bers were greeted by Mr. Jin Man Kwak, Executive Vice President of World CARP. He outlined the purpose to everyone, which was to deepen our vertical alignment by meeting with Hyun Jin Nim, to share experiences and build a sense of international teamwork, to receive heavenly wisdom and inspiration through presentations and testimonies, and to then take off with new determination and ownership of the STF vision and culture of heart. Each member received a beautiful STF yearbook from International STF Director, Mr. Ittetsu Aoki.

One of the highlights of the Assembly was a presentation by Akiko Ikeno, one of our most outstanding leaders among second generation, and International Ambassador for Service for Peace. She spoke of Hyun Jin Nim's



trust in the STF members and his concern and determination to train and educate all second generation. "Hyun Jin Nim believes in you as the seeds of a new revolution of heart!" Another theme of her talk was "It is not only you who is out there on the front-line. Be the one who fulfills what the first generation and all the saints in history gave themselves for. Behind you someone prayed for a savior to come. That savior - that son or daughter of God and hope for the future - is you. Please inherit God's Providence and be the vanguard of the culture of heart."

On the second day of the Assembly, members shared impressive video reports on the activities of STF in their countries, and then their testimonies of meeting God and the heart of True Parents and True family on the front line, through witnessing and fundraising. Many testimonies reflected their tearful experiences of God's love and a deep heartistic connection with Hyun Jin Nim. Later that day, as they sang to prepare for Hyun Jin Nim's speech, the whole room exploded with energy and excitement, with STF Japan taking the lead in jumping on top of their chairs and calling out to their brothers and sisters of Korea, US and Europe. When Hyun Jin Nim arrived to greet a room full of excited STF members, all dressed in their black STF T-shirts, his first words were to express how deeply he was moved and energized by their spirit. In his speech, Hyun Jin Nim outlined the Core Values and his determination to fulfill God's desire to restore God's nation, together with the second generation and the youth of CARP.

The Korean People

Filled with energy and blessings of God's words and love, the international STF team members went out for the next three days to fundraise from CARP centers all throughout Korea. STF brothers and sisters of international pairs became closer and closer in heart as they went out with socks, and donation boxes, to fundraise the buses, shops and apartments of

their local areas.

Upon their return to Sun Moon University, STF members attended the Mr. and Miss University Pageant and the World CARP Convention, where again Hyun Jin Nim expressed his confidence and inspiration to the STF teams. At their final meeting together, tearful testimonies reflected the transformation these members experienced in such a short and powerful time they had spent together. One brother said, "I didn't realize how I was growing until I came here. God and spirit world are always working with us." Another testified, "I realized how much Hyun Jin Nim loves and believes in us. I can see it when I look at you - such a heart of true love in my brothers and sisters." One sister expressed that especially in the Japanese members, she felt incredible spirit and heart, and love and sacrifice for God and True Parents. "When we are all united like this, we are living out Hyun Jin Nim's dream. Now I can see my potential and what I lack too. I have something to reach for. It is more real to me now, when I see Hyun Jin Nim and he says, 'If I am a betting man, I will bet on STF!'"

Good News

As a result of the developments taking place in STF training and workshops, a whole series of videos and DVD's are now available to use for second generation education. These include precious speeches of Hyun Jin Nim, advanced DP lectures given by Rev. Phillip Schanker at major STF workshops, and introductory lectures given by Rev. Kevin Thompson at the kick-off workshop, as well as numerous profound and moving testimonies by STF members about their experiences meeting God and actualizing the Divine Principle on the front-line.

Witness the transformations taking place in the hearts of our second generation, and share in the wonderful educational resources by contacting the address below to order your own professionally edited videos and DVD's.

Here is the contact info: email - stfusa@worldcarp.org, phone 510-259-1139, address - P.O. Box 3068, Hayward, CA 94545. All the above are to the attention of Shinji Nakamura. ❖



STF VIDEO & DVD SERIES

| Title | Contents | Duration | Video | DVD |
|---|------------------------------------|----------|---------|---------|
| STF USA, HJN's Speech & Testimonies 2002 | | 1h | \$15.00 | \$20.00 |
| STF USA, HJN's Speech & Testimonies 2002 | with subtitles in Japanese | 1h | \$15.00 | \$20.00 |
| HJN's Speech at Kick off Workshop 2002 | | 1h | \$15.00 | \$20.00 |
| 1st International STF Assembly 2003 | | 1h | \$15.00 | \$20.00 |
| Introduction to STF USA 2003 | | 18min | \$12.00 | \$15.00 |
| STF USA Testimonies 2003 | | 55min | \$15.00 | \$20.00 |
| DP Lecture by Rev. Schanker # 1, God's Day W/S 2003 | Intro. & The Principle of Creation | 1h | \$12.00 | \$15.00 |
| DP Lecture by Rev. Schanker # 2, God's Day W/S 2003 | The Principle of Creation | 1h | \$12.00 | \$15.00 |
| DP Lecture by Rev. Schanker # 3, God's Day W/S 2003 | The Principle of Creation | 40min | \$12.00 | \$15.00 |
| DP Lecture by Rev. Schanker # 4, God's Day W/S 2003 | The Fall of Man | 1h | \$12.00 | \$15.00 |
| DP Lecture by Rev. Schanker # 5, God's Day W/S 2003 | The Fall of Man | 1h | \$12.00 | \$15.00 |
| DP Lecture by Rev. Schanker # 6, God's Day W/S 2003 | The Principle of Restoration | 1h 30m. | \$15.00 | \$20.00 |
| DP Lecture by Rev. Schanker # 7, God's Day W/S 2003 | The Principle of Restoration | 1h 10m. | \$12.00 | \$15.00 |
| DP Lecture by Rev. Schanker # 8, God's Day W/S 2003 | The Principle of Restoration | 1h 10m. | \$12.00 | \$15.00 |
| DP Lecture by Rev. Schanker # 9, God's Day W/S 2003 | The Principle of Restoration | 1h 40m. | \$15.00 | \$20.00 |
| Speech by Rev. Jenkins at Workshop, April 2003 | | 1h 30m. | \$15.00 | \$20.00 |
| Seung Hwa Ceremony for Jin Joo Byrne, Sep. 2002 | | 40min | \$12.00 | \$15.00 |
| Speech by Jin Joo's father Martyn Byrne, Oct. 2002 | | 40min | \$12.00 | \$15.00 |
| Lecture by Rev.Thompson # 1, Kick off W/S 2003 | Introduction | 1h | \$12.00 | \$15.00 |
| Lecture by Rev.Thompson # 2, Kick off W/S 2003 | Spirit World | 1h 20m. | \$12.00 | \$15.00 |
| Lecture by Rev.Thompson # 3, Kick off W/S 2003 | Spirit World | 1h 20m. | \$12.00 | \$15.00 |
| Lecture by Rev.Thompson # 4, Kick off W/S 2003 | Spirit World | 1h 10m. | \$12.00 | \$15.00 |
| Lecture by Rev.Thompson # 5, Kick off W/S 2003 | The Fall of Man | 1h 10m. | \$12.00 | \$15.00 |
| Lecture by Rev.Thompson # 6, Kick off W/S 2003 | The Fall of Man | 1h 45m. | \$15.00 | \$20.00 |
| Lecture by Rev.Thompson # 7, Kick off W/S 2003 | The Fall of Man | 1h 20m. | \$12.00 | \$15.00 |
| Lecture by Rev.Thompson # 8, Kick off W/S 2003 | Question & Answer | 1h | \$12.00 | \$15.00 |
| Lecture by Rev.Thompson # 9, Kick off W/S 2003 | Father's life Course | 1h 30m. | \$15.00 | \$20.00 |

How Could, or Should, Religions Contribute to Peace?

by Dr. Frank Kaufmann

The question "How Could, or Should Religions Contribute to Peace" evokes a sense in everyone that they already know the answer. People automatically think, "The answer to that question is obvious. Just ask me. I'll tell you." Not every question evokes the same feeling. For example, "how many calories are there in an apple?" The fact that everyone thinks they know how religions should contribute to peace says a great deal.

We must ask, if the answer is so obvious, then why don't we have peace already? Can it be that everyone in the world wants peace except religious people? If we can see a clear answer, then there must be something either in religion which is inherently antithetical to peace, or there is something in we ourselves which baffles our own efforts to bring to pass our own desire, and something (peace) which is patently in our own interest.

Whichever way one answers, the essential problem is the same in both cases. That is that there exists something split, divided, a house against itself. All religions teach peace, just as surely as all people desire peace.

Is there some dark shadow in religion(s) which inherently contradicts its own promise, its own core, its own sublime and elevated credenda? Maybe

so. Surely people from time immemorial have legitimated war, oppression, and occupation with sacred scripture, and reference to religious obligation.

The other possibility is that the problem lies, not with religion but with we ourselves. Is this where the debilitating and self-destructive, internal conflict lies? Was Paul right, and speaking for us all, when decrying this inner battle? (Romans 2: Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death? ... on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin.)

The modern world supports a battle between two philosophical camps on this issue. One says that the debilitating, internal contradiction lies in religion itself, and that the human being is fine (and perfectly capable of peace), if spared the burdens of fear, guilt, and superstition, and released to enjoy the calm glories of reason. These are the statisticians, humanists, enlightenment rationalists and so forth. This view is widespread in modern society (commonly conceded at the United Nations, universities, elite media professionals and so forth).

The other camp says the opposite. Religion is fine (in fact good), and it is the human being which is wracked by this contradiction and split. In fact, it is precisely this human condition of being at war with the higher self which

is the exact *raison d'être* for religion in the first place.

A resolution to this debate is possible, but it is one which nods a touch in the direction of the religious side. It would state that religion given by God is without the shadow which leads to war. But insofar as it must be received, constructed and maintained by human beings, it comes to be contaminated by the internal contradictions of its administrators. This resolves the modern debate so that both religions, and the human being bring to the table an inner contradiction which results in a world of war and terror.

Back to the question: What must religions do to contribute to peace? They must purge themselves and their leaders and believers of internal contradictions. In the case of religion, the battle rages between the higher part of each religion which says the religion must exist for the whole world and for every person. This battles with the impulse, likewise in all religions, which says that the religion exists only for its own sake, and the sake of its own believers. Our only concern is with Catholics, we have no compassion or concern for any other sort of religious believer. They are not my problem. (Or only Jews, or only Buddhists and so forth.) This impulse to devote oneself only to self interest at the expense of the greater whole contradicts the higher truth in all religions to serve the whole world,

and every person.

The human contradiction is identical. There is a natural aspect of our make-up which altruistic, and conversely a part which is oriented to our own ways, habits (traditions), and self-preservation and promotion. As with religions, these parts of the self must be harmonized, so that the higher (interpretation of) self takes the lead as the primary force guiding our existence.

So, is there a way religions can or should contribute to peace? Yes there is. Enlightened leaders in each tradition must analyze the root revelation and sacred origins and development of each respective tradition to determine which aspects call for serving the whole world and every person, as well as to find in each those impulses which interpret in the direction of greater parochialism, and self-preservation and promotion. Finally these leaders must harmonize this contradiction into a seamless and unified whole in such a way that the narrow parochial elements support and fuel the Divine indwelling which calls believers to love the whole world and every person.

To the extent that each tradition can accomplish this is the extent to which religious difference will cease to be a *causis bellum*, and shift to become an indispensable voice and contributor to peace on earth. ❖

Boston Ambassadors for Peace Fellowship Night

by Shelley Watanabe

On Monday night, Nov. 10, we held a dinner for Ambassadors for Peace who had participated in the pilgrimage to Israel. We also invited new guests who are interested in becoming Ambassadors for Peace.

The evening started off with a prayer from Father Cozier, one of our greatest allies and after the dinner our 2nd generation Miho Yoshida played the viola beautifully.

The short version of the video on the pilgrimage to Israel was shown.

Rev. Wright, pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Worcester gave his testimony detailing his 2 visits to Israel and Rome with our IIFWP program. He gave a very practical picture of the lifestyle in Israel and how they intermingle with the Palestinians. He described the Wailing Wall and the



prohibition of Israelis to go beyond it, and testified how the Ambassadors for Peace were able to go to places that the Jews could not go. All in all, Rev. Wright conveyed the need for reconciliation and understand of the situation there. He said he was very glad to have gone there and wants to be part of this effort to bring down the walls.

Rev. Richard Buessing then got up and gave brilliant account of his experience there, adding in dimensions of Divine Principle and the meaning of spiritual conditions to accomplish God's will. He spoke of the story of Abraham's offering and the fact the Moslem, Jew, and Christian faith have the same root. He described how in 1972 when Kim, Il Sung former president of North Korea announced that he was going to celebrate his 60th birthday in Seoul, Father Moon asked our members to pray that the Im Jin River would not freeze over. Miraculously, the river did not freeze that winter disabling Kim, Il Sung's plan.



Rev. Buessing went on to explain that after experiencing this pilgrimage to Israel, he came to understand the heart of both the Israel side and the Palestinian side. He said there is no other way but to help to bring about cooperation and understanding. He encouraged the audience to come on the next trip and their lives would be changed.

Bishop Skyers the Chairman of True Family Values in New England, gave a very warm and deep understanding of Father Moon's intention to bring world peace. He has been doing this at the risk of his life for years. He also described the condition of the Holy Land, and how God wants to see it restored so desperately. It is spiritually a very important part of the world since civilization began there.



Bishop Skyers ended the program with a call for action-inviting the audience to come to the rally in Jerusalem on Dec. 22nd.

One of the guests, Dr. Ulric Johnson, a Harvard Professor and founder of Youth Against Gang Violence, stood up and introduced his 8 students. They are trained in conflict resolution and they go into schools and run assemblies to teach the students about managing anger and positive ways to direct their energy. He and some of the students are very interested in the rally in Israel.

There were about forty people in attendance including twenty four guests. Most of these guests are ministers working with ACLC New England. ❖



WILLIAMS from page 19

do. That of course is a big part of the weekend, running into old friends, making new ones based on common interests, talking with people you may have heard about but never met.

I missed the plenaries and other portions of the program because I either preparing to present or presenting; I did two sessions on relationship education themes. One was on making the case for purity for skeptics. The other was on advocating arranged marriage to kids who are unsure.

It was a surprise to have so many Second Generation folks attend—I really had not expected to see so many in the workshop—and it was great to have a chance to air some new material I was thinking about.

Before I came I had mixed feelings about devoting a whole weekend to the workshop and had thought about leaving early. But I found myself constantly stimulated and moved by the unfolding program and personal encounters. I ended up staying happily to the end, and as I drove out of Barrytown through the serene autumnal woods, I found myself looking forward to going next year. ❖

40 YEARS IN AMERICA

Blessing

by Dr. Michael Mickler

Dr. Mickler is Vice-president and Professor of Church History at the Unification Theological Seminary.

The U.S. movement assumed center stage during Blessings '97 and '98. Although it did not achieve the highest blessing totals, it convened a respectable gathering at RFK and an exemplary one at MSG. The American movement especially distinguished itself through its work with Christian ministers. Nevertheless, Blessing '99 once again was held in Korea. Most members did not regard this as an affront. Having operated at a high pitch of mobilization since early 1997 or even before, many were ready for a less prominent role. To some extent, the U.S. movement reverted back to its pre-1997 level of involvement. That is, it was largely responsible for bringing VIPs to Blessing '99 and handling them once they were there. However, this wasn't the whole story. American members also had learned the secret of conducting pre-Blessings on a mass scale.

The secret, as already noted, was to be utterly committed and sincere in one's efforts and to break through spiritually. This allowed God to work. Once God was free to work, there were no limits in terms of permissible methods or achievable totals. The leading proponent of this approach was Mrs. Young Soon Kim, commonly known as "Lady General" Kim. She was assigned to the U.S. by Rev. Moon as a "prayer lady." Highly expressive with a disarming habit of embracing members in trademark bear-hugs, she organized midnight prayer meetings and fasting conditions in Alaska, Boston and Washington, D.C.

Many members began employing mass distribution techniques. They prepared plastic bags with holy candy and Blessing commitments printed on FFWPU business cards. The technique was to purchase large bags of hard candy from wholesale outlets, to sanctify the candies with prayer and sprinkles of holy wine while still in the package, and to re-pack it, two individual pieces of candy at a time, with a single FFWPU card into small plastic baggies or sealable pouches. This was time-consuming but had the advantage of involving entire tribal messiah families in assembly line-type productions. Bags, then, could be distributed where there were large gatherings of people. Dr. Hendricks noted, "Even a dour sort such as I am can hand out two hundred in 20 minutes on a crowded Manhattan corner at rush hour." Others targeted sports stadiums. Some families took to placing the bags on the windshields of parked cars in mall or county fair parking lots, rows at a time.

Spirit world blessings and spirit world mobilizations continued to play a role in Blessing '99. Rev. Moon spoke many times about good and sometimes evil spirit world assaulting the earth. The difference in 1998 and 1999 was that rather than speaking in general terms, the movement was quite specific. This, to some extent, flowed from the MSG event, which cited thirty-four particular spirit world representatives among the 16 billion spirits blessed. Rev. Kwak reported that on October 5, 1998, "all spirit persons who have received the Blessing were assigned to mission countries on earth, and they will help us if we focus our efforts." At Blessing '99, 56 billion spirits were reported to have been blessed. A list circulated by the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification International (FFWPU) included the names of sixty-five Old Testament figures, twenty-seven New Testament figures, twenty-seven figures from Christian history, fifty-seven popes, twenty-six Byzantine emperors, and twenty-eight emperors of the Holy Roman Empire. The Blessing, at this point, was understood to have transcended the limitations of time and space. It had become not only a global but a cosmic event.

This is the twenty-eighth in a series of excerpts from the book *40 Years in America: An Intimate History of the Unification Movement 1959-1999*. The editor is Michael Inglis, the historical text by Michael Mickler. The book is available from HSA Publications for \$70 + \$8 s&h. Contact them at: 4 West 43rd Street, NY NY 10036; tel: (212) 997-0050 xt250 or at their web-site: www.hsabooks.com.

However, all of this came at a price. The movement was conducting Blessings on a mass level with double or even triple

the number of participants, virtually every six months. It conducted Blessing '97 for 40 million couples in November 1997. MSG for 120 million couples followed in June 1998. Blessing '99, scheduled for February 7, 1999, was to include 240 million couples. Factoring in the billions of spirit world unions, these events exerted an extraordinary amount of material, psychological and spiritual pressure upon members. The movement dealt with this pressure essentially by ignoring it and pressing ahead. Nevertheless, it had accumulated a backlog of deferred internal maintenance needs which were reaching the breaking point. Still, it would take a major breakdown

writer, was a self-described gender-obsessed "shrieker," the book had an element of feminist rage. Finally, as Nan Sook's lawyer was Herbert Rosedale, a long-time Unification Church opponent and president of the American Family Foundation, the book reflected an anticult perspective.

The end result was an "atrocious tale" worthy of its predecessors in the nether world of confessional apostate literature. There was a dramatic "captivity and escape" motif, wild allegations of all manner of excesses and deceptions, especially of a sexual or financial nature, and a sympathetic depiction of Nan Sook's readjustment to the values and behavioral norms of conventional society. There were no ambiguities, no nuances. Nan Sook was the heroine, Hyo Jin the villain. Apart from this, Nan Sook took a number of gratuitous swipes at Mrs. Moon; at select members of the True Family; and at Rev. Moon whom she alleged had extramarital or, more accurately, "providential" affairs. She also asserted that he had at least one illegitimate son. Her conclusions? Rev. Moon was a "con man," he and Mrs. Moon were indifferent parents, and the True Family was dysfunctional.

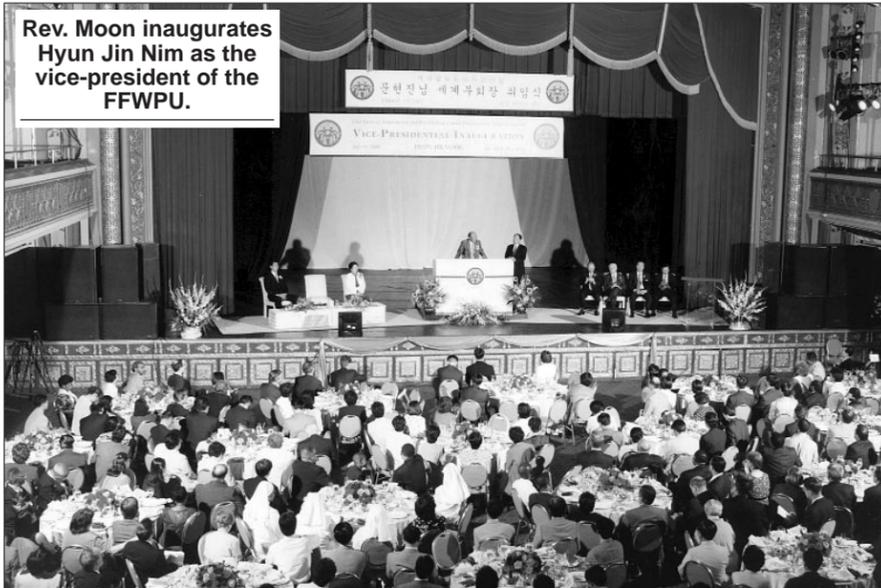
Sociologists and historians of culture who have studied religious atrocity narratives point out that they are not rightly personal or factual replications so much as they are cultural renderings of what mainstream society has "already agreed upon to see." This was not to assert that Nan Sook's claims had no basis in fact. The fact pattern was such that she won a divorce and handsome settlement. However, observers would have been well advised to exercise caution in leaping from a failed marriage to a failed messiah or a failed messianic movement. The media, of course, was not subject to these constraints. Nan Sook's revelations corresponded to what they had "already agreed upon to see." Conditioned to probe for

flaws and operating under a hermeneutic of suspicion, which oddly enough did not extend to Ms. Hong, most media accounts took her testimony and conclusions at face value or corroborated them with those of other disaffected members, including Rev. and Mrs. Moon's third daughter, Un Jin, who appeared on "Sixty Minutes."

The irony was that *In the Shadow of the Moons* had a relatively short shelf life. There was an initial flap surrounding the book's publication and Nan Sook's promotional tour which included pointed comparisons between what the movement preached and what it allegedly practiced at its core. Some pieces juxtaposed photos of Blessing '98 against Nan Sook's allegations. "Sixty Minutes" was especially cunning in leading an "unidentified" bride and groom into comments about Rev. and Mrs. Moon's "true family" and "children of goodness." However, the public soon tired of this. Essentially, Nan Sook was saying that the Moons were "like everybody else, but a little more dysfunctional." This was not exceptionally news-worthy. It was the bizarre and unusual that kept the public's attention. The 1970s image of "moonies" as brainwashed zombies had far more staying power. The effect of Nan Sook's disclosures on the membership was more difficult to gauge. Some members were devastated. Others refused to read the book or discuss any of the issues. Others marshalled many of the same resources and arguments by which they coped with previous charges.

Nan Sook's book certainly wasn't the first apostate account the movement had endured. There were literally dozens of them. Many of them included similar wordplay on the name "Moon," i.e., *Moonstruck*, *Eclipse of the Moon*, *The Moon Is Not the Son*, etc., and were ghost-written. However most of the accounts were written from the standpoint of ordinary members or, at best, mid-level leaders. Many attempted to inflate their credentials or insinuate that their role was more than it

Rev. Moon inaugurates Hyun Jin Nim as the vice-president of the FFWPU.



or two to force the issue. This is precisely what happened in late 1998. If the movement did not fully resolve the problems, it at least paused long enough to acknowledge them.

The first breakdown resulted from publicity surrounding the divorce of Rev. and Mrs. Moon's eldest son, Hyo Jin, and his wife of fifteen years, Nan Sook Hong. In actuality, Ms. Hong fled from her husband in August 1995, taking their five children with her. Divorce papers were filed in December 1996, and the divorce was finalized a year later. It was a private, family matter until Nan Sook Hong published *In the Shadow of the Moons: My Life in Rev. Sun Myung Moon's Family* (Little, Brown and Company, 1998). Prior to that, most members had only a vague idea of problems in their marriage. Hyo Jin's early struggles were common knowledge following his decision to inform the membership in a public speech a decade before. However, members generally assumed that his situation had stabilized since then. The minority of members who knew of the separation or even that the divorce had been finalized still hoped for a reconciliation. For this group but far more so for those who were entirely unknowing, the charges in Nan Sook's book as amplified in her nationwide promotional book tour, on various radio and television talk shows, and on CBS's popular "Sixty Minutes" were shocking and unsettling.

The book itself was one-sided and retaliatory. It also was ghost-written, having been penned by Eileen McNamara, a Pulitzer Prize-winning Metro columnist for the *Boston Globe* who had written articles critical of the church and of Hyo Jin Moon previously. In this sense, the book packed a triple or even quadruple punch. It was, first and foremost, one partner's account of a failed marriage. However, it also was an apostate account since Nan Sook rejected the Unification faith. Third, since Eileen McNamara, the book's unacknowledged ghost-

40 YEARS IN AMERICA

'99

really was. Some published books on the basis of having attended several workshops or of having been a member for a matter of weeks or months. These were easily dismissed. Nan Sook's book had considerably more insider credibility and clout as it was the first apostate account to come from a member of Rev. Moon's family.

A second important difference related to the time and circumstances of publication. Virtually all of the other apostate accounts had been penned between 1975-85. Especially during the early years of that period, the movement was almost universally regarded as a cult. The situation was quite different in 1998. Although the movement had not entirely shed the cult label, it made numerous inroads into American society and was accepted as legitimate in many quarters. Some members still engaged in full-time spiritual or business missions, but many others had returned to their hometowns as tribal messiahs or worked outside the church and were, more or less, independent. These circumstances created a much different environment. Between 1975-85, the movement's defenses were up, and most members had neither the time nor the interest to assess criticisms. By 1998, the movement's defenses were down. If members still were disinclined to read apostate accounts, many were forced to assess this one if only in response to their older children who were as yet not fully formed in the faith and who were sensitive to public criticism. In some cases, this led to painful reassessments.

The movement as a whole responded to the situation in several specific ways. Hyun Jin Moon, recently inaugurated as Vice-President of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification, International (FFWPU), sent a letter addressed to all members on September 9th which was intended to share "the heart and spirit of my family." He stated that they considered "Nan Sook to be part of the family...do not criticize her, even though we do not agree with what she sets forth in the book...[and] are ready to take care of unresolved problems and...would like Nan Sook to be part of the healing process." The following day, HSA Headquarters sent a letter to members intended to help them respond to issues raised by the book. The letter outlined the movement's position on personal and marital abuse, financial accountability, issues of political power, religious freedom, the teaching and practice of family values, and lifestyle issues. Finally, though declining to speak with media representatives, Rev. and Mrs. Moon submitted a brief statement to "Sixty Minutes" stating in part: "We commiserate with Nan Sook's over the suffering arising from the tragic personal problems our son has faced. We, as parents, feel a deep sense of responsibility."

On Monday, September 21st, the day after the nationwide "Sixty Minutes" broadcast, Rev. Moon addressed the movement's East Coast members. Calling them

together indicated that he took the book, the media attention, and members' concerns seriously. Nevertheless, he placed the controversy "in the same category as other attacks upon his work" and made it clear that he would "not allow these attacks to interfere with his fulfillment of God's will." He told members, "Don't worry about Nan Sook's story" and denied that he "even spent one hour talking with her." He said that he had no regrets, that there was nothing of which he was ashamed in his life, and that he committed no fall. He concluded by asking members to send him off "with a comfortable heart, by reassuring me that you will be strong to deal with this media and keep going toward the goal." These were the last public statements he made about the incident. However, Rev. Moon reblessed Hyo Jin at Blessing '99. He commented, "I have forgiven some of the worst criminals of history. Can't I forgive my own son?"

A second breakdown during the latter part of 1998 precipitated less a spiritual than a material crisis. It revolved around the apparent collapse of Tongil Group, a conglomerate or *chaebol* of the movement's business and industrial holdings in Korea. According to one report, difficulties facing the Tongil Group had become increasingly apparent since May when one of its mem-

ard." There also were misunderstandings between management and labor. Tongil Heavy Industries laid off 800 workers who then charged that they had been illegally dismissed without pay. Those who lost their jobs staged demonstrations and even threatened violence during a speech tour Rev. Moon conducted in Korea during January 1999.

Amazingly, these breakdowns had little effect on Blessing '99. Rev. Kwak announced that on September 29, 1998 the worldwide movement had accomplished the goal of pre-Blessing 240 million previously married couples. The focus now was on finding single Blessing candidates, unmarried young people willing to be matched. However, the venue for the main ceremony was still undecided. Rev. Moon expressed the desire to hold it in Japan but the problems with obtaining a visa for him could not be overcome. He also offered to conduct it in Taiwan but the movement there was not ready. Finally, in January, thirty-three days before the event, scheduled for February 7th, Rev. Moon settled on Korea. Still, this wasn't the whole story. As related by Rev. Joong Hyun Pak,

"About twenty days before the actual day of the Blessing...I received the news that...Blessing '99 would be held not in ChamShil Gymnasium as planned by the Korean Church, but rather at Seoul Olympic Stadium!!

Outdoors! In February! Wintertime! I remembered how shocked leaders were when they heard in 1997 that we were going to use RFK Stadium in Washington, D.C., also an outdoor stadium! In November! Wintertime!" How the Korean movement mobilized more than 100,000 people and 3,000 buses, filling practically all seats in the stadium three hours before the event was something of a mystery to Western observers. However, it was apparent that the weather had cooperated. Sub-freezing temperatures warmed considerably, and conditions on the day of the ceremony were quite good.

Blessing '99 and associated events penetrated Korean society far more than had the previous two International Blessing Ceremonies and WCSFs in 1992 and 1995. The key breakthrough was South Korean President Kim Dae Jung's presence at the Tenth Anniversary Celebration of the movement-owned *Segye Times* news-



paper on February 1st. Though Tongil Group might be suffering, *The Segye Times* had "placed its founder on the map in Korean society and in its corridors of power." Kim Dae Jung not only disregarded those who would dissuade him from attending but, according to a movement report, "brought with him the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the leaders of political parties, and other figures central to the administration of the nation." He shared the podium with Rev. Moon and participated in an anniversary cake-cutting.

Gen. Alexander Haig, Jr., former U.S. Secretary of State under Ronald Reagan and White House Chief of Staff under Richard Nixon, provided a similar focal point for the WCSF's Special Convocation on "Family Ethics and World Peace." In an introduction to Rev. Moon, Haig described how their lives first intersected during the Korean War, praised Rev. Moon for his conciliatory approach to President Nixon during the Watergate crisis, and again praised Rev. Moon for his role in the downfall of communism. At a well-attended press briefing, when asked if he were a Unification Church member, Haig replied, "No, but who couldn't support the values espoused here at this conference? It would be like being against motherhood." ♦

ber firms, the Il Hwa soft drinks maker, went out of business. This was followed by failure to win the right to develop a tourist resort in North Korea, part of an agreement Rev. Moon had reached with the late North Korean Premier Kim Il Sung but which was lost during the autumn as a result of financial concerns about Tongil. On November 30, 1998, four companies of the Tongil Group—Tongil Heavy Industries, Hankook Titanium, Il Song Construction and Il Shin Stone—filed for court protection after having failed to keep up with bank loan repayments. An official of the South Korean government's newly formed financial supervisory service said that the debts of the group's sixteen companies exceeded \$1.7 billion U.S. dollars.

South Korea's economic crisis, particularly restrictions on bank lending following the International Monetary Fund's \$58 billion bail-out of the Korean economy, contributed to Tongil's decline. The wider Asian economic crisis, especially in recession-hit Japan, an important market for Tongil Group products, also contributed. However, the main problem, according to a South Korean analyst, was that "The Tong Il companies suffer from bad management.... They relied too much on church donations. It was a kind of moral haz-

GOD AND THE LIFE OF PI

by Janna Gullery

Independent thinkers often fall victim to crazy twists of fate, blending seemingly unrelated concepts of life. In *Life of Pi*, Yann Martel recounts the story of an unusual boy growing up in mid-20th century India. Pi Patel, an unassuming son of a zookeeper trying to simultaneously practice Islam, Christianity, and his native Hinduism completely by himself, finds himself removed from his home and on a Japanese cargo steamer across the Pacific to Canada with his family and the entire population of his family's zoo. A storm leaves Pi as the sole survivor on a small lifeboat. The only problem is, he has the company of a zebra, an orangutan, a hyena, and a Bengal tiger. It is during this time that we explore deeper into the story of Pi.

Pi grew up in a non-religious household, feeling different but unfazed all his life, until he went on vacation and wandered into a Christian church. There he met a priest, and there he met Jesus. Later, Pi discovered a mosque and met Allah. His only request for his birthday was a prayer mat. Pi, a very unusual adolescent, was content spending his days in his courtyard, praying. One ominous day in the marketplace with his parents he finds himself trapped in a troublesome situation: concurrently approaching him were the priest, the imam, and the pandit. There we are introduced to simple yet deeply thoughtful religious dialogue. As the three religious leaders bicker, we see their immature truths, we examine ourselves and our own faith communities,

and discover eventually in Pi what we sadly thought ourselves too advanced to possess: perfection in simplicity. Pi's concerned indifference proves itself to be something so touching and desirable.



Life of Pi
by Yann Martel
Harcourt, NY

As Pi lingers in his lifeboat for 287 days, watching all but the tiger and himself die, he undergoes spiritual and physical realization and growth. Pi slips away from his satirical reality and finds God in his own way. He finds Krishna in the tiger's stripes, he finds Jesus in the raw fish he eats, he finds Allah in the sunset he watches every night. It seems so easy

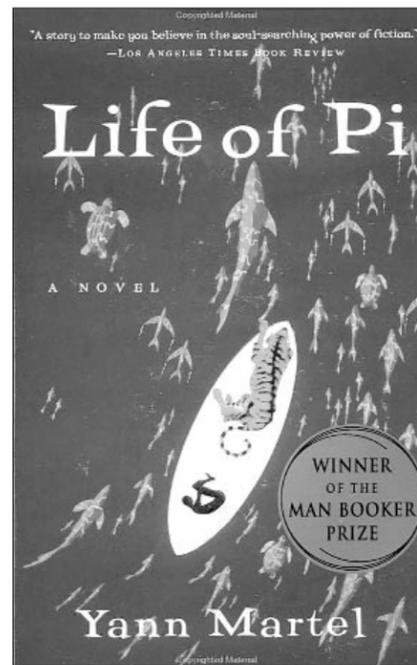
for him to relate religious thought to his own life. Alone for nearly a year, he finds a friend in the tiger, whom he names Richard Parker. Although he understands the seriousness of the wily battle between them, he comes to love and care for Richard Parker. And as the days pass, some bringing utterly mediocre bore and some bearing experiences so unlikely, Pi unconsciously and silently becomes in tune to the divinity around us and within us, and lives his life accordingly.

At first, Pi is all but terrified for his life. It seemed the sea, the animals, and fate were all against him. But eventually he learns to conquer the animals, to train them and feed them. It is amazing how Pi discovers so much beauty in the ownership over nature that God intended for humans to have. Our superiority over other life is not in arrogance, but rather in love and in

balance. By scientifically perfect miracles, Pi is changed and saved time after time, ultimately by his God, his Allah. Once he wholly admitted his life to the truth that was so obviously smothered by a desperate, ignorant, and selfish society, Pi knew only life and plain, deep meaning.

Pi's journey through India and the Pacific seemed fate, something we all can ponder the influence of. His destiny held complicated tangles of histories and decisions, of challenges and faith. He defeated obstacles brilliantly, relying on his beautiful characteristic of making over-dramatized things painfully clear. He came out in the end with all of his Gods, all his beliefs, and an understanding of religion and life that no one could take away.

Life of Pi teaches us about religion, balance, human nature, and the inclusive life. ❖



IN MEMORIAM Natsuki Yoshida

Natsuki Yoshida was born in Japan in 1983 and moved to Kenya with her family when she was 6 years old. Her parents were Blessed in the 1800 Couple Blessing. Natsuki joined STF in the beginning of March, 2003. During the kick-off workshop in July, she became sick and was taken to Albany Memorial Hospital where she was diagnosed with leukemia. She received chemotherapy for almost 2 weeks and was preparing to have a bone marrow transplant in Japan. Unfortunately, her central nerv-



ous system suddenly became infected, and she went to the spirit world on August 19th.

The Seung Hwa Ceremony was conducted on August 29th at Kosei Church in Tokyo, Japan, and attended by over 100 people. On the same day, Natsuki was buried in Oze Reien where many other church members are buried. International STF Director, Mr. Itetsu Aoki, and 2 IW's (Ritsuko Seida and Makiko Watanabe) from STF USA attended, as well as the STF-Japan Director, Mr. Ohkawara, World CARP-Japan President, Mr. Matsunami, and STF-Korea Director, Mr. Yoon. ❖

IN MEMORIAM Ulrike Bessell

Mrs. Ulrike Bessell passed to the spiritual world on September 13, 2003 while brothers and sisters from around the world gathered in New York representing the seven providential nations related to World War II. Historically speaking, these are enemy nations, but their sons and daughters are coming together for peace and the fulfillment of God's providence.

The Bessell family has been a model of Abel-like and faithful responsiveness to the will of God. As a National Messiah couple, they have taken on a major responsibility, and have carried out that responsibility in Guatemala in an exemplary way. I also know that the second generation of the Bessell family are leading exemplary lives in service to God's providence.

As we know, our True Father has taught us of the three realms of life. That is, our life in the womb of our mother, our life on this earth, and our life in the spiritual world. Our cosmic home and destiny is to dwell with God in the spiritual world. God does not consider this life as our permanent dwelling place. Rather it is the school from which we are to graduate. Our mission during our time in this physical world is to develop our heart and character as people of true love, as true sons and daughters of our True Parents.

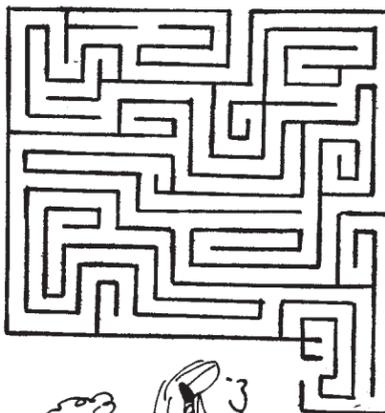
Rev. Dr. Chung Hwan Kwak ❖

FOR KIDS

by Françoise



Find the seven differences between these two drawings of Thanksgiving with Grandma and Grandpa



Help them find the dinner table



**PAUL
CARLSON**

Mr. Carlson is involved with marine aspects of the Providence in the Bay Area

This is the final article in a series about the Word of God.

Millions of people live by the Word. In the old Soviet Union, where atheism was enforced by a brutal KGB, anyone who worshipped God was an enemy. They were known to all as 'believers.'

We've discussed humanists and atheists in other articles. They're affected by the Word, too, but in an odd, reverse way.

Revelation

The Principle explains history's unfolding revelations very well. Due to ignorance and prejudice, many religions deny the sanctity of others. We uphold the truth of all religions, showing that God's Word is tailored for each society and era.

With each new revelation, questions are finally answered, and religious practices brought up to date. This enhances the lives of believers, and each providential religion has grown worldwide.

While going door-to-door over the years, I found that people's religious leanings can be readily ignored, or evoked. If approached from a business angle, most people respond by seeking a good deal, and praising your economic ambition. If asked for a religious contribution, they'll quiz you for theological details, and tell you all about their own religion (or lack thereof.)

Strictness

How hard do people strive to fulfill to their beliefs? It varies, though in most churches, women are the more faithful. On any Sabbath day, just check the pews—and the couch at home, where the ball game is on.

Tens of millions of Americans claim, not only to believe in God, but to have been born again through Jesus. That's hard to believe, since a small number of homosexual activists have been getting everything they've planned for. Take a look at the new TV sitcoms, and the recent flood of anti-traditional-marriage laws.

One gets the impression people aren't serious enough about their beliefs, especially in the public square.

Sinful humans need strict guidance, and religion is the best place to get it. Our conscience gives the impetus, but we also need instruction, and a good example. (An 'Abel figure,' as the Principle terms it.)

Sometimes believers get serious. (For example, see www.aclj.org)

Maybe your own family has a 'confirmed bachelor' in it, but he probably doesn't rub it in your face. Say your church elects an openly gay Bishop, and he announces that you're a narrow-minded homophobe if you don't support him gleefully. When a denomination becomes that humanistic, serious believers will enact reforms, or even participate in a splinter group.

In history, the austere Franciscan order became lax the very year Saint Francis died. A while later, the even stricter Capuchins split off.

Christianity has seen a lot of this. For example, the Anglicans begot the reforming Methodists, who spun off the Church

Believing the Word

of the Nazarene, which fostered the Bible Missionary Church. They split into the extremely strict Wesleyan Holiness Church.

Getting Along

The majority of Americans are Christian. Americans also know lots of people who aren't. Most get along just fine, as neighbors and in the workplace. Conversions are also okay, whether the attraction is social, spiritual, or intellectual.

Unfortunately, instead of accepting this social variety, a few religions strain only to look backward. Supposedly, things were just peachy a thousand years ago, and everything done since ought to be blown up, or at least banned.

That's the total opposite of American optimism. It's also tragic, and they're hurting their own believers even more than those at which they sometimes lash out.

Believers

Almost all believers are sincere, whether they've been educated in their faith, or

survivors might gather at Ground Zero in NYC.

Everyone I've asked says, "No way!" Folks say they have a mindset that will never change. Also, that it's too squalid over there, for them to even be alive in fifty years.

I'm certain that folks said the same thing about the Imperial Japanese.

Fakes

There are pretend believers.

In impoverished lands, missionaries coined the term 'rice Christian' for those who sang loudest in choir, but took off the minute the food ran out.

Christianity got a lot of insincere converts after the persecution ended, and churches became wealthy and influential. A handful of notorious televangelists have brought such efforts to a pinnacle.

Most false believers are self-serving, but worse, a few serve a hidden cause. These range from discreet spies to agents provocateurs, who join religious organizations to watch, or even disrupt, them.

"owned by" the KGB, CIA, etc. He'd speak to them for a few minutes, then say, "Go tell your masters."

This proved true in France. There, some years ago, half the center members abruptly

ly left, just after a decisive government action. But, the 'spy sermon' your author heard was given in America.

A friend has asked me if I know the identity of any such 1970s spies. I don't.

Anyone care to fess up? You can do this privately, or even in public. At the least, please save your own soul, and confess on your deathbed.

Keeping The Faith

Believers, painfully aware of their own fallen nature, know they might doubt, or even backslide. Everyone has a different way of handling such possibilities.

I have a writer friend, an ultra-Orthodox Jew, whose community takes extreme measures. They don't want any missionaries to visit their cloistered neighborhood, and possibly convert their youth. They don't allow computers, or TV sets, into their homes.

So then, do they have confidence in their faith? One wonders—but really, yes! In essence, their Rabbi doesn't want anything to stir up confusion.

Compare this with our own community work, such as Home Church and Service for Peace. Our BCs and Japanese missionaries visit every church in town, and directly serve those who'll accept it.

Are we going to Heaven? At times, every believer wonders. Do you fear condemnation and Hell, and dodge a hundred tempting sins; or do you give thanks and rejoice, and long for Heaven? It's a real dichotomy; a product of church learning, early upbringing, and an even deeper optimism or pessimism.

Many people zigzag between those internal poles. Dark resentment and rebelliousness can break before the dawn of repentance and rebirth.

Jesus told us the path to Heaven is narrow. Like a mountain road, on occasion the edge of the cliff can draw near indeed. At such times, prayer and fellowship are vital.

Despite centuries of humanistic blather, people know that a few basics give life real meaning. A good life and family, and service to God and humanity, are what really counts, now and in the end. Everyone's unique character and talents lend special flavor to this.

Wise Pastors speak not of making intellectual contracts with God, but of a deep surrender to His Will.

As we know, ultimately God is not just a stern Master, but also our loving Parent. ❖

Representatives of Seven Nations visit Japan

November 12, 2003



84 representatives of 7 nations came to Japan through the Fukuoka Seaport on November 7. They made three teams for Tokyo, Osaka and Nagoya to establish Peace UN. They worked for the Inagural Convention of the Peace UN held in Japan on November 20.

simply accepted it. Some folks live (and serve) entirely by faith, giving little thought to doctrines or theology.

There are also twisted believers, such as the infamous Tomas de Torquemada, leader of the Spanish Inquisition. He was smart, and probably sincere. We must always guard against such extremes!

Today we face horrific suicide bombers. Believe it or not, most aren't illiterate, poor, or desperate. In fact, they're clinically sane.

Researchers compare them to World War Two's kamikaze pilots, who knew exactly what they were getting into. In each case, a large and well-oiled 'social indoctrination' program drove them to fanatic acts.

At this point, I'd like to follow up on my recent "Challenging Times" article. In it, I mentioned that Pearl Harbor survivors now invite their new friends, the Japanese pilots, to their annual reunions. I asked whether, in fifty years, Taliban

They're grimly sincere about their cause.

Decades ago, the Soviet Union sent out many agents, with orders to become influential in Western churches. In some denominations they were wildly successful.

During sermons in the 1970s, Rev. Moon directly addressed UC members

Be Always Thankful

- Be thankful to those who hurt me, for they harden my will.
- Be thankful to those who cheat me, for they increase my wisdom.
- Be thankful to those who defame me, for they refine my personality.
- Be thankful to those who beat me, for they activate my courage.
- Be thankful to those who forsake me, for they teach my independence.
- Be thankful to those who betray me, for they mature my judgment.
- Be thankful to those who crumple me, for they strengthen my legs.
- Be thankful to those who scold me, for they remind my shortcomings.
- I am thankful to all those who train me to be strong and mature.

Cherng Gub

Article removed in Internet edition



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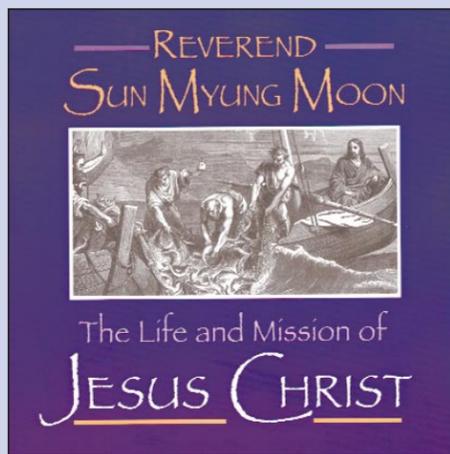
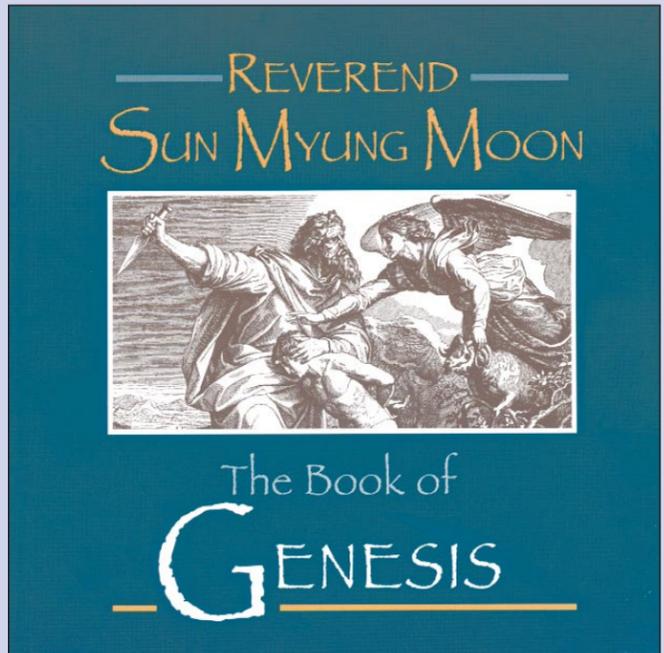
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