

True Parents' Birthday



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T rue Parents Birthday was celebrated February 12 with great joy. The Pledge service began at 7 am at the Peace Palace with several thousand in attendance. True Parents entered looking vibrant and healthy. Father and Mother were wearing traditional Korean attire, Father in dark blue, Mother with a blue dress with a red jacket. All True Family and representatives of all nations and faiths offered bows of respect to God and True Parents.

Rev. Chung Hwan Kwak opened the celebration with a beautiful review of Father and Mother's life

course. He reminded us that Father came on the foundation of the Old and New Testaments and the history of God's providential preparation through all faiths. Jesus was the center of this history but because of the rejection he couldn't establish the True Parents on the earth. God called Father on the foundation of Jesus promise to return. Jesus appeared to Father and gave him his mission. Christian spiritual groups had prepared to receive Father. His family was a family of great patriotism and yet Rev. Kwak reminded us that when a family is chosen for such a heavenly mission so much suffering must come. As

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FOUNDER'S DISCOURSE ON UNIFICATIONISM

Pledge Service and Commemorative

by Reverend Sun Myung Moon

From FFWPU International. Translation of notes taken by the UC History Committee.

The pledge service for commemorating True Parents' birthday took place at 7:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 12, 2008, at the main hall of Cheon Jeong Gung.

The Commemorative Service was held at 10:00 a.m. with nearly 3,000 participants including the participants from the World Summit on Peace and International Leadership Conference hosted by the Universal Peace Federation.

Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon was born on January 6, 1920 by the lunar calendar (February 25 by the solar calendar) in 2221 Sangsa-ri, Deogeon-myeon, Jeongju-gun, Pyeonganbuk-do in what is today North Korea. He was born as the second son out of thirteen siblings between Kyung Yoo Moon (Choongbu nim) and Kyung Gye Kim (Choong-mo nim).

Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon was born on January 6, 1943 by the lunar calendar (February 10 by the solar calendar) at

4:30 a.m. in 26 Sinui-ri, Anju-eup, Anju-gun, Pyeongannam-do in what is now North Korea. She was born as the only daughter of Seung Woon Han and Soon Ae Hong (Dae-mo nim).

The emcee for this day was Dr. Sun Jo Hwang. The ceremony began with a video presentation titled "Mansei for the Ssang Hab (combined) jubilee years, the 7th and 8th years of Cheon Il Guk based on the Universal Peace Federation."

True Parents entered the room after the video presentation. Dr. Hwang then led everyone in singing the Cheonilguk anthem.

Rev. Dow Soon Yim then offered a prayer. In his prayer he earnestly expressed his hope that this occasion be one where all participants could come together in heart with True Parents to strengthen their resolve in fulfilling and completing their responsibility and mission.

A number of guests were introduced this day. Especially noteworthy were H.E. Tuilaepa Malielegaoi, Prime Minister, Independent State of Samoa and H.E. Ham Lini Prime Minister, Republic of Vanuatu.

Dr. Chung Hwan Kwak took the podium and delivered the commemorative address. In his address Dr. Kwak asked that we all emulate True Parents who live consistently in absolute faith, absolute love and absolute obedience in order to liberate God from His grief and sorrow. Dr. Kwak emphasized that we should all become true owners of true love, true life and true lineage through True Parents words that are encapsulated in the Family Pledge, Cheon Seong Gyeong and Pyeonghwa Hoongyeong.

Dr. Kwak testified about True Parents' worldwide foundation and the many organizations that they established for promoting world peace. He strongly spoke of these achievements being True Parents foundation and that through this a new history was beginning. Dr. Kwak then introduced the significance of the Peace UN or Abel UN.

H.E. Malielegaoi and Hon. Soo Sung Lee, former prime minister of Korea, then offered some words of congratulations to True Parents on their birthday.

The prime minister first thanked the founders for inviting him to Korea and expressed his appreciation for being

part of the conference and showed his determination for peace saying "the cold weather clears the mind" and that he would "return to Samoa with a clear mind" and with the principles he learned from the UPF conference. He congratulated True Parents on their birthday and for their life-long dedication to world peace.

Hon. Lee spoke on behalf of the Korean people and expressed his pride that such a great leader like Rev. Moon had emerged from his people. He also shared an experience he had in Japan in meeting two Korean women who were living in Japan with their Japanese husbands. Hon. Lee noted how strong-willed and sincere these women were and how he was not surprised to find out that the women were married through the blessing ceremony officiated by the Rev. Moon. He expressed his delight in knowing how there were so many blessed families living in all the corners of the world.

Mr. Gun Hwangbo and his wife then presented flowers to True Parents. Gifts were presented by each region to True Parents along with the copies of Cheon Seong Gyeong that were recently translated at this time.

M A R C H 2 0 0 8

Ahn Shi Il • 5th, 13th, 21st, 29th

- 7 Dong Sook Nim's Birthday (1/30/55)
Middle East Time Founded (1983)
- 17 Shin Won Nim's Birthday (2/10/88)
- 21 WRIST Established (1984)
- 25 Jin Sung Nim's Birthday (2/18/62)
- 26 Shin Ye Nim's Birthday (2/19/00)
Martial Arts Federation for World Peace Established (1997)
- 27 New Ecumenical Research Association (New ERA) Inauguration (1980)
- 28 International Christian Professors Association (1981)
43 Couples' Blessing (1969)
- 29 Cheon Il Guk Established (2/22/2001)
Grand Liberation of 6,000 Years of Providential History (2/22/2002)
- 31 Hyun Jin Nim & Jun Sook Nim's Blessing (1987)
The Sao Paulo Declaration (1995)

A P R I L 2 0 0 8

Ahn Shi Il • 6th, 14th, 22nd, 30th

- 3 Shin Chul Nim's Birthday (2/27/92)
New Hope Farm Declaration (1995)
- 4 Dedication Ceremony for the Chung Shim Tap Memorial Tower & Jeong Shim Won Prayer Hall (2000)
- 6 True Parents' Day (3/1/60)
Sung Jin Nim's Birthday (3/1/46)
- 7 42 Couples' Blessing (1989)
138 Previously Married Couples' Blessing (1989)
57 Single Blessing (1989)
Declaration for the Blessed Family (1995)
- 10 1265 Previously Married Couples' Blessing (1992)
Women's Federation for World Peace Established (1992)
Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (1996)
- 12 36 Couples of the Second Generation Blessing (1986)
- 13 Proclamation of Liberation and Release (2004)

C A L E N D A R

- 16 Sun Jin Nim & In Sup Nim's Blessing (1995)
Shin Hwa Nim's Birthday (3/11/88)
- 17 Dae Hyung Nim's Ascension
Day of the Resurrection of Shimjung (1960)
Day of the Resurrection of Substance (1961)
- 21 True Parents' Blessing (3/16/60)
- 27 Shin Joon Nim's Birthday (3/22/2004)
60 Couples' Blessing (2001)
Interreligious (144,000) Clergy Blessing (2002)
- 28 Shin Ye Nim's Ascension (2001)

M A Y 2 0 0 8

Ahn Shi Il • 8th, 16th, 24th

- May 1 HSA-UWC Established (1954)
43 Couples' Blessing (1969)
Ceremony for the Total Dissolution of Resentment (1975)
Day of Victory Over Resentment (1974)
- 3 Shin Nae Nim's Birthday (3/28/05)
- 5 Day of Ssang-hap Ship-seung (2004)
- 6 Professors World Peace Academy Established (1973)
- 7 Shin Bok Nim's Birthday (4/3/82)
- 8 Shin Il Nim's Birthday (4/4/81)
- 10 Unification Theological Seminary (1977)
- 14 Hyun Jin Nim's Birthday (4/10/69)
Cheonju Haebang Shik: Ceremony for the Liberation of the Universe (1999)
National (American) Won Jeon Shrine Dedicated (2002)
- 15 36 Couples' Blessing (1961)
Citizen's Federation for the Unification of the Fatherland (1987)
- 16 Ye Jin Nim & Jin Whi Nim's Blessing (1981)
Day of the Love of God (1984)
- 17 Shin Su Nim's Birthday (4/13/06)
Washington Times Established (1982)
- 21 118 Couples' Blessing (1978)
- 22 American Clergy Leadership Conference Established (2000)
- 27 Shin Yeon Nim's Birthday (4/23/90)
- 30 Declaration of True Parents' East and West (Global) Victory (1999)

Due to the manner in which the lunar calendar corresponds with the solar calendar, Yun Ah Nim's and Un Jin Nim's birthdays are not celebrated in 2006. Contact me if you come across any errors. (c) 1999-2004 Kathryn Coman [KathrynComan@worldnet.att.net]

FOUNDER'S DISCOURSE ON UNIFICATIONISM

Service for True Parents Birthday

Following this True Father took the podium and delivered his address for the day.

It was titled "A Providential View of the Pacific Rim Era in Light of God's Will."

After the speech Dr. Chang Shik Yang led everyone in three cheers of eog-man-sei.

Text of the speech

Respected heads of states, ladies and gentlemen! On behalf of my family I would like to express my deep gratitude for your coming all this way in the cold weather to the Cheon Jeong Peace Palace to celebrate my birthday and that of my beloved wife.

The Pacific Rim Era of Peace in the New, Godly Civilization

Ladies and gentlemen, we have crossed the threshold into the twenty-first century where a new, Godly civilization is to take root in our history. Up until now the human race has known only an era of conflict, hostility and war. From this time on, however, it will be an era of love, service and sacrifice with God at the center. An age of happy families overflowing with pure love, and characterized by peace and justice is dawning.

This new era of Godly civilization will be a time

of peace when God, humankind and the natural world are harmonized as one, when they can freely communicate with one another without conflict or separation. The connecting point for all these relationships is the ocean: all living creatures on the earth are born from an environment based on water. Therefore, the twenty-first century is the oceanic era of the Pacific Rim, the era of a new and Godly civilization of peace.

Ladies and gentlemen, at the beginning of the year 2007 and also this year, 2008, I proclaimed a jubilee year in God's providence. God has greatly blessed this holy year. It is a jubilee year the likes of which God and humankind have never experienced in thousands of years of history. God's heart has been in pain throughout history for thousands and tens of thousands of years because humanity has been confined under Satan's dominion. Humanity had endured oppression under the sovereignty of evil throughout the "era before the coming of heaven." That time has finally come to an end! From now on, with these two jubilee years as a turning point, the gates are opened wide to the revolutionary "era after the coming of heaven," ushering in the time of a new sovereignty of goodness in which humanity can serve and attend God as the Central Being.

The Progress of Human History

Ladies and gentlemen, if you carefully examine the progress of history, you will undoubtedly discover God's plan and sense His presence as He tirelessly worked behind the scenes. Consider the history of civilization, which began centering on four of the world's

the third — the Cold War — it won victory over totalitarianism and communism. However, that victory does not simply mean that America is great, and the development of human civilization did not stop there. Victory came because God had chosen and raised the United States of America as the Second Israel,

ogy and political structure: democracy and communism, rooted in theism and atheism respectively, coexist on the peninsula. From here, a new page in history heralding eternal reconciliation and peace will be opened. In this nation, all the religions that have guided the flow of civilization will be brought to

fruition. It is no coincidence that a time of co-existence and reconciliation never previously seen anywhere in this world is now unfolding with this peninsula as its axis.

The twentieth century was the century of material civilization; the twenty-first century is to be a time when a spiritual culture must guide and lead history. The Korean people will serve as the birthing room for this new culture. They are a prepared people that will bring the world into unity based on their tradition of revering Heaven and loving humankind under the realm of a single heavenly culture of heart. Now indeed is the time of God's promised revolutionary change throughout heaven and earth.

A Vision of Peace with God as the Center

Distinguished guests, on this providential foundation made in Heaven, I

proclaimed the dawn of the revolutionary era of heaven here in Korea, my homeland, in 2004, during the spring season when new life emerges. In my God-given capacity as the True Parent, I proclaimed before heaven and earth a vision of peace centered on God.

In the vision of peace that I presented, I emphasized first that a new heaven and a new earth, with God rather than humankind as the center, should unfold in the era of heaven—in the era of peace based on the new, Godly civilization in the Pacific Rim.

As you all know, throughout the ages men and women both young and old have dreamed of a peaceful world and pursued a life of happiness. They made efforts in the spheres of politics, economics, society and culture with a view to realizing that dream. However, what is the fruit of those endeavors that we see today? Conflict and strife continue without ceasing in all fields of life and in all corners of the world.

The reason for this is that human beings are beings with a contradiction within themselves, harboring both good and evil. That is why this reality has been revealed throughout society and history. And it is why we should make effort in this era after the coming of heaven to restore God, the Master of

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great rivers. We are familiar with the Egyptian civilization that flourished along the Nile River, the Mesopotamian civilization between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers, the Harappan civilization on the Indus River, and early Chinese civilization around the Yellow River.

The center of civilization shifted over time to the shores of the Mediterranean Sea where the Mediterranean peninsular civilizations flourished in Greece and Rome. History continued to progress and the European continental civilization emerged. This continental civilization in turn gave birth to an island civilization, Great Britain, which flourished in the Atlantic sphere.

The British Empire, which dominated the seven seas and wielded its might as "the empire on which the sun never sets," passed its splendid culture on to North America. We know these facts from history.

Civilization on the North American continent raised the banner of democracy, which was rooted in Christianity. It bequeathed to the world the principles of freedom of religion and respect for equal human rights as it led the struggle against fascism and communism, which had established atheistic, evil sovereignties. Through the victories of the First and Second World Wars, and

in accordance with His providential plan, and had raised and trained the American people through Christianity. God worked through America to bring His providence to its present stage of fruition.

Ladies and gentlemen, the present time marks an important milestone in the development of civilization. Civilization has completed a circuit of the entire globe and has now arrived on the shores of the Pacific Ocean. History's course has come to the point under God's providence where it must be concluded in the Pacific Rim region.

No force can stop God's providence now. Though there were both victories and defeats during the course of indemnity under the evil sovereignty in the era before heaven, now nothing can prevent the rise of the Pacific Rim Era. Herein lies the special reason that Heaven declared both last year and this year jubilee years.

Respected guests, human civilization will be brought to fruition in the Pacific Rim Era. Within this current of heavenly fortune brought about by this age, we can say that the Korean peninsula is a land prepared by God—a holy land. From a geopolitical point of view, Korea connects East and West and is located at the central point where land and ocean meet. The Korean peninsula also serves as the basis of two great currents of cultural history with regard to ideol-

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absolute goodness, to His position of the True Parent of all humanity, and realize a world unified under the vision of "One Family under God."

Secondly, I proclaimed the absolute values that human beings need in order to live in a new and Godly civilization of peace in the era after the coming of heaven. Humankind is unable to free itself from the abyss of conflict and war. This is because people have become slaves to their self-centered desires, which originate from the Fall of the first ancestors. It is now time to return to an altruistic life of living for the sake of others, to the original order that was meant to be at the time of creation. Nothing that exists on earth, especially a human being, can exist on its own. Everything exists within inseparable mutual relationships with other beings. All these relationships are characterized by true love, by living for the sake of one's partner.

No being can reach its own perfection and realize its original value in the plan of the creation without doing so through its counterpart. That is to say, a husband can perfect himself through his wife; a wife too can realize her original value by living for the sake of her husband in true love. A government's existence is validated only when it lives for the sake of its people. The heavenly principle dictates that true development is possible when the citizens and the government of a nation live for the sake of the greater good.

The third point is that a world of peace rooted in the new, Godly civilization will be realized based on true families that inherit the lineage of goodness centered on God.

Ladies and gentlemen, God's absolute true love does not instill in a person the desire that one's partner exist for one's own sake. Rather, true love's essence is giving, living for the sake of others and for the sake of the whole. True love gives, forgets that it has given, and continues to give without ceasing. True love gives joyfully. We find it in the joyful and loving heart of a mother who cradles her baby in her arms and nurses it at her breast. True love is sacrificial love, such as that of a devoted son who finds his greatest satisfaction in dedicating himself with all of his body and soul to helping his parents.

When we are bound together in true love, we can be together forever, continually increasing in the joy of each other's company. The attraction of true love brings all things in the universe to our feet; even God will come to dwell with us. Nothing can compare to the value of true love. It has the power to dissolve the barriers fallen people have created, including national boundaries and the barriers of race and even religion.

The main attributes of true love are that it is absolute, unique, unchanging and eternal, so that whoever practices God's true love will live with God, share His happiness, and enjoy the right to participate as an equal in His work. Therefore, a life lived for the sake of others, a life of true love, is the absolute precondition for entering the kingdom of heaven. A life of true love is exemplified in the life of a new family that lives peacefully centering on God. This is the ideal model for peace and for all things of creation. The path is now wide open

for humanity to establish true families.

Ladies and gentlemen, God's true family establishes the pattern for people to live for the sake of others. The warm environment of oneness based on love and respect between parents and children, mutual fidelity and love between husband and wife, and trust and mutual reliance among siblings is the true manifestation of the model, ideal family. This means that you need to establish a true family wherein the



stem of true love emerges from the root of true love and bears the fruit of true love.

Such a family is where parental love, conjugal love, children's love, and siblings' love—in short, the four realms of love or the four realms of heart—are perfected. Only in such a family can the relationships of upper and lower, front and behind, left and right be connected as one and spherical motion ensue. This leads to God's everlasting, model ideal families and nations, and His peace kingdom.

The fourth point that I underscored in that proclamation was the international cross-cultural marriage blessing movement, which I am promoting to the conscientious men and women of the world who will take the future upon their shoulders. I have promoted this movement to realize the ideal of one human family of peace centered on God in the new, Godly civilization of peace in this era after the coming of heaven.

Ladies and gentlemen, the most formidable walls created and made resilient throughout history are surely the walls between religions, races, peoples, nations and cultures. There are still many people groaning and suffering within the confines of those walls. Who will break down this obsolete structure of conflict that has lasted for thousands of years? Where do you think its origin resides?

The solution to this problem can be found in the International, Cross-cultural Marriage Blessing Ceremony. Adam and Eve, our first ancestors, violated the heavenly law. As a result they were unable to inherit God's lineage of goodness and instead inherited the evil lineage of Satan. This has caused strife and conflict in all areas of life. Human beings must therefore follow the heavenly path of regaining the original lineage that existed before the Fall, establishing the original order of creation based on that lineage of goodness. They should do this by aligning with heavenly principles through marrying and becoming related by blood with their enemies, thus breaking down those

long-standing walls.

When blacks and whites, Christians and Muslims, and young people from democratic and communist nations build families with God at the center, all the walls and national borders that have remained unresolved by means of political, economic, diplomatic and military might will be brought down.

To open a path for humanity to go forward within this vision of peace, for more than half a century I have pro-

moted the True Family Movement and the International, Cross-cultural Marriage Blessing Movement, rooted in pure love. I have taught that the noblest undertaking we should embrace during our life on earth is the path of becoming a true child, a true husband or wife, and a true parent.

As a result this True Family Movement has taken root in more than 190 nations of our global village in the form of a new, Godly civilization in the twenty-first century. It is contributing to the creation of a global community with God at its center. There is no conflict based on race, nationality or religion in a true family rooted in pure and true love; there are only true children, true siblings, true couples and true parents.

The Emergence of the Universal Peace Federation

Ladies and gentlemen, as we begin the twenty-first century, we find ourselves at a truly historic turning point. We are at a point of decision. Can everlasting world peace take root, or are we doomed to repeat the twentieth century's dark and oppressive history of war and conflict?

The twentieth century was a period of ceaseless struggle—including that of colonized countries to gain their independence, the First and Second World Wars, the Korean War, and the Cold War. Living through this era, I dedicated my life entirely to bringing about the kingdom of God, the kingdom of the peaceful, ideal world.

I have always prayed sincerely that the United Nations, founded after the Second World War, would be an institution for peace, and that it would uphold God's will for the realization of eternal world peace. The United Nations has indeed made important contributions to peace. Nevertheless, now more than sixty years later, there is no denying that the UN had yet to discover the way to fulfill its founding purposes.

The number of member states approaches two hundred, but the offices of these states do little more than rep-

resent and even insist on their own interests. They seem inherently unable to resolve conflicts and achieve peace.

Ladies and gentlemen, on September 12, 2005, I proclaimed throughout all of heaven and earth the establishment of the Universal Peace Federation (UPF), which will enable God's providence to flourish. In September in the providential jubilee year of 2007, I elevated the Universal Peace Federation to the status of the "Peace UN" and I am developing it so that it may become the most respected institution in name and substance through its contribution to the realization of global peace and harmony.

Numerous Ambassadors for Peace throughout the world have made my teachings their own—teachings centered on the Heavenly Father, consisting of the principles of true love and the ideals of true family. They will renew the "Cain-type" UN, and, upholding the heavenly mandate, will invest their whole-hearted effort to create One Family Under God.

A Vision for the Development of the Marine Industry in Korea

Recently we held a magnificent ground-breaking ceremony for the development of the Hwayang area in Yeosu (in the southernmost reaches of the Korean peninsula). This project will serve as the cornerstone of the development of the marine leisure industry in Korea. I firmly believe that this development, which signifies a huge investment, will open new horizons in the marine leisure industry and greatly contribute to Korea's growth to become a great nation in the marine leisure industry.

This project's development will spread out to the continents through the region of Yeosu, where God's providence on the Pacific Rim will bear fruit. It will greatly contribute to the realization of the reunification of the Korean peninsula and to world peace. Furthermore, it will enhance the overall happiness of the world's people.

Ladies and gentlemen, Rev. Moon's effort to promote the welfare of humankind and peace is continuing in many fields of endeavor. By developing the "Abel UN," I am guiding the people of the world toward a venue of reconciliation and peace. This will fulfill the heavenly mandate to create a peaceful, ideal world based on the principles of interdependence, mutual prosperity and universally shared values. The "Bering Strait Bridge-Tunnel Project" and the "Gwangyang Bay Free Economic Zone Development in Hwayang District" are ultimately part of this effort, and will play a central role in establishing peace in the realm of the Pacific Rim.

You have all now received God's call. I sincerely pray that you will join me in creating the brilliant culture of the new, Godly civilization in this revolutionary era, and fulfill your mission as a pioneer that will be revered by all future generations. Once again I thank you for honoring us with your presence on this significant occasion.

I sincerely pray that God's blessings and grace will be with you, your family and your nation. Aju!❖

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a patriotic family of the March 1, 1919 Independence movement Father's family was bitterly persecuted and lost everything.

True Mother's mother was part of that spiritual movement preparing to receive the Messiah. She was born into that environment and her mother, Dae Mo Nim, received a message from a spiritual leader named Mr. Kim who prophesied that her daughter would be great and the bride of the Lord. She also received in revelation that there were great threats and trials that would come to the life of her daughter and that she must prepare through conditions to protect her. She received that she should raise her as God's daughter.

When we think of this history and providence from the time of the fall through the course of Jesus to the establishment of True Parents - we can realize that this birthday celebration is most meaningful.

True Father is now 89 (by Korean counting which considers the time in the womb as the first year) and True Mother 66 (by Korean counting). Both are in perfect health and in fact stronger than ever, leading the Global Movement of True Love, True Life and True lineage to realize "One Family Under God."

After the morning meeting the Ambassadors for Peace from the Universal Peace Federation came for the 10:30 thru lunch event. Current Prime Ministers and heads of state and respected religious leaders gave their respect to True Parents. Gifts were presented by each continent. North America's gift was the famous print of the painting of George Washington in prayer at Valley Forge by the famous painter Arnold Friberg. The special production was signed by the artist. (Father has spoken about that prayer many times as the prayer that God heard that allowed America to be born) Amb. Rita DiMartino and Dr. Yang presented this gifts. The first lady of Tanzania as well as many distinguished leaders presented gifts representative of their continents and nations. It was a great celebration. The former President of Korea University testified that a major publication just ranked True Father among the three most important Korean leaders for the future of the nation. Father delivered a new version of the Pacific Rim Era message. It was well received.

The banquet was filled with Joy. Dr. Frank Kaufman, Dr. Andrew Wilson, Dr. Gordon Anderson and Dr. Shimmyo presented the newly completed New World Encyclopedia after a stunning video introduction on the project along with Rev. Kwak's introduction. It was fascinating, an highly referenced scholarly work with values perspective. True Parents were so elated.

The birthday celebration concluded with such fine entertainment from Japan, Russia, Asia, Africa, South America and North America. (Larel Sayre Nagai made America proud with a beautiful solo that was very uplifting and inspired.) We concluded the celebration with three cheers of Monsei. All of the Ambassadors for Peace from over 100 nations were very uplift-

ed and further committed to bring peace in their nations and the world. Let us celebrate sincerely God's blessing, love and grace extended to us through our True Parents. ❖



Have Internal Confidence through Overcoming Obstacles

by Hyung Jin Nim Moon

From a sermon given January 6, 2008 at the Mapo Church, Korea.

Some members say that they cannot make time for the family because they are busy. Then, I want to ask you. Did you see the TV drama "Chumon"? Many of you answer that you saw it. Then, isn't it an excuse that you cannot make time for the family?

We need to succeed in every part of our life. It is not for your boasting of it. It is because God blessed us in living a life of victory. God gave not a life of failure but a life of victory to blessed families in the Unification Church. On the way for success, there is only one obstacle. It is 'myself.' Therefore, it is very important to manage 'myself.' True Father also said that 'I' might become the biggest devil, Satan, and enemy. It is important to train 'myself,' and make 'myself' strong preventing from becoming the enemy. 'I' have to give a power to me, become a friend of mine, and inspire me. When we live our lives, we desire to be encouraged by others. However, we can not expect other people to encourage us always, so we have to raise our ability to encourage us by ourselves.

People usually want to tell how many difficulties there were in their life, or how big mountains of hardships they overcame. However, instead of talking about 'MY' difficulties, we should talk about God who was together with me who overcame the 'mountains (difficulties).' We should tell how big God was, and then, how big I became by overcoming difficulties. However big adversity we may fall into, we should overcome the adversity. 'I' have to see such strong myself, and have confidence internally.

Everyone encounters obstacles in his/her life. Everyone has pains. Whatever you may do, there would be a painful time spiritually and physically. However, through the time of endurance, your victory would become more valuable. It is a real victor who can overcome the adversities. If we escape from the difficulties making an excuse, it actually kills our future and our blessing. To give up might be easier in a sense.

The farther you go, the more obstacles you encounter. There will be many challenges. There will be many mountains you have to overcome. Such is life. When you overcome these challenges, you can get wisdom, and your mind is trained.

Have you ever climbed a mountain? It might be difficult during climbing a mountain, but once we

stand on the top of the mountain, we feel good. "I won this mountain!" We can feel a joy of achievement.

By the way, after reaching the summit of the mountain, we have to go down next. It is easy to praise God on the top of a mountain, but it is not easy to praise after going down, or when we look up at the next big mountain. Everyone can praise God and thank God in a good time of his/her life. Everyone can do it. Even children can do it. However, in time of trials, when people betray

However, they do not know what love is. Love does not mean only a certain feeling.

After you have your children, there will surely be a time when you are disappointed at the children. Your children sometimes do not listen to your words. Actually, it is children who give you hardest trials. In a sense, children might make the parents grow. I also learnt a lot from my children. When we raise our children, our attitude should not change. It is not good that our attitude is sometimes good, and sometimes bad. We have to love them consistently.

Everything Starts from Your Thinking

If you want to be blessed in your life, you should start from your mind. There is a following lesson. "Be careful of your thinking. If you are not careful of your thinking, it becomes words. Be careful of your words. If you are not careful of your words, it becomes your action. Be careful of your action. If you are not careful of your action, it becomes your habit. If you are not careful of your habit, it becomes your character. Be careful of your character. If you are not careful of your character, it becomes your life. Be careful of your life. If you are not careful of your life, it becomes your destiny." In short, everything starts from your mind and thinking.

The longer you walk the public way, the more obstacles Archangel (Satan) puts in your life. Never give up in front of the obstacles. In a sense, we can become bigger persons through the obstacles. If we give up in front of the obstacles, who becomes happy? It is Archangel (Satan). You might have such experience as this: when we go to

school, there is a kid who annoys us. When the kid annoys us, if we cry showing timidity, the kid will annoy us more for the fun of it. However, if we say to the annoying kid, "However hard you may annoy me, it is nothing to me. Even though you abuse me and make fun of me, you cannot take my joy," the kid will leave you. These kids may annoy us very much first, but if we show them an immovable attitude, they go to find another weak person.

Archangel (Satan) is the same. When we aggressively confront the obstacles in our life, saying, "It's nothing to me. Even though you send me more troubles, I can easily bring victory." Then Archangel (Satan) will surrender. The more you bring victory, the severer Satan's trial becomes. However, if you were never shaken, you would get bigger blessing. You can share the blessing to other people. Everything starts from your mind.

As we can feel in meditations, our minds need to be trained. We are not able to control our bodies. Instead, we are following our bodies. Therefore, we need to train our minds. We need to make our mind strong. Even though other people might try to weaken our minds, we should not be shaken. Actually, those who try to shake other people's minds are the persons whose mind is weaker than anyone else. Therefore, if I am never shaken, they give up, and try to find another weak person. If our minds are strong, it is impossible for them to make us fail. They cannot feel evil power and stimulation through teasing us. They rather come to reflect themselves.

Whichever way you may go; the way of church leaders, getting other jobs, or becoming teachers, it is important to have internal strength. Everything changes in our lives. Our situations are sometimes good, but sometimes bad. The relationship with people is also sometimes good, but sometimes bad. Our life is uncertain. Therefore, we need to have solid minds and its center.

It is very difficult to find peace in uncertain circumstances. In the uncertain circumstances, people often feel apprehensions. If we continuously feel fears, we might live our whole lives with fear. We might become anxious about everything thinking, "I did this, but if it goes wrong, how do I do? How do I do if people laugh at me?"

We need to accept the uncertainty of our lives as it is. We need to accept the uncertainty with clear mind instead of having fears. Please think that you can start new beginning at any moment. If we can aggressively accept the changing situation coming to us without feeling fearfulness, and if we can lead our lives with internal strength, we can bring victory at any situation. You might have difficult moments in your life, but you will bring victory overcoming the mountains. (End) (From Peace TV) ❖



us, or when people take advantage of us, it is more difficult than anything to be thankful for it. In such a moment, we go through a trial. When you are betrayed by the person whom you loved and devoted yourself to, it is difficult for you to love others again. Even in such a time, we have to be able to love people again.

Everyone! Love does not mean a certain feeling. If we think love is a certain feeling or emotion, we cannot find true love. Love is practice. Love is not a noun but a verb. Some people tend to tell that they cannot feel love between husband and wife, and tend to doubt the love between husband and wife.



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True Parents Hoon Dok Hae

From an address given at the Peace Palace, Cheong Pyeong Lake, Korea, February 13, 2008. Notes by Rev. Michael Jenkins, edited by L. Strait and J. Flynn. These notes are taken from a simultaneous translation. Simultaneous translation is done in summary form and depends greatly on the translator's ability to communicate the essence of the message. These cannot be published as definitive texts and should never be used in the future as an "official" publication on Rev. Moon's words. However, they do provide a good idea of the "spirit" of the message.

Each nation should have a peace blessing. Through this, one unified kingdom can be established. The Abel UN and all nations must be united as one, centered on your tribe and nation. All nations should join the Abel UN. True Parents, true teachers, true owners, true families, and true nations should have been established by Adam's family. Due to the Fall, Adam and Eve were not able to fulfill their responsibility, and the mission eventually was accomplished by True Parents.

Mother and I emphasize now that each family must become true parents, true teachers, true owners, and a true family. The key to this is reading the Peace Messages every day. The Peace Messages give the core principles and contents through which the world can walk the path to peace.

Rev. Otsuka and Rev. Oyamada, please stand up. You are in charge of Japan. Who here is from Taiwan? Philippines and Canada? All of you stand up. What's the total population of all these nations combined? It's over 270 million. That's a very significant number. These nations all represent the mother nations of the world. Centering on Japan, they should become united in supporting the world peace providence. These nations are standing in a feminine role as a mother. Japan cannot continue to sustain the burden by itself of supporting the world peace movement. Therefore, the Philippines, Taiwan, and Canada must shoulder more responsibility. One third of all your members should go to Japan to work there to support the world providence. You have to take collective responsibility. Japan must work to

bless every single person in the nation. You must have the attitude that you will work harder than your sons and daughters and all the nations of the world. I am now 89 by Korean counting. Soon I will be 90. And January 13, 2013, is coming quickly. We have five more years. Now there is no significant

and Korea. Unity is very critical. But unity is based on lineage. We must have the blessing of heaven and become one lineage of God. Then unity becomes possible. Wherever Satan's lineage still exists, there will be division and fighting. Why do I keep talking about the

During this time we must mobilize all nations to support the Abel UN. The island nations can't achieve this by themselves. They must work together with the peninsular nations such as Korea to be able to fulfill this. America, Russia, and Japan are all concerned about what China is doing at this time,



persecution. Even though there is some opposition, it does not have the power to hinder our growth and development at this time. I remember when people were completely blocking and opposing our way. This no longer is the case. Yes, there are still some people that try to raise opposition, but they do not have the condition or spiritual power to stop God's providence. Eventually all the nations of the world will be brought into harmonious cooperation and unity. Every nation is valuable and important.

You remember that 120 Christian ministers went to every nation of the world [during one of the world speaking tours], to every continent. This was a very important condition of bringing world unity centering on America, Japan,

Pacific Rim era? It began on March 17, 2007, in Hawaii. People of the island nations must become one, centering on Hawaii. The island nations are very important in God's providence. The Pacific Rim era has now dawned; blessing and prosperity will now come to all of Asia, while still spanning the Pacific and connecting with America. Therefore, America is still central to this providence.

Norfolk and Hawaii are two key areas that are protecting the oceans for the peace kingdom. Norfolk and Hawaii should become as one. Who is going to fulfill Japan's mission and other partner nation missions respectively? You must do it. [The leaders of these nations remained standing for over one and a half hours while Father spoke.]

especially in the Pacific Rim region.

Rev. Lee, you are the leader of Canada. Do you support this? Do you understand Canada's responsibility? Please fulfill.

When you make a decision to go the path of faith in God, even if you fall down 100 times, you must get up and continue. Love is the most powerful force in the universe, but love also can be a temptation. Love is the most dangerous thing. That's why the blessing is critically important to secure love within the context of the family.

Mother and I have prayed so seriously when there have been obstacles in the path; we found that as we continued to pray, a way would eventually open up. Many times I found that

see HDH on page 8

Students Play for Peace in the Middle East

From December 1 - 6, 2007, over seven hundred students from four different middle-schools in the Haifa region of Carmel took part in a program sponsored by the Interreligious Peace Sports Festival (IPSF) that promoted sportsmanship and religious understanding through competitive sports.

Under the banner of "One Family under God," these schools participated in a 5-day basketball tournament, despite their different religious backgrounds. Two of the schools had a majority Christian student body, while the school from the Nazareth area was predominately Muslim and the host school was in a Druze community.

The IPSF believes that positive events can help shape understanding and cooperation among children and pro-



vide a vital ingredient to securing an environment that will support peace and reconciliation. For this reason, the IPSF staff recently joined in the Universal Peace Federation's 33rd Middle East Peace Initiative (MEPI) and helped to organize a local sporting event designed to support the peace initiative through grassroots activities.

The final day of the competition, December 6th, brought students of the various schools together for a day of celebration. Classes were organized in the morning to discuss good sportsmanship, and the final games were introduced by the music of marching bands. Award ceremonies and special presentations from international guest speakers followed the

boys' and girls' finals games. The girls' team that came the furthest distance for this competition - a Muslim school near Nazareth - were the happy winners of the final game.

The IPSF will continue to work with

the UPF on future events in the Middle East region to support initiatives that promote religious cooperation and peace-building. ❖



HDH from page 7

Mother was helping people without my knowing it. Often she would personally reach out and help families. I'm very grateful to Mother for this. Because of True Mother, the women of our movement truly follow me and listen to my direction.

The Unification movement is a most serious organization. The four nations of Japan, Taiwan, Philippines, and Canada are very important in God's providence. God has prepared for this

moment in history for 2,000 years. Is America a male or female nation? [It's the elder son nation.] America is the eldest child. As the elder son, America should be helping all the nations of the world to unite with God's providence. You must follow the Principle to achieve this. If you don't follow the Principle, I know it immediately.

Why is Japan responsible? We must understand what Japan took from other Asian countries in history. The Japanese took women from various nations as captives, also taking women's jewelry from every house. My home was

actually very wealthy because of my grandfather, but the Japanese took everything we had.

How about the Peace Palace? This is the palace of peace for all humanity. This is not a house for one family; it is a place for all humanity. It is a beautiful place before God. Mother truly loves the Cheong Jeong Gun. Many times she'll say, "Let's go back there." When you study my history, you will understand that there were enormous spiritual battles before me that I had to overcome. Ko mun do is another place of God in Korea, and we will build another peace palace there, in addition the peace palace that should be built in Geneva for all religions.

Today is the 13th of February. Thirteen is very important. There are five years from now until January 13, 2013. The 13th of every month should be marked as important days on our march to 2013. This is the ssang hap time of connecting the 7th and 8th jubilee years. We will expand the jubilee of God's forgiveness every year through 2012. Many people in God's providence have ignored me and disrespected me; many of our members did not heed my directions and words. They moved here and there and claimed they would do great things, but they did not fulfill their responsibility to save their nations. Only through unity can we bring victory. If you live as you wish, you will decline. There is a standard before God in heaven. We must live according to God's way.

If you know how important it is to be with me at this moment, for your ancestors, your life, and your history, you might write this on a piece of cloth and attach it to your clothing every day so it reminds you of the importance of being a representative of God. How valuable is this jubilee time of True Parents? All the debts of past history can be cleared up, so a new world can begin.

Money should be used for the benefit of humanity. We have to understand the importance of the economic foundation to do God's will. Japan and these four nations are responsible. So is America. According to the laws of

heaven, after we enter the Cheong Jeong Gun, we should offer 30 percent of all we have to heaven. This is not a tax. This should be offered from your heart. One third means 34 percent. Try God and see if your offering is not multiplied.

What is the origin of hell? It came from the fact that Adam and Eve did not go through the completion stage. They didn't get blessed and married properly. Now because of the completion of this course through True Parents, I know what Adam and Eve didn't know. If you commit the fall, that is the most serious crime before all humanity. Jesus couldn't go beyond his 33 years. Christianity became the foundation and prepared for the second coming for 2,000 years. [Now the four nations' representative leaders can sit down.]

Twelve tribes have now been established, and lotteries have been drawn so that each family should belong to one of the tribes. Each one of my children has chosen their tribal area. We must develop the 12 tribes. They were first established in 2006 and organized in 2007, when each family drew a tribe. Now it's the third year, 2008.

We can build the Korea-Japan tunnel as well as the Bering Strait tunnel. We must build a highway from Pusan to Mokpo because Yeosu is going to become a major center for world development. Everyone here must understand that Korea must be protected as the homeland. The unification of Korea must be achieved peacefully.

Many people said they would attack me and try to stop me, but now it is impossible. The conditions on God's side are too strong, and God's people are rallying with us. God's people must go out and embrace everyone until all become people of God. Tong ban kyok pa, breakthrough on the neighborhood level, is very important. We must center on hoon dok family church so that an organization of families can be established in every community to advance the blessed family and absolute sexual morality. ❖

Family Federation announces scholarships to attend Bridgeport high school

Family Federation for World Peace and Unification will again offer ten New Eden Scholarships for American students who wish to attend Bridgeport International Academy, which is a college preparatory high school that is located adjacent to the University of Bridgeport. Each church scholarship will cover all tuition and fees for students with outstanding academic records.

To be considered for a scholarship to attend BIA, a youth must be fluent in English, have an overall Grade Point Average of 3.75 or better for the last two years of school, have parents who are Unification members, either be an American citizen or have an American permanent resident card, and will be ready for ninth grade this fall.

For information on the New Eden Scholarship program, please contact Nora Spurgin at Bridgeport International Academy, 285 Lafayette Street, Bridgeport, CT 06604. The BIA's website is www.bridgeportacademy.org. The school's phone numbers are (203) 334-3434 and (203) 260-6801. The email address is office@bridgeportacademy.org. BIA is currently taking applications for the 2008-2009 school year.

Bridgeport International Academy is fully accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, which is the oldest accrediting body in the USA, as well as being accredited by the State of Connecticut. Founded by our True Parents, the Academy has a high standard morally and academically, has a beautiful new facility, and has an arrangement with the University of Bridgeport that allows BIA students to use university facilities and to take college courses while still in high school.

World Leaders Pledge Peace in Seoul Summit

UPF-International

Two hundred and twenty world leaders, including prime ministers, presidents, government ministers, diplomats, religious and civic leaders concluded the third Summit for World Peace hosted by the Universal Peace Federation in Seoul, Korea, February 9-13, 2008.

The three-day peace conference coincided with the joint birthday celebrations of the UPF Co-founders, Rev. and Mrs. Sun Myung Moon. In a birthday message, Rev. Moon, now 88, spoke with conviction about the coming age of peace that he sees dawning in the early 21st century. "The future of humanity and of world peace rests on the future of the Pacific Rim Era," he declared, echoing a message given around the world in 2007.

In support of this vision of peace starting from the Pacific, two representative Prime Ministers from Pacific Island States – Samoa and Vanuatu – attended the conference, together with more than 30 other delegates who have held the highest elected offices in their nations.

"I have been waiting for a long time to come to this International Leadership conference," said the Prime Minister of Samoa, Hon. Tuilaepa Malielegaoi. "The UPF has done important work in Samoa, and I was interested to learn more of the peace principles taught by Rev. Moon." Malielegaoi, a champion archer, also took time to practice on one of Korea's world-class archery fields.

The Prime Minister of Vanuatu, H.E. Ham Lini, promised the ongoing cooperation of the Vanuatu with the Universal Peace Federation to ensure that world peace prospers in the Pacific Rim: "On behalf of my wife and I, and representing all the people of Vanuatu, I would like to express our gratitude for the sincere investment that the Rev. and Mrs. Moon and the UPF have made to secure world peace for so many years," he said. "The vision that world peace will begin in the Pacific Rim region is one that resonates in my heart and that of all the Pacific Rim peoples."

Mr. Anton Rop, the former Prime Minister of Slovenia, inspired the summit with the gripping and hopeful story of how peace came so suddenly to his nation after decades of oppression and suffering. Once part of the former Yugoslavia, Slovenia became independent in the early 1990s and somehow managed to avoid the bloodshed and ethnic conflict that so devastated most of the Balkan peninsula in recent times. Slovenia joined NATO and the EU in 2004, and remarkably the nation now holds the revolving Presidency of the European Union for 2008.

As North and South Korea enter yet another year of seemingly endless division, the example of Slovenia is one that the Koreans – and many other nations seeking peace

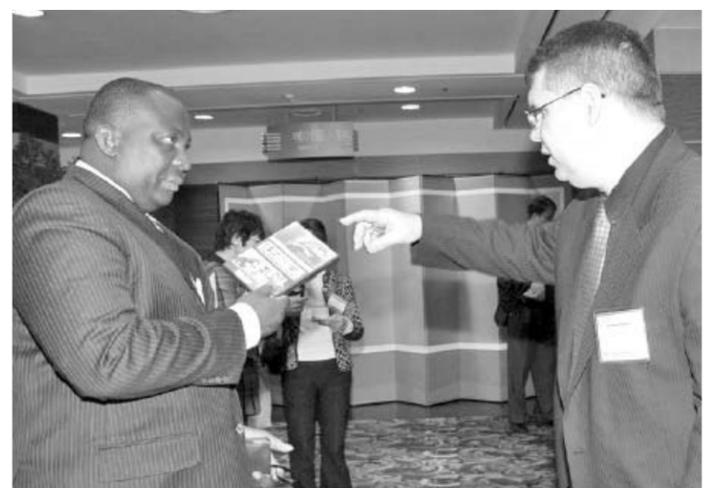
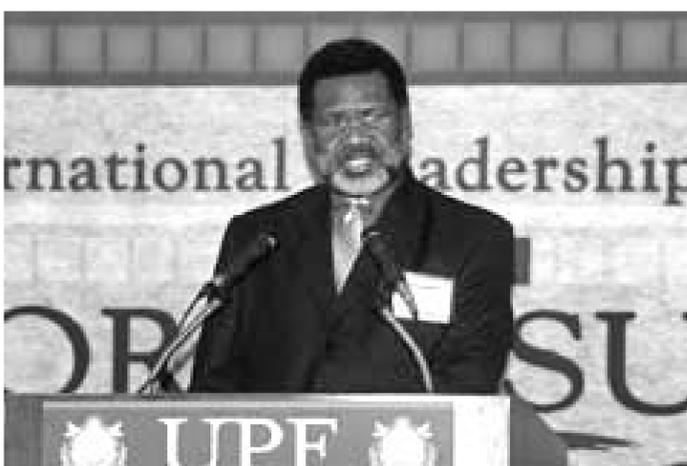
– could do well to consider.

Interreligious leaders were also very much in evidence. "As Christians from the United States and Europe met and dialogued with Muslim imams from Africa and Pakistan, a genuine spirit of brotherhood emerged," said Dr. Thomas Walsh, Secretary General of the UPF. "Although it may be true that religions have often been the source of

world conflict, UPF is confident and hopeful that a new generation of religious leaders will take the lead in reconciliation and peacebuilding."

Dr. Hyun Jin Moon, the Co-Chairman of the UPF, spoke on the Federation's plans for 2008, which include the holding of "Global Peace Festivals" in dozens of cities and countries around the world. The Global Peace Festivals,

a celebration of service, education and cooperation, were held in eight nations in 2007, their first year. "People everywhere are excited by the vision of the Global Peace Festivals," he said "and they will help propel the Universal Peace Federation and its many partners into even closer and more successful cooperation in the years to come."❖



Global Peace Festival in Benin, Africa

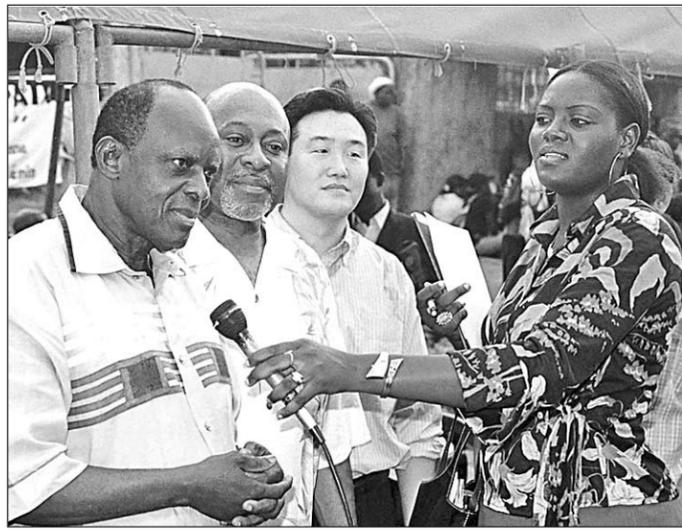
by Paterne Sosie Lin Zinsou

The Global Peace Festival in Benin took place on October 26 - 29, 2007, in the coastal cities of Ouidah, the historic slave-trade port, and Cotonou, Benin's economic capital and main city. During each activity, the international delegates, Archbishop George Augustus Stallings, Jr., and Mr. Jin Man Kwak, were joined by representatives of all countries in the West Africa sub-Region: Burkina Faso, Niger, Nigeria, Togo, and Ghana

To begin, 300 participants from different countries offered community service at the Ganve Public Primary School in Ouidah. Wearing Global Peace Festival T-shirts, they weeded and



cleaned the school grounds. The mayor offered words of welcome.



Women's Soccer Team

Next, about 400 persons gathered for a peace march on the theme of: "Forgiveness and Reconciliation for a Prosperous Nation" in Ouidah. The march started from the grimly-named arch "Porte de Non Retour" (Door of No Return), the exact route where people who were sold into slavery were taken to the ships.

Four women's soccer teams participated in the Play Soccer Make Peace competition. Advancing the range of opportunities for women is one of the UN Millennium Development Goals and a key focus of UPF.

At the Palais des Congrès in Cotonou, more than a thousand distinguished guests gathered for an Ambassadors for Peace awards ceremony. The following day, at a student rally at the University of Abomey-Calavi, the organizers discussed plans for a major festival in 2008.

Finally the delegation met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs to offer a report to the head of state, H.E. Dr. Thomas Boni Yayi and First Lady Chantal Boni. ❖

UPF Kenya Call for Peace Education

by Rev. Fredrick Wakhisi

Leaders of several denominations and religions in Kenya called for unity and trust among all communities at a prayer rally organized by UPF-Kenya in Uhuru Park in downtown Nairobi on February 6.

They also called on UPF to offer peace education programs. A traditional site for outdoor speeches and rallies, Uhuru [Freedom] Park has been seen sealed off since the announcement of the results of the controversial Presidential elections held December 27, 2007. In order to carry out the program, organizers had to get permission from the Commissioner of Police himself. Permission was granted the day before, but the written permit was received only 30 minutes before the event began.

The atmosphere at the park was solemn and somber. At 10:00 am, the ceremony opened with lighting of candles and burning of incense.

Rev. Mwalagho Kililo, Regional Secretary General of UPF-Africa, conducted a service that included prayers offered by Rev. Dr. Sirisio Oromo, a Lutheran bishop; Mr. Varma, a Hindu priest; Rev. Henry Omai, General Overseer of the Restoration of Life Ministry; three Sikh

priests; and Rev. Dr. Luckio Otieno Odero, an Anglican priest.

The prayers for peace from these religious leaders were both touching and moving as people pled with Almighty God to grant forgiveness based on repentance. There was no doubt, they stated, that we have sinned before Heaven and Earth and thus are not worthy to be called God's children. From Hinduism to Sikhism, Islam, and Christianity the content of the prayers was the same.

Members of Parliament Hon. Elias Mbau and Hon. Joseph Nkaisery spoke

of the need for members of parliament to facilitate UPF seminars that can promote peace. The Ambassadors for Peace have requested that seminars be held to remind them of their calling to promote peace at this time of anarchy and mayhem. The solution to this problem lies with promoting principles of peace education.

There is no doubt that peace is a rare commodity for now. When peace prevailed, Kenyans did not seem to appreciate it until anarchy and mayhem became the order of the day.

Ambassadors for Peace recognize that the guiding principles of UPF and its founder's vision are critical elements for making peace a reality. This is the moment for UPF and all affiliate organizations to come out clearly and fulfill their calling.

The ceremony concluded with an offering of floral wreaths in memory of the more than 1,000 Kenyans killed to date in post-election violence.

A report of the event was one of the lead stories in the Daily Nation newspaper, the leading newspaper in East Africa. This underscores the important of peace to this nation of Kenya.

The newspaper quoted former United Nations prosecutor at the Rwanda tribunal, Duncan Mwanjumba, making a proposal at the rally for the establishment of a National Council of Elders to create bridges of reconciliation among the communities. He envisions that such a council could broker unity and cohesion by summoning political leaders to work for the common good of the country. The lawyer also proposed a constitutional review to create a mechanism for handling foreseeable electoral mistakes, power arrangements, and conflict resolution programs. ❖



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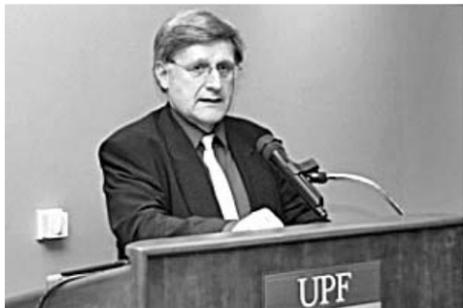
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Brussels Conference on Religious Coexistence

Bringing representatives from different faiths together on one platform, an "International Conference on Inter-faith Dialogue towards Global Peace" unanimously passed a resolution last week "Brussels Peace Declaration on Religious Coexistence" at Peace Embassy Brussels, Belgium, 8 December 2007.

Announcing the formation of a Permanent Committee for Inter-faith cooperation, comprising religious scholar's representatives of different Faiths and Communities, NGOs and media, the conference discussed inter-faith harmony, conflict resolution combating extremism, intolerance, hatred and violence in the name of religion.

Reiterating their desire to promote and protect peace, justice, human rights, equality, genuine brotherhood, tolerance and friendly interaction among cultures and religions need to be cultivated, promoted and nurtured to help create an environment conducive to building peace and harmony within communities and peoples, two organisations Universal Peace Federation (UPF) Belgium and European think tank Institute of Peace



and Development (INSPAD) Belgium jointly affirmed that they will work together to these goals.

Muhammad Tahir Director Welfare Education Fauji Foundation based in Pakistan told audience in his keynote address that all religions "gave us one message of peace, harmony, love and

compassion." He explained Islamic history and tolerance in other religions, and said that there are a number of basic principles and moral values that govern our dealings with other nations.

Philippe Jacques Chairman UPF said in his welcoming remarks, "We are one family under God, we have to promote

understanding and tolerance between all faith and religions." UPF will continue these efforts in future with INSPAD, he added. Amin ul Haq President INSPAD appreciated the valuable efforts and role of United Nations, UNESCO and UPF for the promotion of Inter-faith, Inter-cultural Dialogue and religious coexistence. He said, "We reaffirmed our commitment to oppose, prevent and combat terrorism and extremism in all its forms and manifestations and we also condemned the instrumental use symbols and religious, cultural or ethnical values to generate conflicts, feed wars or to justify terrorism." Willy Fautre Director HRWF appreciated the efforts aiming at promoting tolerance and respect between various faiths around the world while Bashy Quraishy Chairman ENAR Denmark said that this is a right time for reflection for Jewish and Muslim communities. He said that EU already established a Jewish-Muslim Dialogue Forum in Europe.

Farhat Jabeen, a Muslim scholar said, "Globalisation brings us the beauty of dialogue and interaction between various religions and cultures but because of misunderstanding and mis-

see **BRUSSELS** on page 13

Young Italians Connect With Israeli And Palestinian Youth

by Hod Ben Zvi

Twenty young Italians ages 16 to 24 spent a week in Israel and Palestinian Territories learning to know the young people there and getting involved in community service activities. Mr. Giorgio Gasperoni, Secretary General of UPF-San Marino, led the group of high school and university students and recent graduates from ten cities in Italy.

"Israel is very close to the hearts of Italians and to our history," said his daughter Daniela, a university student who organizes service projects for young people. "This trip brought me much closer to the historical places where Jesus grew up but also to the people who are living there today."

From December 27, 2007 to January 3, 2008, the young people did community volunteer work, met with local Jewish and Arab youth, and toured the country. They were welcomed by both Palestinians and Israelis, and many friendships developed.

In consultation with senior Ambassadors for Peace, young Israelis and Palestinians organized an informative program that would give their Italian visitors as much time as possible to engage with local people of various communities. Meetings were held with all the major faith groups, giving the Italians opportunities to understand the diverse society in Holy Land.

The participants were welcomed to Jerusalem by Hod Ben Zvi, Secretary General of UPF-Israel, and

Dr. Muli Peleg, a professor of political science from Tel Aviv University and co-chair OneVoice, an organization of young Israelis and Palestinians working for peace. Dr. Peleg gave an introduction to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and explained his organization's work to resolve conflict. A few "icebreaker" games with local youth led to laughter and helped the young people feel comfortable with each other.

Prof. Eliezer Glaubach, former Jerusalem City Councilman, led a tour of the Old City of Jerusalem that included the Via Dolorosa, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, and the Western Wall, a place of prayer for over two thousand years. Visiting Yad Vashem, the Holocaust memorial, offered the Italians insight into a painful part of Jewish history. The Italians also met city officials and religious leaders in various communities.

The itinerary included visits to holy sites and refugee camps in Bethlehem and East Jerusalem. They rode a boat on the Sea of Galilee and saw historic



sites in Tiberias and Nazareth. Tours of Jaffa and Tel Aviv gave the young people experiences of modern metropolitan Israel, in contrast to the traditional religious atmosphere of

Jerusalem.

What made the week unforgettable were the many opportunities to do projects with local people, play with children, and discuss common concerns with other youth. Each encounter had a unique flavor.

At the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, they met leaders of the Student Union and volunteer groups. In discussion groups they shared freely with one another, with the Italians asking about Israeli student life and the Israelis asking the Italians what they thought about the separation wall. They also met with two women serving in the Israeli army. The Italians asked them many questions about their lives as soldiers and their concerns for Israel, and the soldiers asked the Italians about their concerns for their own country.

The Italians helped a Jewish scout group, Mashatzim, clear an area of trash in a forest where Jewish settlers used to live. Together, they joked while they picked up items such as old picture frames and inflatable swimming

see **YOUTH** on page 12

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UPF Seminar for Sierra Leone Parliamentarians

by John D.S. Samura

UPF held a seminar, December 4, 2007, on 'Good Governance and Leadership, for Members of Parliament in the West African nation of Sierra Leone. It was held in the Parliament Building in Freetown. Earlier this year, a similar seminar was held for the parliament of Sri Lanka, and UPF plans to continue the series throughout the new year of 2008.

"The concept of peace in Sierra Leone is timely, since we just emerged from elections that were full of claims and counterclaims of violence," stated Hon. Sahr N. Fasuluku from Kono. "UPF came at a time when Sierra Leone needs a new approach to leadership," said Hon. Veronica K. Sesay from Moyamba. "There are a lot of hidden things that we came to understand about the concept of good governance and leadership, especially the root causes of conflict from God's viewpoint."

UPF Regional Chair

Rev. Eiji Tokuno opens the seminar and Sub-regional Leader Rev. Adama Doumbia supported us in planning the event. With the help of the Chief Whip in Parliament, Hon. Ibrahim Bundu, supported by the Majority Leader, Hon. Eddie Turay, we hosted 94 Parliamentarians on the first day. They communicated to their colleagues who could not attend the main points of the presentations by Rev. Doumbia and Ambassador Gerald Coleman, Secretary General of UPF-Liberia. They found the unique information on topics such as "God's Original Ideal of Peace," "Understanding the Root Causes of Conflict," and "Principles of Restoration" very convincing.

Most of the members of Parliament are new and young. "With this kind of education, we can surely transform our attitudes as well as the attitudes of our people," said Hon. Ibrahim Bundu from Port Loko.

Having experienced a decade of civil war that ended in 2002, participants expressed special appreciation for the presentations about the origins of conflict. Hon. Sheku G. Dumbuya from Kamboja said, "I learned during the seminar that peace comes only through understanding the root causes of conflict and how to resolve this conflict through the principles of reconciliation." During the war, an estimated 200,000 people were killed, 2 million displaced in neighboring countries, and thousands of people had their arms or legs hacked off



by rebels.

"This is the first time I attended a seminar that pointed out the real of concept of conflict in human history," said Hon. Bintu Myers from Kenema. Hon. Abu Konteh from Koinadugu stated, "This seminar pointed out the origin of problems by explaining the root



Hon. Justice Abel N.B. Stronge. The Minister of Labor, Hon. Minkailu Mansaray, spoke at the closing ceremony.

The response was overwhelming. Many participants asked for more seminars in the future. For example, Hon. Mohamed Sufian Kargbo from Tonkolili said, "I look forward to future seminars for the benefit of not only Parliamentarians but even cabinet min-

isters."

causes of human suffering. This clearly reminds us about the mistakes of our forefathers in human history. Thank God for giving such an inspiring message to the Founders."

On the second day, 101 members of Parliament listened as Rev. Tokuno elaborated on the core values and founding vision of UPF and its activities in 48 African nations. "Practically, it was full of hope for mankind and guidance for our lives and for future generations, especially on the issue of fidelity in marriage," stated Hon. Sallieu Conteh from Pujehun. "The seminar reminded us about our limitations towards our family, society, and nation."

A Paramount Chief from Bombali, Hon. Bai Sebor Kasangba II, said, "The seminar was educational and admirable especially for the new Parliamentarians who are looking forward to bringing positive change for our people. I feel proud to have received such an inspiring message of peace. My many thanks go to Rev. Eiji Tokuno for his love for my country."

The Opening Ceremony began with invocations by Sheikh Lama Jalloh and Rev. Alfred P.M Sondufu, leading Ambassadors for Peace in Sierra Leone. Speeches were delivered by Hon. Eddie Turay, Ms. Alice M. Kamara, Mrs. Maude Peacock, and the Speaker of Parliament,

We want to set up an office near the Parliament Building and create a Parliamentarians for Peace Committee. Hon. Victoria Saidu-Kamara from Freetown stated, "As a member of Parliament for my constituency and Sierra Leone as a whole, I would like to thank the organizers for their timely interventions that clearly remind us that we are one family under God. I was in the United States and I knew about Dr. Moon for many years, but I never understood his vision. Through this seminar I clearly understand that he is a man of peace."

Hope

There are signs of hope in Sierra Leone. After the September 2007 elections, the new President, Ernest Bai Koroma, promised to fight corruption, reform the justice system, promote youth employment, and develop the country's power resources, agriculture, and tourism.

The government, citizens, religious groups, and international agencies are working together to rebuild the nation. Regional stability is a priority, and leaders of neighboring Liberia have publicly expressed regret for their country's involvement in Sierra Leone's civil war. The UN Peacebuilding Commission established in 2005 has been active in Sierra Leone. ❖

YOUTH from page 11

pools.

At a community center for Ethiopian Jews in the southern city of Beer Sheva, one group painted an electrical box in a poor neighborhood, decorating it with lots of color and the word "Peace." The local people were disappointed that the young people could not decorate the entire neighborhood. The second group planted trees in the yard of the community center and cleaned the area. Afterwards, they played with children at a kindergarten.

An Italian high school student, Chiara De Notaris, said, "I will never forget the eyes of the children, the smiles of the boys and girls so extraordinarily similar to us, who share the same dreams, fears, and hopes for peace."

In the central Israeli town of Petach Tikva, the Italians met with 25 youths in a leadership program for community volunteering. The Italians listened with interest to their explanations about their volunteer programs, and the Israeli youth were inspired to hear about the Global Peace Festival.

They met both Christian and Muslim Arabs living in Israel. The Italians met with Christian Arab youth in Nazareth,

who shared their visions for life and what they want to accomplish. The Italians asked a lot of questions about their political points of view. In the end both groups felt so close that none of them wanted to part. Arab-Israeli Muslim students from Haifa University described their frustrations with the conflict and the walls dividing Israeli and Palestinian territories. After an Arab-style meal and a performance by Arab dancers, the Italians joined in the traditional dancing.

There were opportunities to meet Palestinians. At the only community center in the Old City of Jerusalem, they played with Arab children who were hesitant to respond at first but in the end did not want to part from their new Italian friends. At the Shoafat refugee camp in East Jerusalem, the Italians visited a girls' high school and asked many questions about the Muslim culture and dress code. Some of the girls accompanied the Italians on their visit to NGOs in Ramallah, in the West Bank, so they could continue their conversations. The Secretary General of UPF-

Palestine, Mr. Kamal Thabet, described the breakfast feeding projects in kindergartens and youth activities in Gaza.

"What struck me most was to see young people 18 and 19 years old having to serve in the army and carry weapons," Daniela said. She was also touched by the Arabs who told her they were always judged or feared because of their Arab heritage. Chiara said, "The stories of

teenagers like us were unforgettable and gave us insiders' views of the conflict." One person told her that peace was a matter of trust. Another person expressed hope that peace would come step by step. Still others seemed skeptical about the prospects for resolving conflict because decisions rest "in the hands of the people in power." ❖

Rev. Phillip Schanker's Presentations

For anyone interested, the Education Department of FFWPU-USA is making available Rev. Phillip Schanker's lecture presentations from the "Special Workshop for the New Beginning of Cheon Il Guk Blessed Families." These presentations will be available in two formats:

1. The Powerpoint Presentation File, which Rev. Schanker used to lecture, will be available on CD-ROM for \$12.00 This file is separated into three segments:

a. "The Results of the Fall & Separating Blessed Families from Satan"

b. "God's Grace & the New Beginning

for CIG Blessed Families

c. "True Parent's Foundation for Cheon Il Guk and Amnesty for its Citizens"

2. A DVD Recording of Rev. Schanker's presentations from the Washington, DC workshop will be available on DVD for \$15.00 This Recording will include the following presentations:

a. "The Results of the Fall & Separating Blessed Families from Satan"

b. "God's Grace & the New Beginning for CIG Blessed Families"

c. "True Parent's Foundation for Cheon Il Guk and Amnesty for its Citizens"

For information on how to order, please contact Mrs. Sheila Song at:

education@familyfed.org

Peru: UPF Aids Earthquake Recovery



by Trevor Jones

A 7.9 magnitude earthquake hit the central coast of Peru on August 15, 2007, killing 519 people and injuring 1,366. Ambassadors for Peace in Peru were very busy in December 2007, taking the opportunity of this season of goodwill to visit some of the most deprived areas of Peru to bring them support and hope for the future.

One group, led by the National President of UPF-Peru Rev. Dr. Orestes Sanchez, travelled to Chincha, a small town about a four-hour drive south of the capital, Lima, that was seriously affected by an earth-

quake in August. Many people are still without jobs or homes, following the devastation that saw the main church of the town collapse, killing many people who were inside at the time.

The Ambassadors for Peace worked together with the National Police Force, doctors, psychologists, and volunteers, bringing food, medicine, free primary health care consultations, advice on creating small business enterprises, and the traditional Christmas "chocolatada" event that involves giving children hot chocolate and panetones (Christmas cake). The many children of these poor people also received some guidance from skilled pediatricians. Free haircuts were provided, something very basic that is always appre-

ciated.

The director of the Mothers' Clubs in Peru, Sra. Rosa Castillo, who is also Vice President of UPF-Peru, coordinated this event. This was her second visit to the town since the disaster. On her first visit she mobilized people in Lima to donate clothing for those in the disaster area and then mobilized a convoy of trucks to deliver them.

UPF and its associated organizations have been working with the poor of Peru for many years, providing equipment for communal kitchens where parents join together to produce at least one good hot meal a day for their families. There are now over 100 such kitchens in Lima and some of the provincial towns sponsored by donations from Japan. ❖



BRUSSELS from page 11

interpretation, it will also become the source of conflicts, tensions, struggles and polarisation."

Nasir Zaidi Professor Bonn University Germany said, "Dialogue is need of the time, misunderstanding between religions and cultures are developing rapidly. We must accept and respect all religions and cultures." Ingmar Jurgen Metthezing (Bud-

dhist Monk) Holland said, "We saw war culture many places, mediation techniques can change into positive and peaceful thoughts."

Joginder Singh, Sikh Gurdwara Vilvord, Brussels said, "Sikhism stands for human liberty, gender equality, fraternity, universalism, freedom of conscience, social justice and dynamic power." Tahir Tabassum, Executive Director INSPAD said that prophets and messengers of all faiths and religions give us the teachings of peace, stability and integrity. ❖

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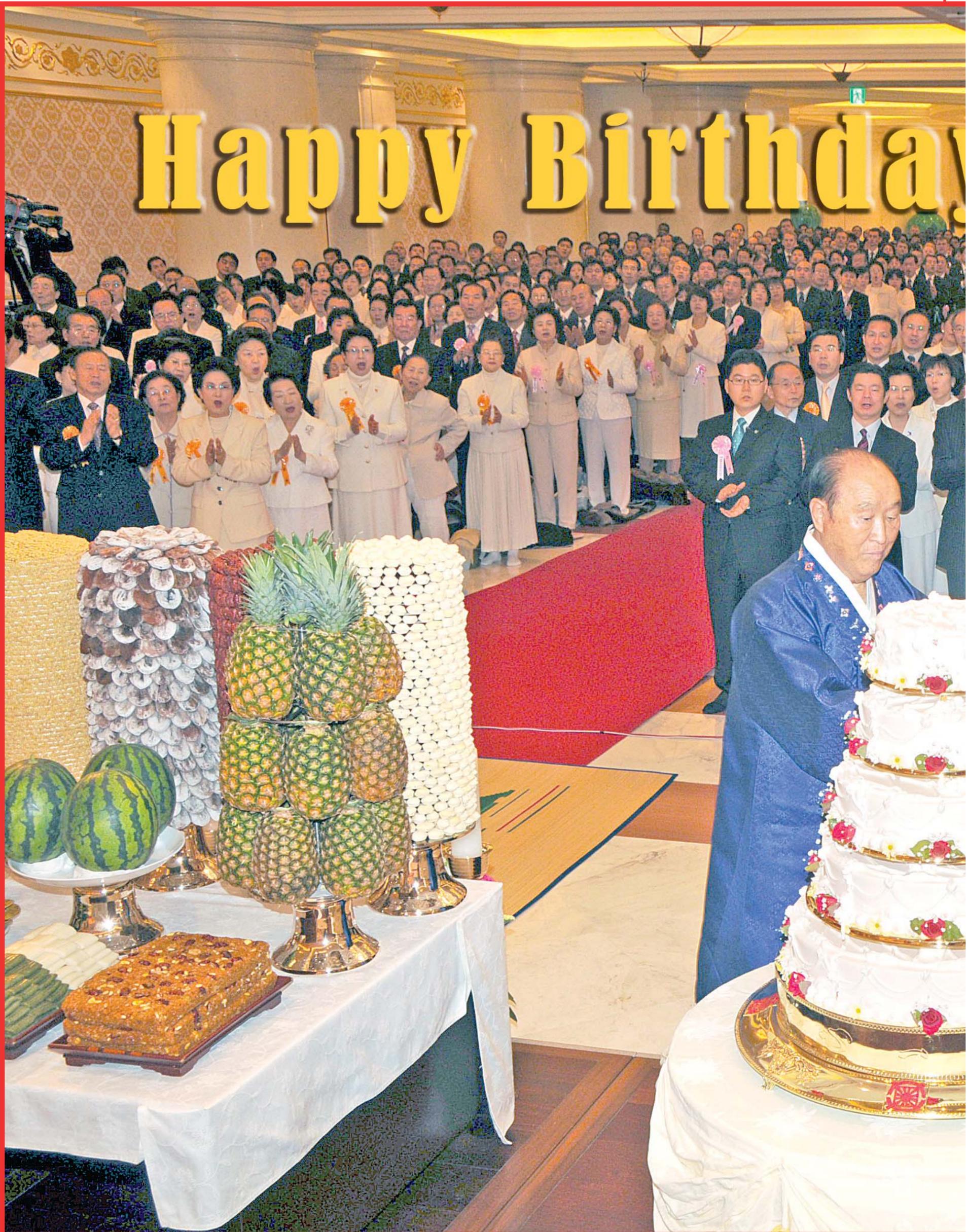
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North Carolina ACLC Prayer Breakfast

On Tuesday, February 12th, 2008, the North Carolina ACLC held its monthly Prayer breakfast at the CRT Golden Lamb Rest Home, where Bishop Willie Davis, Jr. is the pastor. We gathered at 9 A.M; there were 13 participants involved in the gathering.

Rev. Burgi Hutcherson was the MC of the program. After a short welcome we had two representative prayers, and then Rev. Cynthia Hill read the "Statement of Purpose for ACLC". She concluded with her inspiration to sing, "Our Father, Who Art in Heaven". Then Tracy from the Golden Lamb rest home served a nice meal in a box, which everyone enjoyed.

After the physical nourishment Rev. Dr. Shirley Jones-Johnson served us the spiritual food. Dr. Shirley had just moved from Dayton, Ohio, to North Carolina and she was surely a blessing to all with her message, which came from the heart and with great preparation. She was very encouraging to all the participants, speaking about our role as sons and daughters of God. She

made us recognize how privileged we are to be living in this time of history when the word of God is spoken so clearly.

We are on the battlefield, but we have to live the word of God. There are great examples of history that we can learn from. We need faith, virtue, moral purity, knowledge of Christ, and so forth. We need to study God's word to show

from Charlotte, commented how important purity is in raising our young people.

Then the program concluded with the Holy Wine Ceremony to give a toast to Peace. We prayed for God's blessing to come and to dwell amongst us and heal our families, our communities, and our state.

We had announcements and a clos-

ing prayer by Minister Willie Muhammad from the Nation of Islam in Greensboro.

their understanding about the scope of our mission and to strengthen their convictions. At the same time we too gain so much inspiration, and we can see the Spirit of God at work. That's why, when the main speaker Dr. S. Johnson finished her message, I was compelled to get up and give praise, affirming that God indeed was speaking through her. I was particularly inspired by our host, the Bishop Willie Davis. One of many great works is the Golden Lamb Rest Home, a senior citizens' home. And there he was sitting with this golden smile on his face throughout the entire proceedings. I told him that I knew the secret why he just couldn't stop smiling. "It's obvious. Because you are practicing to the fullest Reverend Moon's motto: Living for others." He continued to elaborate on that subject. Later he invited me to see part of the facility and to meet some of his patients. The meeting finished up with lots of one-on-one sharing and picture taking. Just another day in the vineyard, doing grassroots work. I have the impression that God, Jesus, True Parents, and Burgi would not mind the help of a few more good workers. ♦



ourselves approved before God.

Dr. Shirley had a lot to share. I believe she could have gone on longer but at some point she decided to close. Everyone had been filled with the Holy Spirit through her empowering message. We felt very blessed.

We collected a love offering for her in order to show our appreciation for her love.

After the keynote message, Brother Klaus Schick, who came all the way

from the Nation of Islam in Greensboro.

Testimony from Klaus Schick:

What a great way to celebrate T.P. Birthday, by attending your ACLC Prayer breakfast in Winston Salem. For me it was an opportunity to help, to learn, and to get involved. There is obviously a great need to nurture these ministers and Ambassador for Peace in

ing prayer by Minister Willie Muhammad from the Nation of Islam in Greensboro.

ACLC Cleveland Pastors Prayer Breakfast

by Bruce and Keiko Biddle

Our Prayer Breakfast for January 12, 2008 was held at the International Assembly of Living Way Christians of St. Thomas on Cleveland's east side. Bishop Cheryl Reed is the pastor and was the host for the Saturday morning event. This gathering was focused especially on commemorating the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the theme was "One Family Under God". It was organized by our district Co-convenor Dr. Thelma D. Johnson.

About 30 people gathered at the beautifully set tables for a delicious breakfast cooked by Bishop Reed and her friends. After some wonderful songs, the keynote speaker, Reverend Vernell L. Young, from Live Ministry, spoke on the topic of family. The Holy Blessing Ceremony was led by Reverend Joel Lindstrom along with other couples and families.

It was a beautiful and powerful event. One minister was feeling sick at one point and everyone gathered around him to pray. The spirit of love was amazing and strong. Our friend was healed and Bishop Reed, who has invested much heart and effort for this city, encouraged all in attendance



to take the initiative to reach out more to our beloved Cleveland and make it a

better place in 2008.

Several ministers showed interest in joining ACLC and all became very inspired to work hard for great victories in the new year. Dr. King's spirit really shined in our presence this day, but with a new added message of One Family Under God! Many thanks go to all the precious friends who made this event a success by their hard work, attendance and prayers. ♦



6th Annual Detroit True Family Values Awards Becoming an Institution in the City

The ACLC is starting to become an institution in Detroit. Our Sixth Annual Greater Detroit True Family Values Awards Banquet attracted the attention of the State, County and City offices, with representatives coming from all three to give welcome and congratulations. It was our largest banquet to date, with over 225 guests.

Bishop Jesse Edwards gave the keynote address, inspiring, challenging, and educating the audience on the "True" in True Family Values. The topic was most fitting, given the scandal rocking our city hall at the moment. With national news of our mayor caught in an affair with his female chief of staff, it was evident to all how much an impure relationship can damage not only a family but whole city.

We gave awards to eight couples in the community who were doing the opposite; they are serv-



as a car repair or a doctor, and ask them to buy an ad for our ad book. Well, our families did well. The dentist of one of our families bought a full-page ad. Our 2nd Gen sold business-card-size ads. We see it is more than possible to pay for the whole event through ads and sponsorships.

One note. It is interesting to see the changes in the city since we came back to Detroit as tribal messiahs some 17 years ago. The large entrenched reli-



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ing others. We put ads in papers and sent press releases asking for nominations of couples who are doing good work in one of four categories: the Promotion of Marriage & Family, the Promotion of Abstinence before Marriage, Married Couples who serve the Community, and Community Service that Helps Families. An example was the award we gave to Wayne County Clerk Cathy Garrett. She received the Promotion of Marriage Award. We were inspired to hear that she holds group marriage ceremonies on Sweetest Day and Valentines Day. These are done in three languages due to the diversity of the community.

We chose her because her ceremonies not only promote marriage, they are international and also reflect Father Moon's style of marriage ceremonies.

We focused on sponsorship this year. We have been to many large programs such as the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday banquets and have seen the multitude of sponsors supporting these events. We see banks,

corporations, and hospitals supporting a Baptist preacher, Dr. King. We thought it is time to have the community support our efforts as well.

We consulted with Peter Hayes, our AFC brother in Kentucky. Based in part on his advice, we planned to start by asking each of our families to support our program by going to one business where they spend money, such

religious groups in the city seemed so powerful and exclusive. Now their leadership is changing. For us True Family Values is something we see is lacking and, with us of the 6,000 Couples reaching our Silver 25th wedding anniversary last year, we have a strong foundation to stand up and offer a path to communities that need help. ❖

Silent Night(s)

A desert village,
a cold night,
a barn of sorts,
a baby born,
angels attending,
curious shepherds dropping in,
a guiding star,
strangers bearing gifts,
God watching,
jealous kings
fearing for their sovereignty.

An oriental village,
a cold night,
a thatched house,
a baby born,
rice-growing farmers stopping by,
a mysterious golden crane arrives,
strangers bringing ginseng & herbs,
God all around,
troublemakers, potentates
lurking in the shadows.

Lloyd Howell

Ohio Family Fed. Lunar New Year Festival

by Bruce & Keiko Biddle

This special community festival was held on February 10th at the Highland Heights Community Center on Cleveland's east side. About 40 people gathered, 20 members and a variety of old and new



friends, relatives and neighbors. There were plenty of tasty home-made international dishes to share. We started with a prayer. Then with sparkling grape juice for all, Allyn Lipstreuer led a toast to family love and unity.

During the scrumptious meal a brief PowerPoint introduction of FFWPU was presented by Joel Lindstrom and was very well received, giving a clear spirit and meaning to our gathering of families.

Bruce Biddle, as emcee, kept things lively with knock-knock jokes as many stepped forward to offer a song or words of inspiration. Denise Burton, who

came with her whole family and their children's friends, read a beautiful article on bringing harmony between husband and wife. It was message of love, leading to a comment that we should all be united in pledging a second lunar New Year's resolution. The festival ended with a raffle drawing.

Forty people may not seem like many; however, it was an amazing number of people in light of the extremely cold, single-digit, snowstorm weather that day. Even Bruce Biddle's parents who usually don't drive

at night, came and had to drive back carefully at 5 miles per hour. I'm sure God knew this because his mother won the grand prize of the raffle! Everyone stayed for a while sharing together, even though the blustery snow continued like crazy outside and all were anxious to get safely home.

It was a beautiful night with such a rainbow of races, nationalities and ages. Thank you, Megumi Lindstrom, our Kodan leader, who suggested we do this event and all sisters (some brothers) who brought wonderful tasty food and shared their musical talents. And finally, for the Second Gens who sang the beautiful song "When we Hold on Together," which drew some tears from the appreciative audience. It has been 5 years since we put together a family festival such as this. We realize how much we need this kind of community gathering and how much other people are looking for this kind of experience. ♦

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Southern California WFWP's New Year Tea

by Era Thompson and Kimiyo Anceney

On January 27th the Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP) of Southern California held its annual "New Year's Tea" to conclude the year 2007 and to usher in the new year of 2008.

The event took place in La Canada Flintridge Country Club, nestled on a hillside and overlooking beautiful scenery. This event was scheduled from 2-4pm. Just about 2 hours before the event started, the heavens opened up and poured down a shower of heavy blessed rain. Given this deluge, many of the organizing members were worried about cancellations. We had confirmed 60 servings with the Country Club. However, despite the heavy rain, 65 people attended. Among them was Mrs. Erikawa, senior vice president of WFWP USA, who flew from New York specifically to support this event. Also, we had three guests from Las Vegas and two sisters from San Diego. During the heavy rain, Claudelina Smith, our chairwoman, prayed to God and asked Him to show a rainbow as a sign of blessing. Indeed, a beautiful rainbow appeared in the sky at the end of the event and made everyone happy. The program began with welcoming remarks from Claudelina Smith, followed by an Invocation given by Mrs. Anna Woods.

Kimiyo Anceney, our new national vice president in charge of membership, then reported on the 8th International WFWP Leadership conference held in South Korea. Seven hundred women from 50 nations participated in this conference. They made an historical trip to North Korea and met North Korean women leaders. Kimiyo also reviewed the 15th Anniversary Celebration and Benefit for the Schools of Africa. This event hosted by WFWP Southern California last October made a \$ 10,000 donation for the Schools of Africa project.

Era Thompson then gave a report on local monthly meetings we had during the year 2007, centered on the theme "Empowering Women as Peace Makers."

After the reports, the participants enjoyed "High Tea" - tea served with individual teapots, small sandwiches, petits fours and fruit. While enjoying the food and each others' company, our 16 year old 2nd gen, Laura Nomoto, blessed our gathering with her beautiful performance of the "Impossible Dream". After this short break, Dawna Tully read True Mother's keynote speech, first given at the 10th Anniversary of WFWP. This speech outlines clearly the future direction of WFWP. As it did 5 years ago, this speech moved the hearts of the audience and raised the whole tone of our gathering.

Next, an overview of WFWP's international, national and our local plans and goals was presented for the year 2008. Our local focus is to develop our monthly meetings and increase our membership to 3,000 nationally. We also mentioned the new "Pink Piggy Bank Project" to support the schools of Africa. We collected piggy banks at this event and made almost \$700 from 33 piggy banks.

We asked participants to write about



their meetings and a local service project we can be involved with. Towards the end of the program, our sister Katrin McCarthy gave a tearful and moving testimony about her relationship with her Bridge of Peace Ceremony sister, Elizabeth Little, who had passed away recently. We then concluded our event with the



song "Let there be Peace on Earth".

As a result of this event, we signed up 5 new members. One of these new members committed to a \$30 monthly membership; also, one renewal was upgraded from \$50-a-year friendship level to \$20 monthly support. This result made us confident that we will increase our membership if we can establish inspiring and consistent monthly meetings. In this way, we can surely build a strong WFWP organization upon which True Mother can stand.

The rainbow that appeared in the sky at the end of our event brought forth a joyful shout from all participants, and assured us that God's Heart and Blessing were with WFWP. ❖



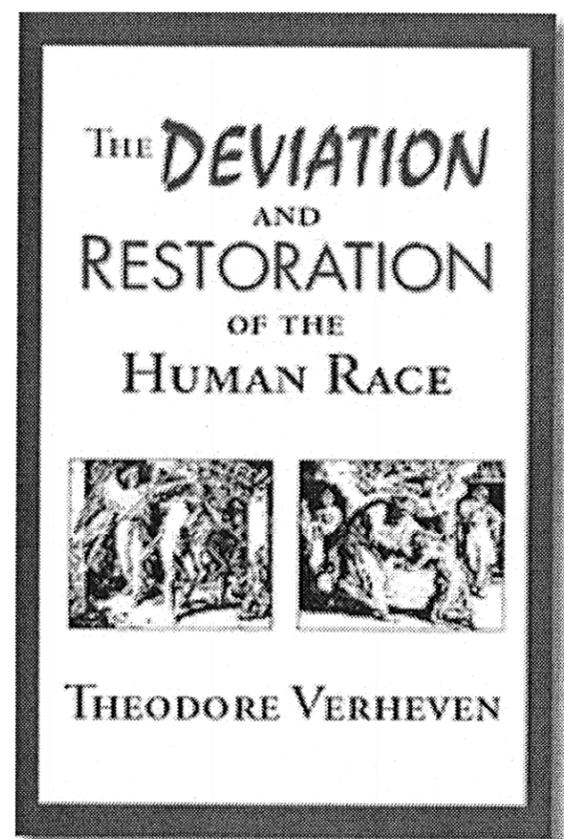
The Deviation and Restoration of the Human Race

by Theodore Verheven

Teddy Verheven was sent as a lone missionary in 1965 from Los Angeles to Holland (his country of birth), by the leader of the Unified Family, Reverend Sun Myung Moon.

This writing not only explains the purification and development of the inner personality (moral and intellectual), but also the unfoldment of the innermost spark, by awakening and feeding the growing soul with the Love and Truth of God.

For more detail, go to: "The Deviation and Restoration of the Human Race" on AtlasBooks.com - "Category" Biblical Studies or Body, Mind, Spirit. See Summary and Testimony and click on "excerpt" for Foreword and 10 pages of Table of Contents.



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Reaching Out at Annapolis Family Fellowship

by James Stewart

The seven families in our small group meet every Friday night. Over many months through prayer, the word and sharing with each other, we have developed a nurturing, safe community. We know what is happening to each other; we can pray for each other and the families around us. It is a place where we can support, uplift, and just plain laugh with each other. At the end of the year we decided we wanted to share this with and reach out to others in our community.

The Saddleback Church in California use four major days for outreach to family, friends, and community. They are Christmas, Easter, Mother's Day and Thanksgiving. With this in mind, the Annapolis Family Fellowship decided to organize a God's Day celebration



hall and it would be too cold to hold anything there. It looked as though we might have to cancel and try again another time. After a few hours of frantic calls, we managed to get Camp Letts, a stunningly beautiful place nestled on the shore of the Chesapeake Bay, and we set about confirming our families and friends.

On the day, over 80 people came. New friends, old friends we had not seen in a long time, families, neighbors, and children. We talked and shared about our group, we ate a mountain of food, we sang, we laughed, we danced, and we prayed together. As we said our farewells some of us shed a few tears. We are in touch with many

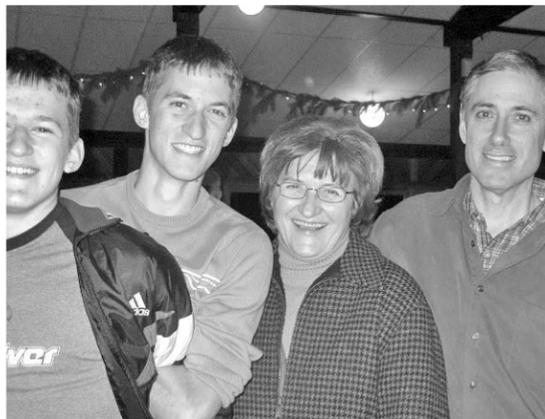
who came; some have joined in our small group.

We still want to reach out to more friends, new and old, and we are preparing for our Easter Celebration. If you have or belong to a small group, reach out this Easter to those around you. Many people are longing to find a safe and nurturing community to belong to. It does not matter if you hold your gathering in a castle, a hall, or a humble place.

Reach out this Easter and touch someone's heart and in doing so, touch the heart of God. ❖

at Camp Letts on the shore of the Chesapeake Bay in Maryland. Initially we found a Church hall we had used before and knew the pastor. We prepared to hold our event there.

Two days before God's Day we got a call from the Pastor, The boiler had broken down in the



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The Secret of Eternal Expansion, Development and Growth

by Dr. Tyler Hendricks

The address was given during chapel service at UTS on January 30, 2008

I was at a conference recently, and one of the leaders of the organization asked the gathered participants for their view on why the organization is not growing. No one had an answer. It caused me to think about give and take action, because the Divine Principle teaches that give and take action is the foundation for multiplication. "Through the agency of universal prime energy, the subject and object elements of every entity form a common base and enter into interaction. This interaction, in turn, generates all the forces the entity needs for existence, multiplication and action. The interaction generating these forces through this process is called give and take action." (Exposition of the Divine Principle, pp. 22) So give and take action is the foundation for existence, action and—to the point—multiplication.

In my view, give and take action is another word for love, and Jesus made a valuable summary of this when he said, "For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them." (Matthew 18:20) This means that when two or three have a relationship in Jesus' name, then God is in it and their community will exist, act, and multiply. So, in the words of my friend Kevin Thompson, "We can have all the teaching in the world, but if we ain't got love, we ain't got diddly. We can have God's Principles, 5 Universal Principles, 4 Core Values, 8 points to pledge and any other teaching, but all of that is to guide us towards love." This echoes St. Paul's eternal verses in 1 Corinthians 13, telling us that we might have prophecy, knowledge, faith, and all the miraculous merit in the world, but if we have not love, we have nothing.

Now, if give and take action is about love, and love is all we need, then we should really understand give and take action. So I'm offering here a ten-step exposition on give and take action—on love relationships.

1. Common base:

The common base is the shared purpose, idea or ideal that ultimately comes from God. God works through our relationships, so indeed when two or more are gathered together in God's name, He will be with them. When mind and body are united in God's purpose, He is in us. Among all human beings, there are common bases. We all exist the physical body, so we can all ask, "how are you?" and get a response. We all exist in time, so we can all ask, "do you know what time it is?" We all live in the same environment, so we can ask, "how is the weather?" As we get to know each other more, we have more and more in common. Sports teams, our nation, presidential campaigns, movies... It could be a shared profession, such as an association of registrars, salesmen, presidents or priests. It could be a shared goal, such as a weight-loss group or political organization or business, or a marriage.

2. The Lover:

The Lover is the creator, the source,

the origin or, in Unification parlance, the subject partner. I prefer the expression "lover and beloved" to "subject and object partners," so that is what I will use.

3. The Beloved, the "Other":



The Other can be my spouse, my parent, my child, my friend, my neighbor, my student, my teacher, my community, the stranger whom I can serve as a customer. The Lover should have a clear sense of for whom this gift is being created. In the business world this is called a "target market." In common life it is just having empathy and clarity.

4. The Lover creates what is given, the gift, the product:

The idea for the gift, the product, is stimulated by the beloved; by the lover thinking about or praying or doing research about the beloved and realizing what that person needs right now. This should become a concrete manifestation, co-created with God. The Lover gives what the Beloved needs and wants in light of the shared purpose.

5. The presentation: the Lover presents the product:

Critical factors here include care, diligence, attention, good communication, on the basis of trust and legitimacy, consistency, reputation, commitment, reliability, etc. In the business world this is "branding." In personal and social life, it is having a good reputation.

6. The reception by the Beloved:

The beloved has to receive the gift, and ideally the heart behind it. This takes intelligence and sensitivity. How many times have you had a gift refused, or slighted? Have you done that to others? Do you exhibit gratitude? Do you honor your parents? Do you pay attention to your spouse? Do you appreciate your children? Do we appreciate the labor of others, in the goods that we consume? Are we Grateful? Or are we Dead?

7. The response from the Beloved:

In Divine Principle, the response is given the generic term, "beauty," because it is beautiful to the Lover. Beauty assumes different forms: the response to parental love to a child: filial piety; the response to a husband's love to his wife: fidelity; the response to a leader's love to his followers: loyalty; the response to a teacher's love to his students: excellence; the response to a politician's love to his country: votes; the response to a performer's love to his audience: applause; the response to a pastor's love to his people: repentance and rebirth; the response to a businessman's love to the public: money. Yes, money is a form of beauty; it is congealed labor, time, effort, life, ener-

gy and thought.

In an authentic love relationship, the response is freely given. It requires the Other to give in return freely, not by coercion. Therefore our Founder said that in the ideal society, people offer funds for the public purpose, that is to say, taxes, freely. St. Paul said, be a cheerful giver.

If there are many lovers, the beloved has the freedom to choose. Many sperm will attach to one ovum, and the ovum chooses which one to let in. Many types of potato chips attach to me when I enter a deli, provided by manufacturers who love me, and I choose which one to buy.

For the relationship to grow, there has to be a response from the beloved. If the lover is not clear what the response is expected, the relationship will not develop. If the beloved is confused by the gift from the love, if it is not clear what the lover wants, or if the price is too high, or if the response is beyond the capacity of the beloved or is more than the beloved considers appropriate, the relationship will not develop. If a wife does not respond, there's no baby. If the customer does not respond, there's no business.

8. Transfer of ownership to the Beloved:

When the beloved receives and responds, or returns the gift in reflection, the beloved gains ownership. The lover transfers ownership to the beloved.

In a job, the owner gives the task and goals and when the worker or staff person fully responds, the worker becomes an owner and shares the ownership. If the worker is forced to work or is just working for the money, the worker is not an owner. He or she is a slave or "9 to 5'er."

In marriage, I give myself and when my wife fully responds, my wife owns me. Friendship is an abstract of that. In childbearing, we give ourselves and when our child fully responds, our child owns the family—calling it "my family," and the child owns him or herself. In education, the teacher gives the knowledge, heart and expertise and when the student fully responds, the student owns the material or skill. In a commercial transaction, a sale, the seller gives the product and when the buyer fully responds, by paying, the buyer owns

the asset.

9. Assessment of the results by the Lover:

Here is where we truly, most critically, live for the sake of others. Love comes from the beloved. How much did my love affect the beloved? I know by my beloved's response. Is my beloved responding? Did he, she or they respond to my giving? Did they return something? Does my beloved want ownership of what I am giving and, by extension, of me? There's no way to assess results without a return that is measurable. There's no way to determine value without something measurable. The measure is the price the receiver returns, is willing to give back.

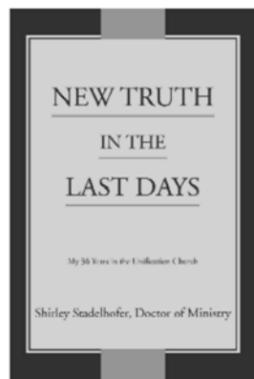
10. Re-investment by the Lover:

Develop the giving based on the results. Development includes self-criticism, self-reflection, willingness to change, to admit I'm not done yet, I'm not complete yet and I have greater heights to reach.

Pay attention to the response with humility; look at yourself first, your own value, what you are offering. Not to blame your spouse, your child, your customer, your community. Check your product. Improve its quality, in light of the response of the Beloved. On that basis, give more the next time. Our Father Reverend Moon's teaching is that if the lover gives 100%, the beloved will re-invest and return that and add more, sending back 110%. Then the lover will be greatly stimulated and give in return 120%. And this will continue, defying the natural law of entropy. He teaches that this is how God created the universe, and is the secret of eternal expansion, development and growth.

In conclusion, when the purpose is of God, then God is in this entire process. It is an unfolding of God. As Jesus said, when two or three are gathering in my name, I am in the midst of them. When my mind and body are absolutely obedient to God, He is in me. When husband and wife are one in God's blessing, He is in their relationship, which creates children and a family. When the Lover and Beloved on all levels and of all kinds are one in God, He is in the world. Let us rejoice in this and be glad, for this is His promise and He is a God who fulfills His promises.

New Truth in the Last Days My 36 Years in the Unification Church Shirley Stadelhofer, Doctor of Ministry



"A 'couldn't put it down' kind of a book. So simple and beautiful, like Shirley herself." According to Rev. Kevin Thompson. "Dr Shirley as she was affectionately known by most people, poured the last days of her life into this book which is part testimonial of her 36 years as a follower of Rev. Sun Myung Moon, and part explanation of the teachings of Rev Moon."

As one of the foremost presenters of the Divine Principle to Christian ministers, Shirley Stadelhofer's presentation style is uniquely simple, concise, straight forward, and passionate. This book would be a great gift or loan to anyone interested in what Rev. Moon teaches. An e-book version is available.

Call 1-800-AUTHORS to order, or visit www.iUniverse.com

THE NEW VOICES OF OUR GENERATION



Coping with College Stress

The following article was taken from www.worldcarp.org

It's already 12 am. You are done on your third paper work but you still have two left for Algebra and an Elective. Minutes later, your cell phone beeps. It's your Editor-in-Chief, asking for the college paper lay-out for the next issue, you as the Lay-out Artist. As your stomach growls, you remember you have skipped lunch and dinner because you went home from your workplace (a fast-food chain); straight to your study table just to get rid of piled homework.

You then feel nervous, there's shortness in your breath and all of a sudden, a terrible headache follows. You're not yet dying of course! But you just hardly thought of one thing:

STRESS.

Stress What??

According to American Institute of Stress, 75 to 90 percent of visits to Physicians are stress-related complaints or disorders.

As defined by Dr. Tammy Coder Mikinski, Ph.D. (licensed psychologist and Director of Rockhurst University Counseling Center in Kansas), "stress is anything that takes a psychological or physical toll on you. It's not necessarily a bad thing." You might be surprised to know that there are actually two kinds of stress: Eustress and Distress. It's like positive and negative.

Eustress keeps us alert; it motivates us to face challenges and drives us to solve problems. Distress results when our bodies overreact to events; this can cause health problems.

Warning Signs of Stress: Rate Yourself. You might be stressed when you have:

- Lowered Self-Esteem
- Frequent urination
- Impulsive behavior/ Emotional instability
- Inability to concentrate, general disorientation
- Irrational fears
- Indigestion, stomach irritability, vomiting
- Nervousness, generally high-pitched laughter

- Feeling of weakness, dizziness, loss of reality
- Insomnia
- Abnormal menstrual cycles
- Lower back pain, chest pain, and neck pain
- Accident-prone behavior
- Loss of appetite, compulsive eating
- Nightmares

Causes of Stress: College students are usually prone to stress due to following:

- Unrealistic expectations
- Loneliness (those who are far from home)
- Social pressure
- Academic Achievements
- Dissatisfaction
- Time urgency, too much work/pressure
- A part-time or full time job
- Change of environment, responsibility
- Too much studying, not enough physical activity
- Change in sleeping/ eating habits

Stress Effects on your Body:

And because you're stressed, you feel/ have...

- Tension headache
- Sudden outburst of tears or inability to cry
- Decreased weight, excess weight
- Recurring feeling of "hopelessness"
- Stomach or intestinal ulcers
- Excessive nervous energy
- Increased susceptibility to infection
- Shortness in breath
- Cardiovascular disorders
- Tendency toward fainting or nausea

Dealing with College Stress: Coping up and Getting Over

And now you realized, YOU ARE stressed out. So what? Isn't there always "a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow", a "silver lining in a prayer" and SUGGESTIONS on how to cope up with Stress? Here are few:

Figure out what's stressing you out. Not enough money for project? Is it high maturity expectations from Mom and Dad? Irritated with a new roommate? Recognize the physical and mental signs of stress you are experiencing as

well. It will be easier for you to deal with it.

Be realistic with your time, avoid time pressures. Learn to say NO on needless appointments and unattainable deadlines.

Set reasonable goals that can be accomplished. It's better to have fewer goals that bear result than to have pile of goals that are just "half-ways" in the end. Don't expect too much from yourself if you're not the "hero of Gotham City".

Distract your mind off stress. Do physical activities that you enjoy once in a while and create opportunities when you can relax your mind and body. Breathe. "All work and no play makes Jack stressed."

"No man is an island, in a stressed world." Find time to talk with your TRUSTED family and friends. Go out and laugh with them. Remember pillow fights? Ouch, but sweet.

Remember a Chinese Proverb, "Tension is who you think you should be. Relaxation is who you are." Learn to develop sense of humor. Laugh out at your problems and solve it. ❖



A Message from the Assistant Editor

The New Voices of Our Generation has now been running successfully for over a year and the editors at UNEWS would like to thank all those who have contributed an article to this section. Spread the word, communicate, and link yourself to the rest of America by subscribing to the paper and submitting your voice at

newvog@gmail.com for this section. We are looking to fill this section of the paper with the following submissions: **articles written by our first and second generation focusing on second generation – that includes ALL second gen's!**

Be as *subjective* as you please, but keep in mind, that as this is a public paper, be respectful in your opinions.

If you have an idea for submissions to this section, please let us know at

newvog@gmail.com and send something in. keep in mind, everything will appear in UNEWS in b&w. All articles must include name, contact info, relevant dates, etc. If you wish to remain anonymous, please include that in your email.

Please send all submissions for this section via email to: newvog@gmail.com.

Want to respond to an article, please email at newvog@gmail.com Spread the word, subscribe to UNEWS.



THE NEW VOICES OF OUR GENERATION

West Coast Junior STF Candidates Workshop Report

...the primary focus of the workshop was discovering what it means to be a Blessed Child.

Theme: "Discovering My Identity"
Dates: February 16th to 18th, 2008
Location: Hearst Center, Berkeley, California

Introduction:

The west coast held a Junior STF Candidates Workshop over Presidents Day weekend at the Hearst Center, where many consider to be the birthplace of our movement. Blessed Children traveled far, some over 13 hours to attend this workshop. As the theme states, the primary focus of the workshop was discovering what it means to be a Blessed Child. The entire workshop was divided up into a day of education, a day of the challenge test, and the closing day. Participants' ages ranged from 12 to 18, coming from a variety of communities such as the local Bay Area, Los Angeles, Oregon, Washington state, and even as far as Canada.

The spirit built up and the culture became filled with God's love and presence as insights about their identity started unraveling before them. The culmination of the workshop was the challenge test itself where

participants were tested physically, mentally, and spiritually in bringing a victory for God. Whether they passed all the tests or not, all candidates were guided to grow through every experience in coming to understand their identity, and gain a sense of ownership over God's dream. Below are some excerpts of testimonies from the workshop.

Program Components:

- My Identity as God's Child
- My Identity as a Blessed Child
- My Identity as an Extended True Family Member
- Core Values in Action
- Developing My Four Great Realms of Heart
- Challenge Test
- Testimonies
- Certificate Ceremony

Participants: 71 Total
57 Candidates & 14 Staff members
36 promoted to Jr. STF Green Level.
Vancouver, CA - 3
Seattle, WA - 9 Bay Area, CA - 23
Portland, Oregon - 3
Los Angeles, CA - 19

Quotes:

"It made me realize that on a day to day basis I don't try hard enough to get closer to God."
- Katsu M, 16 (Bay Area, CA)

"I listened to all the lectures and it seems like God matched all of the notes and made it into a paragraph in my head and read it to me; who I was, who I am, and who I will be."
- Yujohn N, 14 (Canada)

"Sometimes I have felt myself as unworthy and unfit to be able to 'save the world'. But that is totally the wrong feeling, and that is how we end up

pushing ourselves away from God. He doesn't want that at all! When you feel insignificant, that's because you don't truly understand your value. God has shown me that I have so much value and He believes in me, and so now I need to believe in myself. These past few days have been a testimony to the will and strength of BC's."
- Yuka Y, 16 (Seattle, WA)

"I want to be able to reach out to people and learn to comfort their hearts. Also, I want to stay close to God and think about Him every single day. From the workshop, I learned how much God really wants to hold our hand but so many times we just look the other way. I want to return His love to Him and make God happy."
- Harumi M, 15 (Los Angeles, CA)

"My most memorable highlight was seeing all these Blessed Children come here on their own desire, to become better to mend the heart of God, seeing and being with all of them wanting to grow. Their motivation in life is just God and True Parents and that's all they need."
- YoungSoon G, 17 (Bay Area, CA)

"I think the thing that struck me so clearly from God was that if I truly push myself, I can do anything. Challenging my limitations has never been so clear to me as now."
- Felicia B, 15 (Bay Area, CA)

"My determination is to bring my BC friends and tell them how interesting it actually was, especially to really truly learn who you are."
- Gabriela V, 12 (Bay Area, CA)

"I would like to encourage more BC's to join Junior STF and to work on living for God's dream. And work up to the standard of True Parents and God."
- Megumi H, 13 (Los Angeles, CA)

"God has shown me the dream that He has for this world. However, for His dream to come true, I need to not only make His dream real through the world but to make it real within myself. God has shown me that I can do it!"
- Mark M, 17 (Los Angeles, CA)

"God has truly shown me the path I must take as a BC. He showed me that I need to strive for 'One Family Under God', and what True Parents have struggled for so many years. I know my identity, I know my value. I just need the desire and courage to do it. At the workshop, I gained this courage through the run. Many times Satan tries to pull you down and stop you, but you have to keep going because it is the right thing. You have to keep going. We've got to make a difference in this world."
- Anonymous

"Internally, I am going to stop accusing myself so much when I fail, and accept and love myself as God does."
- Misun B, 17 (Canada)

"I think, definitely, the 3 hour run experience will stick with me till I am 99 years old, and if I live to be older then it will still be with me."
- Kimberley C, 13 (Bay Area, CA)

"Especially during the running I felt His heart. It was just a wave of sadness that came over me, and I usually don't cry during my prayers. But I just couldn't hold it in this time."
- Clara S, 14 (Bay Area, CA)

"I will not be afraid to be myself in the outside world! I am going to tell all my friends about Junior STF and God's dream! I will make God's and True Parents' culture MAINSTREAM!!!"
- Mark M, 17 (Los Angeles, CA) ❖

Curriculum Mini-Grant Program

The **Center for Education** at UTS is announcing the **Curriculum Mini-Grant Program**. The mini-grants program offers grants between \$500 - \$1,000 for the creation of professional curricula and teaching tools for the diverse age groups within the Unification movement. The Center for Education at UTS wishes to encourage the development and publication of effective and creative curricula or teaching tools that can be used throughout the country.

There is a tremendous need for effective curricula in each of the target age groups. Currently, some centers are using the national curriculum while others have simply done their best to teach Divine Principle or the Bible or a combination of the two. Then there are other church centers that are not doing any kind of educational program because they don't have any type of curriculum or outline from which to work. Therefore, we wish to encourage those with the desire, experience or means to develop curricula that can be used in: K-6 Sunday Schools, Youth Ministries, Young Adult Ministries and even Adult Ministries.

In addition, there is a need to create effective teaching tools such as games, activities, specialized felt board teaching tools, dramas and similar creative tools for use in each of these ministries. Have you designed a game or teaching tool that you have found to be effective? Why not professionalize it or expand it so that others can use it?

Those who wish to apply need to review the grant requirements and submit an application. go to

www.centerforeducation.net for more Grant Information and details.



THE NEW VOICES OF OUR GENERATION



IRFF 2008: Juan del Alto, Peru

as well.”

- Mikana Maeda, participant in Zambia, 2006

Purpose of Discover True Friendship Service Tour: The purpose of this Service Tour is twofold. Most obviously, it is an opportunity for those of us living in America and other affluent countries to serve our brothers and sisters who live without the many luxuries that we take for granted in a very real way. More importantly, the Service Tour is a chance for people of different races, nationalities, religions and languages to break down the barriers of division and create “true friendships” of understanding and appreciation through working towards a common goal. Components of the Discover True Friendship Service Tour:

Service Project: Build a multi-purpose community center to be used for village meetings, trainings and workshops, and as a commodore popular - a place where meals are prepared for needy families in the community. Educational Experience: Learn about international development, issues related to poverty, microfinance programs and sustainable development practices. Discover True Friendships: Work with local villagers and college students from Peru and other Latin American countries, and learn about their lives and cultures. Visit Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Non-Profits: Meet with UNICEF, UNESCO, local schools, orphanages, agencies working with children infected with HIV/AIDS and others to learn about their work in Peru.

Learn about microfinance and the ways that it is empowering families in communities like San Juan del Alto. Visit Machu Picchu: A once-in-a-lifetime chance to explore the storied and mysterious hidden city of the Inca and one of the New 7 Wonders of the World.

The ruins of Machu Picchu,

rediscovered in 1911 by Yale archaeologist Hiram Bingham, are one of the most beautiful and enigmatic ancient sites in the world. While the Inca people certainly used the Andean mountain top (9060 feet elevation), erecting many hundreds of stone structures from the early 1400's, legends and myths indicate that Machu Picchu (meaning 'Old Peak' in the Quechua language) was revered as a sacred place from a far earlier time. Whatever its origins, the Inca turned the site into a small (5 square miles) but extraordinary city. Invisible from below and completely self-contained, surrounded by agricultural terraces sufficient to feed the population, and watered by natural springs, Machu Picchu seems to have been utilized by the Inca as a secret ceremonial city.

Two thousand feet above the rumbling Urubamba river, the cloud shrouded ruins have palaces, baths, temples, storage rooms and some 150 houses, all in a remarkable state of preservation. These structures, carved from the gray granite of the mountain top are wonders of both architectural and aesthetic genius. Many of the building blocks weigh 50 tons or more yet are so precisely sculpted and fitted together with such exactitude that the mortarless joints will not permit the insertion of even a thin knife blade. Other Sightseeing and Activities: Visit Lima, Arequipa and Cusco, see Juanita, a frozen 500 year old Incan mummy, go horseback riding and more...

Cost:

A fee of \$700.00 will cover lodging, meals, excursions and all ground transportation, as well as our trip to Machu Picchu. We regret that the cost of this trip is high, but due to the price of arranging a visit to Machu Picchu, it is necessary. The fee for participants from Peru and neighboring countries will be \$150.

This fee is significantly

reduced, but does not include the trip to Cusco and Machu Picchu. This trip will be an additional \$250. The flights to Peru from the US will cost \$750 - \$1,000, depending on when tickets are purchased. We will be flying as a group from New York to Arequipa. For our return, however, we will fly from Lima to New York. Participants are welcome to coordinate their travel to Peru through the IRFF International Office if they wish to do so.

Participants Must:

-Be 16 years of age or older
-Agree to abide by the Participant Guidelines. -Complete the application and return it to Paul Byrne by May 1, 2008. - Participate in an interview if requested
Pay all fees in a timely manner

Further Notes:

We are looking for approximately 15 participants for this project, but the number of participants needed is subject to change. Applications will be reviewed and candidates will be selected from the information provided, including the essay. Interviews by phone or in person may be requested at the discretion of the organizers of this project. All participants are responsible for all necessary documents such as passports and vaccinations. A visa is not needed for participants holding American passports. Applications due May 1, 2008. Send to: Paul Byrne
102 Bradhurst Ave, Apt 612
New York, NY 10039
byrneIRFF@yahoo.com For more information, please contact:
Paul Byrne
Phone: (845)826-0618
Email: byrneIRFF@yahoo.com
Or visit our website: www.irff.org ❖

2008 Discover True Friendship Service Tour: South American Edition -Building a Culture of Heart, Peace and Service- July 5 - 20, 2008 San Juan del Alto, Peru

On past projects, we built schools in needy communities of Zambia and Bangladesh, and in small ways, helped people to improve their lives, while changing ours. Join us this year, as we journey to Peru to build a community center in a small village that will allow the residents to have a central gathering place and to provide food for the neediest of their families. Join IRFF in Peru on our Discover True Friendship Service Tour: South American Edition this summer!

In a world divided by religion, race, nationality and language, this is your opportunity to create understanding and friendships with our brothers and sisters of other countries and cultures in a way that will change your life, as well as theirs. Come share our blessings and bridge the divides that separate us. You will change lives; maybe most of all your own. Join us.

“The experience at Mackenzie and the orphanage made me realize how much love everyone needs and how simple it is to express it. One of those ways is by serving. I have been blessed with so much; I found the least I can do is give that love to everyone. I discovered a passion and a purpose, which is to give my heart to all those who desperately need it. Since God loves everyone, then I can and should

To all young men and women looking to make a difference this summer



IRFF's 3rd Annual Discover True Friendship Service Tour is being held this July in the community of San Juan del Alto, Peru. We are looking for approximately 20 participants to join us in a project that will change the way you look at the world and our place in it.

Participants will build a community center for a small village and meet with local and international non-profits and NGOs to learn about the most current methods of combating the challenges faced by developing communities. After the project, we will have a once in a lifetime chance to experience the famous and ancient Incan city of Machu Picchu.

See the attached description of the project for more information, and email Paul Byrne at byrneIRFF@yahoo.com with any questions.

If you are interested in joining us this summer, please return an application by May 1st.

Many blessings,
Paul Byrne



Article removed from the Internet edition of the Unification News before being posted online



FREE WILL from page 26

There is no way that a soggy bundle of neurons can trick itself into analyzing itself; or seek to comprehend the cosmos as a whole, from fractals to quasars. The very fact that humanists are able to argue their case, disproves their conclusion from the start!

How can we discuss this fascinat-

ing and controversial topic?

A guest at last year's BayCon gathering said, "The calcification of the mind is our enemy." Whether political, religious, or otherwise, too many people have fixed, unexamined doctrines.

At that same presentation, philosopher Martin Young advised, "Talk to the reasonable people. With unreasonable types, logic just pisses them off."

God is the source and upholder

of free will, for all of His thinking creatures. As His own special children, let's do our best with this blessing, and share it in many ways. Reality is on our side.

Suggested reading:

"Modern Physics and Ancient Faith," by Stephen M. Barr

"The Mind Doesn't Work That Way," by Jerry Fodor.

For a different view, "Blindsight," by Peter Watts. ❖



PAUL CARLSON

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

FREE WILL

This article is about free will, as viewed by philosophers and others. The subject can consume decades of study, and here we shall tap into the wisdom (or folly) of scholars who've done just that.

The concept of free will is tied into everything we understand about ourselves. This, in turn, is reflected in every common ideology. Without it there can be no universal morality, and many would say, no meaningful human existence.

This is not the same dichotomy as 'belief in God' versus atheism. Broadly speaking, there are Humanists who uphold free will, and hyper-Calvinists who do not.

Free will is also tied to happiness, and to the consequences of our behavior. Can we all pursue happiness, and ever really find it? What methods can we use? This is crucial to society as a whole, because those who deny the existence of free will also tend to excuse harmful actions.

If a difficult childhood inevitably draws a person toward criminal behavior, we're all in trouble! On the other hand, if a person thinks a difficult childhood justifies his selfish or criminal behavior, then it's no wonder that one out of every hundred Americans is now in prison.

HUMAN NATURE

Many common assumptions we make about ourselves are incorrect. Even the experts can get it wrong.

British scholar Galen Strawson used some tortuous mental gymnastics to create a modern theory of Determinism, claiming that humans lack free will. Thus, even the worst criminals cannot be blamed for their actions, and neither are we supposed to be offended by what they've done. (Look it up. I am not exaggerating.)

But, in a posted essay, Strawson admits he cannot bring himself to accept his own theory, even as he still refers to universal concepts such as love and beauty. Then he swerves back, and recommends (as a remedy for any discomfort his theory may cause) Krishnamurti's idea of annihilating one's sense of self.

The outspoken atheist Richard Dawkins has chimed in on this. Happily, another British scholar, philosopher Mary Midgely, posted a devastating critique.

We humans can tie ourselves in mental

knots, just pondering such things. Meanwhile, chimpanzees and dolphins and even birds have demonstrated genuine imagination and creativity. Surely they too have some measure of free will.

LIFE FORMS

In a previous UNews column, I echoed the philosopher Leibniz in doubting that 'unaided' lifeless matter could ever give rise to living things. Since then, 'new life form' experiments have made headlines. So far, these are only rearrangements of existing cellular materials, but some hope to do much more, like replacing the usual amino acids, and DNA as well, with different substances.

Scholar Paul Davies says that new universal laws, and a better grasp of underlying patterns, are needed to explain the origin of life itself. Even so, science may yet prove Leibniz wrong! Believers can either be informed and prepared, or get left in the dust, along with the medieval Luddites . . .

Could such 'artificial' beings become intelligent? Could they have free will? Would society grant them rights and freedom? Science fiction has explored these questions in depth, and in a form that's fun to read.

REASON

How does free will apply to reason and science? What happens when we apply Reductionism to our own minds? To everything that we, as thinking beings, understand?

We can observe, test, and agree that 'one plus one equals two.' Right? But is this an objective reality (or Platonic ideal), that we can seek and grasp by using our

free will? Or are numbers a mere reflection of brain chemistry? What about new and complex hypotheses? As Stephen Barr puts it: if human experience is nothing but passing neural impulses, then what is the difference between a toothache and the Theory of Relativity?



In pure Determinism there is no way to decide such things with confidence. So then, what in the universe could ever be deemed true and correct? Reason itself is undermined. The followers of Popper and Kuhn are influenced by such thinking.

On a different tangent, starting about a hundred years ago, some who embraced quantum mechanics decided that everything happens by random chance.

Not only on a tiny scale, but for all of existence. Therefore our character, actions, and the entire world, are random and ultimately unpredictable. Thus, any impression to the contrary is just an illusion we've created to comfort ourselves. This is, if anything, worse than classical Determinism!

COMPUTERS

Starting about fifty years ago, the advent of computers (circuits and software both) pushed back the old arguments against Determinism, by showing that Logic is a real and independent entity. Could it be that our brains are computers, and our thoughts a software program? This brought a deep (and fairly recent) shift in how many people view themselves.

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Please let us know of any mistakes or potential additions.

Scholars began to claim that we're all "programmed" to act and respond as we do. That makes the very impression that we are acting freely an illusion; a sly consequence of that same programming. But, if those scholars avoid the fallacy of granting evolution its own plans and purpose (and many fall into that trap), then there's no one doing the programming! Everything we are came about because of blind natural selection, and a series of meaningless inputs.

In the event, artificial intelligence research has flopped, and they've had to admit that our brains (much less, our minds) are not at all like digital computers.

For the sake of argument, let's imagine that we really are blown through life by the winds of external input. How could we measure such inputs, and trace them along to their actual (much less, comprehensive) results? They are fantastically complex; with DNA and hormones, weather and food, our parents and friends, the daily news, and thousands of other inputs coming in, all at once. It's an impossible task, even in theory.

And what, exactly, is being programmed? Brain scientists can scan for a blurred shadow of our mental processes, but still have little idea about what is really going on.

Even so, there have been a few surprises. In many cases, our brain is 'cranking' well before we become consciously aware of a decision, much less, perform some action.

Which is good, because maladies like Tourette's Syndrome show what can happen when such deliberative processes are missing. Meanwhile, smart people can converse (or play chess, etc.) very quickly; faster than such a checks-and-balances process would seem to allow.

Brain scientists like to talk big, but for now, their understanding remains vague.

PHILOSOPHY

Scientists have figured out how to stimulate the brain, in a strange and tricky way, in order to 'fake' an out-of-body experience. Right away, they began to crow about disproving the existence of the soul.

Hah! They can electrically zap a brain into experiencing an orgasm. Does this disprove the existence of sex? Not to mention, love is all its wondrous forms? Of course not.

In a philosophical sense, do we have only the illusion of free will? Then we must ask, what is the actual thing, that we're so easily fooled into imagining we have it?

Free will may be linked to consciousness, as it seems clear you cannot have the one without the other. This could be doubly true if consciousness is found to be fundamental to the cosmos, like electrons and gravity.

see **FREE WILL** on page 25

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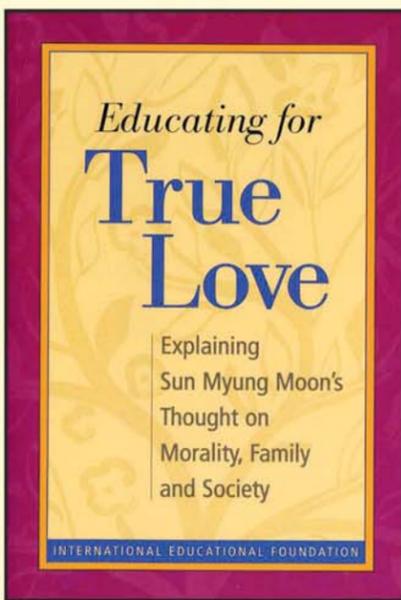
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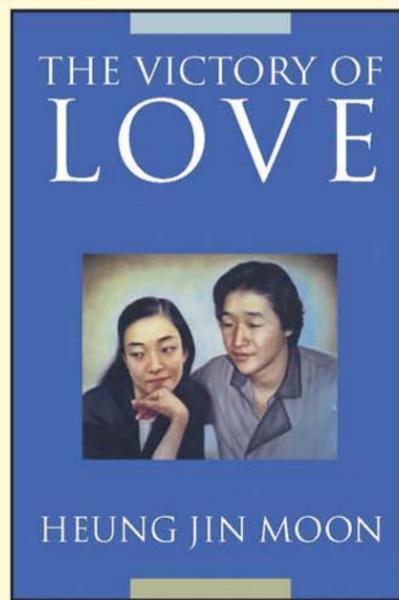
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