

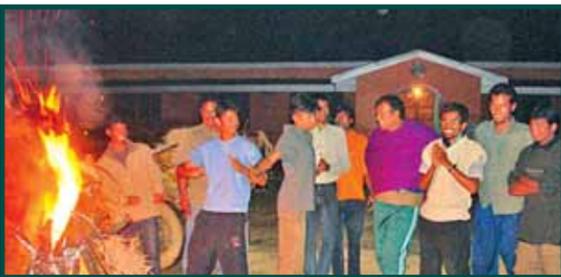
Rev. In Jin Moon's Listening-Tour Finale in Cowboy Country



True Father at East Garden • p. 2



World Peace Summit • p. 11



RYS in North India • p. 10



Jr. STF Hike and Challenge • p. 14

I N S I D E

| | |
|------------------------|-------|
| Church Calender | 2 |
| UPF Taiwan fpr Peace | 9 |
| Rescue on the Hudson | 16 |
| Horses and the Kingdom | 18-19 |
| New Voices | 20-24 |



Rev. In Jin Moon giving a sermon during Sunday service at Dallas Family Church in Dallas, TX on February 22, 2009

Rev. In Jin Moon's visit to our church family in Dallas, Texas, on February 21-22 was a memorable conclusion to her 12-district tour of the United States, and it marks a milestone in her ministry: She now has reached out to meet and speak to virtually every Unificationist family in the United States.

As she did in visits to other districts, Rev. Moon took the time to listen to our youths' hopes and dreams and shared her hopes and new guidance with the community. By her own example, messages of each person's capability, and by expressing her sincere love and care for each individual, each member was touched and beyond doubt connected to the present and future of the movement. One member, Michael Joyce, reflected after Rev. Moon's visit, "Some people now say this is the New Movement, although I would say the New Movement was already there, but we just did not know about it!"

Texas is part of a seven-state district, which includes Arkansas, New Mexico, Colorado, Oklahoma, Wyoming and Utah; which is led by Rev. Mark Hernandez. Texas also enjoys use of Tejas Trails, a ranch property owned by Rev. Ken Morgan and family located outside of Austin, where district and local workshops for families are held. Dallas, being the district headquarters, hosted Rev. Moon's events at the local church and at the Radisson Hotel.

On Saturday, February 21, Rev. Moon came to the Dallas church to meet almost 200 youth, ranging in age from 6th grade through college. The evening began with a surprise celebration of the 25th wedding anniversary of Rev. Moon and her husband. A celebratory cake and cowboy hats were presented to the entire family to help them "blend in" while visiting the South.

Once the evening began, Rev. Moon shared about her recent position with the Manhattan Center, located in the center of New York City. She explained how she had plunged right into management of the Manhattan Center and about her determination to turn it into a prominent tool for the entertainment industry. The Manhattan Center now has contracts with MTV, and is talking with LiveNation and VH1.

It was evident that Rev. Moon's sharing about her educational background and recent success with the Manhattan center was meant to encourage everyone present to strive for excellence in his or her academic paths while also strengthening personal integrity. She urged each person to "be the kind of person you decide to be. This also will greatly impact and determine who your children will become," said Rev. Moon. She explained the importance of living one day at a time and deciding who you want to be each and every day. It comes down to a personal choice each day to do this. Her advice on how to live each day? "Do things to make others smile; commit an act of love."

Moon also challenged each person to become a rebel. "Don't be a rebel without a cause. Be a rebel WITH a cause. Jesus Christ was a rebel in his time, a rebel with a great, great cause," said Rev. Moon. There was high stress on the importance of standing for something and being a person with true integrity and character. "Rebel in a cool and righteous way," she said. "You don't need talent to smoke or drink; you prove nothing by going along with everyone else. All you prove is that you can follow the crowds."

Rev. Moon spent most of her talk stressing that not partaking in certain behaviors does not mean a life of denial, but "a life of preparation" to do great

see DALLAS on page 4



STF members who were doing service activities in Texas area came to listen to Rev. In Jin Moon's sermon

FOUNDER'S DISCOURSE ON UNIFICATIONISM

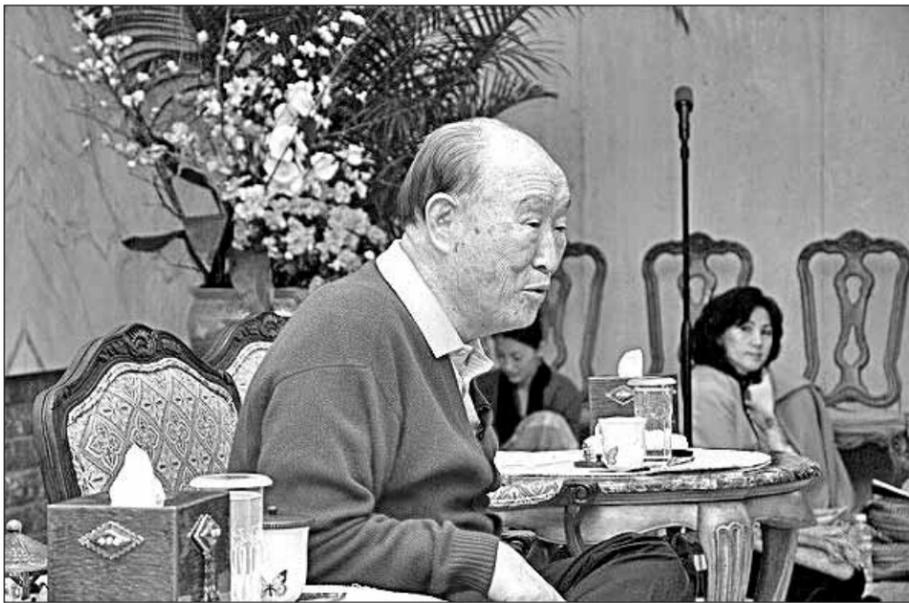
Hoon Dok Hwe

East Garden,

On February 2, 2009, True Parents held a Hoon Dok Hwe at East Garden. Father asked Wonju McDevitt to read from one of the two new booklets, this one talking about the importance of the spirit world. The first chapter in it is the same as the first chapter of True Family: Gateway to Heaven, titled Our Course of Life. The other chapters are from Book 5 of the Cheon Seong Gyeong, which is entitled Earthly Life and the Spirit World.

True Father spoke a lot to participants. In the beginning, he asked, "Do you love me or do you like me?" People responded, "We love you!" Father spoke lovingly for a while, then started to scold America in general. He asked what kind of a nation allows homosexuality and incest. It was a moment to receive indemnity for our collective sin as Americans. Of course, homosexuality and incest directly oppose God's ideal, which is centered on true love within a family. God himself is made

up of the dual characteristics of male and female so without establishing an ideal family with true love between husband and wife, we cannot resemble God and fulfill our responsibility.



After Father had chastised the participants, he asked again, "Do you love me or like me?" After everyone had been subdued and humbled through his speech, they could not find the voice to answer. The unanswered question in the hall was whether we are really being responsible sons and daughters of True Parents. The responsibility of restoring America to go back to God's ideal is essential for Blessed Central Families in America. After no one answered, Father said, "I do not want you to like me in an individualist way." We were challenged to love True Parents on a deeper level, on the level of filial children who have devoted their entire hearts and souls to their parents and are working to fulfill their desires.

During Hoon Dok Hwe, Father again had Rev. Yang Heo come up and sing Ulsan Arirang. Father had

M A R C H 2 0 0 9

Ahn Shi Il • 8th, 16th, 24th

- 6 Shin Won Nim's Birthday (2/10/88)
- 7 Middle East Time Founded (1983)
- 14 Jin Sung Nim's Birthday (2/18/62)
- 15 Shin Ye Nim's Birthday (2/19/00)
- 18 Cheon Il Guk Established (2/22/2001)
- 21 World Research Institute for Science and Technology (WRIST) Established (1984)
- 23 Shin Chul Nim's Birthday (2/27/92)
- 25 Aewon (Garden of Love) Bank Established (1994)
- 26 Martial Arts Federation for World Peace Established (1997)
- 27 True Parents' Day (3/1/60)
Sung Jin Nim's Birthday (3/1/46)
New Ecumenical Research Association (New ERA) Inauguration (1980)
- 28 International Christian Professors Association Established (1981)
43 Couples' Blessing (1969)
- 31 Hyun Jin Nim & Jun Sook Nim's Blessing (1987)
The Sao Paulo Declaration (1995)

A P R I L 2 0 0 9

Ahn Shi Il • 1st, 9th, 17th, 25th

- 3 New Hope Farm Declaration (1995)
- 4 Dedication Ceremony for the Chung Shim Tap Memorial Tower & Jeong Shim Won Prayer Hall (2000)
- 6 Shin Hwa Nim's Birthday (3/11/88)
- 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 Established (1996)

- 11 True Parents' Blessing (3/16/60)
- 12 36 Couples of the Second Generation Blessing (1986)
- 13 Proclamation of Liberation and Release (2004)
- 16 Kwon Jin Nim & Hwa Yun Nim's Blessing (1995)
Sun Jin Nim & In Sup Nim's Blessing (1995)
- 17 Shin Joon Nim's Birthday (3/22/2004)
Dae Hyung Nim's Ascension
Day of the Resurrection of Shimjung (1960)
Day of the Resurrection of Substance (1961)
- 22 Noticias del Mundo Established (1980)
- 23 Shin Nae Nim's Birthday (3/28/05)
- 27 Shin Bok Nim's Birthday (4/3/82)
60 Couples' Blessing (2001)
Interreligious (144,000) Clergy Blessing (2002)
- 28 Shin Il Nim's Birthday (4/4/81)
Shin Ye Nim's Ascension (2001)

M A Y 2 0 0 9

Ahn Shi Il • 3rd, 11th, 19th, 27th

- 1 HSA-UWC Established (1954)
43 Couples' Blessing (1969)
Ceremony for the Total Dissolution of Resentment (1975)
Day of Victory Over Resentment (1974)
- 4 Hyun Jin Nim's Birthday (4/10/69)
- 5 Day of Ssang-hap Ship-seung (2004)
- 6 Professors World Peace Academy Established (1973)
- 7 Shin Su Nim's Birthday (4/13/06)
- 10 Unification Theological Seminary (1977)
- 14 Cheonju Haebang Shik: Liberation of the Universe (1999)
National (American) Won Jeon Shrine Dedicated (2002)
- 15 36 Couples' Blessing (1961)
Citizen's Federation Unification of the Fatherland (1987)
- 16 Ye Jin Nim & Jin Whi Nim's Blessing (1981)
Day of the Love of God (1984)
- 17 Shin Yeon Nim's Birthday (4/23/90)
Unification News Established (1982)
Washington Times Established (1982)
- 21 118 Couples' Blessing (1978)
- 22 American Clergy Leadership Conference Established (2000)
- 24 Day of All True Things (5/1/63)
- 30 Declaration of True Parents' East and West Victory (1999)

C A L E N D A R

Due to the manner in which the lunar calendar corresponds with the solar calendar, Yun Ah Nim's, Un Jin Nim's, Shin Choon Nim's, and Hyo Jin Nim's birthdays are not celebrated in 2009. Contact me if you come across any errors. (c) 1999-2004 Kathryn Coman [KathrynComan@worldnet.att.net]

FOUNDER'S DISCOURSE ON UNIFICATIONISM

with True Parents

February 2, 2009

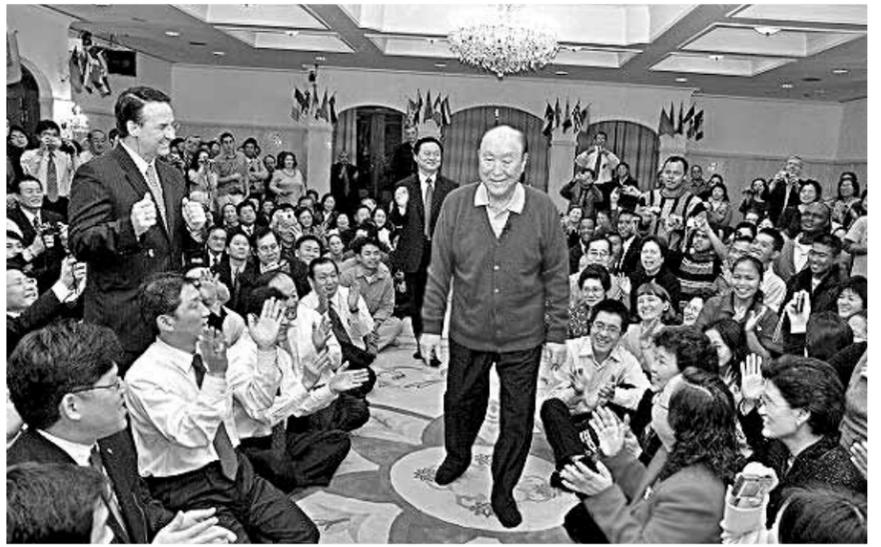
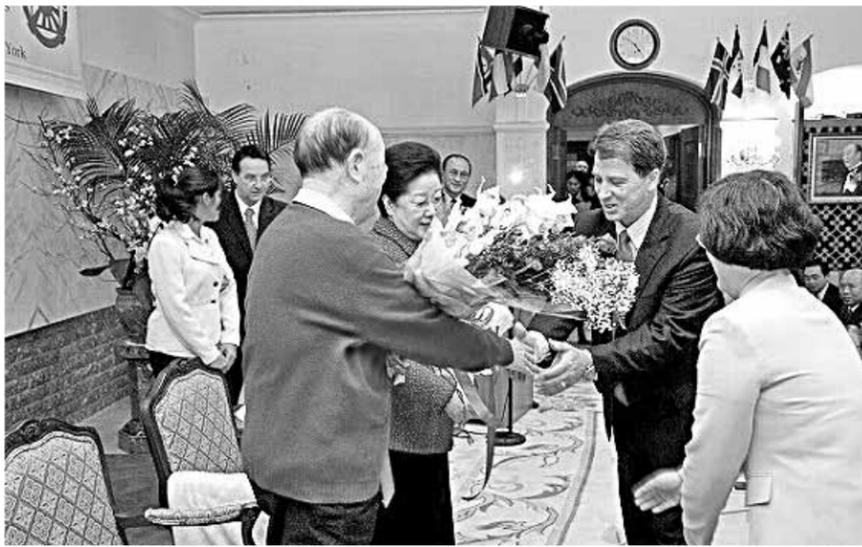
Rev. Yeong Seok Song come up and talk about his determination in his new mission. Rev. Song expressed that he is like an arrow who goes wherever Father asks him to. He was a leader in Japan for a year and four months but was recently appointed to work in Hawaii with Rev. Jeong Og Yu. He testified that he felt inspired to come to Hoon Dok Hwe that morning even though he hadn't been asked to come. He said that he woke up and his heart told him to go. He testified that it's important to follow that kind

of inspiration, so he came. After Rev. Song spoke, Father asked Rev. Jeong Og Yu's wife, Myung Ok Jo to come up and sing a love song with Rev. Song. Although the two people were awkward about it, they were willing to do it in accordance with Father's desires. Before they could start singing, Father asked Rev. Yu to come up and sing with them. Rev. Yu and his wife started singing with Rev. Song dancing next to them. It would appear that Father wanted to create unity among those leaders

since they are working together in Hawaii. While they were singing, Father had Rev. Chang Shik Yang stand up and dance together. Then Father had more leaders stand up and dance and asked the Hoon Dok Hwe attendants to make walking space in the middle of the room. Father walked through the middle and came back to the front, followed by Rev. Chang Shik Yang and Rev. Michael Jenkins.

After Rev. Heo's song, Father asked elder Korean couples to come to the front and compliment each other. After the first couple complimented each other, Father asked them to kiss each other in front of

everyone. They kissed each other on the lips, receiving cheers from all the audience. Rev. Dow Soon Lim and his wife, Dr. Bong Tae Kim and his wife, Rev. Pyeong Hwa Kim and his wife, and Rev. Jeong Ok Yu and his wife were among the couples that complimented each other and kissed each other in front of everyone. One of the wives, whose identity I will not reveal, said that it was the first time she had received a compliment since the Blessing! Overall, all the couples sincerely complimented each other; they all kissed each other. It would appear that Father was trying to help couples learn to love each other. ❖



DALLAS from page 1

things. "Your parents are not trying to tell you what not to do, but instead to 'hold on, and don't waste your life.' [In this way], you can't waste your life away, but you can be future Olympic gold-medal winners, Nobel-prize winners, and presidents of the United States," she said. She strongly encouraged each person to build something and prepare themselves for larger things in the future, emphasizing that there is a need to gain the skills necessary for success. "Things you do everyday are like practicing your scales. It adds up. Your passion is just waiting."

The highlight of everyone's evening was listening to each young person share about his or her personal goals, hopes, and aspirations in life, and Rev. Moon listened to each and every individual with earnest attention.

Daniel Catillo, 17, shared about his loves for cooking and rapping. "Well, I don't think there are any rapping chefs, yet!" said Rev. Moon. Sung Joon Koo, 22, shared about his love and dedication to photography and about his plans to leave for a 100-day journey to photograph America. Koo also presented his first published book to Rev. Moon. Sasha Heppel, 17, was ready to make a pitch to the new CEO of the Manhat-

ers from the district, including representatives of each state's youth and young-adult programs. Each had the opportunity to be introduced to Rev. Moon and share about his or her work for the community, including youth education. Rev. Moon gave advice after hearing each speak, including her suggestion of "incurring the creation of a culture of external excellence" to be balanced with internal excellence. She reminded the group that we need to be capable and dedicated, and also that one of the best ways to share our movement's teaching is through serving our communities.

Rev. Moon gave a Sunday Sermon at 9 a.m. to a packed church in which the hallway was overflowing with chairs. The community in return presented entertainment to Rev. Moon's family and to members who traveled far for the weekend activities. The talent included 6th grader Richard Tanimoto, who performed on piano, Wendy Cho on cello, and siblings Amelia and Jacob Schoorr,

was like the old days with our movement's founder, Rev. Sun Myung Moon; we were always so energized and mesmerized when we heard his words."

As was the case in other districts Rev. Moon had visited, the youth were moved that they could directly connect even more closely with their movement's teachings through Rev. In Jin Moon's words and example. What they

Jeongwun Shin: "I really liked her analogy about 'practicing the scales.' She is so smart, so gracious, and so clear on what needs to be done. I think she'll bring a revolution to our church."

Sean Jackson: "What really stood out in her message was to practice what you do best and what you aspire towards. I am excited about tomorrow and the rest of my life because I feel



During the visit, Rev. In Jin Moon invited the students leaders from the community to a breakfast table

could each accomplish and the future of this movement inspired an uproar of excitement and pride for what they could do as children of God. As Rev. In Jin Moon reminds youth on each visit, it is time for them to "reap the harvest" of their parents' work for them. There is no limit to what they can achieve. Possibility can, in fact, become a reality. "The only obstacle to success is yourself." Their gratitude for Rev. In Jin Moon as the chairperson for their movement was evident in the hope they expressed for what was to come and their longing for her return.

like I could do the impossible. I think she will be a great leader as our chairperson."

Matthew Biggin: "I am excited to see how she continues to run HSA in America. I believe that there will be great changes for our church in the U.S. because of her."

Jeannette Walker: "I am glad she has spent time to raise her family so she can speak from experience. She seems to be a good mix of business woman and mother. I truly thank our True Parents for appointing her to this position".

Karen Rogers: "I felt completely understood and loved by Rev. In Jin Moon and her family. My heart was melted!"

Sarah Lea: "Rev. In Jin Moon made me feel that I was someone very valuable to God and our True Parents. I felt that she loved me despite my shortcomings. I therefore feel very connected to her and I am excited about her being our leader."

Koshin Hosoya: "I feel strongly that Rev. In Jin Moon was the one investing the most this whole time for us; especially during picture time with families - patient and genuine."

Sammi Fleisher: "I think we've needed this for a long time in our movement but only True Family could do it, and now is the time they are able to. I see Rev. In Jin Moon as a professionally trained, internally aligned, and deeply passionate person who is more qualified to be a chairperson than anyone else I know. I am confident and relieved to see her take the responsibility because I can see real change beginning to happen." ❖



The front view of Dallas Family Church in Dallas, TX

tan Center and was ready to pass out his business card to share his ideas and thoughts on the media. She was smiling with each comment and request made by the youth present.

On Sunday, February 22nd, a 5 a.m. tradition of reading God's word ("Hoon Dok Hwe") was held together with Rev. Moon and more than 300 attendees from the district at the Radisson Hotel. During her talk following the reading, Rev. Moon shared a few words about the importance of saving one's self for marriage. She was unyielding about not allowing oneself to become a "sexual experiment" for others. Rev. Moon gave the following analogy, "What if you received a gift, for example, a laptop? That is exciting! But then you find out it is used, and maybe even broken." She expressed that each of us deserves better than this.

Directly after Hoon Dok Hwe, Rev. Moon had breakfast with 20 youth lead-

who performed on guitar and drum a beautiful rendition of the song "Elias." Fumiyo Ito also performed on piano and was followed by the showing of a video-game trailer constructed and presented by Saijee Higuchi, and, last but not least, there was a wonderful presentation of the photography works by Sung Joon Koo.

Rev. Moon then graciously met every family who attended that day, one by one, and took photographs together.

Many of the earlier members of the movement in attendance of Rev. Moon's visit reported that they felt rejuvenated by seeing the movement going forward right in front of them. As Jeannette Walker, from District 9, shared, "It is great to have hope for a positive change and to continue the vision of making God's Peace Kingdom a reality. That is why we joined in the '70s -- captivated by the ideal of a true family and true love." Another member who has been a Unificationist for some time reflected after Rev. Moon's visit to Texas that, "I didn't feel tired once this weekend. It

Members' reflections from Rev. In Jin Moon's visit to Dallas, Texas:

Katerina Morgan: "I have always heard how Rev. In Jin Moon is such a sweet and warm-hearted person, but being able to see her in person, face-to-face, was so much more profound than I ever expected."

Christal and Jennifer Theriot: "She made us feel loved and welcomed us into her heart even though she was the guest. What moved us was her belief that we all have potential (practice our scales!)."

Rebecca Hernandez: "Rev. Moon is like a mother figure; she really has a goal in mind that she will never let go of. She is confident, patient, kind, and empathetic. I am truly glad we have a new leader who cares about each of us."

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Young students are preparing to receiving Rev. In Jin Moon's sermon beforehand

True Parents at Manhattan Center

by Tossa Cromwell

Following a day of amazing heavenly fortune pouring down on America and the world centering on the Manhattan Center, members got together at the Hammerstein in the Manhattan Center at 5:00 AM on February 1, 2009 for a Hoon Dok Hwe service with True Parents.

At the beginning, True Father asked Peter Kim to explain the significance of the new booklet True Family: Gateway to Heaven. Peter Kim explained that on one previous morning during Hoon Dok Hwe, Father came and asked Wonju McDevitt to open the Cheon Seong Gyeong to a random page. When Wonju opened the book, it was to the exact section that Father wanted to emphasize, so Father was very excited. Father had spent two hours that morning before Hoon Dok Hwe preparing, choosing a section of the Cheon Seong Gyeong that should be shared with all 6.5 billion people on the earth.

The section that Father chose that morning was chapter 3, 4 and 5 of book 4 (the book on true family) in the Cheon Seong Gyeong. Father explained that the first few sections of chapter 3 and the final few sections of chapter 5 are like flesh in comparison to the rest of the sections in chapters 3, 4 and 5, which are like bone in comparison. Then Father asked Peter Kim to make the new booklet True Family: Gateway to Heaven using content from those chapters.

In his explanation, Peter Kim suggested to members to think about the historical situation of our movement at the time of each excerpt of Father's speeches in the booklet. For example, there may be two similar excerpts from Father from two separate time periods, such as the late 1950s and the late 1990s. One amazing thing to note is the unchanging nature of Father's words. Even as the time and circumstances change, Father's essential message remains the same. At the same time, there are subtle differences to Father's message at different times. Peter Kim testified that he received much grace from Heaven when he read thinking about the historical context of Father's speeches.

After Peter Kim finished explaining about the book, Father told members that this is a very important collection of speeches that everyone in the world should know about. He does not want anyone to come up to him in the spirit world saying that they do not know the content of the new booklet. He extolled members to give copies of the book to all their relatives and friends, and even to give out the booklets to people in their neighborhoods.

Father had Wonju McDevitt read the new booklet. During the reading, Father made comments, many times adding jokes, although it was a challenge to convey the jokes in the translation. For example, Father would make a statement and then add the negative form "-ji anta" multiple times at the end, effectively making it unclear that he was affirming his statement, although contextually it was an affirmation. It would seem that Father wants people to fully discover for themselves that what he is saying is true, and he also wants people to appreciate what he is teaching them.

Later, Father had Rev. Yang Heo, current regional director of one of the church districts in Seoul and former missionary to Mexico, to sing Ul-san Arirang for all in attendance. Father explained that because Rev. Heo had to experience difficulties as a missionary in other countries, his singing is rich emotionally and it always gives something new every time Father hears him. Father had Rev. Heo sing the song repeatedly and had leaders get up and dance during the song.

Then, Father asked Mother to sing a song. She sang and then asked Father to sing. Father sang two songs, then started dancing, to the delight of all present. It seemed that he was trying to express his appreciation for the events the day before and to create a deeper bond of love with American members. ❖



True Mother's Prayer

This prayer was offered by Father's direction on March 4, 2009 at Cheon Jeong Won Hoon Dok Hwe, where only a small group of people (including Ji Ye Nim, Kook Jin Nim's wife, and Yeon A Nim, Hyung Jin Nim's wife), attended. Mother prayed slowly with deep heart, shedding tears all throughout.

Father, the origin of the universe and the source of true love, You created (the first) human beings, investing all of your heart, mind and soul, for the realization of the profound and intricate ideal of creation. Yet they were not able to participate in fulfilling your great, vast and amazing dream. Who could ever fathom your heart, Father, and comfort you, as you were watching Adam and Eve plummeting to hell on earth as a result of the Fall?

Father, we humankind truly do not even deserve to call you Father, but you still have been patient with us, waiting (for our return) throughout your providence (of restoration). How long, how long have you been enduring human history filled with pain and sorrow, until you were proclaimed throughout the world as the King of all kings in the era after the arrival of Heaven when your ideal can be (finally) realized on earth?

Father, truly thankfully, you bequeathed incredible blessings and benefits to all Blessed central families living today, based on the victorious foundation of True Parents. Although

we are still lacking in many ways, a workshop (for the right of God's liberation) is being held, through which they can re-determine themselves to be born anew and be more filial and loyal to you day by day. Father, I am grateful for this.

Please remember that there are True Parents who are committed to bring the day when you can have dominion over the nation and the world, and when such a world will quickly unfold on earth. Father, I wish and pray for the day when we can return glories to you, and actually live a life in which to speed up even a day for the realization of your Will. Thus, please guide us to live this day as a day in which you will be able to forgive all of our inadequacies, and bless us, lifting up your hands (upon us).

Father, my wish is that all of your worries and anxieties will dissipate, and only the days when you had originally desired to manifest to your fullest content will remain. For this, I earnestly and earnestly wish and pray.

I wish that the ideal of love be fully realized with joy and glory, and that today can be a day when everything will be only lovely and joyous.

Father, may you personally and directly govern us, guide us and love us. By so doing, let there be no gap, nor any barriers in me, in my life, and in our lives.

Father, today as well, I wish and pray that you and you along lead and guide us in everything we are doing. I report all this in the name of True Parents. ❖

MLK Day of Service Reaches Africa

During the first month of 2009, some of the SFP chapters in the region of Africa focused their efforts on the commemoration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service (MLK Day of Service). Since this was the first time for African chapters to commemorate this special day, all of the participants were excited to follow the great example of Dr. King and serve for the wellness of their communities.



In Cote d'Ivoire, the celebration of MLK Day of Service was organized in partnership with Anyama High School and included a clean up service project on a beach strip in Abidjan. The volunteers were secondary school students, younger children and fish men, picked up litter from the beach.

In Ghana, volunteers cleaned up the Ahmadyya Homeopathic Center in Kumasi,

while in the Democratic Republic of Congo SFP members held in Matadi University a painting service program, as well as, a Call for Action conference which was attended by 125 students. It was an excellent opportunity to share with the students the values preached by Martin Luther King and to inspire them to put into practice his principles of non-violence and justice.

Even though it was the first time for African people to commemorate MLK Day of Service, thanks to the dedicat-



ed efforts of SFP members, around 195 volunteers spent a total of 345 hours of service.

What is more, the MLK Day of Service celebration was the kick-off for the Community of Peace Program which will run for 80 days January 19th, MLK Day to April 4th, the date of Dr. King's assassination, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana and Sierra Leone. ❖



SFP Holds a Leadership Program in China

SFP in Korea held a Service leadership camp from December 29th to January 4th in China. Forty percent of the volunteers were international high school students from South Korea. The name of the program was VolunTour (Volunteer+Tour). The participants visited a Korean autonomous region in China which was an important venue for the independence movement of Korea against Japan, and a border area of 3 countries - China,



Russia and North Korea.

They also went to the top of Mt. BaekDu which is a holy mountain for Korean people. During the tour part of the program, they visited 2 villages of Korean residents in China and did service activities there. The volunteers were very impressed how their compatriots who live in a foreign country try to preserve Korean traditions and how proud they are of their Korean lineage. ❖



UPF Diplomacy in the South Caucasus

by Dr. Vladimir Petrovsky,

Moscow, Russia - A January 23 conference addressed human security issues in the South Caucasus conflict zones and recommended people-to-people diplomacy as a way to resolve long-standing conflicts related to Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan. This was part of the South Caucasus Peace Initiative (SCPI) set up by UPF-Eurasia in early 2008 and the Russian Political Science Association.

Held at the Institute of Scientific Information for Social Sciences, the conference was the culmination of efforts during 2008 to create a foundation for the South Caucasus Peace Initiative in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, as well as in other interested countries, including Russia. The conference was co-sponsored by the Russian Political Science Association.

The South Caucasus embodies aspects of three strategic issues that UPF focuses on worldwide: the inter-religious dimension of the Middle East conflict (Islamic Azerbaijan versus Christian Armenia); the ideological dimension of

the North/South Korea conflict (the Georgia-Russia struggle is also about different concepts of democracy); and the Millennium Development Goals dimension (the widespread social problems created in the region by years of conflicts).

More specifically, the South Caucasus Peace Initiative aims to contribute, by means of "people-to-people diplomacy," to the resolution of the long-standing conflicts in the region. The situation in the South Caucasus, especially after the war between Russia and Georgia in August 2008, still threatens international peace and security and brings harm and suffering to the civilian population. This peace initiative promotes a collaborative effort by governmental and non-governmental (including faith-based) organizations along with the private sector aimed at resolving conflicts in the South Caucasus.

Participants in the conference, including Russian and international schol-

ars and experts, as well as representatives of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and other countries and international organizations, considered various security dimensions of the Georgia/Abkhazia, Georgia/South Ossetia, and Armenia/Azerbaijan conflict zones, with the focus on human security and human development problems in the conflict zones.

The participants proposed to jointly elaborate on the minimal human security standards to be applied in the South Caucasus conflict zones, in accordance with the UN human rights standards and international humanitarian law. The conference focused the debate about the sovereignty and border/territorial issues in the South Caucasus in a broader humanitarian context, thus contributing to peace and security in the South Caucasus and beyond.

The conference was well attended, with more than 20 speakers and dis-

cussants, and more than 40 participants, representing major academic institutions and think tanks dealing with the Caucasus studies in Moscow. The key presenters included Dirk Hebecker, Senior Human Rights Adviser, UN country team in Russia; Alexander Nikitin, President Emeritus of the Russian Political Science Association and Director of the Center for Euro-Atlantic Studies at MGIMO University; Alexander Gorelik, Director of the UN Information Center in Russia; Natalia Krutskikh, Adviser to Department of International Organizations, Russia's MFA; and Oleg Mironov, Professor, Russian State University of Humanities, former Human Rights Ombudsman in Russia.

On the SCPI side, Konstantin Krylov presented the South Caucasus Peace Initiative overview, as the SCPI Coordinator. Dr. Vladimir Petrovsky chaired a special conference session on Human Security Challenges in the South Caucasus and made a presentation on Human Security and Human Development in the Conflict Zones.

Although very few people represent-

see CAUCASUS on page 7

The South Caucasus Peace Initiative aims to contribute, by means of "people-to-people diplomacy," to the resolution of the long-standing conflicts in the region.

Addressing Barriers to Unity in Nepal

by Ram Rohan Panta

Kathmandu, Nepal - The Universal Peace Federation-Nepal, Youth Federation for World Peace, and partner organization Navajagriti-Nepal jointly organized a one-day program with the theme "Participation of Youth for Peace and Human Development" on January 20.

The Vice-President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, Rt. Hon. Paramananda Jha, presided over the program as the Chief Guest. On the occasion, YFWP and UPF jointly honored International Advisors of UPF-Nepal, Mr. Choi Ki Tae of Korea, Mr. John J. Nicholls of England and Mrs. Ginger L. Nicholls of America with a Peacemaker Award-2008 for their long-term contributions to peace, education, and social services in Nepal. After receiving the award from the Vice-President of Nepal, Mr. Choi Ki Tae



shared that he feels like he is a real Nepali citizen and is more inspired to serve and work in Nepal for her development and peace process.

The Rt. Hon. Vice-President, in his special remarks, emphasized the necessity of cooperation, sincerity, and commitment to coexistence to build a peaceful nation and the world. He pointed out that we are still divided due to religions, races, and ethnicities, and remarked that this is a barrier to the peaceful unity

of our society and the nation. Nevertheless, he concluded that we should honor and pay equal respect to all religions and ethnicities. The Vice President of Nepal thanked UPF-Nepal for its contributions to the social, educational, and



peace sectors in Nepal.

On the occasion, more than two dozen persons from different sectors of life and professions who contribute to peace were awarded certificates as

"Youth Ambassador for Peace."

The program was chaired by UPF-Nepal Chairman and member of the Constitutional Assembly of Nepal Hon. Ek Nath Dhakal. ❖

SFP Global PeaceMakers in Honduras

An SFP Global PeaceMakers (GPM) project took place in Honduras in December 2008. SFP educational coordinators Janna Gullery and Carolina Castro facilitated the educational process throughout the program. All of the participants had a leadership role. For example, they served as team leaders or were in charge of a particular assignment.

Volunteers from Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala, El Salvador, Dominican Republic, Brazil and volunteers with diverse ethnic backgrounds living in the USA such as Cuban-Americans, Mexican-Americans, Colombian-Cuban-Americans joined efforts in building a Pre-K classroom for the community of Altos de los Pinos, located near Tegucigalpa.



The Pre-K classroom will be used for educating children from sole-parent families and for continued education of adults during the evenings and weekends. During the GPM project, community members took part in various activities. The women from Altos de los Pinos are known to be really engaged in the improvement of the living conditions in their community. Previously, they built a school which now is used for older children. They even built their own homes by creating their own cement blocks.

The project was supported by Honduran Military Service who provided free lodging at their Military Technical Academy, as well as transportation and food. Military members also took part in some of the service activities. The project was also supported by the First Lady of the Republic of Honduras who donated a community kitchen and by a business owner and a political leader who pledged to donate the money needed for a new library.

One of the most valuable results of this GPM project, however, was the opportunity for the children to serve as volunteers themselves. They were really excited to be involved in the building of their own classroom and worked with both enthusiasm and dedication. ❖

CAUCASUS from page 6

ing Georgia's position in the conflict attended the conference, the discussants provided rather balanced analysis of the August 2008 events in the South Caucasus. The conference was marked by a heated debate between Dr. Rouben Zargaryan, Adviser to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, and Mr. Elnur Sultanov, Adviser to the Embassy of Azerbaijan in Moscow. However, both discussants behaved

in a polite way ('nothing personal, only business' style).

The conference was also attended by representatives of other embassies in Moscow, including Mr. Benjamin Wolf (US Embassy political officer) and Ms. F. Jehren Yezgan Aetiz, Adviser to the Embassy of Turkey. Like the representatives of the Embassy of Azerbaijan, they were interested to learn more about the SCPI and agreed to the follow-up meetings.

As a result of the conference, a hard copy Academic Report on the situation in the South Caucasus was produced and dissem-

inated as well as a CD disc with all conference papers and background materials.

The most significant result of the conference is the recognition of the SCPI as a key player in the 'Caucasus studies business.' As Dr. Alexander Nikitin, a dedicate partner of UPF, put it, "That was a meeting point between those who study the Caucasus and those really doing things in the field." The participants at the conference discussed a broad variety of follow-up activities which could bring more partners (and, hopefully, more resources) to the South Caucasus Peace Initiative. ❖

Seeds of Hope in Tucumán, Argentina

Ambassadors for Peace from many fields of endeavor, together with NGO representatives, journalists, and young leaders, attended this first meeting, Wednesday, January 28 2009, where they were inspired to become protagonists in the first big GPF in Argentina. Among those leaders there were the City Hall Director of Health, Dr. Alonso, who offered all his support to organize an interesting social action program in the town; the anthropologist Juan Carlos Yapura, a descendant of the original native people of that region, who held a special ceremony invoking the protection of the ancestors; and Pastor Juan José Sánchez, who offered a prayer.

At the end of the meeting Mr. Claudio Nastar, a specialist in drug prevention, offered an inspiring testimony about his participation in the first Latin American GPF held in Paraguay in July 2008. "When they started to prepare this kind of festival in Paraguay, there were fewer people than are here today. Can we do it here? I think so, if we take responsibility for it, because we do not want drugs, AIDS, or alcohol abuse in Tucumán," he said.

The following day, a group of enthusiastic young people cleaned up the main squares and parks of Tucumán using cleaning supplies offered by the

municipal authorities. While doing this the participants were distributing pamphlets to explain about the GPF initiative and motivate people to become an active part of it. The idea was to inspire

people in each area: political, cultural, religious, media, and NGOs, with the consciousness of being part of one global family under God, which is the main vision of the Global Peace Festival.

The UPF Regional Director, Gerardo Alcaraz, is the main promoter of this local GPF, together with Pastor Rubén Contreras from Buenos Aires, who participated in the Global Peace Festival in Brasilia in December 2008 and explained the purpose and the meaning of the social action project. Starting from Independence Square, the young people cleaned the area around the

Museum House, where on July 9, 1816, a small group of patriots declared the independence of Argentina. Following an interesting itinerary, the activity ended with a donation of clothing to the local children's hospital, Hospital Niño Jesús.

The young people who participated in the service activities wore shirts with slogans: "Celebrating Life" and "A Global Family under God." Also they carried signs such as "For Tucumán without drugs, AIDS and alcohol." During the activities many people noticed them and approached them expressing their surprise and appreciation for the initiative. "It's beautiful what you are doing!" "Everybody should do what you are doing!" and "I want my children know all about this," people said.

At the end, the participants gathered to reflect on their experiences during the activities. Many ideas emerged about the main Global Peace Festival in August and how to inspire people with the vision of One Family under God.

"This was only the seed. We have to show that all this has great value. This has to be multiplied," reflected Mario Agostini, leader of an NGO who arrived from another province (Salta) to participate in the kick-off of the GPF in Tucumán. ❖



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UPF: Taiwan President Pledges Peace

Taipei, Taiwan - "Taiwan will be a peace maker," pledged Ma Ying-jeou, President of the Republic of China. He was speaking at the Universal Peace Federation conference held in Taipei, Taiwan, Republic of China, January 16-19, 2009.

Seventeen congressmen and members of parliament from six nations (Nepal, Malaysia, Philippines, India, Sri Lanka and Taiwan) were among the 450 guests attending the leadership seminar at the stately Grand Hotel, a historic landmark in Taipei, the capital of Taiwan.

Ma went on to say, "This is an era where confrontation needs to be replaced by negotiation, and conflict replaced by reconciliation." The Taiwanese president explained that this was the hallmark of his administration, emphasizing that "we are very determined to make peace."

Explaining that peace is a process, Ma said, "Certainly we hope in the future that we could gradually defuse the tension across Taiwan Strait by first building a relationship where we normalize our economic ties between the two sides." He went on to say, "Then we will move from there to other parts of our relationship, for instance, in the international arena."

This 'soft approach' to building peace with mainland China was what brought this Harvard graduate to power. Nothing in Ma's speech

could be considered controversial. There was no mention of human rights violations, suppression of religious freedoms, or the lack of democracy in China.

Even the vital concern of national security was addressed gingerly and mostly for the sake of the 66 international guests from 15 countries. They were reminded that over 1,000 missiles were pointed at the island-nation from across the strait.

At the end of his Presi-



dential Address, Ma was given an Ambassador for Peace certificate and asked to strike a gong — which he did with great gusto — proclaiming the launch of the Global Peace Festival schedule for October this year.

Hon. Wang Jin-Pyng, President of the Legislative Assembly, also gave special remarks in the opening plenary just before his departure to USA for President Barack Obama's inauguration ceremony.

He gave credit for the work of UPF in Taiwan as well as the world from the perspective of bringing harmony and peace for the society and world.

Other government officials speaking at the conference were Hon. Yung-Chuan Tseng, Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly; Mr. Junq-Tzer Lin, the Mayor of HsinChu City, voted "best mayor" in Taiwan; Dr. Ching-Ji Wu, Deputy Mayor of Taipei City; Mr. David C.K. Wu, Vice Chairman, NGO Affairs Committee, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and Dr. Yeong-Kuang Ger, Member of The Control Yuan, a branch of the government. ❖

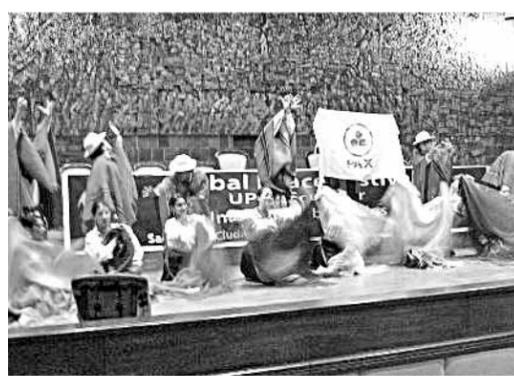


Ecuador GPF Focuses on Character Education

The inauguration of the Global Peace Festival in Quito, Ecuador took place at the City Hall on January 17. After a video presentation about the Global Peace Festival, the president of the Universal Peace Federation in Ecuador gave welcoming remarks, followed by a peace message by a Catholic nun.

Cultural performances included a ballet by the Ecuador Jaccigua Ballet, a classical dance, a theatrical production by Amisrael, and a performance by a high school band. Six people were appointed Ambassadors for Peace, and the program concluded with the Global Peace Festival theme song: "Where Peace Begins."

Character education programs took place on January 12 at the ITS Andrés F.



Córdova high school, with 924 students.

"It was very interesting because it taught us many values," commented one student. Another said, "This gave us a guide on how to maintain our virginity until we get married."

A character education presentation was held on January 14 for 17 women from the Sociedad Patriótica political party. On January 15, 320 students and professors at Fray Fodoco Ricke high school attended a character education program. The principal said: "Talking about the family was a really important theme, because the family is fundamental basis of society and world. What is important is to maintain a stable home filled with love in order to give an example to our children and sow values." Afterwards, the students helped clean up the area surrounding the high school.

Additional service projects included a donation of 45 kilos of rice to the Corazón de María Home for the Elderly on January 23 and cleaning Parque la Carolina on January 25. ❖

RYS Project in North East India

In a society that implicitly accept and live with clear-cut polarization and 'ours versus theirs' behavior patterns, the concept and praxis of the recently held RYS came as a welcome jolt. The social context of Tripura provides a revolutionary edge to the simple idea that common space, common endeavor, common ideals and companionship are still possibilities in this conflict-ridden land of Tripura.

The RYS 'Neutral Space' was a pointer that peace and wholeness become reality only when people of different backgrounds and affiliations can transcend the barriers that divide and engage in mutually enriching exercises for the common good. The service experience, the educational segments and the exceptionally cordial atmosphere of the RYS camp provided the much-needed atmosphere for inspiration and resolution to become ambassadors for peace wherever conflict exists.

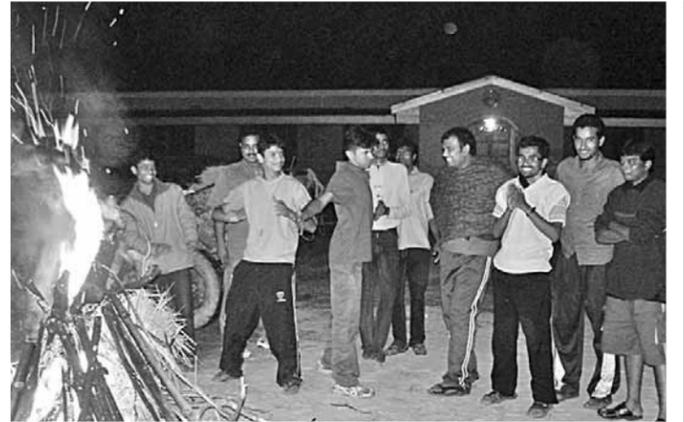
The RYS that took place at St. Xavier's Bishramganj on December 2 -9, 2008 was the first of its kind in this northeastern state of Tripura and unique in many ways. Despite being one of the smallest states of the Indian Union, Tripura has an appreciable 3.1 million population whose 70% comprise the Bengali population and the remaining 30%, the indigenous tribes.

From very ancient times, Tripura had a percentage of Bengali population thanks to the tribal kings who for the sake of imparting education to the tribal community brought the better educated Bengali priests and Pandits from the neighboring areas that would later become Bangladesh. However, the post independent decades, and especially the years following the Bangladesh war proved to be very decisive for this northeastern state as large-scale immigration from Bangladesh resulted in a demographic reversal in Tripura.

The polarization of society on ethnic lines triggered by a sense of 'loss' on the part of the indigenous people found expression in armed combat against the state and the 'settlers'. Thus, Tripura in the 80s and at the turn of the millennium was a hotbed of ethnic conflict, violence and unrest.

Although in the recent years, violent incidents in the state have reduced a great deal, much remains to be done in terms of reconciliation and ensuring justice, equal opportunity and dignity to all sections of people.

The RYS, which took place in the



state in such a social backdrop, was a significant step towards leveling the unequal mind-space and creating within in one's mind and heart a space for the other irrespective of one's ethnic/ religious/ linguistic identity.

RYS North East India India 2008 received participants from Bhutan, Nepal, Peru, Netherlands, USA and others parts of India including Tripura, Tamilnadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Westbanga, Delhi, Bihar and Kerala. Dr. Prof. N.R.Menon & Fr. P. Joseph sdb was our Educators and Trainers, who inspired all the participants with their lectures, workshops and morning meditations.

The project achieved construction of a 1500 sq.ft community center for the indigenous tribal people to stage their cultural programs, watch TV, Children to play indoor games and be together. RYS participants worked hard with local help to complete

this great hall of friendship and goodwill in a record time of 7 days.

The visits made to fisheries, rubber farming and to local places of worship, especially the very famous Hindu temple "Tripura Sundari" (one of the most important 50 such places in India where legends wake-up) were enriching learning and adoration experiences.

RYS participants purchased bamboo products made by the tribal people and thus showed the spirit of camaraderie and kinship. Fr. K.J. Joseph the Director of St. Xavier's gifted bamboo products to each RYS members as memento in the ceremony where participation certificates were given away.

The camp was among trees! It was on earth and sand and the living was in humble rooms so much so, there was the touch and smell of soil and raw nature. It was a delightfully different set up altogether, away from the dirt and din of urban life, close to the real people of north east India.

In concrete terms, the RYS Tripura has paved the way for greater understanding, collaboration and reconciliation between the communities in conflict (not only Bengali-tribal, but also intra-tribal, different religions) that are found in Tripura. It has sown

the seeds of peace in a very innovative and effective manner and one certainly hopes that the just-concluded RYS is but merely the starting point of much greater things to come.

Mr. Jyothi a medicine student from Tamilnadu from Nepal added, "During this RYS I celebrated the happiness of giving, make every day a holiday and celebrate just living! I enjoyed myself a lot by committing myself for the sake of others".

Mr. Rahul, RYS participant from Andhra Pradesh commented, "I am so excited here. What we do for ourselves dies with us. What we do for others and the world remains and is immortal". The RYS had given me such a wonderful experience in my life. ❖



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World Peace Summit Focuses on Rights

The path to peace will be impossible to navigate without a more caring brand of capitalism, democracy, expanded human rights and the rule of law, said speakers Friday, January 30, at the "World Summit for Peace."

Anwarul Chowdhury, former Bangladeshi ambassador to the United Nations, said peace is a global human right, as are social and economic development.

"Once the human right to peace is accepted as a universal right, it will provide the foundation for all the other [goals]," he said, including "economic equality and gender justice."

Din Syamsuddin, chairman of Muhammadiyah, a Malaysian Islamic organization, suggested that a "universal declaration of responsibility" be drafted to complement the 60-year-old landmark Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

"We are facing global economic and social damage, and what we need is a cumulative global damage control," he told an audience of nearly 400 people. "We are one family under one God."

The event, which lasted 3 days and was organized by the Universal Peace Federation, brought together a half-dozen former presidents and prime ministers from countries including Costa Rica, Zambia and Ukraine, and a variety of religious figures to exchange views on promoting an end to conflict.

The summit was among a number of festivities around the world in honor of the 90th birthday Saturday of the Unification Church founder, the Rev. Sun Myung Moon.

Spirituality was a recurring theme at the summit. Speakers such as Leonid Kravchuk, a former president of Ukraine, urged participants to "look deeper into our essences as human beings."

"All of us have one thing that connects us and makes us human beings. This is nothing other than our soul, our mind," he said.

Diversity was another common thread. The conference in New Yorker Hotel was attended by Africans in national dress, Asians in monks' robes, a few women in headscarves and a man with a startling resemblance to the late Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

Ida Betty Odinga, whose husband, Raila Odinga, was elected as Kenya's prime minister last year amid ethnic strife, stressed the importance of second chances and the acceptance of diversity.

Drawing an analogy to big-

game parks in her country, Mrs. Odinga said a zoo of majestic lions or a park filled only with beautiful zebras would

grow boring after a while.

"The beauty of us is our different ethnicities and cultures; we are differ-

ent people," she said, noting there are 42 tribes in Kenya. ❖



RYS Projects in Colombo, Sri Lanka



In the city of Colombo, Sri Lanka, in the midst of impoverishment, a large crowd of people of mixed origins and ages gathered for the ceremony to open the RYS Sri Lanka '08 project - the building of a new preschool, the only one of its kind to accommodate Tamil children with other local children. Former Speaker of the Parliament of Sri Lanka and the current Cabinet Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Hon. M. H. Mohamed, graced the opening ceremony August 23 - 30, 2008 as the Chief Guest. Performing for the event were a few past pupils of the preschool. These children came from very poor income families; their basic income being about 1US\$ a day.

When the service work began, the enthusiastic group took only a few minutes to demolish the former preschool building before commencing the heavy manual labor involved in laying the foundation for the new school. As the service work continued throughout the week of August 23-30, 2008, the RYS trainers also presented the education program, which was oriented toward teaching leadership skills to the 41 local and foreign participants. These leadership skills are meant to guide the participants in working together beyond all racial, religious and national barriers.

A Muslim undergraduate student from the Eastern University of Sri Lanka, M.H. Yehiya, who was participating in an RYS project in Sri Lanka for the 2nd time said, "Although I have participated in many Community Service proj-



ects, RYS is totally different. It really builds up the family sense." As an international family, the participants shared their unique religious observances each morning with the whole group. In addition, the participants shared meals,

cleaning, down time, sightseeing, listening to specialized speakers, visiting religious sights and sweating together as they serviced the needs of the children of Colombo.

On the final evening after dinner, the participants gathered around the campfire to sing songs and dance, and also to reflect on their project together.



ty and many natural resources. This contributed to Sri Lanka being a leading South Asian tourist destination at one time. Unfortunately, Sri Lanka has been plagued with war for the last 27 years. Thousands of human lives have been lost, and money which could have been used for the development of the nation has gone into military expenses. Lasting peace is therefore the central dream of most of the citizens.

Sri Lanka RYS/IPSF (Interreligious Peace Sports Festival) alumnus, Ms. Dinesha Liyanasuriya (General Secretary - RYS Sri Lanka), Ms. Champa Kumaranathunga and Mr. Gerald Jacob were the chief organizers of the competition, under the able guidance of Mr. R.A. Kularatne (RYS/IPSF Staff), Mr. Woo Jin Lim (National Director - UPF) and Dr. Chula Senaratne (National Director - RYS Sri Lanka).

The competitions between more than 100 school children were held in several categories according to their ages. The youth sang songs and recited poems, danced, performed pantomime, and some got together to do dramas around the theme of "Peace." Finals were held on the October 19, 2008, at the Muesaes College, Colombo, where the judges had a tough time to determine final placements because, in fact, everyone was a winner in his or her own right. ❖

In ancient times, Sri Lanka was known as the "Pearl of the Indian Ocean", due to the fact that the Sri Lanka is blessed with inherent beau-

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RYS Ivory Coast: Education & Service

On September 14, RYS completed its second 2008 project in Cote d'Ivoire, held in Amanvi in the Eastern region of the country. Participants from the United States, Benin and Cote d'Ivoire gave hope to 70 youths to be able to attend school. As in all underdeveloped countries, especially in the more remote villages, school facilities are not in good condition.

The RYS participants arrived in Amanvi on September 8 after a six-hour drive. The local community provided a warm welcome ceremony. Philbert SEKA, the project developer, opened the orientation by sharing the details of their service in Amanvi and by explaining the expected code of conduct. The project had three main components-Education, Service and Sightseeing.

Education

The education program was provided by Mrs. Ana Corbiella Olson and Miss Diesa Seidel, both from the United States. Each morning, quotes from famous philosophers, religious leaders, anthropologists and former presidents from around the world were presented for meditation and discussion.

The quotes essentially focused on peace building, service to others and loving each other as brothers and sisters. The participants were also taught that they are responsible to transform their own communities.

Service

The service began with the building

of a traditional bridge to link Amanvi to a small village. The participants were helped by the local youth, who carried the building materials-wood, sand, and gravel-and did cleanup around the river. It was a proud moment for them to serve together in this way. Eventually, the service effort became focused

on building the house for the teachers. Last year, because no house was provided for the first-grade teacher, more than 70 children were unable to attend school. Though the roofs of six classroom buildings built in 1950 needed to be replaced, the village people decided to concentrate on building the house for the teachers as the most urgent project in 2008.

Sightseeing

Sightseeing was a wonderful part of the project. On September 12, the participants left Amanvi to visit the Adzope residence of the Government Minister of Economic Infrastructures, Mr. Patrick Achi, who was waiting for the group. There, the participants had the opportunity to visit some villages and participate in celebrations with the ministers the next day. Participants also learned about the local use of fish and animal breeding, and learned how to make blocks. Before departing, they took a short boat trip on a lake.

RYS is giving hope to communities around the world through its projects and trained young people, who are taking ownership to create a world of peace. ❖



RYS Harmony Created in Elubo, Ghana

It was indeed a spectacular event to see participants from Europe and America dancing together to the tune of African soup aced drums at the conclusion of a two-week service project in Elubo, Ghana. Within a very short time RYS volunteers were able to learn and sing local songs including the traditional national anthem in vernacular - "Yen Ara Ya Asase Ni". The amalgamation of black and white voices was a quick reminder of one of Ghana's native scholars-Dr. Kwegyir Aggrey's words comparing the human race to the keys of a piano. For true harmony to exist, one must play both the black and white keys of the piano. For peaceful coexistence, the harmony of the white and the black peoples can be a source of hope and reassurance to humankind.

For 14 days, participants joined together with many residents of the local community, men and women, young and old, trooping to the project site each day. They cooperated to provide an adequate canteen for the children at the local school. Volunteers came from Ghana, Togo, America, Sweden, Ireland, Britain, and Germany to participate in the program starting from March 21 to April 3, 2008. This year's project theme was "Quality Education and Good Health as tools for Socio-Economic Development of a Nation".

Project Director, Kerim Tsenev and community organizers are grateful to Dr. Ron Burr for his guidance and leadership training, and to the speakers on

Islam, Catholicism and Traditional African religion. Before the commencement of the project, participants took time off to cruise in canoes on River Tano. That was the first time a major-

ity of the participants ever sat in an open canoe.

The serene atmosphere and the chirping of crickets and birds brought everyone in close contact with nature. It was

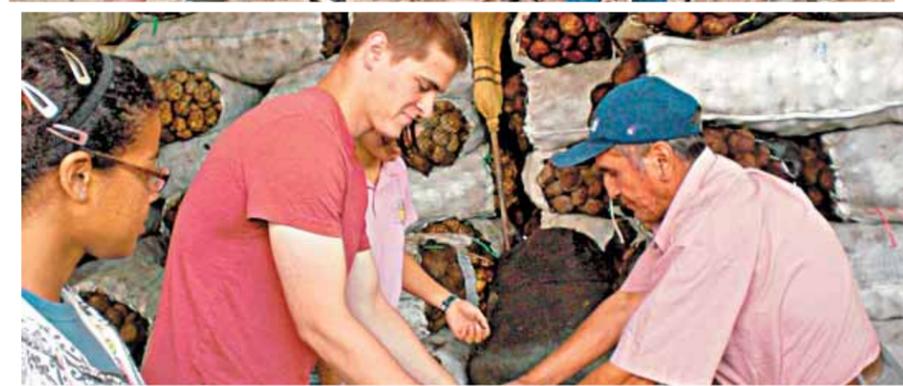
indeed an exciting and memorable experience. The speakers and visitations were educational and fruitful, and the friendships and cultural exchange unforgettable. ❖



New York Hike Challenge and West Coast Jr. STF workshop



STF Service Project, Peru



STF Service Experience in Peru

The Special Task Force (STF), a leadership training program for youth, is developing each year. In 2009 a new aspect is the overseas service experience in a developing country, intended to give our young people a taste of what life is like for those who are less fortunate, and also for them to experience the joy and fulfillment of service. We chose Central and South America as our mission continents, as the United States continues to have a historical role to embrace and uplift its developing neighbors. Altogether about 100 STF participants went to Guatemala, Mexico, Panama and Peru for a ten-day period from January 20th to 30th. I had the opportunity to accompany the team to Peru, the Land of the Incas. It's honestly hard to put into words what feels like more than a months' worth of experiences and insights, but I'll do my best! First of all, we owe our good experience to Mr. Francisco Cutipa, the Family Federation national leader of Peru, a direct descendant of Andean Indians and a man of heart and deep spirituality, and all the members of the community in Lima - they prepared and took care of us throughout our stay in Lima. We jumped right into action on our first morning by meeting with a National Congressman (who is also an Ambassador for Peace). Of the 120 Congressmen of Peru,

he is highly respected because of his strong stand against corruption. Next day we met a prominent mayor, also a long-time friend of our movement. He is on his 4th term (16 years), which is very unusual in those parts of the world where leaders either get impeached or run away with a lot of money. We could quickly grasp how much presence and influence our movement has in Peru. We resided in Miraflores, one of the more affluent colonial districts of Lima; but the capital city is surrounded by miles and miles of poor slum areas, spreading out into the desert and into the mountains. Millions of people live in shacks extending as far as the eye can on the rocky dusty mountainside around Lima. Peru suffered 2 decades of 'terrorism' (1980-2000) during which tens of thousands of families fled from the countryside for protection in the city...the only land they could claim back then was a piece of desert hillside without water, road or electricity.

Driving through such a destitute wilderness, we suddenly came across a small and humble Unification Church center - it was more like a shack reminding of Reverend Moon's cardboard hut on the hillside of Pusan. Some of the deepest experiences we had were through the local Blessed families and their children...it was quite a shock to experience how people who have so little can give so much, how people

who are so poor can invest with so much passion and conviction.

There are a few of these 'Unification outposts' serving the distressed areas. Towering high above the center is a large Unification Church flag and a megaphone and the neighborhood resounds with holy songs and readings from the Divine Principle. In the center we heard testimonies of how new members are drawn to them through the power of the spiritual world, it sounds like the early days of the movement in Korea.

Our service days started with 'food-raising': going out in the early morning to the wholesale fruit and vegetable markets of Lima. That was an experience in itself: going from stall to stall with crates and bags asking for produce donations to serve the poor - it was very fruitful, after thirty minutes we would return with piles of fruits and vegetables.

We later donated all the produces to "comedores" - best translated as community kitchens, all named after the Japanese missionaries who made a foundation in the country years ago. Besides that we served through painting their schools, leveling out their dirt roads, and simply playing sports with the kids. The people we met seemed to be more moved by their hearts, and we quickly came to feel like we are all "one family under God".

One of the unforgettable visits (besides ruins and beaches) was the Lima Water Fountain Park. They boast it is the #1 in the world synchronized display of water, light, music and laser. For a mere \$1 entrance fee you can participate in a breathtaking, harmonized dance of water to the sound of Beethoven or Kitaro. The artists/technicians behind were able to inspire in us a wide range of emotions from awe to excitement and fun. The experience culminated in a fantastic finale of famous musical parts and images of nature and historical Peru - truly uplifting for the human spirit which is designed to respond to true beauty!

During our stay we ate all kinds of local foods - exotic fruits that only grow there, traditional Peruvian "ceviche" (marinated raw fish), coca leaf powder which they use for tea... All in all the whole experience was way beyond my expectation and well worth repeating - STF members' hearts grew deeply in the short time there, and many shared that they feel called to return some day to Peru to serve more. So we will continue to develop this new aspect of the STF training and work to strengthen the ties between North and South America.

Written by Roland Platt, STF director ❖

Rescue on the Hudson

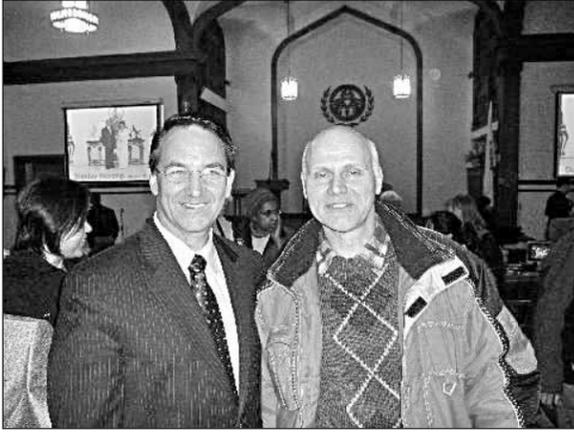
by Rev. Michael Jenkins

Everyone in America is excited about the "Miracle on the Hudson" in which 155 passengers of U.S. Air Flight 1549 survived the plane crash in the frigid waters of the Hudson river on Thursday, January 15th. Our Unification family joins with all of America to salute the wisdom, skill and courage of US Airways pilot Chesley B. "Sully" Sullenberger III.

In addition, there were many others who made heroic efforts on that day, one that is surely of particular interest to our blessed families, is the effort made by Mr. Manuel Liba, whose blessed family are members of the New Jerusalem Family Church in Clifton, New Jersey. He was one of the first responders to the crash site. He is the Captain of the NY Waterways ferry the "Mo Ira Smith" that runs between Weehawken, New Jersey and Manhattan. Mo Ira Smith was a FDNY rescue workers who gave his life at the World Trade Center on 9/11 and the ship is named in his memory.

Captain Liba was on the dock on the Hudson river preparing his boat for the next run, when he saw the plane

fly by. He said, "My first thought went to 9/11 because no jet aircraft can fly in this area and I thought it might be an attack. Then I realized it was a crash landing. I watched in awe, stunned at what we were seeing. The plane landed smoothly but then as it dug into the water it came to a pretty hard and fast



stop. Within seconds people were climbing out on the wing and I thought, we have to save them."

He and his crew immediately pushed off from the pier and drove to the plane. He brought the boat up to the left wing (port) side of the aircraft while his two crew members began helping people off the boat. The "Mo Ira Smith" was the second boat on the scene. 14 people were taken off the plane safely

through his efforts. Within minutes many boats and the helicopter rescue teams had arrived and all were working together for the Miracle on the Hudson.

This is truly a good sign for Ameri-



ca. In 2001, early into a new President's term, two planes crashed in Manhattan and so many innocent lives were taken - the world then entered an era of global conflict. Now at the beginning of another new President's term a plane crashes in Manhattan and all

were saved. We are grateful to God for this blessing and this sign of God's love for America and a new beginning of an era for global peace. It is a sign of good fortune for America. It also indicates good fortune for this 9th year of the building of the Peace Kingdom. True Parents were

very moved when they heard about God's blessing and miraculous protection for the survivors. It certainly reminds us of how grateful we are to God for protecting True Parents in the helicopter crash last year in which, like on the Hudson, all survived.

We want to offer sincere thanks to all the first responders and rescue workers who once again demonstrated the greatness of the American spirit at times of trial. We also want to express our gratitude and thanks to Mr. Manuel Liba who was there to help others. Manuel you make us all proud to be Unificationists. ❖

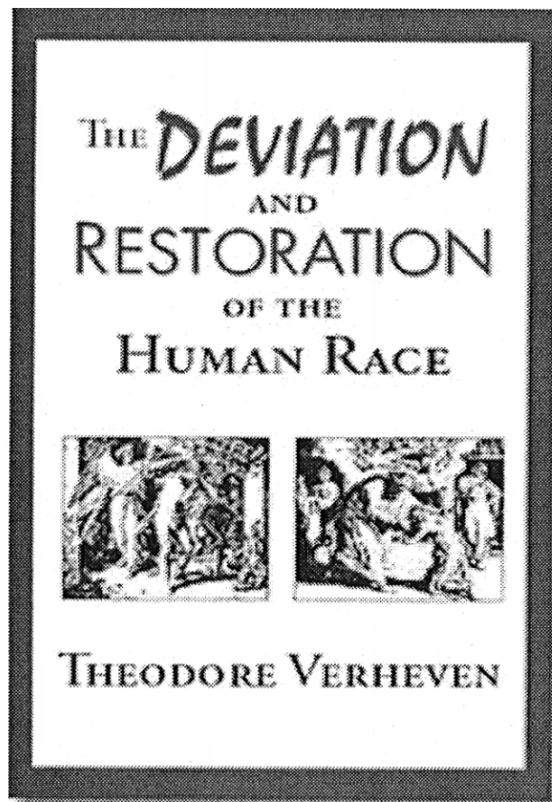
The Deviation and Restoration of the Human Race

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 self or human spirit (moral and intellectual), but also the unfolding of the innermost self or Divine Spirit, 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 Foreward and 10 pages of Table of Contents.



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PURITY from page 17

Many young adults today that have been active sexually often are jaded about marriage and have given up on having meaningful or committed relationships; they have worn out the magic spiritual bonding of sex that should take place when they finally find the right person to marry. The glue of sexual energy, which often helps young married couples, has lost its adhesion. This is well-founded in social research.

We are doing our young people a huge disservice, damaging their chances of experiencing deep and enduring love within marriage, by letting them go so far off course in their pursuit of freedom and love without commitment.

"Safe sex" often does not prevent diseases, AIDS, or pregnancy. In fact, adolescents report birth control failing one-third of the time. Even more clear, immature sexual relationships damage the young human heart and become a force preventing the perfection of love. The further our youth go in an opposite direction from God's course, the more difficult it is for them to find their way back.

We must take our roles as fathers, mothers, aunts, and uncles in this human family and teach them, listen to them, and understand them. We must teach them principles of marriage education and guide them to have the greatest chance for spiritual growth and fulfillment following God's course of love within their marriages and families. ❖

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Sexual Purity and Marriage as Basis for Peace

by Lynn R. Walsh

This is from a presentation at the World Summit on Peace, Saturday, January 31, 2009

I want to give a perspective on why sexual purity and strong marriages are so essential for creating a peaceful world. Borrowing from a Stephen Covey analogy, does anyone know how often a plane goes off course on a typical flight? Ninety-five percent of the time the plane is off course, buffeted by winds and currents. How does it arrive to the right place? The pilot knows the destination, so it constantly gets readjustments while keeping the goal clear.

Where are we headed? What is happening to our youth, marriages, and families today? Divorce is around 48 percent in the US but the break-up rate for cohabitation is 85 percent. Forty percent of the children in the US will grow up without their father. Sex is used as a recreational sport, 11-year-olds are giving birth, 90 percent of the most violent criminals in our US prisons never knew their fathers, women choose to have babies by purchasing donor sperm, anonymous sperm donors are greeted by young children at their door calling them "Daddy," judges are giving custody to ex-boyfriends instead of biological mothers who want custody, embryologists are working on creating an embryo with three sources of genes giving the child three biological parents, same-gendered partners get pregnant from a friend's sperm and then end up fighting over custody, after same-sex marriage was made legal in Canada a male filed to get a marriage license for his 19 wives, infertility clinics are promoting cloning. And how are our children doing?

So where are we heading? Do we know what course we are on or are we just buffeted by individual desire, personal pleasure, social trends, and Hollywood?

Throughout the world today we find rampant personal redefining of marriage, family, and parenting. Father Moon wants us to ask what is God's purpose and design for sex, marriage, and families. What is God's course and destination?

All world religions point to God's course, and more and more social research is confirming the same. To me, Father Moon is clarifying God's ideal, which is not meant to judge or condemn, since we all fall short in our own families and marriages, but we must make sure we are on the right course to guide us toward the destination we all long and yearn to reach.

Males and females are inherently different, obviously reproductively. The sexual unity leads to new life and the continuation of lineage. Social scientists around the world keep finding that children thrive best in every area of their lives when raised by their married biological parents. Isn't that simply what any child will say they want? One man and one woman dedicated to each other and to their children is God's design. Isn't that simply what any child will say they want?

Children raised in a secure family, experiencing unconditional love with clear guidance and limits, learn self-control and self-discipline and have within them the authentic motivation

to care for and love others. These individuals are the essential elements of peacebuilding; individuals who from the depth of their heart cannot tolerate war, poverty, or suffering of any member of their family. It is on this basis that we can create One Family under God.

In order to settle any conflict peacefully — whether it be between two warring nations, two siblings, or two spouses — what is essential is the capacity for empathy, to get beyond yourself to understand and feel the other's situation. Learning to value others and feel they are as real and sensitive as you are, is really only learned through experiencing it, and the primary place for learning true empathy is in the relationships in the home.

Why did God create marriage, besides for the procreation and raising of children? The Blessing of marriage is God's greatest gift or opportunity to love and be loved. Father Moon stated that the purpose of our life is to perfect our love. Learning how to love is an ongoing project at the center of our life. We know love is not a feeling but rather the conscious actions we take for the sake of the well-being or happiness of another. In the process, such actions often transform, even elevate us. Rev. Moon encourages exchange marriages, where marriage merges enemies to transcend historical and ancestral conflict.

Unfortunately, marriage means confinement, cutting off other possibilities out there, as many of our youth protest. Why would God give such limitations, take away our freedom? It is because that very confinement that limits us to only one person creates a haven of emotional safety and depth. In being committed to one person, we are more likely to honestly face our areas of weakness and grow spiritually. It is within the protection of commitment that the fragile elements of love can emerge. Marital commitment is the promise of emotional fidelity and sexual exclusivity, which in reality gives us the freedom to experience deep interpersonal connection.

However, marital commitment is not just to stick together no matter how dreadful (unless, of course, there is abuse). But the commitment also means acceptance of personal responsibility for one's attitudes and actions and dedication to the well-being of the relationship itself.

Our highest, most authentic self is experienced in getting out of our own

perspective to understand and accept others. God created us as beings that at our core are motivated and fulfilled through love. If we understand God's real purpose in marriage, then we might not fight our disappointments and protest with

the brain. We have very different ways of viewing the world and relating to people. We sometimes wonder, was this all a big mistake? Kierkegaard said, "It is good that marriage is for eternity, because it will take a man that long to understand a woman."

However, in a marriage of mutual respect, we become open to the other universe represented by our spouse.

The husband can understand more about God's feminine qualities, and the wife can understand more about God's masculine qualities. Then as parents, fathers and mothers relate in different ways to their children. Children benefit the most when they receive the different kinds of complementary guidance and love from both the father and mother.

Many youth today say they do not even want to be married, although they are looking for enduring love. Many say they want to try out different partners to see who most suits them. Much of this thinking means having sexual relations outside of marriage.

The problem with sexual promiscuity is that it diverges from God's course; it is a misuse of physical love, risking of course AIDS and other sexually-transmitted diseases, leading sometimes to infertility and even death. Premature sexual relations often lead to unwanted pregnancy, immature or ill-prepared parenting and the resulting confusion of unwanted lineage and divided families. Teen suicide and depression are directly related to being emotionally unprepared for sexual relationships.

Sexual promiscuity which uses another person for one's self-centered pleasure or as a replacement for love damages one's spiritual sensitivity to others and develops self-centered patterns of infidelity which are often hard to overcome once people get married.

see **PURITY** on page 16



our selfish tendencies as much, realizing it is God's Blessing on the course of perfecting our love.

Another great challenge within marriage is the differences in gender. Research tells us that happy couples normally have ten irreconcilable differences. Why? We were designed with different powerful hormones influencing our behavior, likes and dislikes. Also, our brains are hard-wired differently, as can be seen in CAT scans of

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



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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.

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Horsemanship and the

by Lowell and Lesa Ellanson

New Hope Farms, Inc., a world-class equestrian facility and show complex, celebrated its ground breaking in 1986. An enterprise of Mrs. Hak Ja Han Moon, who was instrumental in its creation, NHF is famous in our movement for being the training ground for international equestrian and pentathlon talent. South Korea, the Philippines, United States and other nationals trained here. Its roster of global riders included equestrians Hyun Jin Moon and Un Jin Moon, both of whom attended the Olympic Games in 1988 and 1992, respectively.

Now open to the public and to the community of FFWPU families, we now thrive by offering horse shows*, youth horsemanship camps, retreats for the Special Needs members, riding instruction for the public and for FFWPU members.

*On November 9, 2008 and on December 7, 2008 (Sundays), New Hope Farms will be the site for local hunter/jumper horse shows with free admission to all. Start time is 9:30 and the show will run indoors, all day. FFWPU members with mobile businesses who wish to reserve vendor space, should contact Lesa Ellanson, 845-856-6792, or at ellanson@frontiernet.net. Come out and enjoy the horse show. For directions log on to www.newhopefarms.com and go to the 'Visit Us' page.

Chronicle of a Horse Lady

I always knew that my path lay in working with the animal world, particularly horses. It had always been a lifelong dream to own a horse and live in the country, things that were not possible in Englewood, New Jersey. After having graduated high school, I moved to the countryside in West Virginia (my family's ancestral home); it was a small country hamlet called Dunbar. There I was able to purchase my first horse, my first true love. Her name was Penelope.

Then it happened. It was 1973. At the time, I was working at CBS-TV and also at a boarding barn where my beloved horse was maintained. A Unification Church missionary witnessed to me in downtown Charleston and subsequently articulated extremely compelling arguments for how and why my life should change. Upon hearing the conclusion, I joined. I was willing to transform my life and go this way: But what of Penelope?

Surely, God knew of my profound

love for horses and the country life. Such loves would never die. But this is not the time for horses nor a bucolic way of life, I brooded. A cosmic junction in history was unfolding in my lifetime, so what was I to do? I had free will, but I had no choice. I went to my barn, scribbled a brief note for the staff, and tacked it to my horse's stall door. "I going off to be a missionary," it read. "Please take care of Penelope."

I never saw her again.

I left my horse and the peaceful Appalachian countryside to become a



full time lay devotee, a resignation that, to this day, still induces tears. Setting myself on a course through my own volition, I set off for New York City, to save it and the rest of America from impending decline. Or so I thought.

Heaven's Equerry

Six months later, I received word that I was to work at stables in upstate New York. It was in an unknown country hamlet called Barrytown, at an old Christian Brothers monastery (now Unification Theological Seminary). There we would keep horses. My job was to teach horseback riding and my students would be, among others, the eldest children of Father Moon.

I held that position for eight-and-a-half years. I am eternally proud to proclaim that two of my former riding students from Father Moon's family, Hyun Jin Moon and Un Jin Moon, went on

from that tiny country "barn in the back" to representing their homeland of South Korea in the Olympic Games.

Following my marriage in 1982, I left Barrytown for a twelve year hiatus to establish a family. In the autumn of 1994, we received a call from East Garden, requesting that we come to New Hope Farms, a newly constructed working horse farm and show facility. New because prior to our building, the property was a barren and open field save for a large antiquated chicken coop along with wooded mountainside acreage. We arrived in December of 1994. It was a little known country hamlet called Port Jervis in upstate New York. I was back with the horses. It was as if I was coming home again. But there was one difference.

Here was a towering equestrian center of world class quality and distinction, planned and built from the ground, up by Father and Mother Moon's company, the Han Corporation. I knew that Father and Mother Moon and their family really liked horses. The NHF facility confirmed just to what degree.

The vision, in part, was to provide a transnational complex to accommodate Olympic hopefuls who did not have facilities in their own countries. The other concern was the conditions of the competitive equine athlete. Many countries will do whatever it takes to win (and have done so), including the use of inhumane training practices. Father and Mother Moon established a tradition at NHF that the horse was to be trained humanely. Improvement in performance developed through patience, kindness and consistency. Utilizing those principles, a united trinity of horse-trainer-rider, the horse would work willingly and happily.

At the time we arrived, Father Moon's two children were already the veterans of the Seoul and Barcelona Olympic Games. Un Jin Moon was then in the process of qualifying for her third consecutive Olympiad, which she accomplished: An historic feat to this day, since no other Korean equestrian in history has ever qualified for three consecutive summer games! Unfortunately, following the injury of her horse in 1996, Un Jin was forced to withdraw.

Development and Local Outreach

Following the Barcelona Games, NHF focused on producing, hosting and leasing the farm for events. Concerts were held, featuring such performers as Chicago, Willie Nelson, Moody Blues and others. We conducted many horse shows, from Arabians to Friesians, from dressage to Quarter horses to jumpers. We held training clinics given by Olympic equestrian veterans; world caliber shows including the World Cup qualifiers, Olympic Team selection trials, national finals, some of which were televised. We founded the annual Deerpark Family Festival, a community carnival and fireworks show, now entering its 17th year. Annual dog

shows, agility trials and breed specialties have attracted the finest canine athletes and their show schedules at NHF are still expanding.

Along with these activities, we maintained our horse shows (both attending and producing), and our connection to the equestrian community through foxhunts, hunter paces, and judging horse shows. I have made lasting friends, contacts, acquaintances, and professional relationships. All of these efforts, centered on Father Moon's concern for nature and animal welfare, resulted in of our excellent reputation in the quality of horse care, even in far-flung quarters. Because of this, we ventured to address the needs of the equine rescue and rehabilitation.

As horses are one of the most beloved creatures of God (indeed, no other beast has played such an incalculable role in human history), we occasionally attend to the plight of mistreated horses. NHF not only advocates the end of animal cruelty, but our responsibility goes even further: We have rescued seriously ailing animals whose prognosis for recovery was so poor that they were of little value save for a future as meat. Yet we rescued them from their wretched fate, sometimes purchasing them, sometimes they were freely turned over to us. In each case, we saw the sorrow of the entire animal world written in their cheerless eyes. When we are merely using animals for our gratification at their expense and, when their use is apart from God's original purpose of love, then the crime, the historical heartbreak, that has been at the crux of the relationship between unrepentant man and animals is sadly repeated. I believe that Father Moon said it best in the following quotes:

"Now all things are silently demonstrating, asking to return to the original owner. All things have protested to God: 'Why did You create us and make us suffer as the slaves of unrighteous owners?' Historically, so many people exploited all things, using them to do evil, which they did not want to do.

"All things will continue to protest to God, saying, 'Why did you not separate human beings from us so that we did not have to suffer so unrighteously, so miserably, throughout the history of creation?'"

"Only one person in this tremendous universe understands what has been going on between all things and mankind. Now all things are hailing me, thankful that I understood their situation and included the Day of All Things as equal in importance to God's Day, Parents' Day, and Children's Day. All things will say thank you to Unification Church members for understanding them and treating them correctly. Do you want to liberate all things still owned by unrighteous people and return them to God? If so, please pledge yourselves to be the instruments to do that." Rev. Sun Myung Moon, *Day of All Things and Ownership*, June 4, 1989

Thus we saw it as our duty to end God's sorrow. We reclaimed His horses and gave them back to His children. Our rescued horses responded remarkably; with a little vet care, some groceries, love, and time, otherwise doomed horses bloomed into our best equine partners. Their unspoken gratitude was later demonstrated, in one case, by an

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Keys to the Kingdom

elderly work horse gently bearing a gleeful child with special needs.

The New Hope Farms families felt the need to share the creation, this love and all that it entails, to our members and to the public at large. We likewise believed that our calling is to liberate both the suffering heart of God and His creation. To do this, we needed to dedicate ourselves to God's children. Thus it was in the launching of programs to benefit the FFWPU community and the public that we truly witnessed the potential greatness of Father Moon's vision for NHF.

In 2002, we inaugurated the Cheong Il Guk ("Kingdom of Heaven") Horsemanship camps for Unification Movement youth. We began with three students, all teenage girls. In 2007, our farm concluded its 21st year and, in contrast to previous years, today it feels as if we have entered Canaan. At the conclusion of the 2008 summer camp and internship programs, we "graduated" twenty students. In over six years, NHF has seen over 1,000 participants, from parents and children to college-age students, camps and challenges, workshops, internships, work-study programs, church gatherings, and special needs retreats.

Currently, instruction is the main focus of internal activity and outreach. The current lesson students are a mixed group of church members and community people alike. They come to learn about horses, riding and, more importantly, why it is a moral imperative to sacrifice oneself for them. Since all of nature, especially domestic animals, have been abused throughout history, it has now become our obligation to end this tragic state of affairs. To reverse this, our attitude and tradition in caring for horses (or any animal) must entail a heart of attendance to God, as taught by Father Moon. All students who attend riding classes at NHF are made fully aware of this and under what principles we operate, as well as who established these principles.

Keys to the Kingdom and Horses

We teach character education through riding. Riding instruction is not merely to drill a rider so that he is capable of piloting a horse. I daresay that almost anyone can be trained to become a rider. At NHF, educating a horseman is far more valuable to God than training a rider.

What defines a horseman? Purely, he is one who sees to the horse's needs before he sees to his own. It entails sacrifice, dedication, hard work, and humility. It is in the education of heart that changes the human so that he (or she) may come to understand God's love for the horse. And it is in expressing that love that human, horse and Heavenly Father become one. Thus NHF exists to educate horsemen and enlighten them to the role that God plays in that process. How do we achieve this?

Traditional Divine Principle education uses the indoor classroom setting. An educator stands before the students and lectures; the lesson is instilled by lecture practice and by examinations. By contrast, Divine Principle education at NHF merely removes the indoor classroom setting as the primary locale and uses the barn experience as the main means to instill lesson content. Yes, on

occasion, we also need to instruct from inside a classroom, but the riding student learns Cheong Il Guk horsemanship mainly by doing.

In the process of doing, the students come to realize that the presence and workings of God is everywhere. Moreover, it is through the students -the children of God- that God is present and is working, whether it is the pulpit or the stable. He receives the joy of caring for His horses through His children. In fact, God derives joy by just being with His children, wherever that may be.

Similarly, the horses bask in God's love as it is conveyed through the students, and the students receive the horses' resounding affections. In the end, the students have the blessing of both giving and receiving love as true children. It is this approach that brings the lesson home, namely, the "front line" is not where you are, it is who you are.

The goal then is to accomplish two things: First, to bring God comfort and joy by allowing Him to be with His creatures and His lands, and to abet Him in walking with them again. We open the way for God to again stand upon the earth, namely, the physical world. Second is to bring God's love to the creation and to one another. We, God's children, are the conduit so that people, the animals, the lands, skies and waters may know their true love once more. It is not easy.

During the camps, the students had teams assigned and together, they worked very hard. They collapsed exhausted from the rigors of riding and barn chores but the unadulterated spark in their eyes reflected their tenacity, their total investment. Their newfound vitality and camaraderie was a direct outcome of their dedication and perseverance. They came away with an awareness of God's absolute love and with a deeper connection to Him. They really valued their true brothers and sisters. They cherished the animals who gave so much. Plainly, they experienced a sample of life in the Kingdom of Heaven.

"The New Hope Farm is the training camp for practicing precisely these things. It is where we invest and invest our love again, loving the earth, the water and nature. Many people of the world will come together as brothers and sisters here and practice the building of God's nation. By showing all people what we accomplish here we can educate them in how to establish a community of love transcending skin color, culture and nation. We can also show the standard of how to love and care for the creation. At the same time, we can awaken everyone to the fact that the global environment needs to be controlled internationally under this ideology. Here on this farm we can show mankind a model of how to rid the world

of war, hunger and crime, and how to live in happiness and peace."

~ Rev. Sun Myung Moon, New Hope Farms in Brazil, April 1995 (edited)

Epilogue

Looking back in hindsight, I realized this: First, be willing to give up what you love the most; especially if it is for a higher purpose. It will come back, make no mistake. God knows our true loves. I know that He shares the same loves and only yearns to see us happy. Second, it is one thing to know



2006, she was diagnosed with breast cancer. Today, Mrs. Ellanson attributes her cancer's remission to, "the help of God, my family and my animals." She now teaches classes year-round in riding, horsemanship, fine arts to the public and members of the FFWPU.

Rev. Lowell Ellanson, is the facility and property manager. He grew up in rural Minnesota and joined the Unification movement in 1975. For seven years, he served on the church's fundraising teams, both as a missionary and as a team leader. He is the former director of C.A.R.P. in Houston, TX, and in Los Angeles, California, where he worked as the Unification Church campus minister at the University of Southern California and at California State University, L.A., from 1982 to 1988. He was also the HSA-UWC state leader in Morgantown, West Virginia and the Richmond city leader in Virginia from 1988 to 1994. In addition to NHF property management, he gives instruction in archery, marksmanship, fishing, boating and hunting to Unification youth.

The Ellansons are currently in the process of establishing New Eden Equestrian Academy, Inc., a NHF-based character education curriculum of riding, horsemanship and fine arts for home schooled children. Under Yoshi and Fran Ichijo, they are also working to establish a permanent special-needs community home for Unification Church couples and adults.

* Port Jervis, New York was honored by Budget Travel Magazine as the 2008 Number One Coolest Small Town in America by Karen Tina Harrison, September 2008 issue. ♦

your mission, accept it, even to be comfortable with it and in it. That is very good. However, it is quite another thing to realize your destiny. We believe that we have. Once your destiny is realized, your job becomes your joy. There is a saying: "Find a job that you love and you will never have to work a day in your life." Too true! It is both challenging and rewarding. It never ends. You live for it. It is just like love.

Our families are finding our joy at New Hope Farms in Port Jervis*, New York, a once little known country hamlet. We wish to truly thank those who volunteer to help in our endeavors, in particular, the Tashiro, Ichijo and Selle families. Although my husband and I are getting on in years, God willing, we will keep on working, keep on moving- forward. We still have a long way to go and we pledge to love every minute of it.

Authors: Ellanson Family, 2008

Lesla Ellanson is the equestrian manager, head equestrian instructor, and events coordinator. She has taught riding for over 25 years and was former teacher of Rev. and Mrs. Moon's older children at Unification Theological Seminary in Barrytown, N.Y. from 1974 - 1982. The wife of Lowell Ellanson and the mother of four children, Mrs. Ellanson also works with the Special Needs Ministry with Yoshi and Fran Ichijo; she travels to give sermons and lectures on Animal Ministries' presentations, projects and programs. She produces her own horse shows, works as a horse show judge, and writes as a contributor to equestrian periodicals, such as The Chronicle of the Horse, Equestrian Magazine, and others. In late

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THE NEW VOICES OF OUR GENERATION



Talking the Talk. Walking the Walk

by Chris Saarna

Los Angeles Jr. STF Field Educator

Close to 100 youth and staff attended the West-Coast Jr. STF second annual regional workshop at the Bay Area Family Church in San Leandro, California, from February 14th to February 16th. The theme of this workshop, was "Owning the Culture of Heart". Under the theme, participants received guidance and training in building a spirit and culture of true love through becoming individuals who can unconditionally give true love to others.

Established in around 20 communities throughout the nation, Jr. STF is one of the main programs of the FFWPU Youth Education Department, specializing in leadership training for our middle- and high-school youth.

Participants drove long distances: from Washington State, Oregon and all over California. By the time we had arrived, everyone was exhausted. The workshop then began several hours later. Despite the lack of sleep, most of the Jr. STF participants were very eager at the start of the workshop.

On the first day, participants received lectures and internal guidance. Sunmee Holmes, a Los Angeles Field Educator, gave the "Principles of Creation" lecture and explained about the growing process to become children having a culture of heart. The second internal guidance was given by Bay Area Field Educator Chris Brown, addressing what it means to be blessed children creating

blessed families while seeking to own the culture of heart. Internal guidance also was given by Kimikami Miyake, who spoke about connecting to and inheriting the "culture of our True Family."

Also on the first day, there were short presentations on core values given by Jr. STF members who have started leadership training and an activity putting the core values into practice by creating a

greater team goal was achieved within the last few minutes of the run!

At the same time, Jr. STF members participated in a series of intense and challenging volleyball training exercises. They practiced various volleyball drills and gave all their hearts into encouraging each other and making extra effort by, for example, diving to save the ball. Afterwards, we could see that the members really gave it their all even though they were tired and cold. Through giving their all, they were setting positive spiritual conditions for the candidates engaged in the Challenge Run.

After investing their hearts in these activities, the Jr. STF members were able to refresh themselves by enjoying a nice hot shower, a change of clothes, and a relaxing swim at a pool in the local community center.

In the evening, candidates took a test on the Principles of Creation, and Jr. STF members had a Divine Principle lecture competition. Afterwards, several of them were asked to present their lectures in front of the entire workshop. They did an impressive job of presenting insightful and comprehensive lectures to all of the candidates. We closed the day by watching each of the inspiring short movies the groups had made and listening to testimonies from many of the participants.

On the final day, Kimikami Miyake once again gave parting guidance about building the culture of heart in our own families and

see *Walking the Walk* on page 21



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

and Running the Run at Jr. STF

Walking the Walk from page 20

communities when we go home and capped it off by showing



beautiful pictures of True Parents' birthday celebration and the Blessing ceremony in New York. Finally, the workshop concluded with the promotion ceremony, in which nine of fifty candidates were promoted to Jr. STF membership training, and with short testimonies from some of the Field Educators.

All in all, it was an awesome workshop experience, and all the Jr. STF members from each region expressed their appreciation for participating in the workshop. Many of the kids were also uplifted by the Jr. STF spirit and culture and wanted to return home to share that with friends in their communities. It was a great experience for everyone involved, and each person felt God's presence and love for them during the

workshop.

Testimonies from workshop participants

"I gained a new perspective on challenge and determination. The only way I can ever grow is if I push through my preconceived limitations. I want to continue to push and strive for whatever I want. I'm not going to settle for nothing: I heard someone say, 'Nothing is easy, but who wants nothing?'
NO MORE PROCRASTINATION!"
 - Shannon R., Los Angeles

"My highlight was the volleyball training because I experienced ownership. The day before, I actually gave a small talk on ownership; I believe it to mean making something your own. The more you invest in something, the more you get from it/out of it. When you take ownership over your experience, it's not just making your experience great, but it creates a wonderful experience for those around you and those you're working with. Ownership at the core is not individual at all; it's not about making yourself the greatest and the best but it's kind of like making yourself strong and great for the sake of the whole. I was glad that my contribution of ownership allowed us to have a successful volleyball

challenge."
 - Yuka Y., Seattle

"My highlight for the workshop was the volleyball training. The volleyball training made me realize that warmth comes in many ways. Whenever I encouraged a teammate, or another volleyball player, and I yelled it out as loud as I could, I remember being warm internally. Inside I felt happy."
 - Jennifer P., Los Angeles

"The highlight of the workshop was the run. Even though it was very difficult and challenging, I got so much value from it, and I think I got closer to God just by talking to him and feeling that he was supporting me the whole time through my friends. In the end I also felt God through seeing everyone doing their best and striving to make their internal and external goals. Also this experience made me understand more about how much True Parents, especially True Father, went through. The run was WORTH IT!"
 - Rebecca M., Bay Area

"The run taught me to keep enduring and to not compare my speed to others because everyone is at their own level and is trying their best, which is what counts.... I am determined to strengthen my relationship with God every day and to not let my mistakes burden me."
 - Donald B., Bay Area

"In this 2nd Jr. STF workshop I had already run so I didn't have many challenges or deep experiences with God in that. Instead I did a lot of helping with people studying for the test. I went around going to people if they needed questions of any kind."
 - Toshiaki Y., Seattle

"Determinations: I want to work hard and make the effort to feel God in my everyday life, not just when I'm praying but also during school and when I'm with my friends. I also want to study the Divine Principle more to get to know God's and True Parents' words because there are parts that I do not truly understand. I also want to talk to God on a deeper level, instead of just reporting to him about my day."
 - Hitomi F., Los Angeles

"I want to thank God for everything he has given me. I don't want to be negative, but optimistic and not giving up. I want to witness, maybe naturally witness, to people, and I want to recruit more blessed children into Jr. STF."
 - Sarah M., Bay Area
 "I gained a deeper relationship with God and built my faith further; I understand why my faith must be mine and not just a reflection of my parents'.... This has been an amazing thing in my life, and I think everyone should have the chance to experience it."
 - Johanna F., Bay Area ❖

Opening Night for God Rocks! NYC



February 23, 2009

God Rocks had its opening night Friday, February 20th. The room was filled with people who enjoyed the live music and inspiring message. After beginning past its scheduled 7pm start, the program captured its audience with music led by Kristof Heller. Diane Kung, Kristof, and the program's direc-

tor, Claire Munsell, treated the crowd to covers of some pop/rock songs. At its 43rd Street location in Manhattan, the lighting and the arrangement of the furniture created a feeling of being in a cross between a café and nightclub.

Kenshu Aoki, CARP president, gave the program its very first message-why college students need God. Drawing experiences from his past, Kenshu gave practical advice on the value of having God in one's life. Following the night's message, the audience was left to share with one another the

importance of God in their lives. The band resumed playing to end the night's program. Some of the audience members got caught up in the music, waving their hands in the air. Many of the attendees left wanting more, asking if the program would be longer next time. The organizers of the God Rocks admit that there still needs to be improvements but with all the smiles in the room, God Rocks' first night appeared to be a success. ❖



My Piece of Peace
 01/24/09

CARP just launched a web site for expressing, sharing and expanding the vision of "One Family under God" through poetry, music, and other forms of art. Join today and see how you can bring "My Piece of Peace" to your local area.

Visit us at myshowpeace.com



THE NEW VOICES OF OUR GENERATION



Unification News: Youth Education Column



I. Recent News

Education Department Meeting with InJin Moon [Feb 11] New Yorker, NY

Purpose: To receive guidance about the direction of education within our movement from our president, In Jin Moon

Attendees: In Jin Moon, Jin Sung Park, Rev. Jenkins, Heather Thalheimer, Christine Frohlich, Rev. Schanker, Rev. Mito, Mrs. Mito, Inguk Seo, Naokimi Ushiroda, Kenshu Aoki, Karilee Aoki, Kimikami Miyake, Roland Platt, Akira Watanabe, George Kazakos, Tossa Cromwell, Celine Tardy, Yukari Takashima

Summary: President InJin Moon emphasized the urgent need for a common educational track for our members, and shared her vision for education: "that each person loves God, loves True Parents, is internally excellent, is externally excellent, has a successful career, tithes well, and has a beautiful family."

She also emphasized the importance of women in the role of education, and graciously commented on each of our individual strengths and weaknesses. She concluded with words of encouragement to continue to work together to develop the best education not only for our members, but for America and the world.

Key decisions announced: Heather Thalheimer was asked to be the new Education Dept. Director. Rev. Schanker & Rev. Mito were asked to become Itinerant Workers providing counseling and education for members throughout America. Inguk Seo, the BC Blessing Dept. Director was asked to work more closely under the Blessed Family Department, instead of the Youth Education Dept.

Jr. STF West Coast Workshop [Feb 14-16] San Leandro, CA



Theme: Owning the culture of heart. 90 Youth and staff gathered from Seattle, Oregon, the Bay Area, and Los Angeles at the Bay Area Family Church for the Jr. STF West Coast workshop. Kimikami Miyake, the Jr. STF National Director,

flew in from NY to mentor the field educators, who took full ownership in planning and running this workshop. There were presentations given by the youth participants as well, and many of them inspired the staff through their investment and passion throughout the whole experience.

Reflection: "I gained a deeper relationship with God and built my faith further; I understand why my faith must be mine and not just a reflection of my parents... This has been an amazing thing in my life and I think everyone should have the chance to experience it."
-Johanna F., 15 Bay Area, CA

Lovin' Life Ministry [Feb 20-] Manhattan Center, NY

Summary: Since our meeting with our chairperson InJin Moon, I have been focusing my efforts on supporting the Lovin' Life Ministries that is developing here at the Manhattan Center. We are currently developing a program and a process that can inspire, connect and empower young adults within our Unification Movement as well as young adults who have not yet been introduced to our movement. Through creating a quality service as well as a comprehensive process of education, we hope to create an attractive, healthy and growing community of members committed to fulfilling America's role in leading the world in establishing one family under God.

Personal Significant Events

This month had some very significant events for me and my family, and I wanted to share a little bit about each of them.

Our 9th Blessing Anniversary [Feb 13]: Shukuko and I went to Karaoke together for the 1st time, and we enjoyed a nice Korean dinner as well as an introductory ballroom dance lesson. It was quite a fun and memorable day for the both of us.

My 30th B-day [Feb 18]: I had the chance to reflect on my 30 years of life, and the top three things that I was grateful for were:

Being born and raised as a Blessed Child

Receiving Shukuko as my eternal spouse from God and True Parents

The preparation for, the conception and the birth of my daughter, Eri.

My daughter, Eri's, 1st Birthday [Feb 23]: We had a small celebration at our apartment and we did a traditional Korean 1st Birthday activity, where Eri had to choose her destiny by picking an object out of a variety of choices, each of which represented a different future. She ended up choosing the marker and soon

after that, the soccer ball. Seems like she might become an artist and/or an athlete! We'll see.

II. Perspective on Youth Education

In the last issue, I explained in more detail the third stage of Identity Education. In summary, the goal of identity education is to gain conviction in my God given identity, which is essential in withstanding the influences of society and for having confidence in my own value. This month, I would like to summarize the fourth stage of education, which I call Mentoring Education. This stage includes four basic themes:

- Mentoring siblings
- Mentoring friends
- Impacting my community
- Committing to a Public Lifestyle

The overall goal of this stage is to become a God centered role model, or in Divine Principle terms, to fulfill the 1st Blessing. This stage of education needs to come on the foundation of having Values, Ideals & Identity Education in order to be effective. In other words, without having a strong conviction in who I am from God's perspective, it's very difficult to mentor somebody else to come to that same understanding. Ideally, mentoring education should already start in High school, so that they can help to raise their younger siblings and other Blessed Children.

Also, instead of being negatively affected by their peers, Blessed Children can learn to become a positive influence on their peers. In this way, we wouldn't have to restrict or discourage Blessed children from interacting with their friends, but instead we can empower them to be active in their schools, and to have as many friends as possible. Next month I would like to share a little bit about my understanding of InJin Nim's perspective on youth education.

III. Question of the Month: What's so special about being a Blessed Child?

This is a question that I've been thinking about my whole life. From as early as I could remember I was told that I was special, that I was of God's lineage, and that I needed to remain pure to preserve this "lineage". I remember attending many workshops where I was reminded over and over how important it is that we don't have "Original Sin". Another explanation as to why we were so special was that we had this inherent "connection" with all Blessed Children throughout the world, so that even if we met for the 1st time in our lives, we would feel this natural bond.

I was actually ok with this understanding, although I thought it would be very difficult to explain it to my friends. It would be awkward enough explaining why we call ourselves "Blessed" children, but it would be even stranger trying to explain how my friend was NOT a Blessed Child because they have this Original Sin, which they were cursed with from birth. Anyway, since I

did well in school, and I grew up generally a happy person, I did feel special and somewhat better off than my friends in school. However, when I entered college, my concept of being special was severely challenged when I met friends who were in many ways better than me, both internally and externally. This made me question more deeply about the meaning and value of being a Blessed Child.

It wasn't until many years later, when I became the Youth Education Dept Director, and was in the position to teach younger Blessed Children about the meaning and value of being a Blessed Child that this revelation came to me, partially out of a desperation to receive an answer.

The Principle states that the original value of an entity is determined by the entity's original purpose with which it was created and man's desire for it. So the value of a Blessed child depends on understanding the original purpose of a Blessed Child and our own desire to achieve that purpose. So what is the purpose of a Blessed Child? The answer to this is connected to the original purpose with which God created Adam and Eve: To fulfill the 3 Great Blessings. The 3 Great Blessings (To be fruitful, multiply, and have dominion) represents God's greatest gift to humanity: First, the ability to fully mature oneself and become perfect. Second, the ability to create a beautiful family based on true love.

And third, the ability to have ownership over and experience the joy of everything that God created for us. As a parent, God wanted to give these three great Blessings to His children. Unfortunately, due to the fall, God could not witness the fulfillment of these 3 Great Blessings by His children. And although people have strived throughout history to achieve these 3 Great Blessings, it was not possible...until True Parents came. And on the foundation of the many conditions that 1st Generation set to remove fallen nature, they were given the Blessing, and went through a process of engrafting onto God's original lineage, allowing us to be born as Blessed Children. I won't go into that process now, but I do feel it is important to understand in order to fully value the historical process that took place to reverse what happened at the time of the Fall.

As a result, Blessed Children are like Adam and Eve before the fall. And hence we are among the first to once again have the freedom to pursue and achieve the 3 Great Blessings given by God. And that's a very special privilege and Blessing that we have been given...a privilege that comes with great responsibility.

Thank you for reading. If you have any questions or comments about youth education or the department, please write me at naokimi@gmail.com. Take care, and may God bless you and your family. ❖

THE NEW VOICES OF OUR GENERATION

Taking on the Challenge, Reaching the Mountain Top

By Kimikami Miyake

On February 17th and 18th, seventeen Jr. STF participants and staff of the greater New York Area took on a hike up Bear Mountain in its shivering, cold environment as part of their leadership training. Middle and high school students gathered the first day to receive guidance on following our conscience, leading a life by which God can feel great pride and joy, and understanding the components of upholding absolute sexual ethics in their lives.

As part of their leadership training, each participant contributed to the overall hiking program. Some gave presentations and led discussions regarding the topics mentioned above while others organized and facilitated core values activities and reflections along the hike. Deep insights and new realizations were made throughout the two days, each having discovered a higher scope of understanding in who they are in front of God as their ever loving parent.

Pastor of the WestRock Family Church, Reverend Andrew Compton, and WestRock Youth Minister, Hanako Taura, led the entourage of youth through safe yet at times difficult passage. Activities were conducted along the flat surfaces of the mountains

where the participants learned more about the value in bringing people together and amongst them, building up a family that's united and loving towards God, as the heavenly parent of all humanity. Everlasting life-affirming principles were also applied throughout the hike, such as challenging one's

Reflections

The first part of the hike all the way to the summit was like our portion of responsibility to prove to God that we are doing this for you. There was a feeling of victorious ownership when we got to the summit and very peaceful

Also, the core value activities were great because a lot of time and effort was used to create these activities, especially the reflection questions. Furthermore, my goals were achieved throughout this challenge, because I really felt God's presence and Him cheering and giving us true love to whoever participated in the challenge. - Pilsun K.

I really, truly felt God's presence because I felt like God was always behind me with open arms ready to catch us and cheering on. The internal guidance yesterday definitely set a good mood and motivation for this hike. The CV's were well planned out and I learned so much from them, especially from the reflections. - Sayaka A.

I realized that if our focus is related to God, we can have much more energy to substantially create something. It was a great time to challenge ourselves, reflect, and be grateful toward God. The top of the mountain felt rewarding and was sooo B-E-A-Utiful. I also loved core values activity because it had a profound meaning and was able to apply core values into real life scenarios. I really thought the hike overall was great. - Hyanghwa K. ❖



limitations or keeping God all the way, which empowered the participants with the desire to apply them in their everyday lives.

This hike left the youth fully content for what they've learned, gained and how they've grown within a limited amount of time. All left with a sense of resolve and determination to improve their spiritual lives and see the world around them with a clearer perspective on how to best treat all people within God's human family.

because we made a promise to God to prove we can comfort Him and we kept that promise. - Yoshitaka G.

This was very interesting because the path kinda represented our lives. Our obstacles we had to face. The reward for getting by is the amazing view. I think God was trying to convey beauty. - Emre A.

I really enjoyed this hiking challenge because God was included!

ULTRA Teen Choice Promotes Abstinence for Youth

by Richard Urban, co-founder of ULTRA Teen Choice

Six years after they started a small nonprofit to promote abstinence education in Washington, long-overdue credit will be granted to Unificationists Richard and Stacey Urban, whose nonprofit, ULTRA Teen Choice, will lead the fourth celebration of Abstinence Awareness Week in Washington, DC, from March 8 to March 14, 2009. Washington youth, including Howard University students, will speak out at a forum on March 9 at the Howard University School of Business Auditorium, at Georgia Avenue and Fairmont St. NW, Washington, DC, from 6 pm

to 9 pm. The topic of the youth forum is "Marriage and Family Matter: Abstinence is a Core Strength of the Community." Recording artist Angelia Robinson, who performed at the Global Peace Festival, will perform "It Ain't Goin' Down" at the forum. Additionally, Diane Sims-Moore of Families First DC and Kenny Barnes of Root, Inc., will speak, and a parent panel will voice the support and concerns of parents regarding sexual abstinence. Community service organizations will display information and provide educational information.

ULTRA Teen choice is working to provide a voice for about half of the youth in Washington, DC, who

have never had sexual intercourse, as well as for those who decide to make a fresh start. With its lopsided emphasis on promoting condoms and so-called "safer sex," Washington, DC, still has the highest rates of both new HIV infections and existing HIV infections in the nation. Richard and Stacey have worked diligently to show a better way forward for the youth of Washington, DC.

ULTRA (Urban Life Training and Reality Assessment) Teen Choice was founded in 2002 by the Urban couple, who always have had a heart for community service, and especially for helping young people to be successful in abstaining from sex before

marriage, and from drugs and alcohol.

Richard and his colleagues have reached out to some 3,000 Washington, DC, youth in the past six years with programs on HIV/AIDS-prevention, youth-led peer-counseling, and the benefits of forming "accountability relationships" with college mentors and adults.

Most recently, ULTRA Teen Choice teamed up with Pilgrim Baptist Church in Northeast Washington to serve 50 youth with the Healthy-Intimate-Personal-Relationship-Education Program. The program was funded by a grant from the National Center for Fathering and the DC Healthy Marriage and Relationships Coalition (now

see **Abstinence** on page 24

THE NEW VOICES OF OUR GENERATION



Scouts Camp in the Snow at Dolly Sods, West Virginia

by Douglas Burton

photo by www.peterholden.us

On a snowy parking lot of the New Hope Academy in West Lanham Hills, Maryland, on Sunday night (March 1), a troop of 17 exhausted boys and six weary men piled out of their vans and cars to conclude an outdoor tradition that has come to epitomize America's first Unificationist Boy Scout troop. All had packed their food and bedding on their backs and hiked for six hours into one of America's largest wilderness parks, camped near a bog on Feb. 28, and rambled on and off trails for hours the next day, stumbling wearily back to their vehicles at dusk to begin the 200-mile drive back to the Washington, DC, area. Ten years after the founding of Troop 1212, no annual trip remains as challenging or as storied as this annual winter backpacking hike into West Virginia's Dolly Sods Wilderness Area near Davis, West Virginia. On some trips

the overnight temperatures have plummeted to 11 degrees below zero, whereas this last trip was comparatively balmy with overnight temperatures in the mid-20's. When trails



are buried by snow, the Scouts use their maps and compasses with high seriousness. Starting out this time, the boys were disappointed that little snow was on the ground, but they awoke the next day with about two inches of snow on their tents.

The destination of their hike this year was the stand of red spruce and pine ensconced around a large upland bog in the northern end of the park at about 4,500 feet. Land there is beyond cell-phone range, seemingly out of the reach of civilization, and some say its tundra-like

surface exudes an eerie, gray, other-worldly beauty.

Why camp in such forbidding conditions? It's a test of scouting skills (food preparation, mapping, compass, and

choosing equipment). Each hiker carried two liters of water, his share of the food, a sleeping bag, ground cushion and a piece of equipment such as a stove or a tent. Such trips also usually lead to a unique bonding of the boys, virtually all of whom are second-generation children of parents who were married at Madison Square Garden in 1982. The hike route was planned by Scout Master James Boothby but it was revised in close and frequent consultation with the senior boy leader, Theo Wilkening. Theo's father, Assistant

Scoutmaster Christoph Wilkening, led the boys in prayer Sunday morning. Other adults making the trip were Assistant Scoutmasters Jonathan Clark and Peter Holden and Troop committeemen Doug Burton and Nick Kernan. Troop 1212 alumni Jacob Mas and George Burton also pitched in as mentors.

Under the guidance of Scoutmaster James Boothby, who formed the troop in 1999, Troop 1212 has produced 21 Scouts who have obtained the coveted rank of Eagle. Several alumni of the troop have gone on to study at prestigious universities, including New York University, Cornell, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Three are serving in the U.S. Army, including Ian Scott, Richard Abendroth, and David Muhlbock. Unlike most troops in the area, Troop 1212 retains the interest of many boys into their midteens, and even those who "age out" of Scouts at 18 continue to camp together or meet in an informal fellowship of blessed children in Bowie, Maryland. ❖

Abstinence from page 23

Families First DC); it ran from July until December 2008, with accountability relationships still ongoing. The average weekly attendance was about 15 youth. In total, 24 weekly sessions were provided. Fourteen youth were matched with adult accountability partners, and that relationship is ongoing.

Topics included HIV prevention, counseling on resisting peer pressure and learning assertive skills, relationship skills, financial literacy and a theological perspective on the human fall. Lectures on "true family values" helped youth understand the real meaning of the Fall of Adam and Eve. Youth from the program who volunteered received training in order to provide peer-counseling

sessions. Additionally, Cofounder Richard Urban and some youth counselors also appeared on the "Spiritually Speaking" radio program three times on Heaven 1580 AM.

A highlight of the program was a so-called partner-matching dinner to promote the idea of accountability. Youth staff from Pilgrim Baptist Church and parents volunteered to be paired with young adults seeking mentors. The mentors meet regularly to help youth keep themselves accountable for their abstinence pledges as well as to provide support and encouragement in many other ways.

Many parents are enthusiastic supporters of ULTRA Teen Choice. Michelle Hinnant-Spencer thanked ULTRA Teen Choice for involving her daughter and said that she wished there had been something like it when she was

growing up. She said that her daughter has an opportunity to make things right as an adult. "I'm proud of her for making the choice to be part of this group," she added.

Regina Wells, a grandmother, spoke of receiving mentoring and support from her own grandmother, and, as a result she remained abstinent until she was married. She added that she will now stand behind her granddaughter, Daryn's, decision to stay abstinent before marriage.

Said one youth: "I walked into this program thinking it could teach me nothing I didn't already know. This program has taught me things beyond my grasp of knowledge when it comes to relationships and abstinence. Coming into my teenage years, I feel I've been taught what to watch out for and the important 'do's and don'ts'." Another commented: "I feel as

though this program has taught me to be a better person and better prepared for pressures on sex. It has helped me to understand why you should wait."

ULTRA Teen Choice has developed a training manual and DVDs to help individuals, schools, churches and organizations to replicate the program in other states. Mrs. Ella Byrne of Seattle, Washington, is the new director of the Northwest Chapter of ULTRA Teen Choice. Mrs. Byrne has initiated a "Pure Love" essay contest that will be administered in Seattle and other cities throughout the country.

To get involved in the forum event at the Howard University School of Business Auditorium on March 9th, or to find out more about ULTRA Teen Choice, visit www.ultrateenchoice.org or call (202) 558-5550. ❖

The Journey of the Action Hero

by Pastor Mike Yakawich

This is from a sermon given to the Montana Church on February 15, 2009

My last sermon was on "The Journey of the Watchful". In that sermon I spoke on the value and importance of staying watchful, focused, alert and ready for the calling. In the Holy Bible we read of the dynamics of the people relating to Jesus. People prepared to receive the Messiah then meet Jesus and reject him. Philosophies and scriptures that lead directly to Jesus were misinterpreted and convinced themselves that Jesus was not the Messiah since he did things so unorthodox and to them so unbiblical. Therefore, we must not repeat the mistakes of the past. As Jesus said, in St. Luke 18:8 "Nevertheless when the Son of man comes, shall he find faith on the earth?" He does not say this lightly, he was very serious. Like the man who comes in the middle of the night and (St. Mat 24:44) "for in such an hour as you think not the Son of man comes" or the virgins (Matt 25) not prepared and cannot enter into. We must be those prepared, diligent and watchful for the Lord's return. What have you found in your own walk with God in these past weeks?

Before I go any further, I realize how much the economy may be on your minds. I do not wish to distract you from my sermon. However, I did read how the economy is really affecting the banks in Japan. Readers Digest reported, "Japanese banks have been hit almost as hard as American banks. The Origami Bank has folded, and we hear the Sumo Bank has gone belly-up too. Bonsai Bank plans to cut some of its branches. Karaoke Bank is for sale and is going for a song. Meanwhile, staff at Karate Bank got the chop, and analysts reports that there is something fishy going on at Sushi Bank where workers fear they may get a raw deal."

Today, my sermon passes on from now watchful and alert, after you find the Lord, what should you do next? Do you walk away and go back to your normal routine, ignore the revelations or dreams you have and think of it as mere coincidence or accident? NO! Once you discover due to your diligence, you must act. As I look at our young people, I cannot help but encourage them to see who they are is God's gift to them. However, who they become will be their gift to God. Maturity and character development takes time. What your parents are teaching you now is important for the future. They are training you to become great men and great women. Even the action heroes had to go through some tough times in order to be worthy, able and willing to save others lives. Therefore, are your actions speaking louder than your words?

What is a Hero? I know by giving blood you can be a hero. Webster's Dictionary states a hero, "A person of great strength and courage, any person for their exploits, bravery, valor, achievements, qualities and regarded as an ideal or model." It is in volunteering for your church. Also, it can be volunteering and joining other groups in the community who could use your help. Visiting people in the hospital or a rest home is also a wonderful way of feeding and giving to others. As Covette

Robert commented, "Three billion people on the face of the earth go to bed hungry every night, but four billion people go to bed every night hungry for a simple word of encouragement and recognition." If we can inherit the heart of Jesus, to inspire both in words and in deeds, we truly will be people who feed others. Jesus encouraged St. Peter to be just that.

In this chapter, John 21, Jesus is already crucified and now appears for the third time to the disciples. They are fishing and he instructs them to cast out their nets. Peter is so excited that he casted himself into the sea and swam to Jesus. When they all arrived they sat with Jesus over a fire and ate fish and bread. After dinner, Jesus gives them specific instructions. Jesus said to Peter (1) to feed, (2) to love, (3) to follow and later in this chapter he went on to say (4) to forgive. The disciples were all called not only to watch for Jesus, but to take on their missions after Jesus departed. In short, he asked the disciples to put their faith into action.

Become a neighborhood hero! I think about this in a simple way that I call the "Four Position Neighborhood Foundation." Do we know our neighbor on all sides of us? Do we know them well enough to know their names and have their phone numbers as to call them in case of an emergency? Do we talk with them; share our garden, our goods with each other? Have we, over time, ate with them and invited them, even given them the church bulletin or newsletter? Talked with them about your faith? Yes, witnessing is feeding (faith) in action.

Ask you youth about Xbox and other video games that they play. Call To Duty, Oblivion, Fall Out, these too are examples of the super heroes fighting evil. And if you notice, who is the super hero in these? You the player is. There are other heroes you may have such as sports heroes, movie heroes, and or spiritual heroes. My grandma, my parents, my spiritual parents, my wife are some of my heroes. There are two great spiritual heroes in my life. They are Jesus and Father Moon. Jesus brought me much closer to Heavenly Father. Father Moon brought me to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, my faith, my responsibility and profound relationship with God.

Father Moon explains, "Think 'I' am the one responsible for the Unification Movement," and "You need to emphasize responsibly more than love and freedom to your children." And "If you accomplish your responsibly, freedom will naturally come to you." I am sure that Elvis Presley and Father Moon will have much wonderful conversation in heaven. For all his faults, Elvis was a man of sheer energy and when he performed he gave of himself. He said once, "Ambition is a dream with a V-8 engine." We need such power in our lives don't we? In all my times being around Father Moon, he has exemplified this love for God with the energy of a race car. I fished with him in Alaska for one week where even I in my 30's could not keep pace with him in his 70's.

Have you ever played Su Doku? It is a number-placing puzzle that started in Japan and became famous here in the United States through the New

York Post. Once you are in the groove, it is actually easier to solve. Logic will lead you to a single solution. As the book states, "If, in time, you can shake yourself free of written pencil marks, you will see the Su Doku puzzle for what it is, a thing of beauty!" stated Wayne Gould. Faith in Action is very similar. When serving others becomes second nature, it is a thing of beauty. You become a hero without knowing it.



Jesus. He was a doer. He walked the walk. And why is he so well remembered, because he willingly went the way of the cross. Now imagine this for a moment, he did not have to go the way of the cross. There was no gun pointed at him. Yet, he loved God, the Jewish people and all people so much that he went this way. He was a real life, super Action hero.

I think this is why so many action heroes have become so popular lately. They remind us of Jesus, the Lord of the Second Advent. Rocket man, Iron man, Spiderman, Batman, Bat woman, and so many others are similar to the heart of Jesus defending the world against evil. They put their life on the line. They defend the world from all evil. We recently saw the Transformers. Here again good is battling against evil. I saw the new version of the Fantastic Four and they too had to face many personal challenges, mature and

grow in order to see their own purpose and way to serve the community.

I read in a recent publication called True Family Gateway to Heaven about how we each take time and even go through personal stages of maturation. A boy does not become a man overnight. A lady does not become a mother in a day." We must realize that only when we greet spring for the first time will the flowers bloom. We must not become pitiful souls who have never done so. Just as a Flower goes through summer and autumn before blooming and bearing fruit, we too are to undergo a similar process to bear fruit." There is so much we can learn from Creation. Walking in the mountains yesterday, praying and appreciating Mother Nature, I could see how all things take time and effort. An aspen tree takes many years and many seasons to become such a wonder along the river bank. It is in the effort, the toil and the diligence that we too become people of action and heroes in our own right.

What about in our own lives. Are we heroes in our home? Are we defending evil in the community? Do we put ourselves on the line or do we lock our doors and forget about the world? The journey of the action here is the journey of Jesus and each of us to feed, to love, to follow and to forgive. When Jesus said become perfect as your father in heaven is perfect, I believe he was giving us the mandate to take action...to put our faith into action.

I will end with a brief story from Billy Graham. It indicates to me that we must always put our faith into action. If we do not, it will be very hard to inspire and lead others. "Reverend Billy Graham tells of a time early in his ministry when he arrived in a small town to preach a sermon. Wanting to mail a letter, he asked a young boy where the post office was? When the boy had told him, Dr. Graham thanked him and said, "If you'll come to the Baptist Church this evening, you can hear me telling everyone how to get to Heaven." "I don't think I'll be there," the boy said. "You don't even know your way to the Post Office." Let us be people who lead by example. Whether we are seen by others as Super Heroes or not, let us be people who cannot be heard because our actions are speaking louder than words. ❖

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PAUL
CARLSON

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

This article is about survivors. Not the TV show, but ordinary people making it through difficult times, whether natural and manmade. It always helps to be prepared.

DISASTERS

Here in California we're always experiencing earthquakes. As a child I was thrown, tricycle and all, into the air by a jolt from the nearby San Andreas fault. Folks here await the fabled Big One, and make basic preparations.

Other parts of the world experience tornados, tsunamis, wildfires, and more. Not to mention manmade trouble such as military attacks, terrorism, and rioting.

Most Californians have food and batteries stashed away, knowing that stores will collapse and water lines break, and outside help might be days in coming. Faithful Mormons do more, keeping a year's worth of preserved foods, plus a 72 Hour Kit to grab if fleeing one's home in a hurry.

Several of our UC members are leaders in disaster preparation. Rev. Ken Hardman prepares study materials, and leads classes, to help people get ready. He has many simple tips, such as keeping a flashlight and a pair of shoes in a plastic bag, tied to one leg of your bed. That way, if a disaster strikes at night, you'll have a handy light, and won't be so threatened by broken glass.

Many of our members have taken First Aid classes, and some belong to CERT programs. Our Boy Scout troops learn many relevant skills. Others have military experience that, one hopes, will never become necessary close to home.

SURVIVAL

There is another level to survival. Unfortunately, in any disaster, evil people will take advantage of others. Fraud becomes rampant, as it did after Hur-

Survivors

ricane Katrina. This can almost always be avoided, by acting with caution.

Worse, in the aftermath of a major disaster, violence often erupts. Stores are looted, then set on fire. If you have food stored at home, violent gangs might attempt to take it away from you.

Bullets are cheap, and even the dumbest crook can shoot enough of them to defeat you. Maybe even after you've already offered them your food and stuff. (Another problem is, that crook might also be interested in your wife and daughters.)

In a large enough disaster, communications will be out, and the police overwhelmed. What to do then?

Survival training

ing expert Michael Sarkisian

has a system called ASK. That is: Attitude, Skills, Kit. It's his official creation, and will someday appear in book form. A determined attitude comes first, as without it, focus is lost and everything goes wrong. Skills are important: how to find potable water, what to eat or avoid, how to hide and where, and who to trust as partners in survival.

His urban/wilderness survival kits are awesome, with three sizes from pocket to pouch to backpack. It's amazing how many handy gadgets are available in rugged yet miniature form. With these devices in hand, one's chances are vastly increased, especially if you're forced to leave home. (In urban areas you cannot depend on the car--the roads will probably be impassible.)

Sarkisian also teaches about the most effective means to defend your companions and property. (Techniques that would make Rambo and Crocodile Dundee jealous.)

PEACE

We stand for Heavenly peace. So, are we pacifists, like the Jains and the Quakers? Some of our members are, and they're welcome to that calm belief, however it's not our official teaching. While the Bible and Divine Principle describe some wonderful acts of unity (such as with Jacob and Esau), they also speak of times when evil had to be defeated by force of arms.

Whether a disaster is natural or manmade (or both, like a genetically engineered epidemic), believers ought to be resolute, and 'wise as serpents,'

in order to survive. Of course we should assist other survivors, as our members did in New Orleans, and following the huge Indian Ocean tsunami in 2004.

Unificationists inherit a tradition of tenacious survival. Korean folks songs (one of which became a Holy Song) describe their long resistance to Imperial Japanese occupiers, and how those partisan warriors survived in bitterly cold Mongolia, raiding southward at will.

Overall, it is the heart of a Godly person to share, and it's also their duty to defeat evil. To stop evil people in their tracks, before they can do further harm to others. Sometimes that means calling the police, but on rare occasions,

jumping in with the harshest methods available! From urban-sidewalk Good Samaritans to the passengers on United flight 93, ordinary citizens have done so.

GUNS

While your author supports the Second Amendment, and hopes that modern socialists do not negate this important right, only recently have I learned to shoot. This thrilled many of my friends and loved ones, and brought out the pacifist in others.

Safety is crucial when handling firearms, and hitting what you aim at helps too. Nervous about guns? That's fine--I sure was!

Last year the US Supreme Court affirmed what the American Founders knew: that a free people can and should defend themselves. You can either do that yourself, or expect someone else to take the risks and responsibilities for you. If they do.

Mr. Sarkisian points out that target shooting

can be compared to Zen archery, as a form of meditation. (It's noisier, but there are awesome electronic headsets available.)

Shooting can also be a way of building mind-body unity. 'First person shooter' video games provide some measure of coordination, but there is nothing like hands-on target practice to hone one's skills and confidence.

Several of our Second Generation youth have graduated from prestigious military academies, such as West Point. True Father fishes and, less often, goes hunting. Kook Jin 'Justin' Moon designed the well-respected Kahr handguns, which are now used by the NYPD and others, to fight crime both on duty and off. No doubt they've saved numerous innocent lives.

The usual alternative, when faced with dire circumstances, is to make a fast (and probably unpleasant) transition to the spirit world. However, it's well within Unificationist tradition to prepare and survive, and to help other good people do so.

CONCLUSION

In order to best serve God and humanity, we need to stay right here on this Earth, and for as long as possible. We can't be swatted down by common difficulties, or even by extraordinary disasters. The Bible says that believers will face trials and tribulations--and that they'll emerge in triumph.

Whenever possible, we ought to be a 'living sacrifice,' and continue acting in service to God. Also, to exert ourselves for other people's salvation, in some effective and lasting fashion. We need a physical body to accomplish this, so please be prepared. ❖



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| Matching, 1st Generation | firstgenmatchmaker.com |
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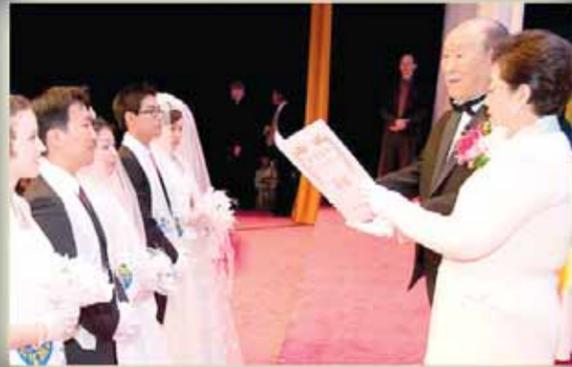
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