

Our Korean Family's Publications

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Korean Family publications, l. to r.: Headquarters Bulletin, Weekly Religion, VOC News, "Forum," New Banner Guard, IFVC Bulletin, Tongil Segye, Way of the World.

As the body of our movement expands, communication between the various organs and members comes to have increasing importance to keep the whole body functioning smoothly. In any movement, including our own, publications help to fulfill this vital function. The Korean Family, being the most advanced in terms of organization and ideology, serves as a model for the rest of our movement around the world. In this 'Special Feature' we will examine the Korean Family's extensive publications network and the people involved in its operation.

The Beginning -- Sungwha Monthly

The first publication of the Unification Church was a one-sheet newspaper called "Sungwha" (which means "building harmony") Monthly, founded in 1954 along with the Sungwha Student's Association. In those days it was of very poor quality, but the members out in the field were always glad to receive it. In 1968 its format was changed to a magazine form, and in 1970 its name was changed to "Tongil Segye" (Unified World), and Mr. Yoon-ki Choi became the editor.

Tongil Segye



L. to R.: Mr. Yoon-ki Choi, Miss Chong-sook Park, staff of Tongil Segye

Mr. Choi (30) came into the Family in 1967, and is one of the 777 blessed couples. Before being assigned as editor of Tongil Segye, he worked in several different provinces as a pioneer and church leader.

The assistant editor, Miss Chong-sook Park (23) joined the Family 3 years ago, along with her physical family, who all joined together.

The purpose of Tongil Segye, according to Mr. Choi, is to be the official organizational publication of the Korean Church, to promote Family culture and character, and to report about Family activities. It has

about 100 pages, booklet style like Way of the World, and has a very attractive inside format with good artwork and fancy titles. In the front of each issue is a fold-out pictorial, showing photos of Family activities in Korea and around the world. Tongil Segye and Way of the World often exchange photos, and share the same office together.

To give an example of the contents of Tongil Segye, the June issue carried an editorial by Dr. Sang Hun Lee criticizing the rapid industrialization in Korea and its bad effect on the environment; one of our Leader's sermons; some poems by Family members; a letter from an overseas reader; and articles from two professors, CARP advisors, on Descartes's "Philosophy of Method" and Reinhold Niebuhr's "Theology of Justice." Also included were reports of Korean Family activities, testimonies, an interview with an outstanding Family member, and a simplified Divine Principle lecture by Mr. Young-tyang Chang. Material for Tongil Segye is sent in by members from all over the country.

Weekly Religion

While Tongil Segye is the main "internal" publication of the Korean Family, Weekly Religion is the "external." Our Leader initiated Weekly Religion to support the unification of religions in Korea, and to lay the foundation for a journalistic system capable of putting out a daily newspaper in the future. It was founded in July 4, 1971, with Mr. Jae-suk Lee as president and Mr. Chang as editor.

Background of Pres. Jae-suk Lee



Pres. Jae-suk Lee

Pres. Lee joined the Family in 1956 while still a Junior in law school. The next year he dropped out to become a pioneer for the Church, and became the church leader in Chonnam and then Incheon Church. While leading the Incheon Church he continued his law studies, graduating in 1958, and then went on to become church leader in Iri and Taejon.

In 1962 he came to Seoul to become training director of the Main Church's Divine Principle training sessions.

In 1966, our Leader told him to organize the "Christian Ecumenical Movement Headquarters", which was formed to organize church leaders for Christian Unity. For this purpose Mr. Lee organized a seminar for Christian Dialogue. In 1969, Mr. Lee sponsored a lecture by Mr. Nam-dong Suh, Dean of Divinity at Yonsei University, at which Dr. Suh gave a treatise on his study of the Divine Principle. Dr. Suh's remarks were very favorable to the Principle and our movement, and caused quite a

stir among Christians, most of whom bitterly opposed our movement at that time. As a result, Dr. Suh himself was criticized and accused by many of the established church leaders. With his wide experience working with Christians in the ecumenical movement, Pres. Lee was well suited to become the president of our new ecumenical newspaper.

The Purpose of Weekly Religion



The Weekly Religion Office -- Many of the workers are out on reporting assignments

The slogan of Weekly Religion is "To lead the World Spiritual Revolution; to realize the Unity of Religions; and to establish the World Welfare Society."

To date there are Protestant, Catholic, and Buddhist publications in Korea, but Weekly Religion is the first inter-religious newspaper in Korea. At the start, Weekly Religion faced persecution; the established churches boycotted the publication, and even managed to have Weekly Religion evicted from its first offices in the Korean Christian Center Building in Seoul.

Pres. Lee said "They persecuted us through their publications in the past, so they are afraid we'll do the same to them through Weekly Religion. However, ever since the Weekly Religion was published, we have never criticized any other denomination, or publicized our own Church."

In spite of the boycott and persecution, the Weekly Religion continues to expand, and now has a circulation of 20,000. It has: a fulltime staff of 24 reporters and editors working to publish the 16-page weekly. The reporters are very active collecting news: from all over the country, and they also receive international religious news from Family correspondents around. In July of 1972, an eight page Japanese edition of Weekly Religion began to be published, and now has a circulation of 5,000 in Japan.

Because of its uniqueness, people have a great deal of interest in Weekly Religion, and it does a great service for the sects and denominations in Korea. There are 110 sects and 13 major denominations in Korea, but only a few can afford their own publications. Weekly Religion provides representation for those groups which cannot afford their own newspapers. For example, there are 18 denominations of Buddhism in Korea, but only one has its own newspaper. Weekly religion can provide a forum for the other seventeen.

Another valuable service of The Weekly Religion is in its newly published Pan-Religious Annual, a compendium of all the religious groups in Korea. This too is being boycotted by the established churches, but is slowly finding its way into the libraries of many denominations.

Testimony of Mr. Young-tyang Chang



Mr. Chang talks with staff members at an editorial conference

Mr. Chang (52) is the mainstay of Korean Family publications, being involved with journalism all his life, and being instrumental in forming the Family's publications network since the beginning.

He is now the editor of Weekly Religion, Soonkong Bo (VOC News), and manages a poetry magazine called "Grass and Star."

He studied English Literature at Nippon University in Japan before World War II, returning home shortly before the Liberation in 1945. He worked as an interpreter for the military government, and then as an interpreter in the Korean Industrial Bank in Iri City, where he became editor of the Bank's in-house newspaper.

During the Korean War, he returned to Seoul where he became a Korean correspondent for The Reader's Digest and The Army Times. After the Armistice, he became a journalist for Hankook Ilbo (Korea Times).

Mr. Chong joined the Unification Church in 1956, and published the first book about the Family, an account of his experiences in his first month in the Unification Church. These experiences included visions of spiritual light, receiving spiritual fire or heat, and receiving a poem about Heaven through automatic writing. Shortly thereafter he quit his job at the paper and devoted his life to the Church.

He became church leader in his hometown of Kimjae in Cholla Buk-Do in 1959, where he served for four years. Then he returned to Seoul to work with late President Hyo-won Eu in editing the "Discourse on the

Divine Principle," which he then translated into Japanese. Both Mr. Eu and Mr. Chang suffered diseases during and after the publication of the books, and Mr. Chang was bedridden for a year. While he was still in bed, our Leader came to him and told him to begin work on a new English-language monthly, The Way of the World. The first issue came out in Sept. 1969, and became authorized by the Government in January, 1970.

The Way of the World



The staff of The Way of the World, l. to r.: Hal McKenzie, Han-Joo Cha, Miss Ok-gi Kim, Young-tyang Chang, Lynne Doerfler, John Price

At first Mr. Chang, Mrs. Won-pok Choi, and Mr. Eun-hyung Kang as translator, worked on The Way of the World. Longtime readers of The Way of the World can appreciate the difficulties experienced at first with many typographical errors and lack of experience in Western techniques and English diction. Because of the inexperienced typesetters, the proofs used to come back from the printers with hundreds of mistakes on one page, so that proofreading was a time-consuming process, and the proofs would soon become unreadable for the profusion of red-inked proofreader's marks. To alleviate that situation, in May 1972, Hal McKenzie, Lynne Doerfler, and John Price came to Korea to work on Family publications.

Mr. Han-joo Cha has been working on The Way of the World since January 1971. He joined the Family in 1961 in Pusan. Before hearing the Principle, he had spent long hours meditating in the mountains, where he received that Korea would be a great nation. After he heard the Principle, he was indescribably happy. He became a pioneer and served in several provinces before being drafted into the Army in 1965. While he was in the Army, he taught himself English, because he received that he should learn English in order to help Western Family members. After leaving the Army, he became cultural director of Pusan Church, then church leader of Namhae Island and in 1971 came to Seoul to work on The Way of the World. He did most of the editing work until November 1972, when Hal McKenzie became chief editor of The Way of the World.

Miss Kim Ok-gi has been involved with the Family since 1957, when she was a nine-year old schoolgirl in Taegu. One day in the market, where her mother used to sell dry goods, she met an old "halmoni" (grandmother) who used to chant Christian songs while selling flowers and paintings for the Family. The halmoni invited her to the Taegu Unification Church Sunday School, and Miss Kim enjoyed it so much that she kept on attending for three years, even though she did not understand the Principle. In 1960 our Leader visited nearby Kyongju, and she saw him for the first time. She had of ten dreamed about a wonderful wise man with a long beard, and when she met our Leader, she was sure that he was the one of whom she'd dreamed, though he didn't have a beard.

Afterwards she became a dedicated student member, and was very active in the Sungwha Students Association. While in high school she had many spiritual experiences which confirmed her faith in the Principle. After graduating from High School, she studied English Literature for two years, and came to work at the Way of the World in May, 1971.

Lynne Doerfler was invited to Korea along with Hal McKenzie to be a secretary for international missions. Lately she has been hard at work with John Price editing Dr. Sang-hun Lee's VOC and Unification Thought books. She met the Family in March, 1969, while in Appleton, Wisconsin, and moved to the Washington DC Center in January 1971.

John Price joined the English Family in September, 1969. He originally came to Korea as part of the 25-member International Students for Victory Over Communism tour in May 1972, but our Leader appointed him to stay on and help the Seoul Western Center. In addition to editing work, he witnesses successfully on the Army bases and embassies.

Also contributing to The Way of the World is David Carlson from Colorado, who joined the Family six months ago while in the army, and has since left the army and is working as a missionary for the

Unification Church in Korea; and David Charnow, who met the Family in New York in 1968, and came "to Korea to work for the US Peace Corps. Although very busy with Peace Corps work, he helped edit The Way of the World -- before Lynne and Hal came to Korea.

Finally Hal McKenzie met the Family in Philadelphia in October 1968 and after serving the Family in New Haven, Connecticut, and working for FLF in Washington, DC, was invited by our Leader to Korea to edit The Way of the World, and lead the Seoul Western Center.

The Family Printing Plant at Sootaek Ri



Newly purchased type-making machines

Practically all of the publishing that the Korean Family does is at the large printing plant at Sootaek Ri (pronounced "Sootaengni"), which is in the same building as Tongil Industries. Some of the printing presses and other machines were manufactured by Tongil Industries, copying from foreign models. The machines and facilities are not up-to-date by Western standards; they use the type-setting process and all of the type-setting and composition is done by hand. Nevertheless, the 43 hard-working Family workers at the plant manage to put out between six and seven weekly, monthly, and yearly publications, in addition to witnessing material and a few outside jobs.



Type-collectors collect type for the type-setters

Recently the printing shop underwent some expansion and modernization. Some new type-making machines were bought, and the printing plant area expanded. Also new type-setters skilled in setting English type were hired so that Way of the World and other English Language publications could be more easily published there.

Other Publications

As our movement has expanded new publications have been added to fulfill various needs of different branches of the Family. Below is a list of other publications printed by our Korean Family:

1. Forum -- This is the official publication of the Professor's World Peace Academy, formed by our Family just this May. It publishes scholarly papers written by the professor members, as well as news and reports of activities.

2. New Banner Guard -- the official publication of CARP, it publishes news, articles and reports dealing with the work of CARP.

3. Soongkong-Bo (VOC News) -- This is an eight-page newspaper published by IFVC for politicians, National Assembly members, and alumni of IFVC training sessions. It has a circulation of about 5,000.



The type-setters arranging type on wooden forms for printing

4. IFVC Bulletin -- An English Language magazine published by IFVC for its foreign branches around the world.

5. Headquarters Bulletin -- This ten-page monthly is put out by the HSA-UWC Headquarters to inform members and staff about news and developments dealing with the operation of the Church.

6. Rainbow -- This small magazine is put quarterly by the 777 Blessed Couples Association, an organization formed to promote unity and mutual help between the 777 blessed couples. It gives helpful and inspiring articles about family life and character.

7. Grass and Star -- This is another "external" publication of our church. Its purpose is to promote the development of national poetry and literature, and provide a forum for new poets and writers. It has a circulation of about 4,000. The editor is Dr. Young-mok Kim, a non-Family member hired for this purpose by the church. He is the only non-Family member in the publications staff.

In the Future



Printing The Weekly Religion on a Family-manufactured printing machine

Future plans for the Korean Family Publications system is to expand the facilities at Sootaek Ri still further to begin printing Divine Principle books in English and other languages for Family members all over the world. The introduction of offset-printing techniques has been discussed, but is still a goal far in the future.

We hope this 'Special Feature' has given you some inspiration in seeing how broadly our Family can develop. We pray that we can soon flood the world with heavenly literature!