

## Family Federation Plans Cooperation with Religions in Korea

Chang Shik Yang

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Translated by Lymhwa Kim



The new top leader of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification in Korea has announced a turning point in terms of goals of the Unification movement.

“We will make a religion that contributes to social integration and unity,” said Dr. Chang Shik Yang, president of the Family Federation of World Peace and Unification (FFWPU) of Korea, on February 5, 2013 at his first press conference in his new post. “

“We will turn into the religion that [this] country and its citizens need,” said Dr. Yang. “We are not looking for our benefit as a single denomination but we want to become a life religion and national religion.”

Foundation Day is the day Reverend Dr. Sun Myung Moon, founder of FFWPU, emphasized as “The Day of Peace and Unity” and before he passed away said will be the big turning point for our movement, according to Dr. Yang.

Accordingly, FFWPU will hold the main Foundation Day ceremony on February 22 at the Cheong Shim Peace World Center in Gapyeong, South Korea. Approximately 50,000 people will participate including international former and present Summit leaders.

Before and after the main Foundation Day event there will be other events such as the International Joint Blessing Marriage in which 3,500 couples from 60 nations will attend, the World Summit Assembly, Interreligious Soccer Tournament, and a Multicultural Festival, among other events. The Foundation Day main event and the International Joint Blessing Marriage will be broadcast live via the internet.

“Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon established a Won Mo Pyeong Ae Foundation,” Dr. Yang continued. “To establish this foundation, she donated all of the 50 billion won (about \$ 47 million) which she had received from donors expressing their condolences following Rev. Moon’s [passing] The Foundation will inherit Rev. Moon’s peace vision and educate talented youth to contribute to society,” Dr. Yang said.

The Won Mo Pyeong Ae Foundation is planning to give four billion won (about \$ 3.7 million) as scholarships to 700 scholars selected from a range of countries. They will be chosen regardless of

religious affiliation and on the basis of academic achievement and contributions to social service,” he said.

Dr. Yang also plans to develop an exchange of people and ideas with other religions.

“I will discuss with other religious leaders about ‘How can we prepare for the unification of Korea as a spiritual leader of religion?’” he said. “I will use the connection that Rev. Moon has made to bring people to Korea and to talk over the same table on a common denominator and do pragmatic work.”

Dr. Yang also addressed the recent name change from Unification Church to FFWPU, “[The name] means that families need to be foundations for salvation. We are also studying our theology for applications to everyday life, so we have formed a Task Force.”

Dr. Yang added “My hope for the new [South Korean] government is that it will pursue the prospective momentum between North and South Korea’s relationship. For this [aim] our Tongil Group will support with the foundation that we have built.”

On the topic of the closure of the former North Korean businesses related to FFWPU, Dr. Yang said, “Rev. Moon talked about this a lot and said that we shouldn’t only think about investors’ profit, but we need to be contributing to the development of the country.”

Ho Yeol Ahn, the director of external cooperation of FFWPU, who also attended the press conference said, “It’s not yet determined, but Mr. Sang Kwon Park, chairman of Peace Motors, is trying to enter the distribution industry. And North Korea is positive about it. Chairman Park is considering a retail distributor focused on food, clothes and the life necessities,, similar to existing large retailers such as Home plus and Emart. [well known retail chains in Korea]”