

One Door Closes, Another Opens as Rev. Hyung Jin Moon Visits Pyongyang

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December 19, 2011



Rev. Hyung Jin Moon and his wife Yeon Ah Moon at the birthplace of North Korea's former leader Kim Il Sung.

On the eve of the passing of Kim Jong Il, the Ambassadors for Peace Association, a South Korean civic group partly funded by the Unification Church-linked Tongil Foundation, donated 600 tons of flour to Jungjoo, North Korea, the birthplace of Unification Church Founder Sun Myung Moon, where starvation has been an enduring problem. Rev. Hyung Jin Moon, International President of the Unification Church, confirmed that the wheat flour had been duly distributed to the appropriate recipients when he was received by the acting head of the North Korean state on Dec. 15, 2011.

The Yonhap News Agency, South Korea's largest News Agency, reported on November 30, 2011 that "There have been widespread allegations that the North could divert outside food aid to its elite and military, a key backbone of North Korean leader Kim Jong Il's rule. ... The North has relied on foreign handouts since the late 1990s when it suffered a massive famine that was estimated to have killed 2 million people." However, South Korean Ministry of Unification spokeswoman Soo Jin Park said that the distribution of flour was going well and that "the government plans to make efforts to ensure it can consistently monitor" aid to the North.

Rev. Hyung Jin Moon, youngest son of Rev. Sun Myung Moon, expressed his condolences to the people of North Korea regarding the passing of North Korean leader Kim Jong Il on December 17th, 2011 in the following Twitter message: "News of the sudden death of National Security Chairman Kim Jong-il shocked the entire world. In the Unification Family, let's join together in offering our *jeongseong* (devotion) and prayer for the realization of the peacefully united Korea that God and True Parents desire." For more information on Kim Jong Il's death, see related story: [include link](#).

On December 9, 2011, Rev. Hyung Jin Moon had arrived in Pyongyang, North Korea to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the historic meeting between his father, affectionately known as Father Moon, and dictator Kim Il Sung in North Korea. According to a report from Sang Gwon Park, president of Pyung Hwa Automobile in North Korea, Rev. Hyung Jin Moon was escorted from the airport to the Moranbong Presidential Guest House, at which he partook in a welcoming dinner banquet with representatives of the Korean Asia Pacific Peace Committee (KAPPC).

“The director of KAPPC came in person to accompany Hyung Jin Nim and Yeon Ah Nim in their vehicle. Mr. Dong Yeon Won, vice chairman of the KAPPC, came and joined the delegation for the dinner welcome banquet. Director Kyeong Il Meng, Vice Director Yeong Nam Gwon and Advisor Chun Taek Oh were also present,” Park wrote.

“Many things were said at the welcoming banquet and the atmosphere was truly congenial. There were many references made to True Parents’ words at their visit 20 years ago. Everyone stayed late at the banquet. Even though they were tired at the end, before they retired to their rooms, they thanked True Parents for sending the delegation and blessing them.

According to Park, Vice Chairman Won said, “National Security Chairman Kim Jong Il arranged for every [aspect of the visit] and made available the national welcoming hall as well as the government’s automobiles. I could never forget President Sun Myung Moon. I send my respects to him in consideration of his continuous efforts to bring about the Unification of the Korean fatherland and world peace, especially through sending his beloved son to North Korea on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of his visit.”

Rev. Hyung Jin Moon then visited the birthplace of his father in Jungjoo City, and paid his respects at the tomb of Kim Kyung Gye and Moon Kyung Woo, the parents of Father Moon. He also visited the birthplace of his mother, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, in Anjoo, North Korea.

On December 15, 2011, Kim Yong Nam, president of the Presidium of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly and North Korea’s ceremonial head of state, had a cordial talk with a delegation of the World Peace Federation led by Rev. Hyung Jin Moon, at the Mansudae Assembly Hall. Television News in Pyongyang showed Hyung Jin Moon speaking with North Korea’s parliamentary head Kim Yong Nam.