



**FATHER: "THE VICE PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION OF MR. HYUN JIN MOON"
"ON PRAYER AND THE SPIRIT WORLD" (PART I)**

Introductory Address at the Vice Presidential Inauguration

Rev. Chung Hwan Kwak
July 19, 1998

ESTEEMED leaders and distinguished guests of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification International. It is my great pleasure to welcome you on this historical occasion. Today we have the distinct pleasure to welcome to our ranks a young leader of uncommon potential. It is a day of joy and much hope.

The Family Federation came into existence and has thrived since its inception on the foundation of God's love and blessing. The myriad, worldwide projects founded through the lifelong ministry of Reverend and Mrs. Moon, our True Parents are brought into a unified focus through the Family Federation. Here, the future structure of a peaceful world is established.

Reverend Moon originally had the mission to work with the leaders of all religions and from all areas of human endeavor

to cooperate in realizing God's will for a peaceful and happy world. Sadly this cooperation was blocked. Instead, tragic events drove Reverend Moon onto an isolated and lonely path of rebuilding this original plan unaided. Time and again he re-convened the basic foundations for such a movement, working tirelessly and without complaint through many initiatives until at last he could inaugurate

the Family Federation, and establish it on a secure foundation. This work was carried out through great sacrifice in the midst of persecution and misunderstanding. Nevertheless, by August 1, 1996 leaders from the world over gathered in Washington DC to declare together with Reverend and Mrs. Moon, the official launching of the Family Federation.

In the less than three years since the 1996 inauguration, the Family Federation has expanded immensely. It has done so both at the grass roots level, for example, reaching hundreds of thousands of families in remote villages accessible only by raft or on foot, as well

as at the highest levels of national and international leadership such as True Family programs sponsored by national governments, as in Taiwan, and United Nations-sponsored conferences on issues pertaining to family and morality such as one held last month at the United Nations Headquarters.

The vision and activities of the Family Federation come from Reverend Moon's desire to build a better world. The Family Federation conducts marriage re-dedication Blessings, family education programs, health and medical programs, social and cultural programs, and all manner of support for strengthening families and securing family friendly social environments in nations the world over.

This work is destined to influence human affairs for the better. Its fresh vision, and compelling, universal world view appeals to men and women of conscience, and to leaders from all areas of expertise and social standing.

We are grateful to God and to our brothers and sisters in arms from every religion, from academia and the sciences, from affairs of state and the arts who have played a vital part in expanding the Family Federation. In fact many of you are here today. We thank you for your attendance, and for all you have done for this noble cause in recent

months. Hopefully our work already has had some effect to promise young people a brighter future. We are fortunate to have Reverend and Mrs. Moon to guide this work through an inspired vision and by their sterling example.

As you all know, we are gathering today to honor the appointment of our new vice president. For me, this is both a formal occasion and a personally heart-warming blessing. It has given me great happiness to have-known Mr. Hyun Jin Moon over the years as he was growing up as well as during the time of his recent leadership responsibilities.

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True Family and leaders dance on stage during the entertainment at Hyun Jin Nim's Inauguration. (Photo: Ken Owens/NFP)

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Front Cover: Hyun Jin Nim delivers his Inaugural address to True Parents, leaders and VIPs gathered at the ceremony on July 19, 1998. (Photo: Ken Owens/NFP)

PUBLISHER/ADVISOR: Rev. Chung Hwan Kwak
 EDITORIAL COMMITTEE: Dr. Frank Kaufmann
 EXECUTIVE EDITOR: Nancy Makowski
 ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Joy Pople
 ASSISTANT EDITOR: Mary Eaton
 ART DIRECTOR: Alberto Faccon
 SUBSCRIPTIONS: Alberto Faccon

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VICE PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION OF MR. HYUN JIN MOON

REVEREND SUN MYUNG MOON
JULY 19, 1998
NEW YORK CITY

Translated by Peter Hyo Yul Kim

IT is the first time in my life that I am holding as precious a ceremony as this one today is. I give my heartfelt thanks to God, that God waited for such a day as today, and that finally this day has come.

When we look at the family of Adam, there were three generations to be established. However, because of the fall of man God could not enjoy having the three generations completed. Because of that, the history of restoration has been carried out until today to restore the three generations. Therefore today, upon the completion of three generations, we are having this precious ceremony. Therefore, I am deeply grateful.

As we all know, perfection of the three generations is not completed yet. That is why Hyun Jin Moon has now been assigned as the vice president of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification International. In this way, along with Hyun Jin we can all perfect this three generations task, and upon that foundation, together we will all build the ideal kingdom.

We have declared that the time of the Completed Testament era has arrived. When we look at human history, there

was the Old Testament era, in which the first promise given by God was supposed to be completed but was not. Therefore, the New Testament era came to humankind, in which centering on Jesus there was to be a perfect family established, but this also failed to be realized. That is why this new era, the Completed Testament era has emerged. In this era we are to complete and build the ideal family and the Kingdom of God on earth together with True Parents.

We must understand the meaning of the Completed Testament Age. This particular era is not for the establishment of a day of independence under God. Rather, God has been wanting to see the completion of the ideal family. Therefore the meaning of the Completed Testament Age is the establishment of the ideal family under God. At the start of this era, I declared the conditions of absolute faith, absolute love and absolute obedience, in Jardim, Brazil. These are the conditions all humankind must carry out to fulfill our responsibility in this particular time period. God has been wanting to see the ideal family established upon the foundation of absolute faith, absolute love and absolute obedience. We have to understand that this was the hope and expectation which God placed upon Adam's family, His first children.

After He lost his own children, the pain in God's heart was so insufferable and incredible we cannot imagine how great it was, because it was like losing His only son after 10,000 generations. It was not just the only son after seven generations, but the only son after 10,000 generations who was lost. That kind of pain and sorrow and agony filled God's heart. This son was lost, yet was still alive, but God had to chase him out into the wilderness. Therefore we must understand that God has been in the position of the king of sorrow and the king of pain. Therefore, since the Unification Church came into being, we Unification Church members have had the responsibility to liberate God's agonized heart and to build the ideal kingdom together here on earth.

We also need to understand that the responsibility of the Messiah, the Lord of the Second Advent who has come as a true parent to mankind, is to establish the position of the true child of filial piety, true patriot, true saint and true divine son. When we

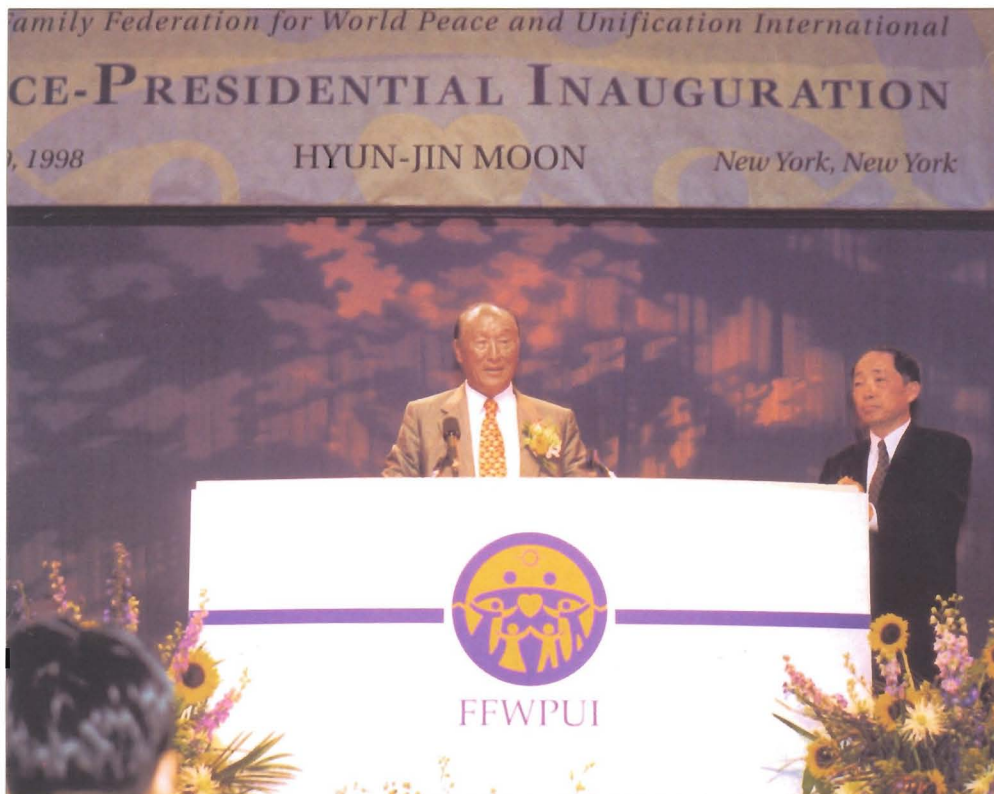


PHOTO: ALBERTO FACCON/TW

Father explains the significance of Hyun Jin Nim's mission.

If we truly understand God's pain and His suffering heart, we cannot imagine staying away from God. We cannot withdraw our absolute faith in God...We have to have the same faith in God that God had in us at the time of creation. The same is true for our love and our obedience.

study the Bible, it teaches us that those who seek to gain their life will lose it, while those who are willing to sacrifice their life will gain it. It also says that whatever is bound in this world will be bound in heaven, and whatever is loosed in this world will be loosed in heaven. Why is this so? We are in the position of the children of God to liberate God's heart. Because we know the reality of God, even though God has been betrayed and abandoned thousands and thousands of times throughout the course of history, we are the ones who have to come forward and liberate the heart of God. In order to liberate such a heart of God, we have to come into a position of absolute faith—eternally absolute faith. Our love must follow the same principle. We have to go beyond the love of God when God chased his own children out of the Garden of Eden. That is the only way we can liberate God's heart. Where true faith is established, it entails true love.

When the seed of true love is sown on the foundation of true faith, this seed of true love should germinate and grow. In order to grow this true love we have to apply absolute obedience. Faith is an abstract concept; it is not a reality. Even the Bible teaches that what is required in a life of faith is an absolute faith which trusts and believes in an invisible concept. The absolute God gives us absolute trust. Therefore, we have to return our absolute faith to God.

Centering on love, the position of faith is above and underneath is the position of obedience. Also centering on love, if we say on the right-hand side is faith, then on the left-hand side there is obedience. If there is faith in front of love, behind there is obedience. They all go together. If we truly understand God's pain and His suffering heart, we cannot imagine staying away from God. We cannot withdraw our absolute faith in God. In that kind of absolute faith there is no self-concept, self-opinion or self-reality. We have to have the same faith in God that God had in us at the time of creation. The same is true for our love and our obedience. We have to offer our faith, love and obedience to God in the same way that God offered these to us.

When it comes to ourselves, can we find absolute faith within us? We are the descendants of ancestors who were chased out of the Garden of Eden by God. Therefore, all the cells within our entire body were received from our fallen ancestors. Can we say then that our eyes have the ability to find absolute faith in God, or can we trust the functioning of our nose absolutely? What about our ears, or our sense of touch? We cannot. What about our body? We cannot trust our body. What about our mind? Our mind is always swaying back and forth and right and left. In other words, we cannot find absolute faith among the fallen descendants of humankind. The only place we can find absolute faith is within God.

God created Adam and Eve as the substantial embodiment of absolute faith, love and obedience, however through the fall humankind lost this original foundation. Therefore it is our destiny as fallen descendants to have to recover our absolute faith, love and obedience in God. This is an incredibly difficult and unimaginable course for us as fallen human beings. Therefore, we can conclude that no matter how many times we are rejected and refused by God, when we try to

approach God again, we should overcome all this refusal and rejection and continuously go towards God, giving our absolute effort to find our absolute faith, love and obedience. That is our only course.

When we look at the religions in the world throughout human history, there have been many founders of religions, but there is no founder who achieved a standard of absolute faith, love and obedience to God. They were always wandering and doubting, swaying back and forth. Through this kind of struggle, finally they came up with their own religion. As a result of the fall, humankind fell from its original positions to a position even lower than that of all things. Thus from God's point of view, even though humankind was created as the master of all things, through the fall we became a being even lower than insects. Therefore, whoever could find the courage and patience that no matter how bad and unacceptable the treatment they received from God was, they were able to overcome that humiliation and still maintain absolute faith, love and obedience in front of God, those are the only ones who could found religions. In other words, if we are absolutely determined to climb all the way up from the lowest possible level back to the original position of humankind where we can receive God's fair treatment, that is the only way we can regain God's trust. From the individual to the family, all the way up to the cosmic level, that is the only way we can establish the ideal world with God.

When we look at this world, there have been in the past and there are today many prominent people who have devoted themselves to public service and to religious organizations, but there is no person who has achieved this kind of absolute standard. There has been no one who truly understood how God created humankind upon the foundation of His absolute faith. Therefore this is the time in which we must go beyond that level. We have to overcome all the suffering and pain and liberate God's heart which is filled with pain and agony. In order to comfort God's sorrowful heart and liberate God, we have to shed thousands and thousands of times more tears than God has shed. It is easy to say that, and we can easily make pledges, but liberating God? The Unification Church teaches to liberate God. Is it true? But then we have to think about our situation. We are still fallen descendants. So even though we may make pledges before God that we will practice absolute faith, there is a huge gap between our faith and the original faith that God expected from our original ancestors. It may be easy to say that God has been waiting for the children of true filial piety throughout human history. But think about the suffering, pain and agony that God has been enduring throughout history. It was not that easy to find such a person.

What is the meaning of the Messiah, or True Parents? The Messiah is the true father of humankind who comes as the new perfected Adam to fulfill the role of the original Adam who was created by God but afterward fell. This Messiah is in the position to comfort God's heart filled with pain and sorrow and to go beyond that level and liberate God from that kind of bondage. The Messiah is the son of the love of God, therefore when God, the parent cries, the Messiah, the son should also cry, and when the Messiah cries the surrounding

*The Messiah is the one who understands God's heart.
Therefore, whenever the Messiah comes to God, he
cries, ten times, one hundred times, one thousand times.
The Messiah cannot meet God without tears.*

people and archangels should also cry together with him.

When the son of God and God Himself and the angels are crying together, who can suggest that they stop crying? God cannot, because God has been walking such a thorny path. The Messiah is the one who understands God's heart. Therefore, whenever the Messiah comes to God, he cries, ten times, one hundred times, one thousand times. The Messiah cannot meet God without tears. When the Messiah comes in front of God, he converses with God saying, "God, You created all the things in the universe from minerals, insects, plants and animals to humankind in order to experience joy, didn't You?" Because of the fall of man, all things which were created by God in a way became fallen too. Thus, the Messiah is the one who comes to God and says, "God, because of the fall of man, all these things that you created are dead. Therefore I will work with you to revive them, to give life back to them." All things, humankind and God are all in the realm of agony and pain because of whom? Because of Adam and Eve. The Messiah, who comes as the Lord of the Second Advent, should go beyond that level. The mistake of humankind made by Adam and Eve should be rectified by the Messiah. Therefore, imagine how many tears the Messiah must shed in order to do that. The Messiah is the representative of man who is with tears. At all times he is a man of suffering. In the morning and evening, in the spring, summer, autumn and winter, through every change of the seasons, the Messiah is always in tears with God. When God watches the Messiah in tears all the time, in front of all things, in front of the change of seasons, in front of the animals and fallen people, God feels sympathy towards him saying, "My son, it is not your fault. It is because of the mistake made by Adam and Eve. It is also the responsibility of all things, and also partially my responsibility." This kind of comfort and sympathy will come from God. That is the only way we can restore everything.

We must understand that when it comes to the practice of absolute faith, love and obedience, it only should come after we win victory over all the suffering, agony and tears. Without understanding this, no matter how many times we recite "absolute faith, absolute love and absolute obedience," it does not have anything to do with God's providence. The fruit of absolute faith, love and obedience was Adam and Eve. Through absolute obedience, Adam and Eve were in the position of returning absolute faith and absolute love to God. The central force which could help them to attain that kind of goal was the power of true love. After God created Adam and Eve God said, "It is good." That meant God was happy to have given his faith, love and obedience, and to have invested Himself 100 percent into the creation of Adam and Eve.

It may sound a little extreme to you, but let me ask you a question. What is the fundamental difference between Adam and Eve. As a female, Eve was created as the object of the male Adam. What distinguished Eve as female from Adam as male was their love organs. In front of God and Adam, when Eve was created her love organ represented the fruit of absolute faith, love and obedience. In front of God and Eve, Adam's love organ represented the same. When the love organs of Adam and Eve become completely united and one

then the entire universe can be united. The love organs of human beings are like the key to open the door. The path of true love is the direction that our entire five senses combine together for the sake of and head for. When it comes to your conjugal life, do you absolutely feel that your love relationship with your husband or wife is eternally straight in that one direction? Adam was created and lived there in the Garden of Eden for the sake of that love organ of Eve, and vice versa, the purpose of Eve's life was for the love organ that Adam was carrying. They should have felt that those love organs which they mutually owned were better and more important than anything else, even better than the position of king and more valuable than anything else in the world.

Centering on the love organ, our entire five senses are being mobilized each time. Unless we absolutely mobilize our five senses centering on this love organ and make one with its function, we cannot even talk about absolute faith, love and obedience. Regardless of our gender, when we take a shower we see our naked body. We have to realize that the most important part of our body is our love organ, but that that love organ is not mine; it exists for my spouse. Unless your first love is connected to your love organ without having been damaged, and unless your ideal family is being built centering on this love organ, whatever you may achieve in this world has nothing to do with God. In other words, the position of the love organ should be absolutely straight. No matter how many degrees you spin around, even 360 degrees several times so that you become dizzy, if you are just rolled out then you should be able to stand straight again centering on this love organ.

When it comes to the magnetic power generated by the relationship between the North and South Poles, no matter what direction a compass is turned in, its needle will always point north to south. It will never make a mistake. It will absolutely point in that direction. In other words, no matter what kind of suffering or difficulty you face in your daily life, even if you become drunk, even if you are be bitten by gangsters, your love organ should be kept straight, which means only for the sake of your spouse. When a husband and wife meet together, they usually kiss each other first, then what is the part of the body they want to touch? There should not be any disagreement to that. The love organ feels eternally happy when your own, eternal spouse touches it and places his or her hand on it eternally. If that agreement, that feeling between husband and wife is taken away, whether that couple are your grandparents, your parents or your married children, they will be miserable. This is a universal truth.

The reason I am giving you this kind of vivid explanation on this special day is that in order to build an ideal family, we have to be absolutely serious about the usage of our love organ. Think about God. God originally wanted Adam and Eve to believe absolutely in Him from the time of their conception, not just from sometime after they were born, not just after they married one another. In other words, throughout their entire life, even from the stage of life of being a fetus in the womb, they should have been able to offer their absolute faith, love and obedience to God. That is what God wanted.

We must understand how miraculous it is that the era of the fourth Adam has begun. Because of the victory won by True Parents throughout the entire world, finally from God's point of view three generations have been restored and now the era of the fourth Adam can begin. That is the significance of this inauguration today.

At the time of marriage, Adam and Eve were also supposed to want to see their status at the time they were in the womb. When Adam and Eve, having grown up and reached the time of their marriage, finally came to the realization that when they were within the womb of God, God had created their love organs for the sake of their spouse and that God wanted to see them in such a way, keeping their love organs for the sake of one another and mutually exchanging their love, God would have been so happy. God could have felt, "My children finally came to the same conclusion as I."

As a mother, when you gave birth to and as you are raising your child, have you ever felt that you are raising your child for the sake of your husband, or as you raise your daughter that you are raising her for the sake of Adam, because Adam is the only child of God? When it comes to the concept of an ideal family, it is not an easy concept. When we look at American society can we find any ideal family? No. Absolutely not. So we have to throw all these American families into a melting pot and create new families out of them. What is your choice: do you want to keep the existing American families as they are and hope that they will turn out to be ideal families, or do you want to be thrown into the melting pot and be re-created as an ideal family. What does it mean if you are leading a life of free sex? It means eagles are preying on your dead body, and even crows come and eat up your flesh. All kinds of scavengers will come together and eat up your body. That is the kind of life free sex is.

Do you understand, you men and women? We have to know how much of a change we have to make. Even in the secular world, many husbands and wives consider themselves to be ideal couples. However, without going through the kind of formula course I am explaining here, when you go to the spirit world you cannot enter the Kingdom. After the marriage of Adam and Eve, do you think Adam and Eve thought about divorce? Was there any other possible candidate there? Was there an alternate candidate for stepfather or stepmother? When we look at the world today, in particular at America, America is filled with stepfathers and stepmothers; some families have as many as five. Therefore America is doomed to perish. If not, I will make it perish. Who said "amen," a black person or a white person? I would like sometime to hear "amen" from a white man or woman.

I am not telling you these things to please your ears, but to inform you of the truth. A medical doctor who is trying to cure your disease has to inject the proper medicine into your body, not just touch your body. It is a serious issue. Once your love is given, it should be eternal. If you make your spouse sad even once, when you join the spirit world that mistake will become a stumbling block.

Today we are having the ceremony through which I am appointing my son to take the position of vice president of the FFWPUI. It is not an easy position to fill. It is like an offering table, which requires sacrifice. One lucky thing is that because of True Parents' appearance on earth, the entire world is in a way now being cleaned up. Therefore the time has come in which we can establish world peace together. I am very grateful to see my son who is not even thirty years old taking the

vice presidential position in the Family Federation, because when we study history, Jesus Christ started his public life at the age of thirty. The purpose of his public life was to establish an ideal family, yet this was not done. However, because of the foundation of all the millions and millions of blessed couples now all over the world and by the grace of True Parents, now my son Hyun Jin, even before age 30 is taking this position.

We must understand how miraculous it is that the era of the fourth Adam has just started. Because of the victory won by True Parents throughout the entire world, finally from God's point of view three generations have been restored and now the era of the fourth Adam can begin. That is the significance of this inauguration today. That is why Father is so grateful.

My advice today to my son Hyun Jin is to please maintain a standard of absolute faith, absolute love and absolute obedience in front of God, in front of True Parents, in front of his spouse and in front of all the Family Federation members. In order to establish the completed foundation of the fourth Adam and the realm of the fourth Adam, Hyun Jin Nim still has a course to go on the family level, clan level, tribal level and national level. Therefore he has to apply his absolute standard of faith, love and obedience before everyone.

The conclusion of my talk today is that, even if I die, my eternal goal is one of absolute faith, love and obedience. As long as I continue to live in this physical world the same goal is with me. Absolute faith, love and obedience is my eternal, one and only goal. Even in the spirit world I will have the same goal eternally. Today you have to decide in your own mind to have absolute faith, absolute love and absolute obedience throughout your life, when you die and forever in the Kingdom of God in the spirit world. By making these three your motto you can achieve and occupy everything. How wonderful a value they have. Just as God has been having hope in humankind that we as his children become much better than Him, maybe 1,000 times better than Him, I as the father of Hyun Jin Moon, pray and hope that Hyun Jin will become much greater than me, 1,000 times greater, and fulfill the mission which is yet to be done. My son Hyun Jin is more handsome than me, he has more strength, he has more courage; he also has obtained an MBA degree, which I did not. I congratulate Hyun Jin, and I am really hopeful regarding his future. Some people in the world say that Reverend Moon failed in business ventures, but now I have a son with an MBA who will be successful in business. He will also attend Unification Theological Seminary, and upon graduation will pursue a Ph.D. He will become a prominent theologian and be able to relate with all the theologians of the world. Thus he will have a task which will make his mind and body absolutely one. From Hyun Jin Nim's point of view, if True Father asks him to do ten things, Hyun Jin Nim would come and say, "Father, that is not enough, I will do 1,000 things." As long as that kind of relationship exists between Hyun Jin and myself, the future of the Unification Church FFWPUI will be great. Amen, amen, amen.■

[Edited for Today's World]

VICE PRESIDENT'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS

MR. HYUN JIN MOON
 JULY 19, 1998
 NEW YORK CITY

BELOVED True Parents, distinguished guests, members of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification International, family, friends, ladies and gentlemen. It is a distinctly humbling experience as well as a great honor to stand here before to receive this appointment as vice president of this world-renowned organization.

This appointment is all the more significant to me since the Family Federation represents the culmination of my father's lifelong efforts. It has always been my life's goal to ultimately aid my parents in building God's kingdom here on earth through the formation of God-centered families and, with this appointment, I can finally join them in their crusade.

Before I begin, I would like to extend my appreciation to all of you gathered here today to celebrate this day with me. I am deeply touched by this warm reception, your best wishes, and your vote of confidence. Thank you very much.

Fellow members of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification International, we stand today at a crossroads as we welcome the new millennium. Although your efforts over the past three years have laid the seeds for positive change throughout the world, the world is still plagued with its historical problems of war, social and moral decline and, most importantly, the disintegration of the family. Every day we are bombarded with images and news of regional, racial, ethnic and even religious conflict around the world, in our communities, and even in our homes, flaming the sparks of cynicism and defeatism in the human condition. The alarming statistics of high divorce rates, teenage pregnancies, drug abuse, youth related crimes, and AIDS attest to this state.

The true casualty of this onslaught is the family. That is why the mission of the Family Federation for World Peace to establish God-centered families working to bring about world peace is so important in addressing the many problems of the world today.

My father, from a very young age, knew that the key to unlocking God's misery as well as the suffering of mankind lay in the formation of a God-centered ideal family—a true family. According to his teachings, the family—in its perfected form—is the highest expression of God's ideal. Within this basic social unit, the purpose of an individual man and woman is fulfilled when upon their union as husband and wife, they bring forth children as a product of their love. In addition, all the realms of heart expressed in the form of son and daughter, brother and sister, husband and wife and father and mother relationships are fulfilled within the family.

Irregardless of who we are or what station we hold in life, are we not the son or daughter, brother or sister, husband or wife and father or mother of someone else? It is within the

family, then that we find all the essential relationships of heart that teaches us about faith, trust, obedience, compassion, forgiveness, humility, vulnerability and most of all true, unconditional love. It is within the family that our social consciousness is formed and our world view molded.

If this essential social unit were flawed, then, would it not affect the whole of human society and even the world? I think the answer is clear. Problems stemming from the first human family have infected tribes, nations and ultimately the world throughout the course of human history. My father has been working tirelessly over the past 60 years to restore man's first family so that once again mankind could rest in the bosom of God.

The cross my parents had to bear to bring forth the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification International just three years ago was fraught with unspeakable, and often unseen suffering. As a son, I understand the sacrifices they made all too well. My parents had to endure ridicule, false accusations, and even imprisonment from the hands of those they were trying desperately to help.

I still vividly remember the day my father had to leave our home in East Garden to enter Danbury prison. I was only fourteen years old then and I remember how much anger I felt towards America in first humiliating and then incarcerating my father. However, I remember how my father consoled me and my brothers and sisters, reminding us that through this sacrifice God will bless America even more.

I do not think any man or woman has endured the level of

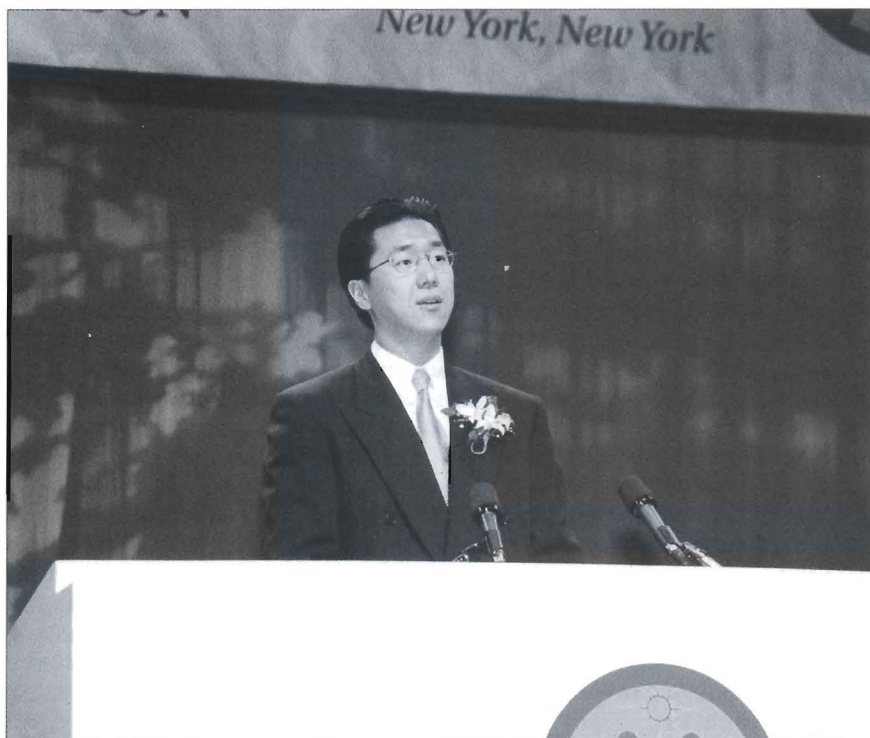


PHOTO: ALBERTO FACCON/TW

Vice President's Inaugural Address

persecution that my parents have faced throughout their ministry, yet they hold no bitter feelings or ill will towards anyone. Walking the course of pioneers, they faithfully and unflinchingly paved a path for us here today. This path, unfortunately, has been paid for in blood, sweat and tears.

Recognizing the immense suffering endured to erect the Family Federation for World Peace, I cannot but feel unworthy in receiving my appointment. As a young man, who has yet to be tested by life's trials, I still have much to learn and prepare. However, what I might lack in experience, I hope to make up for in youthful vigor and deep-seated desire to aid my parents in their life's mission.

I believe there are two areas in which I could make a positive contribution to the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification International. The first area is in the field of education. As a son, I have been very fortunate to intimately witness the extraordinary lives of my parents. Although I have been constantly impressed with the level of dedication and faith that many early as well as current disciples have exhibited, I could not help but notice the difficulty many have faced in trying to live up to the standard of faith, love and obedience maintained by my parents. Intimately knowing the standards by which my parents live as well as struggling myself to live by them, I feel I am in a unique position to offer guidance and assistance to those in need.

Secondly, as a young man, I believe I have a clear obligation to revive the second generation of our movement as well as offer a fresh new vision for the world's youth. I firmly believe that the second generation carries the hope of our movement as well as the world, for they are the direct heirs of my parents' work. Up until now, however, a systematic course of education

and development was not laid out to prepare these youths to rightfully inherit their birthright as the heirs of our movement. As a result, many have become disillusioned and have fallen astray. I pledge to alter this current state by reinvigorating them to recognize their value as historical figures in bringing about a world of peace and love. By raising these young people to represent God's ideal, they will offer an alternative standard of life to the young people of the world.

Over the last three years, the Family Federation for World Peace has touched the lives of hundreds of millions through its mass blessings and rededication ceremonies as well as through its countless peace initiatives to spawn cooperation and understanding in the fields of academia, religion, politics and the media. Clearly, it has been unprecedented that an organization with such a short history could have made such an impact in addressing the world's many problems.

The success of the Family Federation is rooted in its statement of purpose: to create God-centered families as the cornerstone of building a New World of Peace and Harmony. I ask all of you to embrace this motto and move forward with me in spreading this message throughout the world, thereby fulfilling my parents' lifelong mission.

Dear members of the Family Federation, we stand in the springtime of a new era. What we sow today we shall harvest in the future. Since we are standing at a crossroads in history, please rise with me and face the challenge of redirecting a world of decay into a world of hope and life. As we enter the new millennium, let us move forward with confidence that the day will come when all the 6 billion people of the world may shout with joy for their liberation from the heavy yoke of sin, hatred and conflict. May the year 2000 represent a new era in man's history where he may live once again in the bosom of God's heart. Thank you very much.■■■

[Edited for Today's World]

Introductory Address...

It is widely known, not just to me but to thousands of Unificationists, that Mr. Hyun Jin Moon is a man of integrity, and self-discipline. He approaches his responsibilities with seriousness and stability. Mr. Moon gracefully manages the fragile balance of responsibilities he carries as a dutiful son, as a husband and the father of a young and growing family, and as a successful business leader.

Mr. Hyun Jin Moon though young has significant achievements to his credit. In 1983 Mr. Moon took up an interest in competitive horsemanship. By 1988 he had developed the skills which enabled him to compete as an Olympic equestrian, first in the 1988 Seoul Olympics and four years later in Barcelona. Following the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, Mr. Moon took up his position as president and chief executive officer of the United Vision group. Under Mr. Moon's leadership this corporation was transformed from a collection of small businesses to a unified enterprise, which *Inc.* magazine identified as one of America's 500 fastest growing corporations for three years running.

Impressively, in the midst of all this, Mr. Moon completed a history degree at Columbia University graduating Cum Laude in 1995, and with departmental honors from the history department. The A average required for such honors is most difficult to achieve at Columbia.

In 1997, Mr. Moon entered Harvard Business School, widely recognized as Harvard's most difficult graduate department to enter. Each year the school receives over 100,000 inquiries. Only ten percent eventually apply, and from among those just ten percent are accepted. Those admitted typically come from positions in the world's major financial houses, rather than from smaller corporations. In June of 1998 Mr. Moon graduated receiving the prestigious MBA degree from Harvard.

The Family Federation for World Peace and Unification International is blessed indeed to receive into its leadership a person with these qualifications and with a proven track record of keen competitiveness and success.

Ladies and gentlemen, nothing is more crucial at this time than to co-ordinate and invest the best talent and the human and material resources necessary for the establishment of God-centered families. Through them we can create strong educational programs and the enduring heavenly family traditions which can guarantee a coming era of peace and shared prosperity.

With such a pressing task before us, we are encouraged by the leadership appointment of Mr. Hyun Jin Moon.

I hope that you will rejoice as I do in welcoming Mr. Hyun Jin Moon to the position of vice president of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification International.■■■

[Edited for Today's World]

ON PRAYER AND THE SPIRIT WORLD

REVEREND SUN MYUNG MOON
MARCH AND APRIL 1965
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

[Editor's note: These questions and answers, transcribed from tape recordings of Father's meetings with members and guests at centers throughout the United States in March and April 1965, have never before been officially published.]

FATHER: Since God is the source of life, power, happiness and joy, we always long to go to Him. If God chose someone on earth as an instrument or as His agent to dwell with and be with to a greater extent than any other person, would your spirit not long to be with that person? In this way, the hearts of the people of the whole world will be turned to one center. When you long to see someone, any man or woman, your longing or your love is one-sided. But when you long to see God or His representative, or the being with whom God dwells, then your feeling would be one of overwhelming joy and love, as with nature and everything in creation. You would feel a harmonious joy and power within yourself. This is a universal feeling directed to all people and all things, not just toward one man or one woman. A longing for God or for the one with whom God dwells is different than that between any two people or between a man and a woman. When you meet like-minded people, such as those in the Principle, the feeling naturally increases and multiplies, and you feel greater love and greater joy. You hate to leave those persons, because your spirit grows faster when you are with them.

When your longing to be with one with whom God dwells is strong, then you begin to have spiritual experiences. In our group, we do not make any effort to develop our psychic abilities. We develop only our longing. Then many things happen. We just pray and try to love God more. People of the world have no idea of such a way of life. They have no idea of the spirit world, which is more realistic, more substantial than this physical world. Once you find such a world, which of the two worlds would be more precious to you? I would like to tell you something of the spirit world, but it is so vast it is hard to know where to start. Do you have any questions?

How does one become closer to God? What are prayer and meditation? How can I increase my activities in application of the Principle?

Only through witnessing and working for this cause will you find the value of this message. As you come to understand the Principle more and more, you will know how to apply it in your daily life. You will realize that a wonderful change has come about in you. A reformation or re-creation of life will occur within you. If this message can transform you, it can transform everyone. It can transform the whole world. In that way, you will understand how to apply it to your own life and to the lives of others in order to bring about the re-creation of yourself and others. As you teach others, you will learn more. As you teach and come across questions, you will

struggle to learn. Then through your intuition the questions will be answered. If you sincerely teach others, you will naturally live what you teach. One does not teach from intellect, but from life. The more you teach, the more you learn and realize the value of the truth. Then naturally you will long to see the people within the truth, the people who live the truth. You will miss them, and long to see them. Spiritually you will become closer and closer to them, even though physically you may be apart. You will feel and realize a union in spirit with them because this is a living truth from God. This truth unites good people, people of truth. They feel like real brothers and sisters, even though they have never met. Do not wait until you understand all of the Principle, start teaching immediately as much as you understand now. Then you will come to understand more and more. The spirit world will help you to understand through dreams, through visions, or through other people.

When a person prays earnestly for understanding, should he not listen to and be guided by the answers and revelations he receives?

Yes. As Christians, we prayed in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost or Holy Spirit. Now we should pray in the name of True Parents. Jesus came in the position of the true Father and the Holy Spirit came in the position of the true Mother. Now we pray in the name of both. When Christians ask you why you pray in the name of the True Parents, tell them we pray in the name of Jesus and the Holy Spirit. When you have new people coming to hear the Principle and they ask these things, tell them clearly. But they must ask first!

Does God manifest Himself to people outside the Principle?

People feel the manifestation of God in different degrees. In older days, people experienced the manifestation of God as a servant, then later as adopted children, then later still as real children. Now this is taking place on a horizontal level. Therefore, there is an innermost circle, an outer circle, and an outermost circle. Those on the outermost circle can still feel God to a degree. This vertical arrangement of servant, adopted children, and real children took place chronologically in the past. Since it is now taking place on the horizontal level, one can proceed to the stage of real children in one generation. Now you do not need to depend upon the spirit world to advance.

In other words, since God is always omnipresent, the differences are among us?

Yes.

In the perfection stage and beyond, it is said that we grow out of the father-child relationship as expounded by Jesus into a bridegroom-bride relationship. Why, then, do we still

Indirect dominion does not mean that you cannot communicate with God. Direct communication is not the same as direct dominion. A father or mother can take care of little children directly, but that is not direct dominion. Direct dominion is dominion by the absolute love of God.

call God "Father"?

After restoration, the relationship between God and you, and me and you, will be that of Father and child. But up to that point, you must come so close to God and to me that you feel the relationship is like that of husband and wife. Because Adam and Eve fell, they failed to be as close to God as a wife to her husband. This relationship must be restored first, then Adam will become the Father of humankind.

Jesus taught man to call God "Father." Is there something else we should be calling Him in this stage?

No. God was to be the mind of Adam, or the heart or spirit of Adam. Jesus said, "I am in the Father, and the Father is in me." That relationship of spirit and body is like the relationship between husband and wife. When you have some deep experience, you will hear from God, "You are my wife," or "I am your husband." Spiritually you will be told by God, "I am your husband." That only means a close relationship of love. However, since He is the Creator and we are the created, the relationship is that of Father and child. The child is born of the father.

Now that a holy ground has been established in this area, what can we do to use it in the most valuable way?

Pray there often. Meditate there often. Love it more than any people would love their own land.

Can we have communication with God when we are in the indirect dominion?

No matter what stage you are in, you can still talk to God directly. In the Old Testament Age, the prophets talked to God directly, even though they were in the position of servants. Many mediums who are clairvoyant and clairaudient talk with God directly. It can be done even though you are still in an imperfect stage. The indirect dominion does not mean that you cannot communicate with God. Direct communication is not the same as direct dominion. A father or mother can take care of little children directly, but that is not direct dominion. Direct dominion is dominion by the absolute love of God. In other words, it means to have direct rule or regulation of man's love by the love of God. God cannot have dominion over man's love until man becomes mature and is aware of love. Suppose man becomes aware of conjugal love, or sexual love, at the age of 16. God could not have dominion over his love at the age of 13 or 14, because the child would not be aware of it. God does not want to talk about it or control and guide it so early. He has to wait until the child grows and becomes aware of that sense. God cannot have direct dominion until the child grows. Besides this love, however, God can have direct communication from infancy. Direct contact is not direct dominion. Sometimes the presence of God is sensed as wind, or power, or energy. It is not in visible form.

Some people try to grow spiritually, develop their own spiritual life and reach God through meditation, self-discipline and so forth. This is very foolish. The one who goes to God fastest and achieves the closest position is the one who loves others and witnesses to them in order to bring them

to God. Through this you can grow much faster and develop much more quickly. Do not just meditate for your own sake and for your own spirit. You may draw some spirits, but not God. No matter how much you pray, it does not do much good if you are only centered upon yourself. Always love others.

If you have an important problem to solve, pray most earnestly for three days. Then you will receive the answer. The spirit world is to help you with your problems and help you with the Divine Principle, because I have already subjugated Satan on the spiritual side. I have talked with many masters, including Jesus, on questions of life and the universe, the creation, God's dispensation and many other things. They have subjected themselves to me in terms of wisdom. After I won the victory, they surrendered. Upon this foundation of victory, the spirit world is responsible to teach and reply to your questions, and to help you with your problems. If they do not witness to the Principle, they are to be punished. That is why, if you pray for three days on any serious matter, they must answer you and help you. You may get the answer in less than three days, of course.

What is the significance of communicating with spirits, and can we do so?

Yes, you can. If you know the law of the spirit world and know how and why they work with you, you can benefit from it. Otherwise, it is not significant.

What can we do to receive the most help from the spirit world?

Go to the foremost front line in witnessing, fight with Satan and gladly be persecuted, laughed at and rejected. Then the spirit world is destined to help you. If you just stay quietly where you are, they will not help. If you have only a 30 percent capacity, but desire to do 100 percent, the spirit world is required to help you by providing the other 70 percent. Do things with faith. Sometimes it is good to be blind with faith. The spirit world will then increase your power, and you will be able to do much greater work than your own capacity. Often things seem impossible to human eyes, but quite possible in God's eyes.

I have been trying to develop my clairvoyance and my ability to distinguish between high and low spirits. Recently, myself and 11 other people gathered in a room received a blessing from Jesus Christ. Since then, I have had a specific mission to follow. Can I expect help from the spirit world, and how do I tell whether they are high or low spirits?

If you study the Principle, you will not need to continue your metaphysical activities to develop your spirit. If you stand firmly on the Principle, I will appear to you in spirit and teach you everything you need to know. This is the highest level.

MISS YOUNG OON KIM: Father sometimes just appears to us in spirit, or we hear his voice from a great distance.

FATHER: Here you can grow much higher than with any

The highest wisdom is the wisdom of love. When one reaches that point, one does not need to grow further. It becomes more an enriching than a growing. In the spirit world, you sense without words. You know each other immediately, beyond language barriers. This is far beyond ordinary wisdom.

method of metaphysics. Jesus blessed you because he wanted to give you a mission. Now you have found the highest mission, which Jesus will help you with. If you continue to try to develop your mediumship many spirits will come to you, which may lead you into confusion. For example, a Buddhist or Confucianist spirit or a spirit from any distant time may come to you, but if you stand firmly on the Principle, then the Lord of the entire universe, whom in our movement we call the True Father or True Parent, will appear to you and guide you. With this truth, you have to be able to rule and govern the spirit world rather than be controlled and led by them. Unless you do this, you can never subjugate Satan; you can never be the victor. Until you completely subjugate them, you must know that you still have a long way to go.

Those who are mediumistic only convey the messages they receive, as does a telephone or radio. They cannot do anything else. This is worse than having no mediumistic gifts. You have so many things to do. Why should you just act as a radio for someone else? I was in the same situation and had I not had wisdom, I could have become the victim. I tested the spirits who came to me. Finally, with wisdom, I overcame them. From now on, the earth is the subject, not the spirit world. We have to lead those in the spirit world and govern them. We must not be governed by them.

Then for those of us who do have some degree of gift in this area, should we continue to use it?

Yes, it is good to have one or two mediumistic people in the group who will help others to grow spiritually. God raises someone for the sake of the whole group, and uses them for the benefit of the whole group. But we should not depend 100 percent on messages received from the spirit world. We should constantly use our own wisdom in the light of the Principle. Through the Principle, did the spirit world not become much more clear to you? If did not know the Principle, it would be much more difficult to judge the messages you receive.

How does this relate to what Father said about believing the unbelievable? Some of the things we receive are very unbelievable at the time, although they often turn out to be very true.

Judge by your common sense and based on the Principle. sometimes you may feel that you should accept and follow unbelievable things. If so, do that. When I spoke about the unbelievable things, I was referring to my own experience. I had to believe many things which were so different from anyone else's teaching.

I had an experience about two years ago in which Jesus appeared to me seated on a throne, and the angels surrounding him came to me and congratulated me. What does this mean?

This was a prophetic vision to show that you would meet the Lord of the Second Advent and have this relationship with him. It was not Jesus. Since you knew only Jesus, it appeared to you as if Jesus was the one whom you saw.

I have dreamed many times that I was flying. What does this mean?

It means that you will progress spiritually.

How do we test spirits?

Sometimes spirits teach the right way and sometimes the wrong way. You test them by the truth.

With perfect love, does wisdom continue to grow?

The highest wisdom is the wisdom of love. When one reaches that point, one does not need to grow further. It is more an enriching than a growing. In the spirit world, you sense without words. You understand one another immediately, beyond language barriers. This is far beyond ordinary wisdom. Mediums know this, but when you reach that state you will be in a position much better than that of a medium.

When messages are received from God, is this directly from God or through a representative?

Even though it may be through a representative, you should regard it as being from God. It depends on a person's mission. If one has an important, central mission, God will reveal things to that person directly. Those with less important missions may receive information through spirits sent by God. Judge by the content of the message. Some may be very trivial matters for that individual only. If it is for the whole world, it is from God Himself. Since we have the possibility of good and evil, our relationship with the spirit world will have a zig-zag form. You should utilize and help the right side, and cut off the left. Examine all things from the light of the Principle. Then there will be fewer mistakes.

Sometimes members receive messages from God and Father. Does Father know when this happens? Are the messages from God directly?

I am not aware of this personally unless I turn my thoughts to that person and make contact spiritually. But it is possible, because now is the time of world restoration. My thoughts and prayers, on the whole, are so oriented. Spiritually it is under my rule, and so is quite possible without my realizing it consciously. When my thought is projected to a certain individual and that person is seeking something, then direct contact is made. But that does not happen all the time. If I knew all the things happening in the world, I could not live. It would be too much of a burden. So I project my thought to the whole. Within that circle, I can appear to many people. In the early stages of my mission, I had very keen spiritual senses and could see very clearly. Now I have reached the point where I can rule the spirit world using only my physical senses. If I saw and heard as clearly as before, who could stand before me? This is God's love. But this stage will be over. Then a fearful time will arrive, which is the time of judgment.

When will this happen?

It is going on even now in certain specific ways among the innermost circle.

*It says in the Bible to remember your first love [Rev. 2:4-5].
Go back to your first experience of gratitude and excitement
when you first studied the Divine Principle. Then try not to go
down from that level at which you first started.*

MRS. WON POK CHOI: In the early days of our group, Father would sometimes read our minds. One woman had a dream in which she was climbing a ladder and fell off at the second stage. When she came to Father to tell this to him, he gazed at her and said, "Well, you fell from the ladder, from the second stage." You can imagine her surprise that he already knew. Many such things happened. It was amazing. But he had to work in that way, because at that stage he had to encourage people to believe in him.

I have been told that when we pray and sincerely ask Father about some problem we have, we should then stop and listen for an answer. How do we recognize when the answer is from Father?

If you are clairvoyant and clairaudient and can hear the answer immediately, then you can wait. But not all people have those gifts. If God answers you, you can receive the answer even while you are cooking or sleeping or doing something else. God will find an opportunity to tell you through your intuition, your reason or your conscience, or through the Bible, through friends or through dreams. Just leave it with God. He will find a chance to let you know. If you are spiritually gifted, wait. Otherwise there is no sense in waiting. He will let you know in some way.

How can we be sensitive to God's guidance? How can we receive guidance in all matters?

If you know the Principle and the laws by which God operates His dispensation, you can judge the right thing to do in every situation.

Does God manifest Himself to us in an individual way?

Of course! The greatness of the Principle lies in the fact that God manifests or reveals Himself on the level of our physical life. He comes into our life so that we can sense Him even on the physical level. How miraculous and wonderful it is to experience what Adam should have experienced 6,000 years ago. We feel the presence of God so close, and have Him with us as we are living our daily life.

How does one distinguish between the presence of God and the presence of our ancestors?

Any spirit, no matter how high he is, can bring the sensation of only one side, one direction. God brings to you the sensation or feeling of all four directions, like a perfect circle. When an evil spirit comes, you feel animosity and displeasure immediately. When a high spirit comes to you, you like him for a while, but gradually you come to dislike him. With God you are always happy. If you experience deep love, you can distinguish between them.

Doesn't this require one to be spiritually gifted?

The highest spiritual gift is intuitiveness, not seeing visions or hearing voices. You feel things intuitively. When you lecture the Principle to others, some may feel gratitude and a sense of excitement much greater than the one who lectures. The Principle is not the word of man, but the word of God.

Therefore, the one who lectures may not feel each time this sensation of gratitude and excitement. Others who are hearing it for the first time may feel this. This proves that it is not the word of man.

We still go through high and low periods spiritually. When we are in a low period, what are some ways to come out of it?

It is very important to record your first experiences when you contacted the Divine Principle and were full of excitement. Then when you are in a low period, go back and read it. It will remind you, and lift you up. If you do not have such a record, recall this in your memory. It says in the Bible to remember your first love [Rev. 2:4-5]. Go back to your first experience of gratitude and excitement. Then try not to go down from that level at which you first started.

Another method you can use is, if you see someone in your group is still very vigorous, full of zeal and very active, follow this person unconditionally. Be with him at least a week and recharge yourself. But you often despise those people when you are at a low level, don't you? Do not despise them. Respect and follow and be with them. Help and serve them. Often those who have just accepted are fresher and more vigorous. They are in Abel's position. So never despise new members. Always respect and be grateful to the early members who have laid a foundation, but the early members always learn from the new members. Using this same principle, when you see the new and younger generation, you can judge what the future of your nation will be like. Likewise, if the new members are good and well-qualified people, you can judge the future of your group. Watch your children. What they are saying and doing may be a revelation or message from God. They are more spiritually sensitive and will do more under the influence of spirit.

How is it possible for a person today who is highly clairvoyant to receive that the Lord is yet to be born?

Sometimes a message from the spirit world will indicate, "He is to come," meaning the time when the person receiving the message will meet him, or the time when the world will recognize him. If the person is not ready, the spirit will give this message in terms of the future. A person might be too shocked if he were told outright, "He has come."

Then do the spirits tell us only that which we can accept and no more?

In many cases, but not always. Sometimes people receive unexpectedly. It depends upon the mission of the person. If that person has a mission to prophesy, he will receive beforehand something unexpected. When you speak something which just comes out spontaneously, it often is a message from God. Sometimes people prophesy in their sleep.

To be continued in the next issue.

[Edited for Today's World]



The Family Federation for World Peace

VICE-PRESIDENTIAL

July 19, 1998

HYUN-JIN



PHOTO: ALBERTO FACCON/TW

True Parents read the official certification of Hyun Jin Nim's election to the office of FFWPUI vice president.



PHOTO: ALBERTO FACCON/TW

True Parents and guests enjoy the entertainment.



Hyun Jin Nim and Kook Jin Nim singing "Blue Suede Shoes"

PHOTO: KEN OWENS/NFP

Peace and Unification International
AL INAUGURATION

N MOON

New York



PHOTO: KEN OWENS/NFP

Hyun Jin Nim bows to True Parents upon receiving his certification as vice president.

(center) Hyun Jin Nim. (right) True Parents cut the celebration cake.

(below) Hyun Jin Nim sings and his children dance on stage.



PHOTO: ALBERTO FACCON/TW

Peace and Unification International
TIAL INAUGURATION
 N-JIN MOON *New York, New York*



PHOTO: KEN OWENS/NFP

**Congratulations
 Hyun Jin Nim's Family!
 On the birth of
 your daughter
 SHIN HA NIM
 (SUMMER AND ABUNDANCE)
 August 2, 1998
 5:03 a.m.
 8.4 lbs.**



Dr. Sang Hun Lee

New Revelations about Life in the Spirit World

Part IV

[Editor's note: This is the fourth installment in a series of revelations received from Dr. Sang Hun Lee who passed into the spirit world on March 22, 1997. Dr. Lee pioneered the systematization of Unification Thought and Victory Over Communism (VOC) theory as an application to Father's thought. He served as president of the Unification Thought Institute for many years. He and his wife participated in the 36 Couples Blessing in 1961. They had three children. Dr. Lee was 84 years old when he ascended to the spiritual world. These messages were received from Dr. Lee through Mrs. Young Soon Kim.]

Emmanuel Swedenborg Aug. 13, 1997

Swedenborg is someone whom I had wanted to meet during my earthly life. In order to meet him, I waited for God's will to manifest itself. What does God think of him? God said that even though human ability is limited, the power of the Holy Spirit is infinite. Swedenborg was one who considered the power of God to be more precious than human ability.

Swedenborg is staying in a good place that is close to paradise. Before entering his house to meet him, I looked around at his surroundings. His disciple came out to meet me and said, "My teacher welcomes you." He said that his teacher had received a revelation that God's messenger would visit that day, and that he was waiting for me. When I entered the room, Swedenborg greeted me with a bright smile and face that gave me a very good feeling. As I sat silently waiting to introduce myself, he said, "You are one who has received God's love and special grace and who attended a precious teacher while you lived. Therefore, would you give me a lecture about your teacher's thought?" I briefly introduced the Divine Principle and Unification Thought, then he asked me to introduce True Father, who had given such a precious teaching. When I responded that he I thought he might already know about True Father, he said, "Your teacher is the one who shines with

a light like that of the sun and the moon. Because you attended such a teacher, who cannot be evaluated by human thinking, I must learn from you." He said this to me with such a humble attitude. I promised him that there would be many opportunities for me to talk with him.

Swedenborg had a very systematic and logical system of thought. I was wondering why this person is staying in paradise although he had experienced God's love and was serving God in his lifetime. He is in a place where he can see God closely and is waiting for God's grace. Because he lived for a long time in communication with God, when he came to the spirit world his spiritual eyes shone very brightly. The people who serve him also have bright faces and humble minds. However, because they do not know True Parents' thought and family, I decided that as soon as possible, before True Father comes to this world, I would witness to them by giving them lectures.

Sundar Singh

This person was able to see the high level of the spirit world while he was alive in the physical world. I could compare Swedenborg and Sundar Singh. The place where Sundar Singh is staying is located in an area of the middle spiritual world which is lower than paradise. As I approached Sundar Singh's home to visit him there, I saw various decorations spread all around the area like those set in preparation for the dances of female shamans. The surroundings of the house were similar to that of a Buddhist-style abode. When I entered the house to meet Sundar Singh, a servant guided me, spreading salt before my way. Sundar Singh did not come out from his room; instead, another person opened the door. When he saw me, he said, "How does such a precious person come to visit here?" I introduced myself in detail and told him that I had come to introduce Divine Principle, Unification Thought, and True Parents. He said, "I am very thankful, but I

do not have any qualification, and I have come to have a guilty conscience." When I asked him the reason for this, he said that while he lived in the physical world he received not only the Holy Spirit but also spirits from other levels. Therefore, he feels shameful before God. He told me that he wanted to listen to my lecture after making a sacrificial offering. He was very humble and silent, but when he spoke he did so very clearly and logically. I could not tell him, "God would not like the decorations around your house." I think that after he hears Divine Principle lectures his ideas will change.

There are vast differences between some areas of the spirit world and others. People who are close to God are more comfortable, while people who do not know about God argue very much with one another and are in anguish. Although I want to restore this area, it does not seem that even ten Divine Principle lectures would accomplish this. I feel very sorry for True Parents.

Socrates

Many people may think about Socrates when they are in a complicated and confused situation in their thinking. Based on their original nature, human beings begin to seek God from the time of their birth. Before human beings can recognize rationally the fact that they were created by God, they are in a heartistic relationship with God like the relationship between father and son. Therefore, our original mind of necessity seeks to pursue God. However, if we are caught too much by our own thinking, we will lose God. I think that Socrates is such a person precisely.

I had to make a lot of effort to meet Socrates. The place where he is staying is located in the lowest level of the middle spiritual world. The reason it was difficult to meet him is that he was not willing to meet me. After I tried three times, he agreed with a dark and gloomy facial expression to meet me. The reason he did not want to meet me is that he does not want to have any dis-

cussion with people whose thinking is different from his own. He wants to hold onto the fruit of his own thought continuously, and from the beginning he did not feel the necessity to listen to another's thought. He was very arrogant and disliked even to speak. He was not willing to listen my lecture.

However, I began to speak about Unification Thought, step by step. In the middle of giving one lecture, he suddenly asked me, "Who made this thought? Is it your thought? If it is your thought, you seem to think about it very much." Therefore, I began to introduce True Father, whom he had not known about before. After speaking to him for a long time, it seemed that he opened his mind a little bit. Through him I came to recognize that a philosopher's thinking can be an obstacle for him before God. Because Socrates is filled with his own thought and logic, it seems it will take a long time for his thinking to change.

When I went the next time and asked if he wanted to listen to a lecture, he said, "Since your lecture is not necessary for me, if you came with the mind to change my thought I can hardly welcome you."

When faced with a problem, he is not willing to meet other people until it has been solved. Therefore, his surroundings are dreary and at a little distance from other people. He did not try to have any interest in the harmony of nature in which flowers bloom and wilt, or in the fact that human death and life are derived from God's power and God's existence. Because of that, it seems it will take a long time for his egotism to be removed. However, I have not given up hope for him, because our thought is at a higher level than any other thought.

[When Mrs. Kim asked if Socrates knows True Father and God well, Dr. Lee said, "Even though he knows God, he does not know True Father well, and he doesn't want to know True Father because of his thought."]

Adam **August 14, 1997**

Adam, the first human ancestor and the first grandfather, is a handsome looking man with a warm personality, who always made us feel comfortable. I was curious to see on what level of the spirit world he was living. If I tell all of the details, it will take too much time, and I would feel sorry for Mrs. Lee.

Adam remains too distant from God to appear before Him. However, since his indemnity period is finished, he is

now living in a good area of the spirit world which is close to God. Adam is always afraid of coming before God, and for that reason is cautious. Adam says that his life in the realm of the spirit world he is in is a lot better than his life in the Garden of Eden. Things are abundant and he can meet many people. When he was living in the Garden of Eden, he was lonely and afraid to face God.

According to Adam, he did not know that he was supposed to make Eve happy. He just thought that he was to stay with Eve in the Garden of Eden. In other words, he was not mature enough to relate to Eve as a man. He was not old enough to realize that Eve was to be his wife. When things went wrong with Eve he finally realized it, but it was too late for him to do anything about it. Since Adam failed to fulfill his responsibility as the first human ancestor he suffered a lot, working hard for many thousands of years. As a sinner, he felt incredible guilt before God. Although he is now living near God, he still is always cautious before Him.

Eve **August 19, 1997**

It may seem too harsh to say that Eve is the greatest sinner in human history, but it is true that she committed a truly serious mistake. Eve is now living with Adam near God. She is always warm and thoughtful but also quite stubborn. To me, her face is not the most beautiful one, but she is very good looking. Whenever I approached her to try to speak with her, she always turned her face away. Whenever I met her, she always turned her face away or bent her head down so that she would not have eye contact with me. Therefore, it took time to find an opportunity to talk with her.

As we were conversing together, when Eve discovered that I was close to God she wanted to have an open and honest dialogue with me. She started by saying, "It may not be necessary for me to talk about my mistake in the past, but I would like to be honest with you. Adam and I always lived close to each other, eating together, sleeping together, and so on. We were so young at that time and we did not know that we should become husband and wife. Adam always liked to have fun, running here and there. I also liked to play, but I preferred to stay in a quiet place, spending time with the creation.

Although Adam and I spent some time together, since we were both busy playing separately we did not have the

chance to develop our love for each other as a man and woman. The being who actually opened my eyes to the opposite sex was Lucifer.

"Lucifer was always with me. He was always kind and willing to teach me everything. Sometimes he would bring things that I would like to eat. In the meantime, through Lucifer I developed a feeling towards the opposite sex. Lucifer also came to fall in love with me. At the time my relationship with Lucifer came to fruition, Adam began to notice it. But Adam did not interfere in our relationship nor did he express his love for me. He just left me alone. Then my love for Lucifer became more passionate, and Lucifer led me well. I just could not let go of him. This lasted for quite some time. Lucifer was afraid and so was I. Yet whenever Adam saw me, he ran away from me. After a while I came to realize that my deeds were wrong. One day God struck us with a terrible reproach. He said that we were no longer qualified to be with Him.

"Then I looked for Adam with a sincere heart. I desperately clung to him, appealing to him to help me. Afterwards, as was taught by Lucifer, we slept together. When I had a sexual relationship with Adam, I could not feel the same passion for him as I felt towards Lucifer. I came to miss Lucifer more and more. Strangely, Adam and I felt distant from one another. Whenever Lucifer glanced at me and tempted me, he was irresistible. Eventually I would be drawn to the bosom of Lucifer and could satisfy my burning physical desire through him.

"As time passed, I could not avoid God's eyes upon me. I was afraid of His anger towards me. Then I went to Adam. Although I had no physical relationship with him, strangely enough I felt a sort of peace. Without realizing the reason why, whenever I went near Lucifer, I was captured by an intolerable fear. As time passed, I came to realize that what I had done with Lucifer was wrong, and I felt more guilty towards Adam.

"Adam comforted me, but my heart was always tormented. That has been the story of my life. I feel sorry to Adam, and I am a terrible sinner who cannot even ask for forgiveness and salvation from God. Because the indemnity period is over, I am elevated to this place, but I am the worst sinner."

I wondered why God called such a sinner as Eve to be near Him so quickly. From the point of view that the first human ancestors were the ones who caused the greatest pain to God, Adam and Eve are unforgivable sinners. I was

curious how they could be in this realm of the spiritual world.

Within the flow of human history, the joyful day when hell is liberated should arrive as soon as possible. Otherwise, human beings who are alive in a physical body on earth cannot be liberated from their pain and suffering. Now, since an indemnity condition has been established on their behalf, Adam's family has finally been liberated. Through the liberation of Adam's family, a foundation for all sins and crimes to be forgiven has also been established. Someday the gates of hell will be wide open, and an eternal day of liberation will come.

Noah *August 19, 1997*

I encountered Noah, the father of faith who built an ark on top of a mountain, residing in the upper level of the middle spirit world. He is always bowed in prayer or making special conditions such as sacrificial offerings to God with all of his heart, mind and soul. He works very hard and dresses similar to a rice farmer planting rice seedlings. When he prepares an altar to make an offering to God, using the talent with which he built the ark he thoroughly checks here and there to make sure everything is perfect. He does his very best with everything he is involved in. He does this wherever he goes and in whatever he does, not only for himself but also for others. He also encourages others to pray and make special conditions. His facial expression is very kind, good-hearted, and pure, and does not reflect any self-interest.

I asked him, "Did you ever change your heart while building the ark for 120 years at the top of the mountain?" Noah answered, "I was building an ark based on God's direction to me. Therefore, I could not change my mind in the middle. If I changed my mind, it would have meant that I doubted that direction was from God. I do not recall how the 120 years passed because I was totally committed to building the ark. Actually, it was fun to build it. My children and wife helped me, but their support was not 100 percent. People usually seek what is visible. They often turn their faces away from God, who is invisible. Thus many times they shook their heads at me when I was focused only on building the ark. They would say, 'How can we live alone when all others will have died in the flood? Why would God let us live alone? Let us ask this question to God and when He gives us a clear answer, we can continue to build

the ark. If God destroys all humankind, there will be no descendants. God is not so cruel as to do such a thing to humans.' All kinds of temptations came to me, but I did not pay any attention to them. I only focused on building the ark. Still, I am grateful that my wife and children did not turn away from me. While we were living on earth, our greatest joy was to attend God with all of our heart and obey His words. That is why in a wonderful place like this I am teaching people how to attend God in the right way. This is the most joyous time for me.

"It may seem rude, but may I ask how you came to be given such a great grace of the love of God? How well did you attend God while you were living on earth?"

Noah did not know about True Parents well. I explained about them to him for some time. Then he was immersed in deep thought for a while until he said, "You seem to have been born at the right time." He seemed to be expressing an envious heart in saying this. When I told him that everyone can be as close to God, he replied, "I am grateful for where I am. People go to the level that corresponds to the merit they received while attending God on earth." He expressed the desire to learn more about True Parents.

Another thing that I was interested in and asked Noah about was the time of the flood judgment. Noah responded, "One day God gave me an urgent order: 'Noah, Noah, hurry and get into the ark with the others.' Three days later, it started to rain. From that time on, all the members of my family began to believe in me. While we were confined those three days, everyone including the animals made such a commotion to get off the ark. At that time I only depended on God and prayed constantly. The main theme of my prayer was, 'God please build Your nation through the flood judgment.'" As it started to rain, everyone inside the ark became silent. All of my family members began to pay attention to every single movement I made.

"The flood that continued for forty days and nights was truly an incredible tempest. Due to the heavy rain, the entire world was dark. The rain flowing in the valleys caused mountains to erode, and the trees upon them to be uprooted. Lightening and thunder were ceaseless. Realizing that this was truly a punishment from God, I only continued to pray. All I was wondering about was when God's indignation would end. Forty days later, after the rain had stopped, God

said that my faith had calmed His indignation. A ray of sunshine shone on the window of the ark, and the tempest started to die down. After that time, all of my family followed my directions and depended on me. There was unity in the family. It was a happy time for us in our life together."

I asked, "May I ask you about the mistake made by Ham?" He replied, "That year, all of us had worked very hard. Especially the grape harvest was a great success. Since all of us had done our best, everything was abundant and our hearts were peaceful. We were just so happy. One day, I had a glass of wine after working hard and happened to fall asleep out of fatigue. I must have been too hot from drinking the wine, and without realizing it must have taken off all my clothes. Usually, my second son was obedient to me. Since I was sleeping, he had wanted to make sure I was comfortable. He came into my room, and when he saw me sleeping naked, he must have been surprised.

"Upon their return from work, seeing me in such a condition the members of my family made a commotion about it. Especially my wife was upset with me, asking me why as a person who attended God I could not even take care of myself. The fact that I did not do so became a great sin before God. Although I had attended God all my life, after the flood judgment I became arrogant rather than remaining humble. For this reason God punished us, admonishing us. God requires always that humility come first." He added that whenever he thinks of his mistake, he always feels repentful and unable to lift his face up before God.

Noah attended God all his life. Thus he thought that God should be able to forgive the mistake of his son, Ham, but He would not. Because of the fall of man, if God had forgiven this mistake, it would have been another condition for Satan to invade. That is why God could not forgive Ham's act. This is the law of the spirit world. There is no exception to heavenly law. Therefore, those who want to be treated generously before God should live a life that can pass the evaluation which takes place in the spirit world centered on heavenly law. Then you will be treated by God accordingly. I sincerely hope that people on earth will be able to come to God by passing all of His tests.

Abraham and Isaac *August 20, 1997*

I think someone introduced me to Abraham and Isaac even before I met

them in person. I had heard that Abraham had been meeting important figures in God's providence. Abraham and Isaac came to visit me, saying that they could not have someone as important as I come to them. Abraham is a good-looking and gentle-hearted person. When I said that I would like to go and visit the place where he lives, he replied that people around him are able to attend God well, bowing down to God in the morning and at night according to heavenly law.

When I expressed my interest in the sacrifice of Isaac as a burnt offering, he understood the things I said and agreed with me. Then he said, "Since I did not have a child for a long time, I made special efforts to attend God. There was nothing that I could reject or deny in God's voice. My desire was to depend on God in everything and to live with Him. As I had made special effort every day, at the age of 100 God gave me a son. The preciousness of this son was indescribable. I was so immersed in enjoying him that I would almost forget to make offerings to God, although God is the one who had given me that son.

"As the child was growing, he was interested in everything that I, his father was doing. He loved me very much. Perhaps it is because he is a son who was given to me after making many special conditions to God that he would say, 'Father, why is there no water on the altar today? God would be upset with this, so I will bring some water for Him.' In such a way he grew and grew in health and wisdom. One day, God called me and said, 'Abraham, I would like to receive an offering from you that may be difficult for you to make. Will you still do it for me?' I replied, 'I will do whatever You ask me to do. Please go ahead and tell me what to do.' Then God said, 'Abraham, I would like you to offer your precious son, Isaac.' I thought I had misheard God and asked Him again, 'What have You said?' He answered, 'I asked you to offer your son.'

"I could not tolerate the pain. Whether it was day or night, everything seemed so dark to me. For several days as I was in torment Isaac came to me and asked insisting that I answer him, 'Father, is anything wrong?' I told him, 'God has asked me to make an offering.' Isaac was surprised and wondered, 'Father, why are you taking so long to execute God's direction? Please do it quickly.' With his push I told him, 'I should make this offering not here, but at a place far away, deep in the mountains.' Isaac said, 'Then that is all the

more reason why you should be in a hurry. Let us leave quickly.' Owing to the pressure he gave, I could no longer resist him. Several days after our departure, when we had arrived at a certain mountain, he asked me, 'Father, what will the sacrificial offering be this time?' I could not answer him. As the firewood was piled up, I just called Isaac's name and embraced him. Then Isaac said, 'Father, God asked you to offer me, right? I knew it when I saw your gloomy face.' Then he continued, 'I am grateful to God for choosing me as the offering. Father, what are you worried about? Becoming an object of offering is good. It is a blessing.' Then he lay down on the firewood without hesitation. Looking at the sky, I earnestly prayed with mixed feelings in my heart and with fear towards God and grief for my son, 'Father, I am offering my son to You!' With this prayer, as I was about to strike him with a knife, I heard a voice from the sky say, 'Abraham, I now know that you respect me. Stop what you are about to do.' Then Isaac, who had been lying on the firewood sat up and pushed me, asking, 'Why are you stopping? Please continue to make the offering!' He continued, crying out loud, 'Father, if you falsely swore before God, I cannot look at your face.' Then God called, 'Isaac!' Isaac who heard His voice this time listened to me. Through this, although I had failed in making the earlier burnt offerings according to God's direction, God forgave us, father and son. At that time Isaac said jokingly, 'Perhaps God thought that I was too young to be the object of offering.'"

Isaac has a small build, but he takes after his father; he is also a good-looking man with a humble heart. Abraham and Isaac were so close to each other that I felt envious of their relationship. There are many lessons that we can learn from Abraham's offering of Isaac.

Judas Iscariot

Judas Iscariot always ran away whenever I saw him. I went to visit him a number of times, but he would not want to see me. One day, I left him a message on a piece of paper saying, "Your past mistake should not be hidden, but should be revealed in order to be forgiven." I again visited him several days afterward, at which time he agreed to see me. Bending his head down, he asked me: "Why are you coming after me who is such a great sinner?" I did not answer immediately. After some time, Judas continued, "A historical criminal like me cannot come to God nor to the Lord. As I am repenting

for my sin and living here like this, please do not come to see me anymore."

"How painful your heart must be," I said. "It may not be a great comfort to you, but I thought I might be able to ease your painful heart." He responded, "Until now, there has not been even one single person who ever tried to comfort such a sinner as I am. But no one and nothing can be a comfort to me, and therefore, I again request that you not visit me anymore." Thus I was not able to introduce either the Divine Principle or Unification Thought to him. His living environment was barren like that of a prison, and I could hardly see anyone around him. Earthly people usually think that hell is a place filled with an unbearably bad odor where many people are crying and screaming, but actually this part of hell is a lonely place. I returned to my place thinking that I would visit him again and help him after a while when he is more calm.

John the Baptist

John the Baptist is short in stature but has an intelligent face. When I had asked Jesus how John the Baptist was doing, Jesus asked me not to say that I had met him. He also added that John the Baptist would not want to meet me and thus I would not be able to meet him. The place where John the Baptist is staying is very distant from that of Jesus. When I went to visit him, a gigantic person carrying a sword stopped me, saying that not everyone was allowed to see his master. Then he asked me to write my name in the visitors' book. As I entered his house after signing my name, John the Baptist received me bowing down and said, "How could the messenger of God come to as humble a place as mine?" Then he knelt down before me. Even before I asked him any questions, he started to talk, "On earth, I was respected and followed by many people, but now my dwelling place is so humble, and I cannot even see the Lord. Even if I would like to attend the Lord, he would not come here. I was so accustomed to being attended to and I did not pay attention to Jesus' life at all. Because I thought and related to Jesus not through God's eyes but through human eyes, I did not realize that I was committing such a great sin. Since I do not know how to be forgiven, I am frustrated. Since you have come here as the messenger of God, can you help me?" When I asked him why a man with a sword was guarding the gate, he answered that because he is always insecure and afraid that

someone might come to harm him, he meets people selectively. I told him, "You need to continuously repent until the day the gates of hell are opened." I introduced True Parents to him. Then he asked me when that day of liberation would come. As I was returning home, my heart ached because I know that in front of True Parents there are many people like him on earth who will be living as John the Baptist is in the spirit world.

Kim, Il Sung *August 21, 1997*

In order to find Kim Il Sung I had to search everywhere for him. I asked God about his whereabouts, but God only shook His head. I asked around but no one knew. So finally I decided to go down to the lower levels to look for him. When I went down to a certain lower level, I really felt it was hell. And then what happened! A huge man whose body appeared to have been wounded by guns and knives was leaning against the door. His appearance was ghastly. This man was unable even to go inside. I asked him, "By any chance, are you Premier Kim Il Sung?" He was moaning and groaning and could not even hold his head up, yet he asked who I was. I told him, and I mentioned Father's name.

He was bleeding all over, but he changed his position to kneel down, and said, "I committed so much sin and did so many wrong things to him. Therefore, I am paying for it now." I asked him why he did not go inside instead of staying by the entrance. He said, "I wish I could do that, but as soon as I go in the people there throw stones, knives and all kinds of things at me and shoot guns at me. They create such a riot that I cannot endure it. They scream and curse at me, telling me to go away. Therefore I cannot stay inside.

"Why are you looking for me? Do you think that my son, Jung Il, knows about all my misery? North Korea will perish. I knew that already, but I could not do anything about it. I was just hoping that Jung Il would attend True Father and listen to his advice about leading the country. I never knew that the North Korean people were shouting and screaming like this. I really did not know my sin was so great. No one anywhere welcomes me. Can you please save me?" he begged. I had to give him a Divine Principle lecture and Unification Thought lecture.

I really could not bear to see that gruesome scene. I went inside the door,

and it was like an open space inside a jail. All of the people who were there rose and asked me, "Who are you? How can you come in here so imposingly?" I told them that I was a messenger from God, and they gave me a little bit of time to talk to them. Here and there, I could hear people saying sarcastically, "All right. We have plenty of time. Give us a speech." I explained to them that God is the central being of love. After that I gave a lecture about the dual characteristics of God. I also appealed to them in tears for about forty to fifty minutes advising them to live for others, to love and help one another and to forgive each others' faults. They must endure and wait until the day of the liberation of hell.

After that, I instructed Kim Il Sung to lie down so that his wounds could be treated. People around us started to help by cleansing his wounds, and the atmosphere changed and became very calm and composed. I asked them if I could come again later on for more lectures. Some said fine and some asked not to be bothered.

Kim Il Sung sat down anxiously. He could not lift his head up and he could not even look at me as I was leaving.

On the way back I was thinking, earthly life is so short; who can know the facts about life after death? Earthly people cannot see the spiritual world; therefore, they only cling to what they can see and experience in their lives. This is the kind of punishment found in hell. Those who live wrongly face this kind of wretched hell. What a poor life! I am writing this letter in the hope that it can energize our members so that they all can be embraced directly into God's bosom without such suffering.

Realm of Unificationists in the spirit world *August 21, 1997*

To explain the realm of the Unification spiritual world, I can say, "Here is a real heaven, a real Eden. It is really peaceful here and everyone is happy. Here it is full of hope. It is a real garden of love. Here one is truly enraptured. Here is the place where a bud of love sprouts. It is the real holy place the beauty of which cannot be fully expressed."

Heung Jin Nim is always the first to do whatever work there is to be done here and he works very quietly, humbly, and in great detail. He always asks God about the work and seeks His opinion. He goes around on each level listening to people's situations, comforting them and so forth. Rev. Chong Goo Park

always attends Heung Jin Nim and goes everywhere with him. Sometimes Rev. Park stops Heung Jin Nim from going to very difficult places and takes care of things in those places instead of Heung Jin Nim. Daemo-nim always prays just as she did during her earthly life. She does not move from Heung Jin Nim's living place, and she is always in prayer. Daemo-nim lives with only one mind and desire, which is long life for True Parents. Choongmo-nim calls Daemo-nim "Elder Mother," and always follows Daemo-nim and tries to learn even all the little things from her.

Once I witnessed a very interesting scene. Daemo-nim's couple and Choongmo-nim's couple were talking together and Daemo-nim's husband said, "Let's have a fun time together. I feel we are so distant because we are too serious and too formal with one another." Then Daemo-nim said, "How can in-laws have a fun time together? Aren't in-laws supposed to be formal and serious with each other?" After that, the atmosphere changed and became serious again. Choongmo-nim is always serious and formal, and she tries very hard to learn.

President Hyo Won Eu is always giving Divine Principle lectures. He returns to the lecturing position even while speaking with members comfortably. Divine Principle lecturing is his life itself. Even in this kind of happy atmosphere, we have some bad times also. Many of our members are also here, but it does not mean that everyone is happy. They carry the title of their sins like a name tag so that those sins are revealed publicly. Therefore, until they pay off the required indemnity they face much embarrassment and pain.

Even in heaven, there are different levels. I am not going to say much more about it, but to summarize it, heavenly life is the extension of earthly life. Entering the spirit world is like going into the warehouse with the fruit of your own life. But more precious than the harvested grain is the attitude of living for the sake of others. We all learned about give and take action from Divine Principle, and the very basis of its teaching is to live for the sake of others. Therefore, when we live for others rather than ourselves, everything will be all right.■

To be continued in the next issue.

[Edited for Today's World]

Ordeal and Triumph in the Philippines

Genie Kagawa
Philippines

IN the annals of the Unification Church, the ordeal suffered recently by church leaders and members in the Philippines will forever be remembered as a historic time of trial and triumph.

For worshipping according to our faith and conducting our sacred Blessing ceremony, Unification Church members were inexplicably hauled to court and ridiculed in public in an Asian country long reputed for its Christian ways and its firm adherence to religious freedom. For two years, two months and two weeks, we endured a campaign of harassment and persecution that sought nothing less than the eradication of our church in the country. But then, in the darkest hour when hope seemed forlorn, Providence intervened to waken the forces of right in the Philippines. Through collective efforts, the Unification Church has found vindication with the dismissal of all charges against our leaders and members.

It is said that what does not kill us makes us stronger. In the case of the Unification Church in the Philippines, truly our two-year ordeal has made us stronger. It brought brothers and sisters close together as we rallied to support one another. It has strengthened commitment among the membership to the church's mission in this country. It has also rekindled old links and established new friendships with many Filipinos who know that Unificationists are genuine and sincere religious believers and that we stand for a good cause. How do we explain the perplexing story of our difficult passage in the Philippines?

In the Bible, in I Esdras 4:59, Zerubbabel ascribes his moment of triumph to God, saying: "From Thee cometh victory, from Thee cometh wisdom, and Thine is the glory, and I

am Thy servant." So do our thoughts also turn to God in this time of vindication.

Background of the persecution

As in other countries, the Unification Church became an object of official persecution and media ridicule in the Philippines at precisely the time when it was making great strides in winning adherents and sympathizers in the country. The years 1993-1995 were a period of rapid growth under the leadership of Asia Continental Directors Reverend and Mrs. Byung Wooh Kim, who sought the development of the Philippine providence.

On August 25, 1995, 15,000 couples in the Philippines participated via satellite in the International Holy Blessing of WCSF III. Shortly thereafter, True Parents made a world tour, and on November 27, 1995 the Philippines was one of the countries they visited. Top leaders of the Philippines welcomed True Parents and listened to Father's message of peace and goodwill.

On January 23, 1996, as an extension of the international Blessing in August, the Holy Blessing of 980 couples was held in Manila. The ceremony was attended by international leaders of the church, including Rev. Chung Hwan Kwak, president of the Unification Church International.

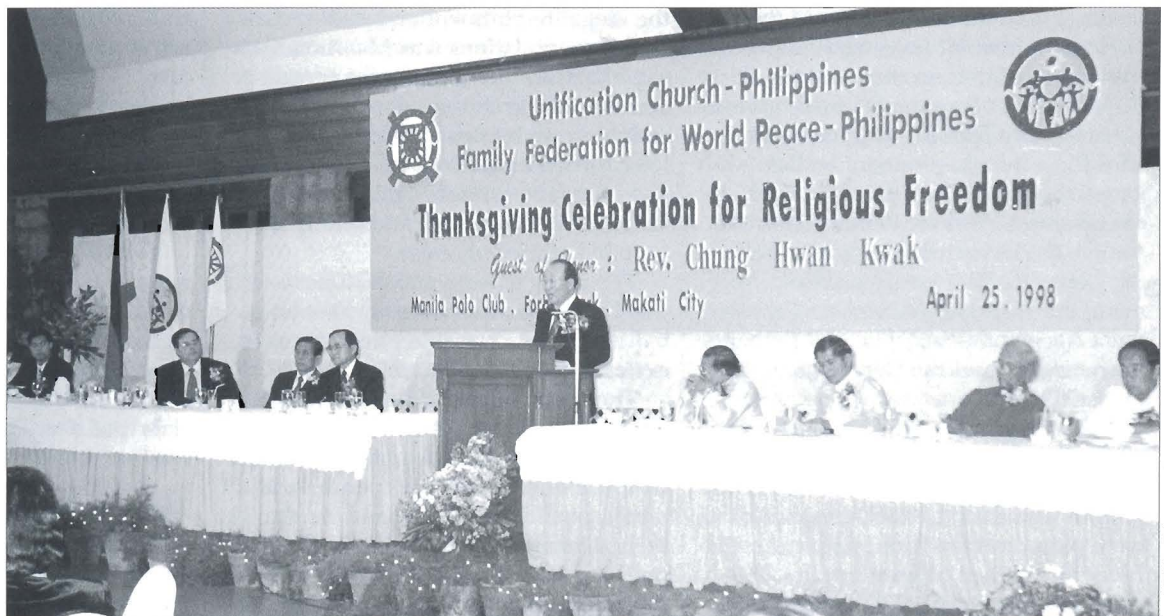
To our horror, amidst this exercise of the most holy sacrament of our

church and on what was to have been a glorious day for Unificationists in the Philippines, those who wished us ill picked the moment to strike against us. Then Chief Immigration Commissioner Leandro Verceles led the way by hurling charges and invectives against our church for holding "a mass wedding" between Filipinos and foreign nationals. The media chimed in by imputing ill motives to our mission in the country, and members of other religious groups joined in, demanding that the church and its leaders be investigated. Thus was a holy ceremony turned into an instrument for the persecution of our church.

Origin of misunderstanding

We might trace our ordeal in the Philippines to an initial misunderstanding that later was deliberately blown up in order to crush the church. Among the couples who participated in the Blessing on August 25, 800 were Korean-Filipino couples. After the Blessing, 380 Filipino women were scheduled to go to Korea to meet their future spouses, to learn about Korean culture and to prepare themselves for family life.

Initially, the immigration commissioner granted permission for the women to go to Korea. Three groups of women were allowed to leave. However, prior to departure the fourth group



Rev. Kwak addresses 300 VIPs gathered to celebrate the victory of religious freedom.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF FEWPU OF PHILIPPINES

of 55 women was suddenly escorted off the airplane by officials and questioned. When asked about this, the immigration commissioner declared that he had received a report from Ambassador Dumapias of the Philippine Embassy in Korea that claimed these women were being lured into prostitution and illegal employment overseas. Though the report was unverified, it became the main source of attack against our church after the January 23 Blessing.

When Commissioner Verceles and others launched their attack, suddenly the unbelievable became reality. In the eyes of the Philippine public, the most sacred and holy rite of our church became a vehicle for the trafficking of women and underworld activities. Degrading and humiliating headlines greeted our members every day in the newspapers, on television and on the radio. Unificationist were called prostitutes and traffickers of prostitution, the lowest scum of society.

The worst of it was that the image of True Parents was depicted in a harsh light. Our bitterness and dismay over this are beyond words. Yet when Rev. Kim reported our difficult situation to True Father, his response was utterly composed and calm. He merely smiled and said: "Don't worry. Satan is attacking with his own crime. It won't last long." Those words gave us a deep sense of solace and hope during our ordeal. We believed that the time would come when our church would be vindicated.

Multiple investigations

Before vindication came, however, we were placed on the rack and put to the test. Because of the outcry in the media, President Ramos ordered the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), the Bureau of Immigration and the Department of Foreign Affairs to investigate the Holy Blessing of January 23. In addition, other government bodies joined the call for investigation, such as the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, the Department of Social Welfare, the Department of Labor and Employment, the Philippines Overseas Employment Agency, the Securities and Exchange Commission, and the Department of Justice (DOJ).

Immediately after the Blessing ceremony, the names of top Korean Unification Church leaders, 1,000 Korean bridegrooms and their 1,000 Filipino wives were placed on the "hold departures" list of the Bureau of Immigration. Two senators submitted Senate resolutions calling for a Senate investigation of the

church. The House of Representatives moved to conduct committee hearings to investigate the January 23 Blessing. No less than six Congressional committees (Labor, Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Women, Justice, and Overseas Contract Workers), with 170 members out of 240 total representatives, were involved. The House inquiry conducted nine hearings over a period of one year, but it never came up with any findings. Furthermore, the House hearings chose to listen to witnesses only selectively. Some key Philippine leaders who were subsequently charged in court were not even called to testify.

On another front, the Department of Justice put together a five-man panel to carry out a preliminary investigation that would determine if there was "probable cause" to file charges against the church. Relying solely on the findings of the NBI and the testimony of one witness, the panel recommended the filing of the following charges against the church on March 14, 1997:

1. Two charges of violations of R.A. 6955 (The Mail-Order-Bride Law) against Rev. Sun Myung Moon, 4 Philippine VIPs and 7 Philippine church officers, for carrying out the business of matching Philippine women to foreigners;

2. One charge of violation of Article 177, on Usurpation of Authority, against Rev. Chung Hwan Kwak, 4 Philippine VIPs and 4 Philippine church officials for conducting an illegal marriage;

3. One charge of illegal recruitment against Rev. Byung Wooh Kim, 4 Philippine VIPs, and 4 Philippine church officials for recruiting women to work illegally overseas.

The government's sole witness for the illegal recruitment and mail-order-bride law violations was Ms. Aida Santos, aka Marilya Fernandez, a former member of the church who joined the matching under false pretenses—she later turned out to be a married woman. She bore false witness against church leaders with malicious and totally unfounded stories of abuse.

The charges were grave. In particular, the illegal recruitment case was non-bailable with a possible punishment as extreme as life imprisonment.

There was indeed no evidence whatsoever for the charges however, and we were confident that the government had no case. More than 3,000 counter-affidavits from the church were submitted to the Department of Justice. Throughout May and June Reverend Kwak sent invaluable support from overseas in the persons of Mr. Shunichiro Yoshida, Mr.

Neil A. Salonen, and six church-affiliated experts—Dr. Thomas Walsh, Dr. Andrew Wilson, Mr. Peter Ross, Dr. Richard Rubenstein, Ambassador Philip Sanchez, and Dr. Nicholas Kittrie—to swear in affidavits at the Department of Justice concerning the theological meaning of our Blessing and church activities. But these initially were all to no avail.

Filing of charges

Even though our main accuser, Immigration Commissioner Verceles, passed away in July, 1996 due to a heart attack, the assaults against the church continued to escalate over the next eight months. The Securities and Exchange Commission ordered an investigation of all the financial records of the church. In addition, Congress worsened its threats to issue a negative report on our case.

One reason for our prolonged ordeal in the Philippines had to do with the fact that certain lawmakers in Congress as well as officials in the Department of Justice sought to extort money from us in exchange for settling our difficulties. Again and again emissaries came to us, with the monetary demands being reduced as time passed. Each time, the church categorically rejected the requests as against our principles and beneath our dignity. Our leaders would rather face charges in court than be freed by such means.

This was the most difficult period for the church, especially for Mrs. Kim, who faced so many internal and external obstacles in moving our case forward. Indeed, we might say this was our Calvary. Despite insurmountable problems, Mrs. Kim manifested strong determination as she worked hard day and night and met with high level people who could possibly help us with our legal case. There were even times that she was very sick but still continued to work. One thing was sure—she did so because all her heart was concerned about protecting the providence and True Parents, nothing less.

On May 30, 1997, our crucifixion materialized into reality. The Department of Justice formally filed the charges in court. Warrants of arrest were issued for True Father, Reverend Kwak, Reverend Kim, our church officials and even our VIP supporters. It was our darkest hour.

The coming of the dawn

But the darkest hour is also always just before the dawn. At the very same time that we thought all hope was lost, True Parents arranged for help to come

our way. As Satan was striking viciously at us in Manila, Providence inspired True Parents to convene a Southeast Asian leaders conference in Washington, to which 33 top VIPs from the Philippines were invited. Since we were facing extreme difficulties, we did not feel prepared for this conference, but Father was uncompromisingly strict about the timing of the conference. Later, we discovered that the conference became the occasion for us to meet Mr. Yen Makabenta, a brilliant and righteous Philippine journalist who had heard about our fight for religious freedom.

Upon our return to Manila, and with Mrs. Kim at the helm, we started to form a new team to orchestrate our defense strategy. In this team were: Brigadier General Florencio Magsino, our national advisor and former director of the National Defense College; a new lawyer in the person of Attorney Rene Saguisag, a former senator and reputable human rights lawyer; and Mr. Makabenta, who advised us on dealing more effectively with the media and in securing the services of Atty. Saguisag.

Atty. Saguisag immediately filed a Petition for Review with the justice department in a last ditch effort to recall the case from the courts.

At the same time, through Mr. Makabenta, Mrs. Kim and other church leaders were able to meet Senator Juan Ponce Enrile, who readily extended his help. Senator Enrile made a personal appeal to President Ramos for justice for us in our predicament, reminding the president that Communist insurgency in the Philippines was stemmed in part because of the CAUSA movement of which True Father is the founder. President Ramos expressed alarm at the issuing of arrest warrants and requested the DOJ to look into the matter.

On the media side, a major effort was launched to correct public misimpressions about the church and hysterical opinion regarding the Holy Blessing. Because of Saguisag's incorruptible reputation, his involvement in our case attracted the confidence of the media. Meetings were arranged with media organizations and journalists. A media fact-finding team was sent to Seoul in June, 1997 to look into the real situation of the Philippine brides there and the work of the church in South Korea. As a result, more than fifty publishers, columnists, editors and reporters began to see the church in a new light and started to expose the erroneous position of the government. Within two months, the government was put on the defensive.

Despite the intercession of top officials and the change in the climate of opinion, the Department of Justice nevertheless proved reluctant to reverse itself on the matter. Justice Secretary Teofisto Guingona dragged his feet in rendering justice on our case. Not until President Ramos sent him personal instructions on December 29 to act on the matter swiftly did he finally order a suspension of the legal proceedings, a recall of the case from the courts back to the DOJ, and a full review of the case against our church.

Thus the stage was set for the resolution of our long ordeal in the Philippines.

Successful resolution

Ultimately, our predicament was not just a legal battle, but a battle by top-most officials of the land against ignorance and misunderstanding. Therefore, lobbying efforts played a very important role in the resolution of the case. Many libertarians and top government officials appealed to the Secretary of Justice on our behalf. These included such leaders as Senator Enrile, Senator Francisco Tatad, presidential legal counsel and now senator-elect Renato Cayetano, national security adviser General Jose Almonte, Reverend Erasmo Damasing, Brother Andrew Gonzalez, president of De La Salle University, and Mr. Teodoro Locsin Jr., publisher of *Today* newspaper and the *Philippines Free Press*. We were deeply moved by the serious interest and concern for our constitutional rights shown by these Philippine luminaries.

Nonetheless, it would still take a change of justice secretaries as well as the direct intercession of President Ramos and House Speaker Jose de Venecia, Jr., for all these appeals to end in the full and successful resolution of our case. Finally, the moment came on March 12, 1998, when Justice Secretary Silvestre H. Bello III penned the historic decision that declared the allegations against our church as totally without merit and therefore ordered the case dismissed.

The restoration

Upon learning of this happy development, with much justification and joy we planned a Thanksgiving Celebration for Religious Freedom. We felt that Satan's power could not be fully dispelled unless we restored our standing within Philippine society, especially among our old friends and supporters. This event was held on April 25. It gathered some 300 VIP friends and supporters who had contributed in some way towards this incredible victory, the leaders of

our church in the Philippines, and most importantly, Rev. Chung Hwan Kwak as the personal representative of True Parents and as guest of honor and keynote speaker.

On behalf of True Parents, Reverend Kwak praised the Philippine people for being champions of the cause of religious freedom and for the government's display of righteousness, fair-mindedness and mature self-confidence. The spiritual atmosphere that night was elevated and exhilarating, as though the spirit world was also rejoicing along with our liberation.

Opening the banquet with an invocation was Bishop Pedro Maglaya Jr., chairman of the Asian Council of Churches. Welcoming remarks were delivered by Rev. Byung Wooh Kim. General Honesto Bumanglag, president of the Ideal Community Foundation and VIP supporter who was one of the "accused" delivered a moving testimony about the tribulation he had endured. Speaker de Venecia sent a personal representative to grace the occasion in the person of Hon. Roberto de Ocampo, Secretary of Finance. Secretary Ocampo expressed the hope that the coming century would be marked by enlightenment, having learned the lessons of the past century of conflict. In particular, he deplored assaults on religious freedom as the worst expression of conflict in human history.

All in all, the evening was a very happy one in which many deeply moving words were spoken. There was singing to express what we felt in our hearts. Never before had church members and friends fraternized more eagerly than they did that night. Never was there more reason to exclaim, "Hallelujah!"

For two years, two months and two weeks, our church, our leaders and our members were the object of persecution and ridicule in the Philippines. But now the darkness has been lifted, and the sun again shines upon us.

Renewed and restored to our mission of peace and goodwill, we face the future more confident than ever that True Parents and God are truly with us. And we hope our experience in the Philippines will also inspire our brothers and sisters everywhere in the world. ■■

Genie Kagawa and her husband are the Eve National Messiah for Vanuatu. They participated in the 1800 Couples Blessing in 1975. They Have three children.

[Edited for Today's World]

Inauguration of the Education Center for Ideal Families and World Peace

Peter Haider
Jardim, Brazil

When we arrived at New Hope Farm on Monday, June 29, True Parents had already arrived there with two of their grandchildren. About twenty Korean leaders and national messiahs had arrived the day before to participate with True Parents and Brazilian church leaders in the July 1 celebration of the Declaration Day of God's Eternal Blessing and the inauguration of the newly completed Education Center for Ideal Families and World Peace. Over fifty members worked together on decorations, cleaning and the preparation of an offering table. The Brazilian state leaders also came to participate after finishing a workshop. For the inauguration ceremony itself one big bus and several cars full of members arrived at the farm. Another bus came from Goiania.

On the two days before the inauguration, we participated twice in Hoon Dok Hae with True Parents. The read-

ing was done from a book of Father's prayers which was published recently in Korea. According to a report given by our Korean church president, Rev. Sun Jo Hwang after the reading, the church in Korea is selling several books now through outside book stores and the book of Father's prayers is the best-seller of all our books.

We had Pledge Service with True Parents at 7:00 a.m. on July 1. Afterwards Rev. Chung Hwan Kwak spoke about the meaning of the day and then Father spoke for about one hour. At 10.00 a.m., the inauguration of the Education Center started. True Parents cut a ribbon and then entered the main auditorium. Rev. Mauricio Baldini from the Salobra Hotel was the emcee and Rev. Cesar Zaduski offered an opening prayer. The Brazilian national anthem was played and True Parents showed their respect in front of the Brazilian flag as would true Brazilian patriots. True Father gave a speech entitled "The Family and World Peace." Later Rev. Kwak, President Dong Moon Joo of the Washington Times and Mr. Ku Bae Pak from Uruguay gave reports. Finally Rev. Oyamada concluded the ceremony with three cheers of mansei. Besides the many local VIPs, some forty VIPs had come from Sao Paulo to attend this inauguration, as well as several from Uruguay, Paraguay and a few other nations. All together about 2,000 people participated inside the new temple, which was nicely decorated in mainly blue and gold, the colors of the Family Federation. Many more people attended outside. After the ceremony, True Parents and the approximately 200 VIP guests had lunch together in the new restaurant. At the end of the meal, True Parents walked through the dining room and shook hands with and were introduced to every guest. Then True Parents sang a few Korean songs, with the Korean leaders joining in. At the end, Father gave an informal

speech to the guests for about one hour. Everyone was very happy.

The following morning after Hoon Dok Hae and breakfast, True Parents and several Korean leaders left for Forte Olimpo at the Paraguay River to continue the first 40-day workshop.

The Brazilian group left for the Rio Perdido farm. I had been there once before after the rainy season. This time there was much less water. The water was very clear and we could see many fish. We left early the next day for the Salobra hotel and farm where we visited True Parents house. Rev. Baldini's wife explained the history of this place and how it has been connected to the providence for the last two years. Later we went to the place where the Salobra River meets the Miranda River. After lunch our Korean national messiah, Rev. Kim, who had come from Japan for the inauguration, gave a short speech of greeting to all the members. Afterwards we watched the World Cup soccer game between Brazil and Denmark on television, and after Brazil had won, we left for Sao Paulo. ■■

Peter Haider is the Cain National messiah of Brazil

Project New Hope

Rev. Yoon Sang Kim
Brazil

Project New Hope originated from the ideals and vision of Rev. Sun Myung Moon. Its goal is to construct a model center of progress, well-being and happiness for Latin America and the world. The interior region of Mato Grosso do Sul is characterized by an economy based on extensive cattle ranching, which requires little work and vast areas for pasture. Today this region finds itself impoverished, devastated of its natural forest, it's rivers ruined, and with a flora and fauna being compromised daily in the process of clearing the jungle for the purpose of ranching. With an illiterate population of about 65 percent in a state with almost 2 million inhabitants, the area is in need of serious change. In spite of their good will, the people are unprepared for



Manuel Vargas giving the pre-Blessing at a soccer stadium. (inset) Rio Perdido.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF MICHAEL IRWIN

progress. A high level of unemployment creates a certain collective pessimism; to do anything new seems difficult and complicated. The big cities are far away and uninterested in rural affairs. There's no money. The schools are poor. High interest rates discourage new enterprises. Transportation is expensive and slow. Many ranches in this area are swampy or become flooded, and even the largest ranches employ less than two hundred men. Mato Grosso do Sul shares borders with Paraguay and Bolivia, and the region of Jardim is geographically located in the central area of the South American continent. It is just a two-hour flight from the several big cities, including Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Brasilia, Buenos Aires, La Paz, Montevideo. It is in this region, centered in Jardim, Mato Grosso do Sul, including an area of 33 cities within a radius of approximately 200 kms that this project is working on its first stage. Project New Hope has the ambition of becoming, within seven or eight years an example of progress, beauty and happiness for the whole world and then to collaborate and encourage development in all Latin America and the world. Project New Hope will act on ten fronts or focal areas that will be developed in different stages according to pre-established goals, that will depend on financial resources as well as the response of the people and the local authorities. ■■

Blessings in Brazil

Manuel Vargas
Brazil

The FFWPU of Brazil has begun a complete new providence through this new level of Blessing activity. Dr. Anizio, head of the theology faculty at our theological seminary in Brazil organized a tour in which ten students go out to soccer stadiums and give out holy grape juice. As people come in and out of the stadium we offer them the holy juice and make a toast for peace, love and harmony within the family. We have a sign showing the sponsorship of this project by the Family Federation for World Peace and distribute flyers explaining the purpose of the organization and the value of the

holy juice. When this tour reached the point of blessing 5,000 people a day, many other blessed families became inspired and began to do the same in their own neighborhoods. As a result, every weekend we have at least thirty to forty thousand people being blessed in various cities throughout Brazil. Some television stations have reported on our Blessing activity almost in the form of a public announcement: "Free blessed juice at the stadiums for world peace—sponsored by the Family Federation."

My wife and I are grateful to True Parents for giving us this opportunity to bless 10,000 in a very short period of time. ■■

National Campaign for a Blessed Brazil

Peter Haider
Brazil

The "National Campaign for a Blessed Brazil" is spreading quickly through the evangelical churches of Brazil. This campaign was started two months ago by two pastors who were originally working in one of the main evangelical denominations of Brazil. A year ago they attended several seminars sponsored by the Inter Religious Federation for World Peace. During 1996 and 1997, IRFWP sponsored ten three-day seminars at which 1,500

Christian ministers from all over Brazil heard lectures on True Family Values and the Blessing. These two pastors participated in the Blessing ceremony last November, receiving the Blessing with their spouses at the Unification Church temple in Sao Paulo. Afterwards they felt inspired to launch a "National Campaign for a Blessed Brazil" to contribute to the worldwide campaign to give the Blessing to 360 millions couples.

These two pastors are contacting evangelical church leaders and asking them to aid in bringing to local ministers the True Family Values and Blessing teachings, especially the importance of fidelity to God and to one's spouse. Beginning with Pernambuc and Rio de Janeiro, they will spread the movement throughout all 27 states of Brazil.

The evangelical churches have a tradition of commemorating the Last Supper once a month during their Sunday service. The local pastor receives a sample of the special pre-Blessing Holy Wine called the Israel Wine, which he multiplies and then invites all the participants to share, asking that they renew their commitment to family values.

It was just reported that 1,281 local church congregations received the Holy Wine. Including those who have been pre-Blessed at other events, the total is now over 4,551,000 persons resulting from the work of these two pastors. Now the total number of blessed persons, including through the mobilization of FFWPU members in Brazil, is now over 4,890,400 persons. ■■

[Edited for Today's World]



Rev. Kwak speaks at the Inauguration of the new Education Center. (inset) Jardim Education Center ribbon cutting.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF MICHAEL IRWIN

The 2000 Voice Choir at Blessing '98

Adruma Victoria
New York

ALL praise and glory to God as I attempt to share how Christ and the Holy Spirit brought a victory at Blessing '98 through the 2,000-voice choir.

Long before we had done anything, God and True Parents had paved the way for the saints of heaven and earth to rally to the call of the God-centered family. With Heavenly Father pushing my wife and personal messiah Fiona

Long before we did anything, God and True Parents had paved the way for the saints of heaven and earth to rally to the call of the God-centered family.

and I to go to Kenya, our nation of providence, we knew clearly it was time to go there. Yet it had been two decades since I had been able to make a substantial offering to God in America, where I was born.

I told my sons, Justin and Alex, that after Hoon Dok Hae every morning I was going to do some running. Justin suggested that I run around Madison Square Garden as a condition for victory, so two to three days a week, I would run four to seven times around the Garden.

Just before Fiona left for Kenya with our daughters, Ashia and Kiah, I spoke with David Eaton and asked if there was any need for performing arts support for Blessing '98. I had worked with David during the Yankee Stadium and Washington Monument campaigns, and I shared with him about my experiences as an entertainment producer for the World Carp Convention in Berlin in 1987. He said that there just might be something I could do to help out.

Rev. Joong Hyun Pak first came up with the inspiration of a 1,000-voice choir to perform at the Blessing. Dr. Hendricks explained that we wanted to put together a 1,000-voice choir and needed a few appropriate songs. I thought the songs should be exciting, yet simple, so that many voices who

had never sung together could learn them. I suggested "Amazing Grace" and a contemporary version of "Kumbaya."

When David indicated that we needed a music director and a choir director, we got on the phone and pulled in Mr. Horace Donnell as music director, who was my high school teacher and the music director for my own Blessing as part of the 2075 Couples Blessing at Madison Square Garden in 1982. I asked David that my support team include our sister, Sandra Lowen, who wrote many beautiful and inspiring songs in the early days of our church in America.

One of my reasons for recruiting Sandra to assist in this way is that I felt a deep desire to share this grace of God, our Father touching His children with her as a representative of the honorable root of our Black membership in America.

Choir Director

Now we needed a choir director. I went to a National Action Network (NAN) prayer breakfast in Harlem and met Bishop Billings. I asked him if he had a choir director, to which he answered, "Angela Moses." I had brought a tape of the songs I thought would be good with me and gave them to Angela's secretary. When she spoke about Ms. Moses, I felt the tingling of the Holy Spirit. Later, I called Ms. Moses and shared our idea of the 1,000-voice choir with her. She said, "I bet you do not have any women on your list." I said, "Yes, we do." When I mentioned the names of some famous folks, she said humbly, "Well, I guess you had better choose them; they're famous." Yet I had the thought in my mind that a worthy person without great recognition would be just fine.

I decided to go to New Life Tabernacle to listen to their choir that Tuesday. The following Sunday, Rev. Joong Hyun Pak and Dr. Hendricks heard them and

were quite inspired. When I entered New Life Tabernacle, the congregation welcomed me warmly, and I said, "Let's pray, so that our time together will be in God's hands." They freely offered love and respect to this person whom they had never seen before. When they sang, I felt proud to be Black. I told them they should be working on a global level, as they were so filled with the power and heart of the Holy Spirit. I said, There I met the wonderful Angela Moses—pure and lovely in the Lord. Angela prayed, "Dear God, you know why Brother Adruma came here. Please bless him, Lord." And He did.

I knew God chose this choir and Angela to lead the 1,000-voice choir to victory at Madison Square Garden. Yet I waited for the proper channels to approve what I was sure was already approved in Heaven. I told Angela, "God chose you. There may be others more famous, but you are a person unknown who is worthy of being known by the world." So I reported to Rev. Pak and to David Eaton that we had found the central part of the choir.

Building the 1,000-Voice Choir

It just naturally followed that the process of building the choir would manifest the Four Position Foundation and the Three Stages of Growth. Throughout the whole process of assembling the choir I felt guided by God and the Holy Spirit. It can be likened to the yarmulke worn in Judaism. I felt a spiritual yarmulke connected to the top of my head as True Parents' spirit guided me past obstacles, pitfalls, and loneliness. New Life Tabernacle was to learn "Amazing Grace," "Kumbaya," and later the "Hallelujah Chorus," which Rev. Park selected. Sandra Lowen worked with me on the arrangements of the few songs we had. Together with Mr. Donnell, we were feeling hopeful. I just had to check our "Kumbaya" arrangement for copyright purposes. At Donnell's studio, Sandra Lowen and I laid the foundation for the song, "Blessings." Sandra and I would call each other and converse about the lyrics as we sourced out the song. As soon as we were satisfied we went to the studios to record the pilot songs. New Life Tabernacle had their own version of "Amazing

Grace" arranged by Mr. Charles Minor and Miss Timmany Figueroa's version of "Kumbaya." As I felt New Life Tabernacle's version of "Amazing Grace" was better than mine, I recommended to David that we just start the song with the traditional introduction and then go into the contemporary downbeat. It was a done deal.

Our church leaders as God's instruments

Surely Heavenly Father holds dearly in His heart the work of Pastors Pierre-Louis, Hori, Borson, and many others. In particular I remember Rev. Juanita Pierre-Louis inviting me to the East Harlem Prison Ministry and Brother Phil McCracken inviting me to a university in Queens, where he personally witnessed to L.L. Cool J. I invited Ms. Lynette Carr, choir director of the Westbury, Long Island Community Church to join our choir and she agreed.

I had the wonderful grace to go to Harlem through Rev. Alan Inman's invitation to a prayer breakfast where I could meet Dr. Washington and Pastor Derrick Porter, men who have led with heart and hand to make a difference in Harlem. I even had the chance to play drums for Rev. Porter's Sunday service at his church. Seeing these men give out True Parents' Blessing of the Holy Wine to their congregations was deeply moving, indeed.

A growing body of bishops and pas-

tors connected with us, and with the work of the Holy Spirit, leaders, and members united together, the foundation for victory at Madison Square Garden was imminent. General Kim said it would be a 2,000-voice choir. "And let the Church say—Amen!"

Rev. Godwin DaSilva and I had gone to Madison Square Garden to survey the area for the choir. At that time we were only thinking of 1,000 people.

On To Washington DC

Dr. Chang Sik Yang, assistant to Rev. Pak, inspired us to go to Washington DC to teach their choirs the music and strengthen their foundation. Ms. Moses, Mr. Minor, Ms. Figueroa, and I witnessed the Holy Spirit singing in our Washington church as never before. It was moving, to hear these beautiful young voices sing the songs of God's Kingdom.

On the production side of things, I interfaced regularly with David Eaton. Yet I was also responsible for mobilization through the choir, and Rev. Park assigned Rev. Eric Holt as my new Abel figure. This was my first opportunity to work with Rev. Holt. I found him to be so supportive of me—assisting and fine-tuning the details. He helped me in making my offering in a way that I discovered a new brother in True Parents.

June 13

Prior to the event, Rev. Pak had us report on a regular basis about the

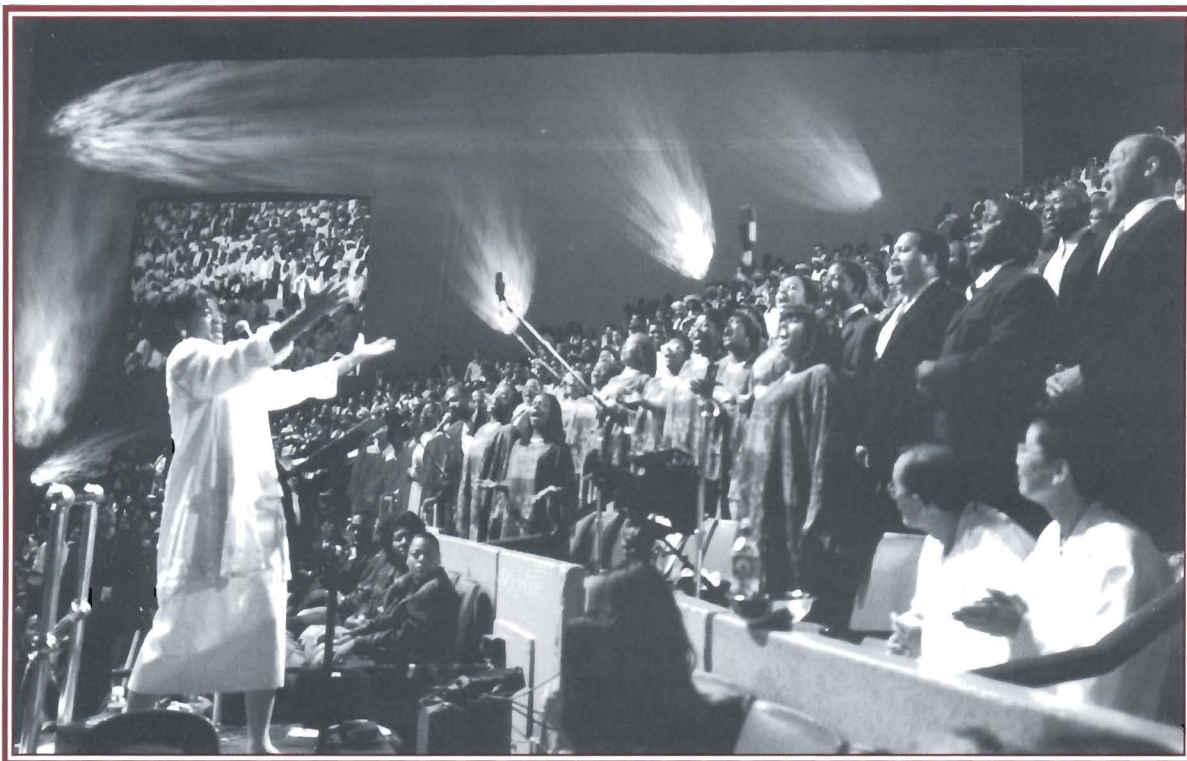
choir's progress. Pastor Figueroa received hurtful persecution because of his affiliation with Rev. Moon, to the point that the venue for his ordination to become a Bishop was revoked. Ms. Moses, too, weathered many storms of scorn and ignorance. I could feel Rev. Pak's deep concern that everything would turn out all right. I assured him that Ms. Moses and New Life Tabernacle's leadership were committed to this event because of their love for God; and the persecution they faced from other religious institutions would not deter their faith or their commitment.

I asked Rev. David Reed to escort Ms. Moses from her home to the Garden that morning. The choirs began to stream in. With everything secured at registration, I went to the choir area and directed the groups to their respective seating. At was ten minutes before the start of the ceremony, we had well over 1,600 members of the choir seated and people still streaming in. Mindful of the need to be prompt, I was concerned that we would start on time. Miraculously, Ms. Moses lifted her arms and "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound" filled the Garden with God's love and glory. Sandra Lowen and I were standing with the choir, bathing in the love of God. Admittedly, hearing 2,000 voices singing the song that we had written for the glory of God and True Parents was a blessing in itself. Ms. Moses was fabulous, and the choir sang better than she had

expected. As I looked toward heaven, my greatest joy was to share this victory in my heart with my beloved wife, Fiona. May this Godly victory spread forth forevermore!■

Adruma Victoria and his wife Fiona participated in the 2075 Couples Blessing at Madison Square Garden in 1982. They have four children and are the Abel National Messiahs to Kenya.

[Edited for Today's World]



Angela Moses and the 2000 voice choir at Blessing '98.



*TRUE PARENTS SING AT HYUN JIN NIM'S FFWPUI VICE PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION; JULY 19, 1998.
(Photo: Ken Owens/NFP)*

“My advice today to my son Hyun Jin is to please maintain a standard of absolute faith, absolute love and absolute obedience in front of God, in front of True Parents, in front of his spouse and in front of all the Family Federation members. In order to establish the completed foundation of the fourth Adam and the realm of the fourth Adam, Hyun Jin Nim still has a course to go on the family level, clan level, tribal level and national level. Therefore he has to apply his absolute standard of faith, love and obedience before everyone.”

*REVEREND SUN MYUNG MOON
JULY 19, 1998
FAMILY FEDERATION FOR WORLD PEACE AND
UNIFICATION INTERNATIONAL*