

TODAY'S

WORLD

JANUARY 1999



제 32회 참 하나님의 날



1999.1.1 Punta del Este Uruguay



1999 Motto—The Cosmic Expansion of the True Blessing
and the Rooting Out of the Satanic Blood Lineage



Message from the Publisher

Reverend Chung Hwan Kwak

WHY WE CAN BE GRATEFUL IN 1999

[Rev. Kwak consented to the publication of this message which he shared at a meeting of World Mission Department staff in New York following the True God's Day celebration in Uruguay.]

THIS year, 1999, is a wonderful year for us. I have often thought about how our life relates to True Father's life. Father has one life. Actually, there has never been such a precious life in all history, nor will there ever be another so precious. Usually parents' lives and children's lives are quite different. Children know something and have a certain understanding about their parents' life. There is always a limit, however, because children cannot reach the domain of their parents' lives. They are limited to the experience of being their parents' children. This is so in ordinary relationships between parents and children, but especially so in the relationship between True Parents and all humanity, including our members. Our relationship with True Parents cannot be compared with secular world parent-child relationships, because there is only one set of True Parents. Because True Parents are the origin, they are unique; thus their lives are unique, and cannot be compared with their followers' or children's lives.

Furthermore, as True Parents live within the era of restoration, they follow an especially serious indemnity course that they do not want to share with their children. Their parental heart does not allow them to show the very sad and painful content of their life to their beloved children. From the Principle viewpoint, the central figure, as the subject, always takes responsibility and is constantly educating and giving support to the object. Therefore, True Parents' heart is that all their serious responsibility and hard work should remain their own, and not be shared with their children. So much of True Parents' serious, painful indemnity was never shared with us, not even with their closest disciples.

Recently, I urged that True Parents' life course be recorded. Our History Department, together with the office responsible for recording Father's words, painstakingly researched all of Father's speeches and collected any parts where he had shared about his own life course. Father has not spoken very much about his life, but over the past 45 years he has shared a little bit here and there. From these words we have produced a book about Father's life. It is an amazing book. I did not produce this book primarily for our

members. It was for the True Children, whom Father had asked me to teach.

Since most of them have grown to adulthood, I had to consider what approach to take. I decided to make two books, one about True Father's life course and a second containing the most essential elements of Father's teachings. We already have the Hoon Dok Hae materials, which very much contain the essence of Father's speeches. But the new book has even more impact, as it is more concentrated. These two books are now being translated into English.

I traveled to Uruguay in December for the celebration of True God's Day, and arrived a few days early. One morning when we were gathered for Hoon Dok Hae at Father's table, Father expressed his own feelings, saying, "I have shared too many things." But I answered Father, "Father, no. Over the past 45 years you shared a little here and there, but this is actually so far from your true story—of how sacrificial and difficult it has been."

No one can live the same lifestyle as True Father, or follow the same precious life course. If we come to that conclusion, and then our lives—my life, your life—are in some way linked with our precious True Parents' lives, we are so fortunate.

Anyone can survive or live this earthly life. But among the billions of people who have ever lived, we Unificationists have received an amazing grace in that our lives are linked with True Parents and dedicated to serving them. Unworthy though we are, still we have an essential connection with them. Because of this condition, our lives have significant meaning. So we can count ourselves lucky.

All human beings, both those presently on the earth and those in the spirit world, must relate with True Parents. Most people as yet have no concept of this. Even those in the spirit world have to make a relationship with True Parents and adopt True Parents' way of life through 'returning resurrection.' The spiritual world is so clear and operates exactly according to Principle. The only way to move is through the way of the Principle. Without the Principle it is impossible to move even one inch.

Consider the natural laws in the physical world. For example, helium is lighter than air and carbon dioxide heavier, so the natural order never allows carbon dioxide to rise above helium. The spirit world is exactly the same. Many spirits have no freedom after

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

FATHER'S WORDS

"The Cosmic Expansion of the True Blessing and the Rooting Out of the Satanic Blood Lineage"	<i>Rev. Sun Myung Moon</i>	4
Understanding Life and Death	<i>Rev. Sun Myung Moon</i>	9

MESSAGE FROM THE PUBLISHER

Why We Can Be Grateful in 1999	<i>Rev. Chung Hwan Kwak</i>	2
--------------------------------	-----------------------------	----------

INTER- RELIGIOUS FEDERATION FOR WORLD PEACE

Realizing the Interfaith Ideal	<i>Dr. Frank Kaufmann</i>	17
--------------------------------	---------------------------	-----------

TRUE GOD'S DAY TESTIMONY

One Participant Reflects	<i>Editorial Office</i>	18
--------------------------	-------------------------	-----------

RELIGIOUS YOUTH SERVICE

The Friendship Americas Project	<i>John Gehring</i>	19
Faith and Interfaith	<i>David Earle</i>	22

TRUE FAMILY VALUES MINISTRY

What Will the New Millennium Bring?	<i>Rev. Joong Hyun Pak</i>	20
-------------------------------------	----------------------------	-----------

CHUNG PYUNG PROVIDENCE

Miracle in Korea	<i>Jean Picart</i>	23
------------------	--------------------	-----------

KOREAN CULTURE

The Tradition of Marriage	<i>Lynne Kim</i>	24
---------------------------	------------------	-----------

SECOND GENERATION

Learning God's Heart	<i>Victoria Onishi</i>	26
----------------------	------------------------	-----------

IN MEMORIAM

Se Hyun Oak	<i>Editor</i>	27
-------------	---------------	-----------

COLOR SECTION

Celebration of True God's Day 1999 in Punta del Este, Uruguay	<i>January 1, 1999</i>	14-15
Day of Victory of Love	<i>January 2, 1999</i>	15

Front Cover: With Mother at his side, and attended by Uruguay National Messiah Rev. Jong Ok Yoo, Father officially reveals the motto for the final year of this millennium. **Background:** View of the lagoon behind the main house in Punta del Este (Photos: Julian Gray/TW)

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Why We Can Be Grateful in 1999

being elevated to the spirit world. They must follow the regulations of that world. For this reason, even though spirit beings will later recognize True Parents, it will already be late, because without physical bodies it will be very difficult for them to connect with True Parents.

Sometimes in the early days we would go fishing with Father. At that time in Korea there were very few fishing poles. We also had no money, so Father would use a fishing net. We went to fish at the tidal flats near Inchon [just west of Seoul]. At low tide we would dig a hole and hide the nets in the mud. After the tide came in we would raise the nets, and we would catch the fish as the tide went out. The kind of fish we were trying to catch was similar to trout and very sensi-

tive: if we didn't hide the net well they would sense it and not go there. They liked to stay as long as possible in the river; then when the tide was really low they would start to swim out to sea. So we waited until just the right time to pull up the net. We could catch many fish this way.

One time I was swimming, and because the river was running so quickly my swimming speed and that of the receding tide were exactly the same. There was a pillar in the water just two meters away from me, but I couldn't reach it. So I lost all my energy. I began floating, but at a point where the water was not so deep I could swim sideways a little to the shore, and was thus able to survive. Nature's laws are so powerful; there are no exemptions. In the spirit world, the system of everything harmonizing through subject-object, giving and receiving relationships is much more precise, and comes naturally under the control

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

PUBLISHER: Rev. Chung Hwan Kwak
 EDITORIAL ADVISORS: Dr. Frank Kaufmann
 Joy Pople
 EXECUTIVE EDITOR: Julian Gray
 ASSISTANT EDITORS: Nancy Makowski
 Mary Eaton, Felice Hart
 ART DIRECTOR: Alberto Faccion
 SUBSCRIPTIONS: Alberto Faccion

TODAY'S WORLD is a publication of the World Mission Department of the Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity. Founded in 1980 by Rev. Sun Myung Moon, it is written for the foreign missionaries and the members of the Unification Church. The purpose of this journal is to be a source of information and inspiration for its readers, a forum for their exchange of news and testimonies, and a sharing of heart among the brothers and sisters of the Unification Church's worldwide movement. Members of the Unification movement generally address or refer to Rev. and Mrs. Moon as "Father" and "Mother."

© 1999 HSA-UWC. All rights reserved. No material may be reprinted without written permission from TODAY'S WORLD editorial offices, 481 Eighth Avenue Suite 919, New York, NY 10001-1820, U.S.A., Tel: (1-212) 714-9175, Fax: (212) 714-9179, E-mail: TdaysWorld@aol.com. SUBSCRIPTIONS: United States: \$67 per year, \$35 for six months. Canada/Mexico \$80 per year, \$42 for six months, \$137 for two years. Airmail to any other country \$89 per year, \$47 for six months, \$169 for two years (new lower rate). Please make checks payable to: Accord Bookstore, 481 Eighth Avenue, New York, NY 10001-1820, U.S.A., Tel: (212) 967-4371, Fax and E-mail as for TODAY'S WORLD. Payment by Visa/Mastercard/American Express welcomed: see order form. Please direct subscription inquiries to Alberto Faccion.

"THE COSMIC EXPANSION OF THE TRUE BLESSING AND THE ROOTING OUT OF THE SATANIC BLOOD LINEAGE"

REVEREND SUN MYUNG MOON
TRUE GOD'S DAY MIDNIGHT SPEECH
PUNTA DEL ESTE, URUGUAY
JANUARY 1, 1999



PHOTO: JULIAN GRAY/TW

True Parents pray quietly a few minutes before midnight

[Translator's Note: In translating the transcription of the original words, the translator's interpretation has been heavily involved. The original text contains many spontaneous expressions which had to be deciphered and reconstructed. At points where the text was too abstruse to interpret, it is rendered as literally as possible.]

THE world in which we live now is not connected to God's ideal of creation, because it started with Satan. It is connected with Satan through satanic love, satanic life, and satanic lineage. This has been the source of God's intense sorrow. All humanity should have become descendants of God's love, of God's life and lineage, and masters of the universe; but they instead have become Satan's possessions by making a blood tie with Satan through love. Satan is not God's child. He is the servant archangel. Since Satan raped the original human ancestors and initiated the world of false and truly evil parents with false love, false life, and false lineage, he has become the enemy of God's love, the enemy of love, life, and lineage and the enemy of the ideal family, nation, world, and cosmos. There is no worse enemy than this. You should understand that the question of how the children who bonded to God's enemy through the blood of love can be restored back, and even elevated to a point higher than that before the fall, is an

immensely complex and deplorable problem for God. To wipe out all humankind and begin the creation again, however, would have been a hundred or thousand times as difficult.

THE LOSS OF THE CHRISTIAN FOUNDATION

The entire history of God's restoration has therefore been for the sake of restoring Adam's family, and this is to be done through a course that is a reversal of the original process of creation. In the original ideal of creation, Eve was created after Adam. Their couple was meant to establish a unified realm of love and give birth to children, multiplying in both direct and indirect lineages from the level of the family to the levels of the tribe and nation, thus creating the cultural realm of God's direct children. But everything came to be surrounded by satanic love, so that God could not even set foot in this world. This cannot be restored automatically.

Human beings fell below the level of all things. The creation thus came to stand closer to God than humankind. Hence, in the Old Testament Age, providential work consisted of dividing and offering all things as a sacrifice. These sacrifices were made to prepare the way for the children.

In order to send the Messiah, God's true son, to the earth, God had to prepare the chosen people, starting from the individual level and expanding to the levels of the family, tribe, and nation so that the people of Israel, as God's kingdom, could absorb the enemy empire, Rome. The people of Israel should have served as the foundation of the work of Jesus at the family, tribe, nation, and world levels. As they murdered Jesus, however, God had to experience pain that was even greater than that which He had endured at the time of Adam and Eve's fall.

Hence, for the two thousand years from that time until the Second Coming, God has been trying to establish a new chosen people. The world is divided into the spiritual and the physical. Jesus and the Holy Spirit have been striving to realize the heavenly kingdom in the spiritual sphere, the only realm in which the lost tradition of Israel is preserved. This is the essence of Christian history. Since Jesus lost his physical body, and thus was unable to leave the foundation of a family behind on the earth—which is unattainable without a body—the second Israel was formed only on the spiritual level. Christianity has been waiting for the Second Coming so that this realm of the spiritual Israel can be connected to the individual, family, tribe, nation, and world levels as God had originally desired at the time of creation. For the past two

Even one trace of undisciplined thought that compromised my foundation of unified mind and body, gained through life-long toil, would endanger the entire providence.

thousand years, therefore, Christianity has been fighting to expand the scope of victory at the levels of the individual, family, tribe, nation and world through countless paths of indemnity and martyrdom; so there is no land that is not stained with the blood of God-loving people.

By the end of World War II, the foundation had been finally set up for the spiritual tradition of the chosen people to fully substantiate God's will on earth. When the Messiah returned as the substantial center, Christianity was to offer its entire spiritual foundation to him, just as John the Baptist was to bequeath everything to Jesus, thereby joining the spiritual and physical foundations into one. On the worldwide base thus created, Catholics representing Cain, and Protestants representing Abel, were to unite. On this unified foundation, they were to receive and serve True Mother, then organize their families towards a new world. This was God's providence immediately after World War II.

RESTORING THE CHRISTIAN FOUNDATION

If Christianity had accepted Father then, such a foundation and preparation would have allowed all the world's problems to be resolved within seven years. The solution lies in all human families achieving true parenthood by perfecting the ideal of Adam's family. This is to be achieved through the blessing, and we have already accomplished the blessing of over 400 million couples. At the end of the war, Christians numbered about 800 million. If this number had received the blessing, with Catholics and Protestants united, the world would have become one and turned into the heavenly kingdom on earth, with families globalizing elder-sonship, parenthood, and kingship. This providential plan has been deferred and postponed until now. Due to Christian opposition, everything has been shattered. You should understand that this failure has caused God even greater grief than that brought on by the fall of Adam and Eve and by the crucifixion of Jesus. Within seven years, through the oneness of the vertical and horizontal parents, with God in the spirit world and Father on earth, the spirit and the body would have been unified through the realms of religion, with Israel and the Second Israel (Christianity) overcoming their separation from Jesus. Through this, the new family that began would have been elevated to the global level. Since this was not realized, however, another bitter path of indemnity had to be initiated in a forty-year wilderness course, indemnifying four thousand years of history in one person's lifespan. No one on earth understands the sorrow of this history.

Although the entire nation of Korea was shouting with joy over the colonial liberation, and the whole world was celebrating the victory of World War II, God, the vertical true parents, and True Parents, the horizontal true parents, had to walk the opposite path of anguish. To regain the lost blessing of God through the forty-year wilderness course on the family level, True Parents had to face Satan's tests with regard to all the events that had occurred during this four thousand-year providence. The fact that I did not collapse during this period tells you how hard God worked to protect me. You

should know that to behold the history of God's work is only to shed bitter tears of sorrow and lamentation.

THE MODEL OF MIND-BODY UNITY

Now, however, we have risen above all of that pitiful history and worked under the motto "To be proud of and to love True God absolutely is to complete the 360 Million Couples Blessing and eradicate the blood lineage of the satanic world." To have finally become able to use the term 'True God' and to fight for His liberation is a historic understanding. No one but God and True Parents imagined that the blessing of 360 million couples would be accomplished in a year. You should know that bringing this to completion is a very serious matter.

In this endeavor, as I have emphasized to you, mind-body unity is indispensable. Even one trace of undisciplined thought that compromised my foundation of unified mind and body, gained through life-long toil, would endanger the entire providence. I have therefore been living with such seriousness during the past year, although you may not know it. An unimaginable victory has been attained through my life, during which I could not lose focus even for a minute, not even while eating, sleeping, or resting.

This is something to be admired and cherished eternally in human history. Since humankind cannot resolve the problems associated with marriage, all those who are embarking upon the path of marriage should inherit from the True Parents who have established the standard of victory. Otherwise, the road to the heavenly kingdom will be completely blocked.

Now, the year has come when we have to bring these matters to conclusion. Hence, as I have emphasized over and over again, you should become individuals who can be models before heaven and earth. The first thing recommended in this pursuit is to unify your mind and body. When you get up in the morning, you should have a joyful heart, and when you wash, you should try to unify your five senses, starting with your eyes. Eyes, nose, mouth, ears, and hands—you should unite mind and body through uniting these five senses, for these have been a crucial source of disunity between mind and body. When I unify my mind and body and attain God's standard of perfection, God's characteristics can settle in my mind eternally. This way, Adam and Eve as God's image should establish the foundation for God's settlement in their mind and body. Such a man and woman, with the title of "God's eternal prince and princess," should be brought together in a marriage blessing. God desires to see in them the image of a couple completely and inseparably united. We should restore this ideal through indemnity. This is the absolute condition for entering the heavenly kingdom. Without accomplishing this, we cannot extract the nail of historical bitterness that is deeply hammered into God's heart.

So, the first thing is mind and body unity. Then, vertically, each of you should unite your mind with God, and horizontally you should unite with your spouse, thereby forming a trinity in God's love. Through a life of oneness on the basis of the love in this trinity, you should multiply children. These children will without doubt be able to enjoy eternity and go directly to the heavenly kingdom, because they are connected with

You should have a strong and vivacious conviction to live for the sake of others. The resolve to sacrifice for and to serve others should be strong enough to overcome difficulties in your family situation.

God's love, life, and blood lineage through their parents. They should be married with the blessing of their parents and form unified families that relate the higher with the lower by standing on the vertical line of the family. This will constitute the completion of a family on earth and in heaven and secure the foundation for the heavenly kingdom on earth where God can finally settle down in the harmony of higher and lower, front and back, and right and left. This is a task not only for Adam's family. You should know that you are being encouraged to undertake your destined responsibility to realize this in your family and on the stage of real life. To do it, you should focus your whole life on it and offer all things to God. Such a loving family should bring together seven generations and all things and offer them to God. This offering is made to God by the True Parents. A unified symbolic realm is established on the foundation of totally offering all things. This realm should be unified with the image realm of Adam's family, thereby establishing the substantial and eternal realm of liberation for the settlement of the family. You should know that this is the destined mission for your family. Do you understand?

Then what do you do after establishing such a family? It should not be self-centered. Families that can represent the nation, world and cosmos should expand horizontally from the family of True Parents as the center. With their tribes, this should lead to the attainment of elder-sonship and kingship. This way, the model of Adam's family, which has completed the ideal formula, will create an unchanging world of culture; this is called the heavenly kingdom on earth. The heavenly kingdom in heaven will be built as people living in this kingdom go on to the spirit world. In order to stay in line with this movement, you must keep your thoughts from wavering. You should know that we are at the final point, at which we can complete and resolve all this. On the individual level, this is a matter of uniting our mind and body. On the family level, it is a matter of uniting husband and wife, and then the vertical relationship between parents and children. Your entire family is moving toward the common goal; even one member losing balance will make the whole family decline. Then how can we bring this about? If the children or the wife, for instance, indulge in self-centered thoughts, they will jeopardize the goal. You should have a strong and vivacious conviction to live for the sake of others. The resolve to sacrifice for and to serve others should be strong enough to overcome difficulties in your family situation; otherwise, a complete settlement of an ideal family cannot be accomplished. You should understand how difficult this task is, and should try to mold yourself to the standard. The purpose of our church is to bring this about, and the purpose of the global brotherhood of peoples around the world is also to actualize this. If this is thwarted, there can be no church, no family and no nation.

You must gather all your strength and invest in this with a heart that is more intense than God's loving heart toward the universe at the time of creation. This way, you should create a family that is a model of heart, such that when God and True Parents visit they will never want to leave. Also, all the leaders of society and all the members of the royal family will want to live together with your family. Please understand that in 1999 God presents this as our urgent responsibility for the

year. [Amen.] Declare it. [Amen!] Take responsibility as the central figure. [Amen!] I would like you to keep in mind that this will make possible the creation of the heavenly kingdom on earth and the eternal family. Do you understand? [Yes.]

This is the new year's message: family perfection and family unification, which comprises individual unification, conjugal unification, parent-child unification, and sibling unification. You are first born as a baby, then become a brother or sister. You then get married and become a father or mother. Each moment should be in unity. Children should not fight with one another. There should be sibling unity. Then conjugal unity and parent-child unity. Only by accomplishing this can you fulfill your human responsibility before God.

Please understand this and give your utmost. From now on, there should be no fighting in the family. So far, you have only talked about mind-body unity. Have you ever been able to achieve such unity in reality? You have talked about conjugal unity, but without being able to live it. The Divine Principle has taught you about the unification of parents and children, and you have memorized this and determined to do it a thousand times, and yet you still have not achieved that unity. This is a serious problem that must now be resolved.

This is a task of destiny. Destiny is irrevocable; it must be done no matter what. Otherwise, we cannot attain a total liberation in the spirit world. Our path will be blocked. A spherical entity that completes the above and below, front and back, and left and right should find a point on earth at which the exchange of forces is equalized so as to be welcomed wherever it goes in the spirit world; otherwise, it will end up in a very deficient environment. You should understand how serious this is. The basis of perfection does not lie in the spirit world but on earth. Spirits cannot come down to the earth and achieve their perfection through indemnity on their own; they can do it only through their descendants. So you should realize clearly how important it is to perfect your family on earth. I would like you to focus all your strength on this.

FAMILY-LEVEL SPIRITUAL POWER

What is the title of today's speech? "The Cosmic Expansion of the True Blessing and the Rooting Out of the Satanic Blood Lineage." 'Cosmic expansion' means that all those who are blessed create a perfected foundation in heaven and on earth, and can expand and make connections anywhere. What is the next part? 'Rooting out of the satanic blood lineage.' It cannot be rooted out without there being a unified mind and body. So far, it has been "cutting off." You can sever branches, mouths, and even trunks. But now we are talking about "rooting out." We have to pluck out the root. Where do we do this? [In the family.] You should understand that this is done in the family, okay? [Yes.] You have to form an absolute family by unifying mind and body, husband and wife, parents and children. This is the content of the Second Jardim Declaration. After the Fourth Declaration, the 4.4 Declaration was made. Adam's family failed to realize the perfection of the four position foundation. Nor could their children find settlement. But now, following the 4.4 Declaration, you can receive family training in Jardim and enter the heavenly kingdom.

Father gives the True God's Day midnight address

Do you understand this? [Yes.] Let us make a determination and move forward in order to accomplish it this year. Say it. [Let us make determination and move forward!] Let us achieve victory. [Let us achieve victory!] So you should shout "mansei" to God and family. You should shout a true mansei. You should shout a final mansei for the sake of the universe. Now is the age of God's complete power and complete authority over all realms, an age in which we can live with God. God can do anything now, so there is nothing you should be afraid of. We have a lot of wealth, do you understand? Do we have wealth or not? [We do.] Where? It is in your families. A unified family cannot go hungry. Such a family cannot starve. How many people were required for Sodom and Gommorah to escape judgment? Five people would have saved them. So if such families can number a hundred, regardless of their place and time, blessing will pour in for them according to their heavenly fortune. So the problem is how to find the motivation to create such a family. Once that is resolved, money is not a problem. The whole universe will be yours. Do you understand? [Yes.] Wherever you go, become the confident and explosive center, receive power from Heaven, and push it out all the way horizontally. Boldly work for the cosmic expansion of the blessing. Such a family will attract the attention of heaven and earth, and liberation will start with them. The cosmos will thus turn around. Do you understand this? [Yes.] From now on, your blessed tribes must become one and receive the Jardim education. You should offer all things (of the Old Testament Age) as a unified offering, the son (of the New Testament Age) as a unified offering, and the parents (of the Completed Testament Age) as a unified offering. The place where God and perfected parents become totally one and declare liberation and unification in this world of bitterness should be your family. You should understand this clearly. God will now pour out abundant blessing according to your spiritual efforts. A thicker pipeline can channel more water, and the amount of your spiritual effort will determine whether a victorious pipeline can be connected to the spirit world. So I pray that you will give all your strength and become victors. I pray for True Parents' blessing to be with you. Amen. [Amen!] Happy new year. [Amen! Applause.]

Rev. Kwak: Let us offer one bow to the Parents of Heaven and Earth.

[Father resumes his speech:] When you *kyungbae*, (offer a bow) you should not do it alone. Centering on God, the spirits and angels should be completely united with the blessed families and bow down together. If you yearn for it earnestly, you can pull them towards you. So try to bring your parents, relatives and ancestors down. You can reach all the way up to 72 and even 120 generations. If Jesus had won over a nation, he would have been able to bless the 120 disciples as families. As we are seeking to gain a nation, the ancestors of 120 generations are coming down with the dream of re-capturing Jesus' failed hope of blessing the 120 disciples. It is after the spiritual and physical worlds conjoin and stand in the position of having accomplished Jesus' task of liberation that you should



PHOTO: JULIAN GRAY/ITW

make a bow. Do you understand this? Therefore, you absolutely have to participate in pledge services. Do you understand? Although you have lived on your whims so far, now your bows are to be made with the entire tribe, gathering in public meetings and at churches. The head of the tribe should lead the service, no one else.

CONNECT YOUR TRIBE TO JARDIM

Around the time of my next birthday, you have to make an offering ceremony. This is the "Ceremony of Total Living Offering" (*Chong saeng chuk hun-nap chae*). This means a ceremony of liberation from bitterness. We should liberate God from His sorrow and bitterness. In the past, offerings were divided in half, with one half claimed by Satan; but now we should combine the whole and offer it entirely to God. In the Completed Testament Age, one reaches God through the parents, and in the New Testament Age through the sons and daughters. That was the age of the son. The son was sacrificed and divided in half between God and Satan. Earlier, in the Old Testament Age, all things were divided in half. It was only because of the fall that one half was claimed by Satan. If they originally belonged to God, why were they claimed by two owners? It was because of the fall. Ownership was divided because of the fall. No one has known that history has been moving this way in order to find the children and the new family. Everything must thus be combined and offered. This is why you yourself have to be an offering. You can achieve oneness on the altar. Husband and wife should climb up onto the altar together. You cannot go with a sense of your ownership.

But America today has become a hell full of devils. What is individualism? What is privacy? What is equality? Can we understand the relationship of above and below, front and back, in terms of equality? Equality is a concept that leaves out the center and denies a vertical relationship. There is above, middle, and below. When this is turned upside down, there is equality. The vertical standard does not allow you to move here and there on your own. Trying to follow your own desire will make you stumble and descend into hell. In this way, all the ideals and order of love have been brought to the point of total collapse. What family is there in America? What parents are there in America? What statehood is there in America? Is there a 'world'? All are lost. Now we should completely revamp the satanic world; do you understand?

To touch God's heart, we should combine all our resources and make this offering—an offering of the Old Testament, New Testament, and Completed Testament Ages

You should straighten out your environment with the conviction to serve the providence for thousands of years.

It is the tribe, and seven generations: originally, the whole tribe should come to the workshop center. Do not come alone. After the education of the family four position foundation, the age of the education of the entire tribe should be established. Do you understand? You should offer everything you own. The line of people making this offering should be the longest in history. So you should organize your tribe. There will be a competition to see who will do it sooner. The most fearful thing in the world will happen. Your ancestors are anxious, stamping their feet and urging you to offer everything you have. If you do not, they will wipe out your possessions. They will curse you for failing to heed and follow the declaration, and will demolish you and turn you upside down.

When you have to resolve God's bitterness, are you trying to protect and serve your corrupt and doomed family? You cannot do this. For this reason, I will give directions about tribal education after you finish your education here. Then the age of family education will be over. Do you understand this? [Yes.] Teach them clearly. You should bring them to Jardim by all means. Otherwise, you cannot return. But you have to return. By being engrafted into the heavenly lineage, your tribes must elevate, serve the Parents as God, and come back down to the earth. But where will they come down? They cannot come arbitrarily. If the husband and wife are to return to hometown, they should come to the end and turn around. They should come to the Jardim Ideal Family Education Center, where there is God as the Cosmic Messiah, the Lord of the Second Coming as the worldwide messiah, national messiahs, tribal messiahs, and family messiahs. With family messiahs, tribal messiahs, national messiahs, and the worldwide messiah, blessed families must receive grace to enter heaven at the Jardim Education Center. I will take a picture with each of you. You will then become part of the historical ancestry of True Parents. Without this photograph, you will be in trouble.

WHY AN OFFERING IS NEEDED

For this, you should make a monetary offering, based on the number sixteen. That is why I directed you to catch 160 fish. When North and South Korea joined the United Nations simultaneously, North Korea was the 160th member and South Korea was the 161st. The additional one here belongs to God; no one else can claim it. How many families are blessed families supposed to bless? 160 families. Sixteen countries were involved in World War I, and sixteen countries aided South Korea in the Korean War. So the number sixteen or four times four, is always the problem. All this is offering. Offering is needed in order to fulfill an indemnity condition. To touch God's heart, we should combine all our resources and make this offering—an offering of the Old Testament, New Testament, and Completed Testament Ages. By making a unified offering centering on the True Parents, we can receive God as the Master of all, and God can freely exercise His dominion and move among our families, tribes, peoples and nations. Through His being able to control the above and below, left

and right, and front and back, the world will become one under God. Satanic authority will be crushed and the age of God's authority will come. The time is coming when God will be able to fulfill whatever He desires. This will be the heavenly kingdom on earth. Do you understand this? We should liberate God. This also involves the number four. What comes after the Old Testament, New Testament, and Completed Testament Ages? The Age of Liberation. In this age, everything must be offered. When God receives it all, He does not keep it for Himself, but transfers it over to Adam. Then Adam returns it to God, and as God again gives it back to Adam as the True Parents, the distribution of ownership begins. Without entering the age of unified kingship by such a giving back, the heavenly kingdom will not be established on earth. Do you understand? [We understand.]

OFFERING IS FOR THE TRIBE

We must return, anyway. This is why I declared the 4.4 Jeol in Kodiak. In the south, there were Korean national messiahs, and in the north, national messiahs from other countries. They are to come together in heart, with the second generation standing in the forefront. Who comes first? When there is a plus, there should be a minus. In the north, the elder members of the Second Generation were connected to the plus and minus, and then 4.4 Jeol was declared. Because of this, Adam's family and the families of his children could find settlement and open the gate of heaven. To prepare for this, on June 13, I blessed saints on one hand and murderers on the other. They are brothers and sisters. Since Satan has taken away what belongs to God, now God can do whatever He wants. You should know that through this, the heavenly kingdom of liberation can be opened in heaven and on earth. If your entire tribe makes an offering, your ancestors of up to 72 or even 120 generations will be liberated. Do you understand? [Yes.] Heung Jin will immediately bless them. This is the liberation of the spiritual world and the physical world. This is why you should serve True Parents. Your families are elder-brother families and united royal families in relation to your tribes. As younger brothers, your tribes should become totally one with you through absolute faith, absolute love, and absolute obedience, following you to the spiritual world along with True Parents. There will be an "amen" of liberation. So your families are important. They should serve as the core of your tribes and establish the standard of unification. This is the issue. How arbitrarily you have lived up until now! You all know this. Are your mind and body united? You yourself know well. Couples should not fight. Do not make any condition of accusation. I have told you this before, haven't I? So, shall we do three cheers of mansei, or four cheers? God bless you!◆

[Translated by Jinseung Eu. Edited for Today's World]

[Editor's note: True Father made an important new declaration on January 8 in Punta del Este based on the motto for 1999 and the numerology of its date and time. We hope to carry a comprehensive explanation in the next issue.]

UNDERSTANDING LIFE AND DEATH

REVEREND SUN MYUNG MOON
 WASHINGTON, DC
 DECEMBER 19, 1998

[Father's after-dinner speech to IRFWP conference participants profoundly addresses the spiritual reality. It will be divided between two issues of Today's World]

WE live in the physical world, but we know that this is not the only world that exists. There is also the spirit world. The spirit world is a definite reality. We also know that these two worlds, the physical world and spirit world, are not meant to be disconnected from each other. They should be linked together as one single world.

We human beings, who were born from the spirit world, eventually return to that world. In Korea, we commonly use an interesting idiom in reference to death. When someone dies, we say, "he has returned." To where does he return? It is not to a cemetery. We mean that we return to the point of life's origin. We return across the vast expanses of history. In the process, we shed our nationality. We return to the world that brought forth the human ancestors. If a Creator exists, then we are returning to the world of the Creator. That is where we originated, so it is to there that we finally return.

The universe is engaged in circular motion everywhere. For example, when the snow melts on the mountain, it forms a small stream. As it flows down, its volume increases until it becomes a river. Eventually it reaches the ocean. From the ocean it evaporates, completing the circle by returning into the atmosphere.

THE PLAN FOR HUMAN LIFE

All beings desire to reach a higher ground, a better place, through circular motion. Where, then, is the better place we go to live eternally? While in the physical world, we live in our physical body. Our mind, though, is headed toward the eternal world. We are born into this world, and we pass through our teenage years, our twenties, thirties, middle age, and we eventually reach old age. Ultimately, we come to the end of our lives, just as the sun finally sets on the horizon. Those who know that the spirit world exists, however, know very well that the time spent in our physical body is relatively short, and that the world we face after we die is eternal. They know that our life on earth is a period of preparation for the eternal world.

Most people in society do not know with certainty about the original world where we go after life in this world. They do not know whether there is life after death, or even whether God exists. Eventually, everyone goes to the spirit world. It turns out that the spirit world is a single realm. It is not divided into many countries, as is the physical world. Then, what is it like in the spirit world? We can compare it with the water that serves as the environment for fish. Water is an absolute condition for the fish to live. That doesn't mean, however, that a fish will spend its entire life in one

place. A fish that lives in fresh water cannot spawn if it remains in its river. It has to leave the fresh water and come into contact with salt water in order to lay its eggs. It thus passes through two worlds. In the same way, our mind, part of the spirit world, and body, part of the physical world, must be interconnected.

At the beginning of human history, a realm of global unity should have formed in honor of Adam's birthday, the anniversary of his holy marriage and the anniversary of his death. Then humanity could have united as one people by our sharing in the commemoration of those days. Instead of dividing, humanity could have lived in a single realm. If this had happened, then Adam and Eve's way of life would have passed down through human history. The culture formed would have endured as long as human beings continued to exist.

Each of us goes through life ignorant of when we will die. We do not know that we won't die in a traffic accident. I think some people will die saying, "Oh, Reverend Moon was right!" expressing regret only at that moment. We need to know that we are travelling a very serious path in life. We need to use every second of our life to prepare ourselves for the eternal world. We should be aware that we are standing on such a fateful path.

When people go to the spirit world, they can be divided into two general types. The first comprises those who live out their natural life in this world, and the second comprises those who experience an untimely death. Among the latter, some die as a result of punishment and others die in order to pay indemnity for the nation or the world. Suppose God established one person in a central position with the value of a thousand people. What if God made that one person go the way of death in the place of those thousand people?

In such an instance, the grace and virtue of the one who died in their place would move the hearts of the thousand people. They would determine to live for the benefit of that person, model their lives after that person and live as he lived. If they did this, the thousand people would enter the same realm of grace as the one who died for them. The reason we try to follow the philosophy of patriots and model our lives after wise men is that we desire to enter the same realm of grace as those people.

Viewed as an individual, it may appear that a person possesses worthy aspirations. But no individual hopes live beyond death. In my view, it is important for all people on earth today to give serious consideration to one question. How can we find hope that will not collapse in front of death, but will transcend it? All things of this world will pass away. Our families, nations, and even the world itself will pass away. Ideologies and philosophies will pass away. What is it that remains? Whatever remains, that is the hope that can defeat death.

There are people who, from the time they are born, reject all the hopes and aspirations of the secular world. These peo-

ple embrace aspirations not of the human world but of Heaven, hopes that are eternal. Heaven helps these people. A life of faith does not embrace any aspiration that exists on earth. Instead, it embraces the hopes that surpass even the gates of death. It dreams of the world of eternal hope.

OVERCOMING THE FEAR OF DEATH

Someday I, too, will die. When we are young, we don't think much about death. But we become increasingly serious about death as we grow older. This is because death is a gate through which we are inevitably destined to pass. But what happens to us after we die? Do you know why I am talking about death? I talk about death in order to teach the meaning of life. Who really knows the value of life? It is not the person who is going all out to preserve his life. The only person who really knows about life is the one who goes into the valley of death. He confirms the meaning of life as he desperately cries out to Heaven at the crossroads of life and death.

Why do people fear death? It is because they do not know the purpose for which we are born. Those who do not know why we are born do not know why we die. Therefore the first questions philosophers ask are, "What is life? Why are we born?" If we think about it, we realize that when we die we are reborn into the midst of God's love. But in the human world, people cry out, "Oh no, I'm going to die! What am I to do?" They make a big fuss. Do you think that God laughs, "Ho ho ho!" when we die? Or do you think God cries out, "Oh no!" and is overwhelmed with sorrow? The truth is, He is happy. This is because the moment of the physical body's death is the moment we experience the joy of leaving the finite realm of love in order to enter the infinite realm of love. It is the moment of our second birth.

Then is God happier on the day we are born into the physical world, or at that moment we leave our physical body behind? At that moment, we are born a second time into the realm of the infinite expansion of love. We become His new children through death. Of course, God is happier at the second birth. I am telling you this because you need to know that you cannot have a relationship with God unless you are released from the fear of death.

TWO BIRTHS

It makes God happy to watch and directly take part in our life. Consider how a baby is born and wets its diapers as it begins the process of growth. God is happy because as the child grows, the pulse of love that is in God's heart also grows. When God makes a face, babies imitate Him and make the same face. When God smiles, babies also smile, and when He is sad they also are sad. This is how babies gradually grow to resemble God. As babies grow, they also begin to resemble their parents. From their parents, they learn language and the rules for daily life. Of course, all these things have their origin in God.

So, after God has lived with us on earth and goes whoosh over to the other side, what are we supposed to do? If we say, "Wait, God, I want to go with You," will He reply, "Who are you? I don't know you"? Is He likely to leave us behind like that? Or will He want to take us with Him? Of course, He

will want to take us with Him. But when God says, "I can't take you with me now. I'll take you with me after you have grown a little more. I want you to work a bit more on your perfection," we can reply, "Well, we can't go now, but we are certain that there will come a time when we are able to go." Then we can wait for that day.

In our physical body, we are unable to follow God wherever He goes. It is only natural that we would aspire to resemble God. On His part, God also would want His sons and daughters to resemble Him. We must conclude, then, that God designed us to be born again into a body that enables us to resemble Him. God and human beings long for that eternal day when we can soar through the heavens together. The day we are born as beings who can take wing with God, the day we are born into that body, that is the day of our physical death. On that day we cast off the physical body like an old coat. Then, should we welcome death or fear death? The answer, of course, is that we should welcome death.

For what purpose, then, should we die? We should die for the sake of God's true love. That is the love whereby we seek to sacrifice ourselves for the benefit of others. We can conclude that the reason we cast off our physical body is so that we can participate in the realm of God's work of love. We die for the sake of the world of God's love.

Wouldn't you like to be born as God's real sons and daughters, who can receive and practice true love? If we could measure God's wealth, how rich do you think He would be? Have you ever thought about that? With all those stars in the universe, isn't it likely that there is one star that is a solid diamond? How about a star of pure gold? God is truly omniscient and omnipotent. Wouldn't He want His children to have everything? What do you think? God can go from one end of the vast universe to the other in an instant. Is this something that you would find interesting to do?

To gain that ability, what do we need to do? We must keep the laws that God has established for us. Only when we do so is it possible for us to be with Him. It is impossible if we just behave anyway we want. Are you confident that you can refrain from doing what God tells you not to do? Human beings have a dual structure. The mind is the subject partner and the body is the object partner. It is necessary that the two become one, with the body subordinating itself to the mind.

THREE STAGES OF LIFE

We go through three realms that correspond to the stages of formation, growth and completion. We go through the realm of water in our mother's womb, then the realm of the planet Earth, and finally the heavenly realm of floating in air. We go through the period in the water of the womb and are born into the world. We live in our physical body in this world for about a hundred years, until we enter the world in which we fly through the air. We pass through these three realms.

When a fetus is in the womb, it resists leaving the womb for the outside world. It fights as hard as it can to stay in the womb. The reason is that when the fetus leaves the womb, its home is destroyed. All its nourishment and everything else it had in the womb breaks apart and flows away. Also, its body shape changes during the birth process. Who would want to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Why We Can Be Grateful in 1999

of the Principle. So again, even though spirit beings may later recognize True Parents, it will not be easy to follow them. By comparison, because we joined the Unification Church we can adapt our physical lives a little in relation to True Parents' life. In all of history, ours is a unique time in which to live. Please recognize this point.

At the beginning of the year I heard many members greeting each other with the traditional Korean new year's greeting, "*Sae hae bok mani badeu-shipshiyoy.*" It means: "Please receive many blessings, or much happiness in the new year." But you and I have already received every blessing! Don't expect more! If we carefully research human history, we find that Heavenly Father has always given happiness and blessing. The main problem is that humankind could not keep that blessing or fortune. Adam and Eve are the representative case. Adam and Eve received the three blessings, didn't they? But they did not keep them. All of you here are blessed couples. But is your daily schedule or daily life a blessed one, or not? This is the key. Do not be tempted to want to receive more blessing; please try to preserve the blessing that you have already received.

It depends on our standard of daily life. During the True God's Day celebration this year, one of the things Father said was that as long as we always keep a thankful heart toward God and others, we can never be drawn into Satan's accusation or temptation. If we keep a truly grateful heart, Satan can never invade us. The first condition through which Satan accuses or attacks is the feeling of not having enough in comparison to others: "My blessing is not enough. My situation is not enough." If we feel the present reality is far less than our expectation, then already a shadow, the darkness of night, has appeared, and Satan has come in.

Fundamentally, we Unificationists always must be thankful. Why? Because our lives are already adopted by True Parents. This is an amazing grace. Compared with the lives of the billions of people on earth, the billions upon billions in the spirit world and the billions upon billions of future descendants, our lives are unique and very special, because we are physically adopted by True Parents.

You may have heard about Mr. Sasamoto, the original Japanese missionary to Tanzania, who was murdered in his

mission country. On the fortieth anniversary of the founding of HSA-UWC, Father presented Mr. Sasamoto with a special award, which his wife received on his behalf.

Mrs. Sasamoto has testified that after receiving this award, her husband often visits her and they exchange love so tangibly together as husband and wife. Mr. Sasamoto explained to his wife that because of the award he received from True Parents he has, since that day, had a free pass back and forth between the spirit world and the physical world.

Do you believe this? Please believe this is reality. Think about it. Even though he was murdered, and he ascended, this was not everything. The Principle order in the spirit world is so real and so exact, yet he still needed to digest many things and wait. Once Father recognized him in a special way on the earth, however, he immediately became free.

Father's life, Father's word, Father's declaration and

Father's recognition are amazing things. According to Dr. Sang Hun Lee's message, most blessed couples are living in a separate realm. In particular, the 36 Couples are in a separate realm. Think about it. Why? Many blessed couples, actually, even among the 36 Couples, have not yet fulfilled their responsibility or become perfect. However, because of True Parents' decisions



Mother and leaders applaud as Father finishes writing the motto (Photo: Julian Gray/TW)

and proclamations on the earth, all blessed couples have already received amazing grace. If we recognize this point, why not be truly grateful every day? If we maintain a grateful heart toward God and True Parents, from within our own heart we will automatically experience self-generating energy. We will always be excited, joyful and energetic. But if we do not have a grateful heart, already there will be a shadow; and unhappy, negative feelings will spring out. This condition is very important. When two or three are working together under the same daily schedule, one who is always grateful will have energy and work positively, but one who does not have enough gratitude will experience a difficult course. Our determination and our internal attitude are so important.

Our worldwide membership, especially blessed couples, must be grateful to our True Parents for their efforts in 1998. Last year, True Parents truly dedicated themselves for us. First, Father laid the condition for the Hoon Dok Hae tradition. After arriving in Korea in January he made Hoon Dok Hae public. At first, I myself was doubtful. Although Hoon Dok Hae is meaningful for Unificationists, I wondered whether it would be welcomed by leaders of society. We had had no experience with such a project; but we did it, and it was good. Sometimes people find it difficult to understand

Message from the Publisher

Father's speeches without an accompanying text. But with Father reading the content it worked well.

Since that time, there has been no better example of maintaining Hoon Dok Hae lifestyle than our True Parents. Every day last year, at six o'clock in the morning, Father shared his example with us. If all blessed couples follow the teachings in the Hoon Dok Hae texts, we will have no problems. All the answers and examples can be found there. The entire way of Principle and eternal life are there. Everything is there. Last year, Father set up the tradition of Hoon Dok Hae for all blessed couples. In turn, we have to educate the many blessed and pre-blessed couples through Hoon Dok Hae.

What is most important is that each couple guide and teach their own children through the Hoon Dok Hae tradition. Even if they are, for example, only one, two, or four years old, it doesn't matter. Please, when you do family-level Hoon Dok Hae, your children must attend. At such a young age they are just observing; they have no understanding. But if every day at the same time they see their daddy and mommy sincerely reading the Hoon Dok Hae texts together, then these small children will be rooting their own minds and hearts in the heavenly heart. This is very, very important. I believe that if you maintain your family Hoon Dok Hae on a daily basis with your children, they will never go in a bad direction. Hoon Dok Hae is of course very important for the husband and wife as a blessed couple. But beyond this, the most important and greatest benefit will be to blessed children. To begin after they are already grown is too late. Please start educating your children even one year earlier.

Last year, Father also established the Ideal Family Education Center in Jardim, Brazil and began forty-day training sessions for blessed couples. In the future all blessed couples will attend. Through this, Father has opened the gate for all blessed couples to enter the heavenly kingdom.

Father also made the four Jardim declarations and also the 4.4 Jeol declaration in Kodiak, a fifth declaration. In the last issue of Today's World, I explained the significance of these five declarations. They contain our ultimate goal as blessed couples. We have to reach that standard. Father did not make these declarations for himself, nor for the Unification Church, nor for ordinary people; they are mainly for blessed couples. This is my goal, your goal, our families' goal. Do you understand? So please study and learn the contents of these declarations.

Even though Father did not announce it, my feeling is that last year Father truly prepared for his eternal life. Some time later, after Father has ascended to the spirit world, all blessed couples will recognize the effort Father made last year and adopt the unwavering way of tradition he set. This is a very, very important teaching for blessed couples. No one is exempt. Everyone should adopt this tradition.

Father also achieved the globalization of the blessing last year through the blessing of 120 million couples; and pre-blessing has now been given to more than 240 million cou-

ples. Father has thus already completed his mission.

One unforgettable accomplishment of True Parents in 1998 was their blessing of people in the spirit world. On June 13, at the Madison Square Garden Blessing, Father selected 34 persons from the spirit world, including four saints and those who represent hell. This was a blessing of historical persons. Among the 34 couples, Father in particular selected four spouses from the physical world. This was an amazing grace. Please think about the significance of the holy wine ceremony. Through the holy wine ceremony, the blood lineage of each blessing candidate is changed from Satan's lineage to God's lineage, from a false-love lineage to a heavenly love lineage.

False life is transferred to true life, false lineage is transferred to true lineage. This is a ceremony of being born anew. So the holy wine ceremony is the ceremony of rebirth.

Consider the difference between the spirit world and the physical world. Spirit beings in the spirit world never multiply. The birth of new life takes place only on earth. Once a person ascends to the spiritual world, there is no chance for new life. But last June through True Parents' special grace, people in the spirit world received the holy wine through their physical spouse on earth. This means rebirth for the spirit world. On the basis of what kind of condition? We do not know in detail, but one thing we should recognize is that it was because of the amazing indemnity conditions True Father made in South America—at Salobra and on the Paraguay River.

Now the time has come when spirit persons can receive holy wine and be reborn. We call this blessing the 'heaven and earth blessing.' Last December 8 in Japan, and December 25 in Korea, heaven and earth

blessings took place. In Japan there were 1,984 couples, and in Korea almost 600 couples. What was happening? Most of them had already received the single blessing. What has been the status of those who received single blessing up until now? After going to the spirit world and following certain regulations, then much later, after True Parents themselves go to the spirit world, these spirit persons were to receive their spouse and the blessing. It was like a promise. But, as I mentioned, once one ascends to the spirit world, it is very difficult to advance. All the conditions are so exacting. It is very complicated and takes much time.

At this time, however, an elderly man or woman alive on earth can decide to receive the blessing, either with a former spouse or another person. Then those spouses in the spirit world are able to attend a special training session led by Heung Jin Nim, usually for 120 days. Think about such a special training session in the spirit world, under Heung Jin Nim's guidance. Do you think those selected trainees were dozing during that training, or sometimes absent, not keeping the exact schedule, or were they model trainees? According to the testimony of spiritual mediums, the trainees were exemplary in their hard work and study. So, during the 120-day special training, most of their spirits were growing well. In some cases the spouse in the spirit world was as young as 17



Rev. Kwak gives his New Year's message to his staff on January 7

(Photo: Julian Gray/TW)

Message from the Publisher

years old. So one of the spouses may be young externally and the other one old. Of course the spirit self of someone who is externally elderly is not old; but looking externally, it seems truly unbalanced. So the spiritual medium always urges the earthly person to quickly repent, straighten up internally and follow all of Father's directions.

Before one such blessing they held a matching meeting. There is an amazing story of one Korean woman who had joined the church long ago. Her son and daughter are blessed. Both the son and the daughter expected their mother to choose their father, who is in the spirit world, to be blessed with. But their mother had a completely different idea. She did not want him, because when he was alive on earth he was always drinking and had such a bad attitude. She didn't even want to see him again. This was very painful for the son and daughter, but their mother's determination was strong. When the time for matching drew near, they once again asked their mother, "Mother, you must decide, but do you truly want someone else?" Several times she refused to receive her former husband, but in the end, one day, she said, "I have decided to accept him. If I don't accept him he may have no way to resurrect. So I determined to forgive and accept him." The day after she decided this, her husband came to her in a dream and knelt down and bowed before her three times, thanking her deeply.

There have been many similar spiritual phenomena. After the December 8 blessing in Japan, I encouraged the participants that, from then on, they would have spiritual experiences with their spouses. I asked them not to hesitate to report these experiences, and I asked the Japanese Family Department to collect these wonderful testimonies and make them available to others, especially to people outside our church, to inform them of what is going on. Later, Mrs. Erikawa brought a long report of testimonies of many cases in which these couples are already living together and having a substantial love relationship, and many other extraordinary testimonies.

Why then among Unification Church blessed couples, when one partner has already passed into the spirit world, have the husband and wife not met afterwards and shared their love, while these newly blessed heaven and earth couples already live together? Even though one spouse has ascended to the spirit world while the other remains on earth, because of some unworthiness and not having become completely perfect, their relationship is not free. Both need then to purify themselves by laying more indemnity conditions. Both need training and internal cleansing. But in these recent cases, because the spouses in the spirit world have received proper education and grown so quickly, and the spouses on earth have also prepared well, they can meet naturally. True Father has now opened true blessing to spirit persons. True Parents' blessing is now given not only in the physical world, but also in the spirit world—and includes this amazing miracle of miracles. Then more and more, those on earth can be in close

relationship with the spirit world.

We are fortunate that we can observe and learn about this kind of physical world-spirit world fortune. Father has emphasized to all the leaders that this is very important. The lifestyle of someone on earth who truly understands deeply about the spirit world will be closer to the standard to follow.

Even though we Unificationists are already linked with True Parents' precious life, we join them now in this final year of the era of restoration, 1999. The year 2000 will be different from the year 1999. Even the secular world is researching what direction humanity will take in the 21st Century and what kind of future we will have. We are now in the last year of the 20th Century, and after this year we move one step into the next century. The 21st Century is not only a new century, but also a new millennium. So our next step will be into a new millennium. The millennium that is ending is not just another thousand-year period. From the viewpoint of God's dispensation, it is part of the biblical era of 6,000 years of restoration. This 6,000-year era ends this year; we will then enter the era of the eternal ideal world.

In this final year it is very meaningful to live with True Parents, under True Parents' direction, and for the sake of True Parents' will. It is very precious to work in such a historical period.

Once again, I ask all of you to please reorganize yourselves with a constantly fresh and hopeful feeling and deep gratitude for this special year of 1999. This is not only for the sake of your own life, but also for your eternal family tradition. In the year 1999 you should be proud to work under True Parents' direction and guidance in a public mission.

At the True God's Day conference Father urged us, "*jeong-sung gwa sarang*." In Korean this is a very specific expression meaning 'dedication and love.' When we study Father's life course, we realize that True Father is not an ordinary man. Through his life course he has come to represent the essence of God's love.◆

[Editor's note: Rev. Kwak expressed more about the meaning of Cheon Ji Pu Mo in a speech to participants in a special prayer workshop at Chung Pyung, on October 11, 1998, and also in direct guidance to Today's World. Last September, True Parents announced that we can refer to them as Cheon Ji Pu Mo (literally, "Heaven and Earth Father/ Mother") instead of Cham Pu Mo ("True Parents"). On August 9, 1997 (July 7 by the lunar calendar), Father proclaimed that God is the Heavenly Parent, and True Parents are the Earthly Parents. In that Father represents the essence of God's love, True Parents are therefore, the "Second-Self" Heavenly Parents. So our understanding of True Parents must change. Now that True Parents have established the victorious conditions, the era has dawned, with the 4.4 Jeol Declaration on September 8, in which God can constantly remain on earth with True Parents. True Parents can therefore be considered Parents of Heaven and Earth.]

[Edited for Today's World]



Rev. Kwak with World Mission Department headquarters staff in New York. (l. to r.) Special assistant, Mr. Yoshida, Patrick Kirkbride, (top) Megumi Ueda and Eliza Nipales (Photo: Julian Gray/TW)

*Father pours out his
New Year message in the
summer sun*



*Father and Mother cut
the celebration cake*



*Mother enjoys a lighter moment during
Father's speech* (Photos: Julian Gray/TW)



*Hyung Jin Nim performs his famed rendition of
La Bamba accompanied on guitar by American
Church president, Tyler Hendricks*

Day of Victory of Love, January 2, 1999



Hoon Sook Nim and Shin Chul Nim honor Heung Jin Nim



Father lights the commemorative candles



(l.) Father and Mother relaxing at the True God's Day evening entertainment. (r.) True Parents are the most ardent sports fans on this day (January 2) (Photos: Julian Gray/TW)

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

Understanding Life and Death

go through something like that? Every fetus cries, "No!" right up to the moment of birth. Eventually the water breaks and the infant follows soon after.

As you watch a woman give birth to a child, you really have to feel sorry for her. Women who have given birth know what I am talking about. When the mother is pushing, it makes no difference how beautiful she may be. Her face contorts into all sorts of strange shapes. She makes such terrible faces that even her husband can't stand to watch and leaves the room. She makes just about every possible face. So, the mother, too, goes through tremendous pain up to the last moment in order for the baby to be born.

After birth, is it necessary to leave the umbilical cord connected to the baby's navel? Or is the umbilical cord chopped off without a second thought? Maybe someone should object, saying, "That cord is someone's lifeline. How can you cut a lifeline that connects one human being to another?" The newborn infant, too, cries at the top of its lungs because it thinks it is about to die. As God looks on, though, He can't help but break into a happy smile. From the viewpoint of the new life that has just been born, one world has just disappeared completely. Now it must breathe the air of its new world.

A child is conceived in the depth of water. The period in the womb is a period of existence in water. As long as the fetus is in its mother's womb, it is floating in water. At first thought, you might think the time in the womb would be difficult because the fetus cannot breathe. You would think that it would need a process of taking in and sending out water. This function is fulfilled by something like a hose attached to the baby's belly. How does a fetus in the womb receive nourishment? It receives nourishment through its navel.

THE BREATH OF LOVE

We can refer to our belly button as our former mouth. Someone might say, "How foolish. Whoever heard of a former mouth?" There's no denying the fact, though, that your belly button once functioned as your mouth. The belly button also acted as a breathing apparatus. Your present mouth fulfills that function here on earth. The function has moved up on your body. The same function is as necessary for the spirit self as it is for the fetus in the womb.

The spirit self is attached to the physical body that lives on earth by breathing air. It lives off the physical body until the body grows old. Then the spirit self kicks the body away and tries to separate. If at that moment, the body cries out, "No, I don't want to die! I won't die!" how will God react? Will He feel sorry for the physical body, because of the pain it is enduring? Or will He quietly smile?

The child who experiences pain in order to emerge from its mother's womb grows to become the object of its parents' love. In the same way, our spirit self must leave behind our crying physical body in order to be born anew as the eternal object of God, who is a spiritual being. This is a conclusion based on Principle. On earth, too, the baby can become the friend of its father and mother after it is born. This is because

it is born into the physical world where it can share love with its father and mother. In the same way that the fetus swims around the mother's womb, life on earth is breathing and living in the swaddling clothes of air. Only when the baby shares love with its mother and father as it breathes air can we say it is alive. In the same way, we can share love with God our Parent, who exists as an eternal spiritual being, after we are born again into the spirit world.

What kind of place is the spirit world? When we enter the spirit world, we begin to breathe through a hole on the top of our head and through our cells. The air in the spirit world is not the air we have on earth. Instead, it is love. When a spirit person breathes, he or she inhales and exhales the nourishing elements of love. On earth, eating alone does not sustain our life. When we eat and drink, all we are doing is filling our sack with food and water. Eventually, we will die. The form we take during life on earth is our second existence. While on earth, we need to develop our character of love. Therefore on earth, the thing we need most is love. What is an orphan? Why do we call a child who cannot receive love from a father or mother an orphan? It is because such a child lacks the love by which he or she can connect eternally with the spirit world. Without love, we are lonely. That is why we feel sorry for a person who lives without a spouse.

Death destroys our ability to breathe in the second stage, and connects us with the nourishment of love. We eventually have no choice but to leave the physical body behind. We cannot see love, but our internal structure develops centering on the love of parents, of husband and wife, and of children. Just as there is a normal development for a child in its mother's womb, there is a normal course of development on earth. We follow it by living in accordance with the laws of God. We cannot do it by living just any way we want.

HUMAN FLIGHT

If we examine the world of nature, we see that insignificant insects, seeds of trees and even baby birds can fly. Does it make sense that human beings, the greatest of all creations, cannot fly? Look at the dandelion. It is made so that its seeds will fly away when the wind blows. Birds fly, insects fly and the seeds of plants fly. Surely, human beings also must have been created with a way to fly. Someone might be tempted to complain, "God, why did you create us without the ability to fly when everything else in creation can fly?" God's reply probably would be, "Wait a few decades until you reach perfection and then I will let you fly."

So, what should we be doing until then? We need to train ourselves to be able to adapt to the spirit world. We need to train ourselves by loving our parents, loving our spouse and loving our children. Then, when the time comes, we will enter the eternal world and live in attendance to God. For that to take place, we must put aside this physical body and die.

Look at the life cycle of the cicada. Before a cicada can fly, it goes through a larval stage. What would happen if the cicada said, "I want to go on living as a larva. I don't want to shed my skin. I don't care about land and air"? Even if it were resisting its transformation, once it shed its skin it would fly away.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

Realizing the Interfaith Ideal: Action Beyond Dialogue

IRFWP Conference, Washington, DC
December 18 - 20, 1998

Dr. Frank Kaufmann
New York

THE Inter-Religious Federation for World Peace sponsored a conference on the theme of Realizing the Interfaith Ideal: Action Beyond Dialogue, in Washington, DC, December 18 - 20, 1998. Its events were divided between the conference hotel and The Washington Times. Underpinning the conference was the presentation of an initiative relating a harmonized interfaith leadership with the work and mission of the United Nations.

This vision was enthusiastically received by the 126 international participants in attendance. The program consisted of thirteen speakers, and included a keynote address by Father given at a banquet held at the Washington Times, entitled "An Understanding of Life and Death." Participants came from thirty countries and included religious leaders, Christian clergy from several denominations, scholars, religious activists associated with religious and social organizations, and United Nations representatives. One of the most encouraging outcomes of the conference was the fact that the United Nations participants acknowledged the initiative as inspired, legitimate, timely, necessary, and do-able. The opinion of the United Nations participants is noteworthy due to the fact that the conference concept was a religious initiative, not a UN one: its viability and credibility can only be legitimately assessed by those to whom the working relationship is being proposed.

The conference was called as a means to fulfill a providential necessity and was required to take place by a mandated deadline. Its call came late, when other matters were pressing, and to a badly understaffed community. Moreover, the scope and parameters of the conference changed often during the limited time frame for preparations. The fact that it was widely and

publicly acknowledged as a significant achievement, and a recognizable contribution, clearly reflects the blessing of God on the effort. Additionally, the effectiveness and responsiveness of Unificationists in the field, both domestically and internationally, is also reflected in the success of the con-

gram would involve a re-structuring of the UN as currently conceived. For, in addition to the representation of nation states, there would be representatives of the world's religious traditions.

The essence of this thesis was distilled into a declaration which was presented to participants to sign depending on whether or not they consented. The declaration was signed by 100% of those in attendance. This was beyond the best hopes of the conveners.

The second trademark insight attributable to Father is his understanding of the seamless link from family order to world order. While the peace conversation has continued for decades, no one has detailed so clearly the relationship between

matters so grand as world peace to its indispensable dependence on family order. This too captured the imagination of participants gathered, and opened many eyes to Father's unique ideological contribution in our time.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

For this reason, world peacemaking calls not only for the wisdom of statesmen and diplomats, but also for the wisdom of the world's religions, as embodied in the most honored representatives of those religious traditions. To implement such a program would involve a re-structuring of the UN as currently conceived. For, in addition to the representation of nation states, there would be representatives of the world's religious traditions.

ference and the presence of participants from among the most respected leaders in the world of religion.

The end goal for the conference was to present a proposal for religious leaders to form an interfaith leadership body that is directly related to the United Nations and integral to the unfolding of service and leadership for the world arising from that world body. The essence of this is encapsulated in the speech of Reverend Kwak entitled "New Directions for Interfaith." In a carefully developed thesis, Reverend Kwak writes:

For this reason, world peacemaking calls not only for the wisdom of statesmen and diplomats, but also for the wisdom of the world's religions, as embodied in the most honored representatives of those religious traditions. To implement such a pro-



Dr. Kaufmann speaks with a participant at the IRFWP conference reception

PHOTO: COURTESY OF DR. FRANK KAUFMANN

One Participant Reflects

I was positively enchanted during my stay in Punta del Este, where I savored the inestimable and eternal gift of being allowed to share True God's Day with Father and Mother.

Part of the rapture I experienced this year is closely linked to having spent True God's Day 1998 in Punta del Este, the misery of which neared perfection save Father's glorious love and steadfastness. True God's Day 1998 seemed to gather not only all the rain on earth, but the human, spiritual versions of mud as well: rivers through the tent, mud up to the knees of one's dress suit, porous umbrellas, and the inevitable struggle with one's own—and others'—fallen nature. It seemed a holy day designed to manifest the theological assertion that Father and Mother alone are good. The awesome truth about True God's Day 1998 was that the worse the conditions became, the more intensely and more faithfully Father carried out the activities of those holy days. Did the start of the year portend the nature of the year to come? I suppose each will have to answer that for him or herself. One thing for sure, we have since come to know of intense suffering borne by True Parents in 1998.

The year passed, and a new True God's Day was celebrated. By the grace of God I was permitted to attend its festivities. With the residual memory of True God's Day '98 suffering re-stirring, I boarded the long but often pleasant and relaxing flight to Montevideo. Each step along the way introduced more and more members. The airport in New York unveiled a good 20 members, the stop-over in Buenos Aires added another 30. The flight to Montevideo increasingly came to resemble the God's Day express.

The fate of this holy day to be a healing and resurrecting experience was immediately evident upon landing. The reception, immigration, luggage, and ground transportation were flawlessly managed. Not only were the local staff operating with a clear and efficient plan, but thankfully, those arriving seemed to function with a spirit of patience, and humility. The ride through the Uruguayan countryside was bright and refreshing.

The organizational mastery and the participant compliance persisted in the manner of our welcome to the celebra-

tion grounds. Registration, luggage arrangement, site maps, program and schedule directions, were all provided each incoming participant. Instead of personal tents this year, the organizers arranged three vast tents, each holding perhaps as many as two hundred people! Light, bright, airy, weather-proof. Less comical but far more comfortable.

Soon after arrival, Father called all present to the meeting grounds where we heard reports, and heard from Father himself. Here with Father the spiritual atmosphere, just as the external preparations and welcome, was filled with a sense of peace and calm. Father's words, while ever our judge, and ever strained with insistence and desperation, somehow emanated a soft glow, an assurance, the likes of which I am not accustomed to. There was a wholeness, a completeness to Father's message, this first meeting time, and throughout the holy days.

We had many Hoon Dok Hae sessions, many speeches, and many occasions of ritual and devotion. It all had an aura of ease. But please do not misunderstand. Imagine the hundred-meter hurdles. The winner has an aura of ease. Father's passion for victory, his urgency, his relentless investment were as great or greater than ever, and yes there were moments of absolute and intense contest of cosmic and providential proportions, in the hairline realm of heart and attendance. Still, our days together were in this way "easy." The sun was warm and bright, the nights were crisp and cold. The food was fresh and ample. Mother seemed to be at Father's side even more than usual (if one can imagine that). Even the hours of Hoon Dok Hae seemed easy. Father and Mother sat together over the hours of Hoon Dok Hae the way others might choose to cuddle together on the deck of a vacation cruise-liner. As we listened to Hoon Dok Hae, Father told us of words that "spark your pulse," he told us of wanting to give words which can continue to inspire for hundreds and thousands of years.

For me the true test of what seemed too good to be true would occur in the annual games, the contests for prizes and the King's nod; the sports and fishing competition. I concur with the inspiration that athletic competition does not



Having toured the gardens to oversee preparations for the True God's Day celebrations, Father meets up with Mother outside the main house; December 29, 1998

build character. It reveals character. Last year, the rain and the mud were just fun in a way: a gift of a story to tell. On this occasion the fields of competition were a scene of honor, of grand and well-fought contests, of self-surrender, deference to the officiators, and respect among the combatants. As brothers and sisters waged their various campaigns, matching skills and doggedness, Father and Mother arrived on the warm and sunny beach. By merely sitting in one place they instantly authored what promptly became the "roaring crowd," cheering as yellow battled black in a well-fought soccer match.

The efforts and competitiveness of their children caused Father and Mother to smile; those very smiles which many of us trust as our own pillars of cloud and fire; that by which we are captivated and enticed as we tread fearfully through the wilderness to the promised land. The rain appears to have let up. ♦

[Edited for Today's World]

The Friendship Americas Project

John Gehring
New York, USA

SANTIAGO Atitlan is a growing community in Guatemala, wedged between three volcanic mountains and one of the world's most beautiful lakes. The population of the community is basically Mayan by culture and until a decade ago no school existed to provide formal education for its children.

The schools that exist in Santiago Atitlan are small and incredibly overcrowded, often with one hundred twenty students in two small rooms. Since their mother tongue is Zutuhiel, which is a local Mayan dialect, there exists a real danger that if the children do not gain a basic education along with agrasp of Spanish they will remain on the fringes of the Guatemalan society, relatively disenfranchised.

At Santiago Atitlan, the Shimjung School has been growing in students and faculty in the past several years. The school is unique for two reasons: it promotes the education of the poorest of the poor, often children of those orphaned

by the terrorism of the recent civil war. It also links to its basic educational approach of the teaching of heart. Education goals include the training of children in ways in which they can become citizens who believe in and know love and who can have the freedom to function in a multi-cultural society.

The RYS is an international, interfaith youth service project, which has sponsored service projects in thirty-two nations since it began in 1985. The RYS has been working since 1995 with the WFWP on each of its six "Friendship Americas Projects." Friendship Americas Projects are designed to pull the peoples of the Americas from each faith and culture together in the spirit of true friendship and religious cooperation. To date, Friendship Americas Projects have been hosted in Honduras, Guatemala, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic. At each project, the WFWP has played an important role in sending both volunteers and financial support.

Today, literally thousands of children are receiving a formal education and medical care because of the help provid-

ed by Friendship Americas Projects. The Shimjung school in Santiago Atitlan is one of those schools whose additional classrooms make it possible to greatly increase its 120-student capability. WFWP is moving towards promoting its vision for educational, medical and moral uplift through its substantial involvement in these and other projects.

Inspired by the bridge ceremonies in the USA, the RYS Friendship Americas Project in the Dominican Republic had an "Island Friendship Bridge" where thirty teams of three from Haiti, Dominican Republic and Japan linked together in an effort to bring greater friendship on the island of Hispaniola (shared by Haiti and the Dominican Republic). The WFWP's efforts are in many ways creating a ripple effect that is bringing benefit to all corners of the globe.◆

[Edited for Today's World]

John Gehring is the director of the Religious Youth Service (RYS). He and his wife Yeshiko, were blessed in the 2075 Couples Blessing in 1982. They have five children.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

Realizing the Interfaith...

This dimension was ably put forth by Unification scholars on the program. Two of the thirteen scholarly addresses were presented by Unificationists, these being Dr. Thomas Ward, visiting professor of International Relations at the University of Bridgeport, and Dr. Thomas G. Walsh, Executive Director of the International Religious Foundation (IRF). Both papers were acknowledged as well-constructed, and containing innovative and important content.

Father's speech was magnificent. The banquet at the *Washington Times* hosted an additional 130 or so guests from the D.C. area leadership. To these 250 or so, Father read a prepared treatise on the passage from life to death, the nature of the transition, the subsequent nature of one's existence in the spirit world, and the implications of these realities for earthly life and the fulfillment of our responsibilities there-to pertaining. Father was gentle, grace-

ful, self-effacing, and endearing. Together with the fascinating and riveting speech content, the timing of the speech was a masterpiece and a memorable occasion was ensured. There was even greater-than-usual attention to Father's every word, and all the more so given the soothing style of presentation. Father tied the focus of his hour-long speech to the conference theme at the very end in which he explained himself to the participants thus:

"There is a reason that I have addressed the participants of this gathering by speaking about the value of life as it relates to issues having to do with human life and death. You represent religions that are active throughout the world, and I want to stress that it is the responsibility of religious leaders to teach correctly with respect to life and death.

Today, the political leaders of the world are seeking to realize world peace and human prosperity through the United Nations. In my judgment, however, the path to world peace will be incomplete if we rely merely on the political, economic and military functions of the United Nations. Political, economic and military aspects can only

deal with external, physical and material things. The more internal and spiritual aspects can only be reached through religious teaching and through the unity and united actions of the world's religions."

The heartfelt reception Father garnered through his speech combined with the already extant enthusiasm for the initiative represented by the conference to produce a rewarding end result. The acclaim for the proposed agenda to investigate and develop the link between religious and political leadership was readily associated with Father who was, after all, the originator of the conference program, and the benefactor for its substantial implementation. Although a huge task remains to see the eventual accomplishment of this step toward world peace, there is much promise.◆

[Edited for Today's World]

Dr. Frank Kaufmann is the executive director of the Inter-Religious Federation for World Peace. He and his wife, Hiroko, participated in the 2075 Couples Blessing in 1982. They have three children.

What Will the New Millennium Bring?

Rev. Joong Hyun Pak
December 26, 1998
Chicago, USA

[Mindful of Father's emphasis on inter-religious harmony, especially on unity among the Christian denominations, Rev. Pak has worked to build personal relationships with other ministers and regularly speaks at public functions. The following speech was given at the Third Annual True Family Values Banquet, hosted in Chicago, where great strides have been made in the interfaith arena over the years.]

DEAR Brothers & Sisters, It is my joy to be here with you at this special Third Annual True Family Values Banquet. I am especially happy for this occasion because it gives me the opportunity to express my sincere appreciation for all of you ministers and to praise you for all your accomplishments. Our brother, Dr. T.L. Barrett, was known to have said recently that since the existence of the True Family Values Ministry in Chicago, that the rate of divorce is down and the crime rate has dropped as well. This is wonderful news. I believe it was the work of each and every one of you that brought the results! Working together, along with God's power, that's what brings results!

This is what can happen when we all work together, and believe me, it is only the beginning. We can truly make a difference. As a team we can bring absolute victory and give hope to society. People need to feel hope from spiritual leaders. We are their only source of hope. So, I congratulate you on your faithfulness to God's work and the success you have brought. We are just getting started! We need to turn our thoughts seriously to the future now.

What will the new millennium bring?

People throughout the world are preparing for the new millennium. In England and France they are constructing great buildings in its honor. The United States is launching a space station in preparation for it. These are wondrous things to behold. They are very impressive, but they remind me of the Tower of Babel. No matter how great our human works, these monuments

will not save humankind. Only our faithfulness to the word of God is our salvation! Only the word of God and our absolute faithfulness and obedience to it will launch us safely into the future.

Just a few days ago, on December 19, in Washington, DC, Reverend Sun Myung Moon, Founder of the Family Federation for World Peace, announced that the Twenty-first Century is the Century of the Family and it will be known as the "Age of the Ideal Family." The future world will not be the world of ideal individualism nor ideal globalism, but it will be a world of Ideal Family-ism. Rev. Moon said that to make an ideal family is even more difficult than making an ideal person or an ideal world.

The Ideal Family is God's dwelling place. In the fourth Chapter of John, the Samaritan woman at the well asked Jesus for the living water. Jesus told her to go and call her husband. He didn't tell her to call her brother, her father, or the whole village. He said go, call your husband, and come back. The living water is for husband and wife together. Jesus also called husband and wife to become one flesh.

In the Books of Matthew and Mark, Jesus repeated God's command that husband and wife become one flesh. Why is this so important? It is important because it is God's plan for the perfection of love. What was this plan? God revealed it in the Garden of Eden. There He created His image in man and His image in woman. Then He told man and woman to break down the barrier between them and make the two one. As it says in the Second Chapter of Genesis, v. 24, "...a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh." Jesus repeated this commandment. St. Paul did as well. This husband and wife oneness—spiritual and physical—is the perfection of love. We know from Genesis 1:27, it recreates the image of God—male and female. It brings joy to the world and glory to Heaven. It imbues the flesh with God's creative power. It brings forth children in God's image. From Revelation, Chapters 19 and 21,

we know that Jesus is the true bridegroom, the church is his bride. Together they restore the power of True Parents in heaven, giving rebirth.

At the Second Coming, the heavenly bride comes to the earth to meet her husband, the Lamb of God. This is God's restoration of True Parents on earth. True husbands and wives are the living tabernacle. In I John, Chap. 4, v. 12, we read that the "dwelling place of God is with men," for "God's love is made complete in us." This opens the gate to the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth. After our life on earth, we will ascend as husband and wife into the Kingdom of Heaven in Heaven.

As we know, Jesus was a humble carpenter, but he saved people with the word of God. And not only by giving it, but living it. Then he gave his life, was resurrected and walked again on the earth. He ascended to the right hand of the Father and sent the Holy Spirit. Please turn your attention to one point. Jesus practiced absolute love on earth. Through this love he was able to forgive his enemies and was willing to die in place of sinful humanity. On that foundation he transformed the spirit world. We read in Hebrews, Chap. 1, v. 3, "After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in Heaven." I want to focus here on the interaction that was going on between earth and heaven. St. Paul tells us in the Third Chapter of Colossians, v. 2, "set your minds on things above, not on earthly things." To understand about our future life, we first need to understand our past life. Where was our past life? In our mother's womb! Each one of us had a past life in our mother's womb. There, we lived on the energy of our mother's body. When it was time to make the transition to this world, we died to that world. In this world we live on the energy of food, sunlight and air. Eventually we will die to this world and make the transition to the spirit world. In the spirit world we will live on the energy of love. The air we breathe there is love, and God Himself is the source of sunlight. In the womb, we grow our

lungs, arms and legs and develop our five physical senses, our sight, hearing, smell, taste and touch. We don't yet use them there, but we are being prepared to live on the earth where we will use them. And while on earth, we prepare for life in the spirit world by developing the necessary senses that will enable us to make a smooth transition when we are ready to die to the physical world. We don't need them here to survive, but we need to develop them in preparation for life in the spirit world. If we can become sensitive to the sight, hearing, smell, taste and touch of the spirit world, then we can more intimately experience God the Father and prepare to live with Him eternally. On the earth is where we prepare for our eternal life, all our life! Human beings are referred to as "spiritual beings" because we are made to dwell in both worlds. So we must actively determine to deepen our spiritual senses and our spiritual life. How do we do that? How do we develop our spiritual senses and a deeper walk in the spirit? We do it the same way we perfect our physical senses—by practice. By practicing the word of God as given through God's messengers on earth. And we need to understand the messenger as well as the message which God sends. This is how we come to understand the Heart of God, His Suffering, His Compassion and His True Love. We perfect our spiritual sensitivities by living life for the sake of others. By giving constantly and then forgetting that we gave. By breaking through the barrier of selfishness and uniting our mind and body. By praying and meditating daily on matters of the spirit. We need to become channels to receive spiritual power.

Actually, those in the spirit world want to be a part of everything we do. They want to be involved in our lives. They want to help us. But we are the undeveloped ones, unable to see our ancestors and our loved ones. There should not be the miserable situation of two separated worlds. Because of the fall of humankind, the fall of Adam and Eve, this darkness came about between our two worlds. But I am telling you, my brothers and sisters, that today it is different. Today, True Parents on the earth and Jesus Christ from the spirit world are teaching of a new world, a

new history, in which the two worlds are becoming one! This is our future. This is what the New Millennium will bring. And this is the day, as we approach the new century, that we will live in the Kingdom of Heaven on earth as well as in Heaven. "You shall have life and you shall have it abundantly" Jesus said in John 10:10. To be a part of this we must make our couples ideal couples of God so that we can make our families ideal families.

Heaven is a place of love. When we enter heaven we don't enter as individuals, but as loving families. We can be with God in the highest heaven. Our heavenly citizenship will be secure, according to Paul in his letter to the Philippians. This is our hope, our excitement and our liberation. By living a godly life we will develop our conscience to the highest level. That way, our conscience will diligently work for us 24 hours a day. It will stay by us like



Rev. and Mrs. Pak at the True Family Values Banquet

a best friend. We have to take responsibility to keep it fine-tuned. That way, it will guide us to our heavenly destination like a missile fired straight toward a target. And like Jesus, we will be able to live the word. Time has run out. We are already living in a new era. We have to quickly repent and purify our lives. We can no longer get away with living a double-standard life. Our own ancestors will come down to accuse us and punish us. We can see clearly that judgment has begun. There is no rock to hide under, no cave to crawl into. None of us can escape it—not even the President of our country—unless we confess and repent of our sins and make a new start.

How then shall we welcome the new century? Let it be with the determina-

tion to become true individuals, true husbands and wives, and true parents to our families! With the power of True Family Values, we can reach far beyond our immediate areas; we have to think big in the Twenty-first Century and reach out to all people everywhere. People are waiting helplessly to be rescued—from hunger, from loneliness, from immorality and hopelessness. We have a lot of work to do. As men and women of the living God, let's take responsibility to create God's dwelling place on the earth. We can bring honor to the Christian martyrs down through the ages who would offer their lives again to be a part of this New Millennium. We can bring honor to our own ancestors who are watching us in the spirit world, and we can bring honor to God and Jesus by building ideal families on the earth. We are very fortunate people to be living in these times. The times, Paul said in Ephesians 1:10,

"have reached their fulfillment—to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ." My dear brothers & sisters, we are standing in a very special position and period of time. In 1999, horizontally, we want to think not only globally but cosmically—meaning both the physical and spirit worlds—earth and heaven. Vertically, we should not just think of our own lifetime, but the history ahead of us—the one thousand years of the New Millennium which begins in just a year. At the beginning of time, in the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve were to be the first pioneers of an ideal world. But that didn't happen. So today,

God has chosen you and me to stand in this pioneer position. We will work together now to usher in a new bright history. No longer in darkness and struggle. That is the purpose of the True Family Movement throughout the entire world today! I am so grateful for you and everything you are doing in the wonderful Chicago area, and I thank you for your kindness to me. On behalf of Reverend and Mrs. Moon I want to wish for all of you and your families a most Happy and Prosperous New Year!◆

Reverend Joong Hyun Pak is the Continental Director for North America. He and his wife, Hyun Sook Choi, participated in the 430 Couples Blessing in 1968. They have five children.

Faith and Interfaith

David Earle
Birmingham, England

DECEMBER 14, 1998, Hyderabad, South India: It was 9 a.m., and the sun was climbing higher and higher into the Indian sky. The temperature was rising, too, from a cool nighttime 10 degrees C to a very pleasant midday 25-30 degrees C. Pleasant, that is, if you happened to be sitting in the shade of a coconut tree, sipping Coca-Cola or freshly brewed tea. However, our 30 or so young Religious Youth Service participants, who had gathered here just outside Hyderabad to lay the foundations for an Interreligious Children's Home, had formed a 40-meter human chain and were busily transferring 3,000 bricks from where the lorry had deposited them to where they would soon be used to build a high protective wall around the deep water tank on the project site. Buddhist hands, Muslim hands, European hands, Indian hands—such a wonderful scene, against the backdrop of the rural Indian landscape.

I found myself reflecting on the journey which my wife, Patricia, and I had traveled during the past seven years. The physical journey—from the comparative security of New Jersey, USA, and an impending green card, in 1991, leaping into the unknown of hometown in Birmingham, England, then to India, back to Birmingham, and finally to India again (three times, in fact, in 1998), culminating in the drama of this pioneering Family Federation project in Hyderabad. And then the 'inner' journey—through so many ups and downs, trying to push forward even though things were not always clear, fighting for what we believed in, keeping each other going in times of difficulty, some persecution and a lot of misunderstanding—even sometimes from those who we thought were 'on our side,' many wonderful new friends, trying always to reach out and to share the vision with one more person, struggling to raise thousands of pounds for the RYS projects, giving our four small children enough attention to satisfy their insatiable appetites for our limited love, trying to fulfill our responsibilities as church leaders, desperate to keep our efforts always within God's central providence—and ever trying to repre-

sent, directly or indirectly, this man and this woman who brought us together, so many years ago it seems like an eternity.

We arrived back in Birmingham from the United States on November 14, 1991, having both felt a strong inner call from God, when Father announced 'Hometown' earlier in the year. We brought with us some clothes, some toys for the children's security, and not much else. We could stay in the Methodist Overseas Guest House of the Selly Oak Colleges, an institute with global connections, predominantly Christian but with very strong links to other religions, and where my parents had worked for most of the last twenty years. In the missionary guest house, we would meet many committed Christians from all over the world, including Berhanu Tibebe from Ethiopia. He being unjustly accused of a crime he could never have committed, and I with my eyes opened to the covert racism present in my country's legal system, I found myself the only character witness appearing in court on his behalf. He subsequently returned home to Africa, and helped to establish the Women's Federation for World Peace with the government of Ethiopia. Many more links with far-off places were to follow.

First I, and then Patricia, attended a course at the Multi-faith Centre in Birmingham, spending 36 most valuable evenings of study, six evenings being devoted to each of the world's six major religious traditions, with several representatives from each tradition coming to the Centre to share about the theory and practice of their own faith. Thus, our networking began.

Since those early days, returning to our hometown, we have been privileged to meet and make friends with countless people from all religions and none, and from so many countries, sharing together, visiting each others' homes and having our children play together, eating and celebrating together, praying and worshiping together, learning from and encouraging one another in our respective lives of faith, gradually building up a

community of friends who would become an integral part of both the Women's Federation and our practical service work with RYS and, now, the Family Federation for World Peace. Most of all, we could see the dream of bringing these people to receive the Blessing become a living reality during the last three years, with the globalization of the Blessing. The first time we gave the Blessing in our own home—to Muslims, Christians, Hindus, Buddhists, Sikhs and Unificationists—was such a moving experience. Afterwards, driving the Christian minister from India back to the student flat in the Selly Oak Colleges where he was staying (who would later invite us over to Andhra Pradesh to visit and work with the 'untouchables'), he remarked simply, "David, this is the Kingdom of Heaven."

Birmingham is a unique city. Much of the world is here, either as citizens or as part of the large student population. With a total population of around one million, 20-25 percent of its people are from ethnic minorities, particularly from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, Africa and the Caribbean, Ireland, and with substantial numbers of Vietnamese and Chinese people. This is reflected in the vast array of places of worship. Of course, there are hundreds of Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox churches, but now there are also more than fifty mosques, at least twelve Hindu temples, fifteen Sikh gurudwaras,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25



David, his wife Patricia and their four children with a friend from Taiwan

PHOTO: COURTESY OF DAVID EARLE



Miracle in Korea

Jean Picart

Sun Moon University, Korea

AFTER being suddenly hospitalized in the late evening of September 7, 1998, I was diagnosed with a serious heart problem requiring urgent surgery. I would be on medication for the rest of my life and have to refrain from any sports activity. The doctor estimated the cost of surgery at \$10,000. My condition was so serious that I decided to return to my home country, Cameroon.

When I returned to the dormitory, I lit my holy candle and began to pray in tears, speaking to God desperately, as a child who is asking his mother for milk. I told God, "You called me to work for the Providence, and there remains so much to do." I also cried in front of pictures of Heung Jin Nim and Daemo-nim, asking for their support. My heart was broken as I looked at the pictures of my wife and daughter.

At that moment a sister telephoned me. Because I was praying, I asked her to call back in a few minutes. When she called again I was still crying. I told her there was no hope for me and that I would soon go to the spirit world. I also told her my plan was to attend four forty-day workshops to purify myself of evil spirits and then to return to my hometown to bless people. Although this sister is younger than I and usually respectful to me, this time she scolded me. She spoke with authority, but with a mother's heart, trying to comfort me. She asked me to stop such thinking. She said I would not die, because God is the owner of our lives, that there was a spiritual side to this that the doctor was unaware of, and that God would decide everything. This conversation was so helpful for me.

Later on, Kiladi, the president of the Western Students Association came to my room and together we tried to come up with a solution. Without my knowing it he began to organize everything. Later, I found out that there was a great mobilization of brothers and sisters working to solve the problem. They had decided to collect money and to organize a fundraising team. Sixteen brothers, regardless of race, nationality or language, went to Seoul to fundraise. Some of them had just arrived in Korea

two weeks earlier and did not speak Korean or know the city, but they were so determined. After three days, about fifty percent of the amount had been collected. One sister generously gave a thousand dollars, even though she would have to fundraise afterwards to replace the money. Someone then suggested that, since we had not yet raised the full amount, we could borrow money from a bank and continue to fundraise after the operation to repay it.

Kiladi and the sister who had donated the thousand dollars suggested that I go to Chung Pyung for a three-day workshop to prepare spiritually for the operation. Although I was not prepared to go, I accepted this. They also told me I needed absolutely to meet personally with Daemo-nim; but I felt that it would not be easy because she is busy taking care of so many cases, some worse than mine. Without informing me, however, Kiladi met Mrs. Hyo-Nam Kim (Daemo-nim's medium) through his national messiah. I had already completed the workshop and was on the bus, about to return to the university, when two sisters approached me and said Daemo-nim wanted to see me. I was so surprised and felt this was the beginning of the solution to my problem. Mrs. Kim asked me to join in an ancestral liberation session with other workshop participants and then meet her afterward. When I returned later, Mrs. Kim noticed me and said to a staff member, "Please take care of this brother. He has a heart problem." You can't imagine how happy I was that Daemo-nim was giving me such attention. I felt it was a great privilege, such as I can't describe.

After receiving the *ansu* treatment I suddenly felt better. I asked Mrs. Richardson to please translate for me so that I could personally thank Daemo-nim. I bowed in front of Daemo-nim. She asked me to go to the hospital again; because, although the spirits were no longer with me, they had already caused my body physical damage. Kiladi and I spent one more night at Chung Pyung. I felt so well I even did some physical exercise.

On September 15, I went to the hospital for my appointment with the doctor. His attitude was completely different: he said I was sick of course, but that I needed only to take some medication for four days and then return for another

er checkup. He said I would not need any surgery at that time, although it might later become necessary.

My improvement caused great joy among my fellow students. Our sadness was transformed into joy. The next day, the director of our school came with Kiladi to visit me in my room.

I returned to the hospital for a check-up by the same doctor on September 19. After examining me, he informed me that I no longer needed the medication and that, after a certain period of time, I could even resume my sports activities.

What can I say after this? There are certain moments in our lives when there is no word to express the reality of our feelings and it is better to be silent. But before being silent, I have one word in mind. Glory! Glory to God. Glory to True Parents, glory to Daemo-nim, and glory to Heung Jin Nim, who have offered us this wonderful Chung Pyung providence.

Unity is the key that can open all the doors. When I saw the unity of brothers and sisters, the fear I had had before the operation disappeared. I know this was a base for God and the spirit world to work. Where there is unity there is love, and where there is love there is God. This unity comprises all the continents, nations and races.

Can you imagine how beautiful were the brothers fundraising in the streets of Seoul? Can you imagine how happy God was to see that His children could unite? Through this experience, brothers and sisters shared the same pain. We saw that the color of our skin or hair is not so important; what is important is our heartistic unity as God's children. This was an opportunity for God to teach the Sun Moon University students that we can build the ideal world. When God looks at humanity, He sees one family.

After this, I have just one further problem to solve: whenever I pray I shed tears, because I feel that I caused so much trouble and pain to my brothers and sisters. I want to thank them and ask them to forgive me. ♦

[Edited for Today's World]

Jean Picart is the former national leader of Cameroon. He and his wife, Lunga Bijou, participated in the 30,000 Couples Blessing in 1992. They have one daughter.



The Tradition of Marriage

Lynne Kim
Seoul, Korea

[To mark the blessing of 360 million couples worldwide, Lynne writes this month about marriage traditions in Korea]

THE blessing is such a central part of our lives that it seems important to discuss the cultural differences between Korea and America in relation to marriage. It seems to me that traditional attitudes cannot help but affect how one relates to the blessing.

Perhaps the greatest difference is that in Korea marriage was traditionally something that the parents arranged for their children—to a degree that Americans can hardly imagine. In the past and until the last twenty years or so, parents would get together and determine who would marry whom, often when the children were quite young, for instance when they were entering puberty. It was not unusual for the girl to be older and to almost help raise her husband.

There is a well-known, popular, and touching play on this topic, "The Child Groom," which is revived every few years. Even one of the Little Angels' dances is based on this play. At the very end of the dance the little groom tries to pick up his bride and falls over because she is, after all, bigger than he is.

In the past, the bride would come and live in the groom's home with his parents, very possibly his grandparents, and some aunts and uncles, as well as brothers and sisters. This concept is reflected in the term for marriage for a woman which can be literally translated as "going to one's new home." Here the "new" does not mean a newly built home, but rather a home that is new for her. The term for marriage for a man also means literally "going to one's wife's home." And in the past a newly married couple would sometimes live at the wife's home for a set period of time, now often done symbolically by staying at the wife's home for one night after the honeymoon trip.

It is the tradition in Korea that at least the first son and his family remain living with his parents and caring for them for their entire lives. It is this first son who carries on the name of the family and who traditionally was the

sole heir, but now laws have been changed and things are usually divided more evenly among all the children. Because of this responsibility to the parents, many Korean women hesitate to marry first sons as it means they will be expected to care for his parents and to host many family gatherings. The relationship with the parents is considered so important that when Korean people heard I had been matched to a Korean all of them stressed that I must make a good relationship with my mother-in-law. Even True Father told me to be a good daughter-in-law when he gave me permission to leave America for Korea. No one stressed being a good wife, although, of course, I'm sure that was understood!

These days in Korea if the new couple does not live with the parents, the man's parents usually provide the house and the woman's parents provide all the furnishings for the house such as wardrobes and kitchen appliances. In addition, it is traditional for the groom to provide gifts of jewelry and material for clothing for the bride. And the bride provides gifts of jewelry, quilts, and/or clothing to her new in-laws and usually all of the relatives. Sometimes this becomes a source of great controversy between the families.

In the case of a young man with a degree from a highly respected university who will enter a highly respected profession, the woman's side often provides everything: house, car, vacation villa, furnishings and so on. Since the parents take responsibility for providing everything, the wedding gifts given by relatives and friends are usually just envelopes of money given to the parents to help them prepare everything. The dinners or receptions held after the weddings are usually held separately for the groom's relatives and bride's relatives and paid for by each side respectively.

These traditions are certainly the opposite of American marriages which from long ago have been decided by the individuals themselves with permission granted by their parents. It was the American custom for a man to court a woman with the parents' knowledge and permission, and when they reached a point of wanting to get married for him to formally ask her father's permission

for him to marry her. It was and is the custom for the newly married couple to establish their own home separate from their parents, but it was never the responsibility of the parents to provide that home. Therefore the young couple had to be able to afford to get married. They had to take responsibility for themselves.

The bride's parents usually provide and pay for the wedding ceremony and reception. The wedding gifts go directly to the couple and are usually practical items needed to set up housekeeping. The gifts are usually much smaller than those given in Korea where the gift-giving culture is very extravagant by American standards.

In Korea after the blessing ceremony, parents usually hold a banquet celebrating the new couple and introducing them to their relatives and friends. The traditional gifts are usually exchanged between the families at agreed-upon times. The differences in culture between the East and the West have sometimes brought about difficulties. I remember a Korean mother who was becoming frantic over her daughter who kept telling her she did not need to prepare the traditional gifts for her American husband's family because they would not use them. And True Parents personally gave me money to prepare gifts for my Korean family, perhaps so they would not be too disappointed by this first-case American daughter-in-law. My own parents of course had no concept that they should send any gifts for my in-laws. From their viewpoint I was marrying according to my own decision in a foreign country and although they gave me their spiritual blessings, they let me take responsibility for everything. My in-laws never said anything, although I'm sure it puzzled and disappointed them. They must have wondered whether my parents loved me or not. I also remember my sister-in-law being so puzzled, almost shocked, when I brought some of the items I had used in my apartment in America. It is traditional in Korea for the new couple to be provided with new things.

In Korea it is very easy to fulfill our True Parents' recommendation that three generations live together because that is the traditional concept. It is fully

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27



Father and Mother applaud during the sports tournament awards presentation, which was attended by a number of senior Uruguayan officials. (r.) National Messiah Jacques Marion meets a local fisherman during a brotherhood ceremony True Parents hosted

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

Faith and Interfaith...

three synagogues, and several Buddhist viharas and a beautiful temple, recently completed by workmen from Myanmar. A part of the impulse we felt in America, which caused us to commit ourselves to Hometown, was the calling to try to work together with others in the quest for peace which our True Parents are championing, knowing that Birmingham would be an ideal place to do this, but not knowing how or where God would lead us. We certainly had no idea that we would travel to India, let alone organize an RYS project there, or travel among the 'untouchables' (on one occasion journeying eight hours by car and landrover, through a river, to a remote village where they had not seen a white person for more than forty years! What a joy to bring God's blessing to such people.)

Another crucial feature of our experience, after returning to Britain, was to work under a series of 'enlightened' national leaders—Mr. Masatoshi Abe, Mark Brann, Tim Miller and, currently, Tim Read, all of whom trusted us enough to give us the 'space' to follow

our dreams, and often actively encouraged us, particularly when the going got tough, understanding the longer-term value and implications of Interfaith work, and seeing it as an integral part of our True Parents' broader vision to try to get all of us to the right destination, and not just a select bunch of people who think they've got 'The Truth.' At least that's why I decided to throw in my lot with True Parents!

My personal focus centered much of the time on RYS activities; Patricia's on those of the WFWP, as the Midlands representative. As we both grew in faith together, these two areas of activity overlapped, dovetailed and finally integrated, to the point where it would have been impossible to do any of the three RYS projects completed to date (two in Birmingham and one in India), without the involvement of most of Patricia's ever-expanding number of lady-friends. Their moral and financial support, together with their children's participation in RYS, ultimately made the difference.

A key moment for me came in February 1996, when Marshall De Souza, our UK director of RYS, had the foresight to send me to take part in my first RYS project in the coconut plantations of Kerala,

South India (close to the bottom of India, where its coastline comes to a point). I don't know if it was the exotic location, with the lush, green rural tapestry and the intoxicating warp and weft of fragrances in the scent-laden air—cinnamon, nutmeg, coconut and banana, to name but a few—or simply the joy of being young again in the midst of eighty dynamic, international young people who had come there to fulfill such a noble ideal! Anyway, the magic worked. After spending only four full days there (I had just one week, and three days were taken up with getting there and back), I left with tears in my eyes and returned to Birmingham with enough fire in my belly to carry me through all the obstacles, cynicism and politics I would face in trying to organize our first project in my hometown, in September 1996, later that same year. ♦

[To be continued...]

[Edited for Today's World]

David Earle is the director of RYS in Birmingham, England. He and his wife, Patricia, participated in the 2075 Couples Blessing in 1982. They have four children.

Learning God's Heart

Victoria Onishi
Canada

BEFORE joining the Special Task Force I was called 'holy' by other second generation. This is because I pushed myself to keep a high standard. However, as some people noticed, my efforts to maintain a high standard were not completely sincere. I just had blind faith with not much heart behind it. And living for several years isolated from other second generation, I depended too much on my vertical relationship with God, having not much horizontal give and take with other brothers and sisters. During the Pure Love tour I was scolded several times by some elder sisters for not being horizontal enough. And it was true. In a way, living in the fallen world, attending high school, I had built myself a wall of protection. I made it clear to all that I was pure and holy. But behind this wall was an unsure young girl, waiting to grow up.

My first 21-day fundraising condition was like a great big metal ball that demolishes old brick buildings. It smashed the wall I had built around my heart. Of course, there was a lot of it left, but I felt more free to be myself. Some of the childish nature and fallen nature came out, but people noticed a change saying, "Vicky! You look brighter! You're laughing!" I could see more clearly where I was and what I needed to change.

By the time it was God's Day, when everyone was gathered in Boulder, Colorado, I was reflecting back on the previous year. My heart was feeling like a desert, empty and dry. I realized that

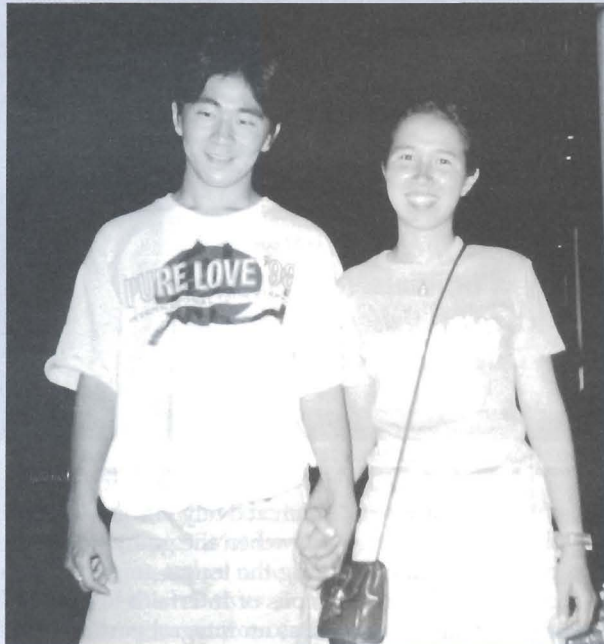
although I had been maintaining a so-called 'high standard' by doing things such as reading Father's words every day and praying a lot, it was as if I was forcing myself and it was not coming from the sincere depths of my heart. So I made my determination for the new year to love God and True Parents and to be able to do things because I love

ishi. From that moment, the battle began. Never in my life had I invested so much effort into one person, but through it all I could come much closer to God's heart. For the first time, I could experience God's longing heart for His children. I shed tears of pain like those God did when central figures failed to fulfill their responsibilities and He had to go through the long and difficult process to find a new person. I shed tears of joy like those of a mother at the time of birth. And I shed tears of repentance for following so far behind our True Parents. In short, witnessing to Ken was as much of a conversion experience for me as it was for him. I know I feel the reality of the spirit world and can connect more to Heavenly Father's parental shimjung. Also, I understand more deeply the significance of True Parents and the urgency of sharing our blessing with others.

To recount all my experiences on Special Task Force would take an entire book, but they are carved in my heart and I will remember them for eternity. I have learned and grown so much this past year, but of course, my heart is still so small and my

faith in God and True Parents is so shallow. So, with God's help I've been allowed to stay another year in Special Task Force. I'm looking forward to this new challenge and I'm determined to win the future!◆

Victoria Onishi is a second generation participant in the 120 Million Couples Blessing on June 13, 1998 at Madison Square Garden in New York.



Victoria with her husband, Tomihiro Onishi in Japan.

them and want to do it. I feel God took my determination seriously because during the following months of witnessing, He gave me the opportunity to accomplish my goal.

At first witnessing was like a duty. It was hard to find motivation within myself to go out and witness. Recognizing this, I set my internal goal to be desperate and earnestly tried to carry it out.

That is when I met Kenichi Nakan-

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

Understanding Life and Death

A similar situation obtains with the dragonfly. First it exists as a larva, swimming around in water. Then it crawls on land for a time. After that, it sheds its skin and flies away. It begins to eat insects that it never would have thought of eating while it was living on land. As it flies around, the entire world becomes its home. Many insects pass through three stages like this. That is why insects have wings. They

develop wings through their life in the water, on land and finally in the air.

Human beings are the highest beings in creation, but do we have wings? Does living only on the earth satisfy us? Human beings have wings, but they are wings of a higher order. You may say you do not want to put aside your physical body and die. But once we die and leave our physical body behind, our spirit self passes through the blessed gates of our second birth and whoosh, we fly away.◆

[Part II will be published in the next issue.]

Se Hyun Oak

ON December 28, 1998, Mrs. Se Hyun Oak, known to members around the world as Grandmother Oak, passed into the spirit world. True Father bestowed on her the title *Sung Mo*, "Early Mother" as she was one of Father's very first disciples and took a motherly role to her young teacher and the other followers. She was born in October 1898, in Sungcheon, South Pyung-an Province. She first met Father, in Pyungyang, not many months after he arrived there in 1946. She was the first person to be led to Father by direct spiritual guidance.

In a personal testimony Grandmother Oak said, "After the liberation [from Japan, in 1945], the Holy Spirit was working very actively. One early morning I received a revelation to go and find the as yet unknown but enlightened teacher who had come from the South and was living on the other side of Mansu hill." Due to her busy life she did not manage to go immediately. Her testimony continues: "On November 6, 1946, a woman came and asked me to go with her to meet the teacher from the South. She had heard him speak and had received much blessing. So the next day I went and met the young teacher. His name was Sun Myung Moon...Although he was 26 and I was 48, it was nevertheless very confronting to be with him."

Just over 52 years later, on January 4, 1999, in Punta del Este, Father himself guided a memorial ceremony in which all the participating leaders offered one *kyungbae* to Grandmother Oak. Father expressed his desire to thus bring her comfort and consolation.

Some fifty years earlier, it had been Grandmother Oak who had sought to comfort and console Father during his

him. It was with Grandmother Oak that Father stayed after making his way back to Pyungyang following his release from the prison camp.

Remembering Grandmother Oak, Rev. Chung Hwan Kwak said that although she had been the wife of a respected church elder, and her family had enjoyed a good social position and favorable circumstances, she had given all that up for a life of suffering, loneliness and persecution. Mrs. Hyun Shil Kang, who had joined Father in Pusan in the movement's infancy in the early 1950s, and worked together with Grandmother Oak for many years, spoke with deep respect for her faith and loyalty, calling her a "root of faith, and mother of faith."

Se Hyun Oak continued throughout her active life to work alongside Father. In the early days of the church, she endured and countered persecution with her feisty spirit. In later years she spent her time in prayer.

We offer thanks to Grandmother Oak for supporting Father in his loneliest hours, helping him keep the candle of the Messianic mission burning in the greatest darkness. We pray for her to find comfort in the knowledge of her priceless offering in support of the foundation for True Parents to walk on the earth, and of the example and inspiration she has left for us to benefit from and inherit. ♦



Se Hyun Oak and Hyun Shil Kang in front of the Sae Dae Mun Church; winter 1954

time in Hung Nam prison, regularly making the arduous journey from Pyungyang to the East coast of what had by then become North Korea. One day, when financial hardship and opposition from her family had made it very difficult to continue, she met an elderly man in white in a vision. He implored her to keep visiting Father, saying that her teacher would one day be recognized as the Messiah. Father has since testified how much those visits meant to

served their parents-in-law in the Korean countryside has been recognized and they have been given awards by the Korean government. And I am sure a large part of the reason I became well known and was in demand on TV in Korea is because I was living with my parents-in-law.

Some Westerners can't imagine living with their in-laws. But I can testify personally that living with my parents-in-law, even though they are not members, has been a great help to me and has provided stability for my family. Of course there were cultural and religious differ-

ences, and difficulties to be worked through, but in the end my parents-in-law have been a great blessing to our couple and our children. That, however, is content for another column! Although our blessings are a new turning point of spiritual history on earth, and therefore not bound by any earthly tradition, I still believe that being sensitive to and fulfilling some of the traditional expectations of the culture we are blessed into is an important expression of Father's central teaching, "living for others." ♦

[Edited for Today's World]

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

The Tradition of Marriage...

expected by Korean Unification Church parents that their daughter-in-law will live with them—even when the son is not there! These days, many young Koreans in society want to follow Western patterns and live separately. I can't help but think that this is part of the reason the divorce rate in Korea is going up. In contrast to the society in general, the filial piety of some of our Japanese members who have lived with and



**This is the new year's message:
family perfection and family
unification, which comprises
individual unification, conjugal
unification, parent-child
unification, and sibling
unification.**

**REVEREND SUN MYUNG MOON
JANUARY 1, 1999
PUNTA DEL ESTE, URUGUAY**