

True Peace

天國 10年
天曆 11
DECEMBER 2022



보편적 인권에 기반한 종교의 자유
신통일세계를 위한 희망전진 콘퍼런스

神世界統一のための希望前進カンファレンス 普遍的な人権に基づく宗教の自由
Conference of Hope for the Realization of a Heavenly Unified World
Advancing religious freedom through universal human rights





Conference of Hope for the Realization of a Heavenly Unified World: Religious Freedom & Universal Human Rights

Yun Young-ho, Director-General, FFWPU International Headquarters



Respected peace leaders! Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, co-founder of the Universal Peace Federation (UPF), advocated for lasting world peace, where Interdependence, Mutual Prosperity, Universally Shared Values are realized by sealing the conflicts and divisions that prevail not only on the Korean peninsula but also around the world, so we can accomplish the vision of a “heavenly unified Korea” and a “heavenly unified world” based on “Godism,” and the ideal of “one human family of mankind under God” with God, our Heavenly Parent, as the true parent of humankind.

In order to realize such a vision of peace, UPF, the Universal Peace Federation working with two of their six major affiliate pillars, the International Summit Council for Peace (ISCP) and the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP) launched Think Tank 2022, consisting of 2022 world-renowned experts, and focused on a heavenly unified Korea and a heavenly unified world, and has held dozens of World Summits, Regional Summits and Rallies of Hope with former and incumbent leaders from all over the world, hosted on online platforms, and drawing the participation of billions of people worldwide from 120 countries.

In February this year, the “Summit for Peace on the Korean Peninsula” was held in Korea to provide a venue for national unity and international cooperation through the support and participation of the 157 countries that have established diplomatic relations with both Koreas to create a foundation for peace consolidation on the Korean peninsula. Former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, chairman of the ASEAN Union, co-chaired the World Summit, attended by 85 current and former world leaders, including former U.S. President Donald Trump and Senegalese President Macky Sall, who participated as keynote speakers, and broadcast live on 3,517 national and private channels around the world.

The distinguished leaders who attended the World Summit unanimously supported the peaceful reunification of the Korean Peninsula and adopted the “Seoul Declaration” which is based on “one territory, one nation, one culture.” In addition, at the Summit & Leadership Conference held in South Korea in August a new resolution, expanding on the Seoul Declaration with the motif of “One Earth, One Humanity, One Culture” was introduced and adopted, to be legislated by country and continent under the name of “Universal Peace Charter” marking a new dimension quantum jump for the creation of a heavenly unified world.

Building on that foundation, world leaders have joined in supporting Think Tank 2022’s Universal Peace Charter as a step toward protecting fundamental human rights, and it is the basis for the ‘Declaration of Freedom of Religion Based on the Universal Peace Charter’ which is being presented for adoption at today’s conference.

Distinguished international leaders! The globally accepted belief in freedom of religion, the most fundamental right of human life, is based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the United Nations in 1948. The historical origins that directly influenced the Universal Declaration of Human Rights begin with the Pilgrim Fathers, a group of British puritans who risked their lives to seek freedom of faith and emigrated to the continent of North America. In 1620, Pilgrim Fathers arrived in North America to avoid religious persecution by the Anglican Church at the time. Later, in 1776, the 13 colonies of Great Britain at the time gathered together and adopted America’s “Declaration of Independence” declaring independence from Britain at Independence Hall in Philadelphia. In the “Bill of Rights,” the first ten amendments made to the US Constitution, which was adopted about the same time, among the ‘fundamental human rights’ was stipulated the following:

First Amendment to the US Constitution. *Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.*

Distinguished international leaders! Freedom of religion is a human right conferred by heaven and is one of the most basic rights that cannot be transferred to anyone. Going one step further, Rev. and Dr. Moon said that the ‘human rights to the free practice of religion’ goes beyond the mere faith in God and is an innate human right to seek and attend one’s true parents.

Respected Leaders! Based on the Universal Peace Charter, the “Conferences of Hope,” which begin today, seek to create a macro-discourse on freedom of religion based on the interpretation of human rights as the natural and universal human right to visit God, the true parent, beyond the right to believe in God. In this way, we would like to contribute as a small step in the great journey for the creation of a heavenly unified world where people around the world embrace the concepts of “One Parent” and “One Earth, One Humanity, One Culture” and I offer a warm welcome to all of you and especially to the 12 leaders who agreed to share their valuable time with us by offering speeches today at this Conference, despite their busy schedules. Thank you very much. 

CONTENTS



ARTICLE ONE

- 02** Conference of Hope for the Realization of a Heavenly Unified World: Religious Freedom & Universal Human Rights

SPECIAL

- 11** Conference of Hope for the Realization of a Heavenly Unified World

Speeches from VIP around the world

- 14** The World Must Stand Up for Religious Freedom
Tom McDevitt
- 15** Religious Freedom is a Fundamental Right of Individuals and Communities
Kelvin Felix
- 15** Peace is a Gift from God
Louison Mbila
- 16** Religious Freedom is a Key Argument for Promoting Prosperity and Security
Mike Pompeo
- 17** UPF's Vision will Lead to Peace on the Korean Peninsula
Newt Gingrich
- 18** The Importance of Global Security and Religious Freedom
Paula White
- 19** Religious Freedom is a Fundamental Right for All
Sam Brownback



TRUE PARENTS' MESSAGES

- 04** The Resolve of the World and the Korean People
- 08** Let's Create the Culture of Cheon Il Guk
- 27** 50th Anniversary of the Founding of Sun Moon University
-
- 20** The Imperative of Protecting Religious Liberty
Doug Badow
- 21** The Importance of Religious Freedom
Jan Figel
- 22** The Persecution of Mormon Church
Cole Durham
- 23** Religious Oppression in Japan
Kondo Norishige
- 24** Religious Oppression in the Japanese Media from a Journalist's Perspective
Humphrey Hawksley
- 25** The Three Enemies of Religious Liberty
Massimo Introvigne

HJ NEWS

- 29** Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of Sun Moon University
- 31** HJ Cruise Christening and Launch
- 32** The 34th Peace Forum on the Heavenly Unified Korea
- 34** Special Workshop for Leaders of Heavenly Korea for Victory in VISION 2027 and the Dedication of the Cheon Won Gung Cheonil Sanctum
- 36** 2022 Heavenly Parent's Holy Community General Assembly of the Family Federation Korea Pastors
- 42** Autumn Hyojeongnuri with True Mother
- 43** Seonghwa of Mrs. Choi Kum-soon, 36 Couples Blessed Member, National Messiah to Pakistan
- 45** Seonghwa of Mrs. Choi Ye-jeong, 36 Couples Blessed Member, Ecuadorian National Messiah

NEWS FROM THE FIELDS

Heavenly Asia Pacific

- 47** 1st Pacific Clergy Leadership Conference Anniversary Convocation

Heavenly North America

- 49** Canada – UPF's Ambassador for Peace Service Awards and Banquet

Heavenly Latin America

- 51** Brazil's Cheonbo Home Churches Revival

The Resolve of the World and the Korean People

*December 14, 1983 | Victory over Communism rallies in eight cities
Pyeong Hwa Gyeong, Book 8, Speech 3*



The crisis in the world today
The world today, simply put, is a world in great confusion. All societies today, in the East and the West, in the Northern and Southern Hemispheres, in developed and developing nations, have fallen ill. Not a day goes by without another case of injustice, corruption, murder, robbery, exploitation, oppression and violence. These incidents increase with each passing day. On the international level, strife, conflict, rebellion and wars have broken out within and between nations, peoples and religions. The downing of Korean Air Lines Flight 007, and the Rangoon and Beirut incidents, are only the latest in a history of brutal massacres.

People in the developed nations enjoy a life of abundance, while countless people in developing nations are grappling with hunger, and the number of people dying of starvation is increasing. The confusion is intensified due to the barbaric schemes concocted by communists. Consequently, human culture now finds itself in crisis. It seems like a hopeless situation.

The cause of confusion and the limits of our ability to resolve it

What exactly is the fundamental cause of this global confusion? It is the total destruction of traditional values and the loss of the standards that show us how to live an upright life. Furthermore, with the emergence of communism, all traditional concepts of morality are being destroyed. What can this situation possibly mean? It means that democracy, communism, religion and philosophy can no longer resolve the problems of the world.

Democracy originally emerged with the aim of solving all the difficult problems through human rights, equality and majority vote. However, today the collapse of value systems is becoming increasingly severe, even as societies are becoming more democratic. This reduces our confidence in democracy to resolve problems in society and in the world.

Communism, on the other hand, emerged under the banner of creating a socialist society through revolution, thereby eliminating the structural contradictions within capitalistic

society, liberating the laborers and farmers, and removing all social evils. Today, however, all communist nations, beginning with the Soviet Union, are showing even more extreme structural contradictions than those found in capitalist nations and are committing more severe social evils.

The limitations of democracy, communism, religion and philosophy in the face of social and global problems are plain to see. Humanity is no longer able to rely on any teaching, religion or philosophy to end the confusion in this world. I am saying that if this continues, civilization will inevitably destroy itself.

A solution based on the proposition of God's existence

Is there a genuine solution that can bring order to this global chaos? A fundamental solution to these problems does exist. That solution is based on the proposition that God, the Absolute Being, exists. It is because the world that the absolute God seeks to realize on earth is a world of peace, a world free from confusion.

Without affirming the existence of God and His purpose behind creation, a resolution of the problems of today's world is impossible. To put it another way, it is because people have been ignorant of God's existence and His purpose of creation that the current world of chaos has come about. The world that God sought to realize on earth is a true ideal, a world overflowing with freedom, peace and happiness.

Unificationism and the Unification movement

Seeing first-hand the pain and suffering of human life, for a very long time I have devoted myself to find a way to save humankind. At the end of indescribable hardships, I finally was able to meet the living God. From this encounter I realized that He is not a God of glory but an anguished Parent seeking to realize His purpose of creation on earth.

When I came in contact with God's boundless truth and love, I came to see the profound truth that God has cherished deeply. It is a truth that reveals the relationship between God, humankind and the universe. Based on this truth, I saw that the problems

of the world can be solved and an ideal society can be realized. I am referring to the teachings of Unificationism, which explain the basic principles of the Unification movement that I am advancing globally.

I have upheld God's truth. To this day I have been advancing the Unification movement in order to manifest an ideal world, which is the dream shared by God and humankind. Based on my experiences, I can confirm that Unificationism is indeed the key to the solution of our problems and the pivotal point in bringing order out of chaos. Recently many prominent and eminent scholars from around the world have begun to join this movement.

Communist prejudice

As the Unification movement expands globally, communism has become its greatest obstacle. Communism espouses a philosophy based on dialectical materialism and a materialistic view of history. Democracy does not have an articulated philosophy for opposing it. Although democracy is able to accept Unification teachings, communism categorically rejects them out of its narrow-mindedness and commitment to a class-based view of reality.

Because of its viewpoint, communists have used every means possible to hinder and persecute the Unification movement that I lead. Through false propaganda, vicious slander, printed materials and rallies, communists have mounted their mudslinging and persecution against my group and me. They have mobilized politicians, journalists, students, religious people, cultural figures and even housewives in promoting their false propaganda against the Unification movement.

The methods they employ to persecute our members include assault, kidnapping, violent abduction, illegal confinement in complete isolation, forced conversion, brainwashing, intimidation, forced admittance into mental hospitals, and the administration of psychotropic drugs. It has been discovered through meticulous investigation that communist cadres have been behind the organizations and individuals that oppose and persecute me. They manipulate them,

directly and indirectly, to persecute the Unification movement. Why is communism so intent on opposing the Unification movement that I lead? It is because Unificationism makes God abundantly clear to people; it even allows them to experience God. It thereby completely exposes the fallacy of atheistic communism.

The goal of the Unification movement

I now would like to explain in detail the parameters of the goal of the Unification movement, which I am spearheading. As I have already explained, Unificationism is a teaching that expresses God's truth and love. Its primary goal is to resolve all social and global problems, completely eradicate communism from the earth, and establish a world of true freedom, peace and prosperity. It aims to realize a world under a vision of one great family, based on a new value system of ethics and morality. It seeks to manifest a united world based on the principles of interdependence, mutual prosperity, and universally shared values, free of all forms of oppression, exploitation, discrimination and social evils. This is its ultimate goal.

In a word, its ultimate goal is to realize a true, ideal society. The way to realize this society is not through violence and struggle, as dictated by communism; rather it is through a peaceful and idealistic spiritual movement based on truth and love. All of this is based on God's Will. The goal of the Unification movement is the ultimate goal that God seeks to fulfill.

Confrontation between good and evil on the Korean Peninsula

The location of the Republic of Korea, on the Korean Peninsula, places it in a position of destiny to fight and overcome communism. Once it can prevail in its struggle against communism, the Republic of Korea will play an active role in the world. On the other hand, if it is defeated by communism it may disappear without a trace. The Republic of Korea must not only overcome North Korea, it must overcome communism throughout the world. North Korea and South Korea stand at the forefront of the communist world and democratic world, respectively, with the Military

Demarcation Line between them. Their very existence is at stake in this fateful and historic showdown between the two worlds.

Throughout providential history God has been waiting eagerly for this kind of outcome. It can happen when the people of Korea and all the free people of this world come together in complete victory. In conclusion, I would like to talk about the resolve of the Korean people. The confrontation between North and South Korea, focusing on this truce line, is an all-out confrontation between these two systems. Therefore, South Korea must surpass North Korea, not only in terms of national power but also in terms of philosophy. In addition, they have to uncover communist infiltration and shut down the networks of communist moles. Only then can we prevail in the ideological battle. This is the only way, realistically, that we can stop the North's invasion of the South.

The urgent need for the Victory over Communism campaign

Since North Korea represents the entire communist world, you have to be mindful of the fact that other communist nations, beginning with the Soviet Union, stand behind North Korea. These nations that have ideological ties to North Korea share the goal of world domination. Therefore, in times of emergency North Korea will be able to receive military and economic support from these nations, especially from the Soviet Union and China.

However, this is not the case for South Korea. We cannot expect that free nations will come to our aid in times of need, as they did during the Korean War. This is because the democratic world does not have a philosophical vision or a commitment to the world as a single community. Also, the circumstances today are completely different from the time of the Korean War. This is because the free nations are not aligned with the principle of living for the sake of the world. They mainly pursue their own national interests, they are becoming increasingly liberal, and their governments and policies can change with each election.

Because I knew this weakness of the free world, I traversed Japan,



America, Europe, Central and South America, and other parts of the world to rally young people, scholars, journalists and politicians, and introduce them to the transnational philosophy of Victory over Communism. In each nation I devoted all my energy in creating a base to disseminate the Victory over Communism teaching to the general public. This activity serves to protect the Republic of Korea, which is placed in a historic, providential and global confrontation with communism. In particular, I have been successful in establishing Victory over Communism activists in localities throughout the United States and Central and South America, through the CAUSA movement. I also have built a strong foundation for Victory over Communism among the Japanese people.

This foundation will expand rapidly in Japan and the United States. In Korea I called on the International Federation for Victory over Communism to create a nationwide organization with leaders in each village and precinct. In this way



True Father talking to very attentive members

we were able to form strong partnerships and ideological bonds between Korea, Japan and the United States on a civic rather than a political level. This foundation will generate immediate mutual support in times of emergency.

In the future I intend to guide the members of the Victory over Communism movements in these three nations, which represent the world, to extend their solidarity through sisterhood ties, mutual exchanges and education. In this way, a strong foundation to defeat communism will be established in this nation, building a solid foundation for national security. Though politicians change, the formation of this grass roots foundation will never be interrupted. Nonetheless, we must not be satisfied with that. We need to connect our home-based, grassroots foundation with the Victory over Communism foundations in other countries. In so doing, we can form an international united front under the International Federation for Victory over Communism. When this interna-

tional front triumphs over communism throughout the world, we finally can liberate North Korea.

Formation of a front line through the International Federation for Victory over Communism

I returned here in order to connect the chapters of the Victory over Communism movement in each nation to Korea and form a powerful international populist movement. The reason we are holding a Victory over Communism rally here today is to urge the people of this nation to arm themselves quickly with the Victory over Communism teaching, both to save this nation and to help form an international front line through the International Federation for Victory over Communism. I have suffered much persecution to get to this place today. The persecution was global, not just in one nation. The great truth of God does not belong to me; rather, it is God's teaching and, at the same time, a principle that belongs to you and all humankind.

I welcome the seventy representatives of the Professors World Peace

Academy from seventy nations who are here today. They are eminent scholars from around the world who support the Unification movement and the Victory over Communism movement. They have come to Korea at this time to support this rally and to strengthen the ties between the Victory over Communism members in Korea and in other nations.

When communism is completely eradicated from this world, the long-cherished desire of God and dream of humankind, a world of peace and freedom, shall be established on earth. We will also achieve the reunification of the homeland, which is the cherished hope of the Korean people.

For the sake of that day let all of us, all the people of this nation, unite together as one. Let us firmly resolve to overcome communism. Let us rise together, in one accord with the people of the world, to march forward and bring down communism!

I pray that God's protection and blessings will be upon the Republic of Korea and upon all your families. Thank you. 

Let's Create the Culture of Cheon Il Guk

*Victory for Vision 2027 and the Successful Dedication of
Cheon Won Gung and the Cheon Il Sanctum
Special Meeting for Heavenly Korea FFWPU Church Leaders Hosted by the
True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind (True Mother's speech)
Heaven and Earth Cheonbo Training Center, November 17, 2022*



With your devoted effort and diligent work you have striven to bear beautiful fruit over the last two days. Seeing your faces, I feel very grateful to you.

It has brought back thoughts of that day, six months after True Father's ascension, on which I proclaimed the first year of Cheon Il Guk and Foundation Day, a day for which I had to prepare alone.

Circumstances surrounding the proclamation of the first year of Cheon Il Guk

The establishment of Cheon Il Guk for the first time in history and the construction of Heavenly Parent's substantial temple where Heavenly Parent's dreams can be realized on earth ushers in a new era for the Korean Peninsula, the birthplace of the True Parents. In passing through truly difficult living circumstances, it is shocking that we did not have the time to prepare for such a historic day.

Yet in order to keep my promise to Heaven, the truth is that I could not sleep at night. When it comes to Cheon Il Guk, it is important to build a country as its pillar, a nation that can represent it. The national bird and the national flower have been established; however when it comes to the country and the national flag... I am not sure how it was for all of you, but for me, however, when I reflect on the past ten years, in my heart I felt like I had to find one tiny needle in the midst of a desert sandstorm without being able to open my eyes. When a country was established in history, there were central people and there were those who participated in that. But I cannot say I had such people around me. I endured everything by myself and then proclaimed the first year of Cheon Il Guk.

However, a proclamation alone is not enough. Though this never really happened in the past.... I know many of you have made personal effort and offered devotion to bring results and contribute toward church development. From that time and for some years, I have been speaking about a revolution of the culture of the heart. Standing in the position of going beyond the Old Testament Age, the New Testament Age, and the Completed Testament Age and proclaiming the first year of Cheon Il Guk was about creating an environment in which people can attend and live with Heavenly Parent.

Attending Heavenly Parent in the era of Cheon Il Guk: The need to change songs of praise

With regard to songs of praise sang in church services, many beautiful hymns were composed in the New Testament Age as people waited for Jesus to return as he had promised. "Shall We Gather at the River" is a hymn of faith that was composed during a time of oppression and expresses Christians' resolve even to die as they looked forward to the day they could once again meet the Messiah.

Two thousand years ago, back then, I believe the

Jordan River must have been a big river. I visited it in the 70s, even in 1968. During those visits, the Jordan River was more like a brook. That's how much it has changed. So looking at such historical facts, I envisioned what life would be like in the future as we attend Heavenly Parent in the kingdom of heaven on earth.

It was with this in mind that I called David Eaton to come to Korea. He was deeply involved in cultural activities at the time we were conducting the work of God's global providence, based in the United States. When I encounter the most beautiful masterpieces around the world, many songs express through their lyrics and melodies the feelings or sensations experienced in a particular place.

In this era of Cheon Il Guk when we are attending Heavenly Parent and living with True Parents, our songs of praise should also change accordingly. That is why I brought David Eaton here ten years ago and said to him, "Please write lyrics and melodies reflecting the atmosphere you are experiencing here."

America history and God's Providence

There is another song I have sung since I was a young girl. But though I am actually a soprano, nowadays my voice is not so good. [Mother laughs] I must sing this song to you for the sake of America.

*The sun shines bright on my old Kentucky home,
'Tis summer, the people are gay;
The corn-top's ripe and the meadow's in the bloom
While the birds make music all the day.*

*The young folks roll on the little cabin floor
All merry, all happy and bright;
By'n by hard times come a knocking at the door
Then my old Kentucky home, Good night!*

*Weep no more my lady.
Oh! Weep no more today!
We will sing one song for my old Kentucky home
For my old Kentucky home, far away.*

Though it was short, did I sing all right? [Applause] When do you think this song was composed? This song was composed for the independence of the United States before the Civil War between the north and the south. Christianity began to evangelize the world centered on Europe, yet its fundamental essence is "love your neighbor as yourself." It was to do with love. In spite of this, people did numerous things that contradicted this fundamental essence.

And so the United States was born as a new Christian nation, a liberal democracy, and moreover emerged as a representative liberal democratic nation during World War II.

So, if the United States had known the heavenly providence correctly back then, the division between North and South Korea would not have occurred.



Heavenly Parent's Sanctum and our mission

Now, on the Korean Peninsula, through True Parents, we will have a temple wherein we can attend Heavenly Parent substantially on this earth. This is a miracle of history. It's a miracle I had never once dreamed of. Do you feel it? [Yes.]

This people, which has to fulfill the mission and responsibility of Heavenly Parent's homeland, must unite. In order to do that, it is urgent that all of you who received the Blessing first become one and realize a heavenly unified Korea.

But we can't do this alone. The environment around us has to unite around us and help us. The United States is positioned to have the greatest influence. But Christianity in America... Especially those in positions of political power have a Christian background. But there is a problem of white supremacy. This is not Jesus' original nature. He told people to love their neighbors as themselves. However, the forces on the side of Satan have been striving for a very long time to occupy Africa. America is sleeping, however. Yet the Africans came as slaves and many lived in the United States, and they suffered a lot under various types of white supremacy.

To put it another way, in order for the democratic world to win over the communist world, the United States must become one with Africa. America must

become one with Asia. From this standpoint, the presidents who will lead the United States in the future must know for sure. What is America's mission? America cannot be just for Americans. True Parents are the ones that that can educate them about that. There is only one set of True Parents. The True Parents.

You must teach so that the United States can become one with the Mother of Peace so that America can embrace Africa, Asia and the rest of the world.

To that end, there are many beautiful concepts in these songs of praise, in the hymns of the New Testament era. As well as marching songs, there are many famous songs, which is the reason for creating a cultural center in this era of Cheon Il Guk. Since we have to create the culture of Cheon Il Guk, even if you do not have any professional knowledge, you are all waiting for the day when you will be able to dedicate your life to the present moment, in oneness with True Parents—and moreover, the temple where you can directly attend Heavenly Parent. I hope that through your devotion and effort many treasures will emerge that can be praised in song in front of God.

In the beginning, I was alone, but now that you are here, I will try to advance in hope. 



CONFERENCE OF HOPE FOR THE REALIZATION OF A HEAVENLY UNIFIED WORLD

Advancing Religious Freedom
Through Universal Human Rights



C · O · N · F · E · R · E · N · C · E

보편적 인권에 기반한 종교의 자유
신통일세계를 위한 희망전진 콘퍼런스

神世界統一のための希望前進カンファレンス普遍的な人権に基づく宗教の自由
Conference of Hope for the Realization of a Heavenly Unified World
Advancing religious freedom through universal human rights





Under the theme of “Religious Freedom Based on Universal Human Rights,” a “Conference of Hope for the Realization of a Heavenly Unified World” was held on November 12 at the Hyejeong Cultural Hall of the HJ International Cultural Foundation with the online and offline participation of world peace leaders from more than 100 countries, including former U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, former U.S. House of Representatives Speaker Newt Gingrich, and Catholic Cardinal Kelvin Felix from Dominica.

The event began with welcoming remarks by Dr. Yun Young-ho, Chairman of the 2022 Forum Promotion Committee, Tom McDevitt, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the *Washington Times*, and Kelvin Felix, a Catholic Cardinal from Dominica, followed by a Peace Performance. Next, former US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, Former US House Speaker Newt Gingrich, Pastor Paula White, chair of the evangelical advisory board in Donald Trump’s administration, and Sam Brownback, former Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom at the US Department of State offered remarks. They were followed by a keynote address from Massimo Introvigne, Italian Roman Catholic sociologist of religion and founder of the Center for Studies of New Religions. The highlight of the event was the adoption of a “Statement Calling for Religious Freedom Based on the Universal Charter of Peace.” The Little Angels of Korea which are celebrating their 60th anniversary this year performed and so did the Art Buli Korean dance troupe.

In his welcoming remarks, Dr. Yun Young-ho, Chairman of the 2022 Forum Promotion Committee, said, “The most important and basic content of human rights is freedom to believe in God (religion), freedom to practice faith, and freedom to reject coercion. Freedom of religion is a human right conferred by heaven, and is one of the most basic rights that cannot be contravened by anyone. Explaining further, he said that Rev. and Dr. Moon, co-founders of the Universal Peace Federation, have said that the goal of religion is achieving the ideal of one family under God where all of humanity lives harmoniously in attendance to God as the parent of humankind. The human right to freedom of religion goes beyond the faith in God and is an innate human right granted by the Creator and allowing all people to seek and attend their true parents.

Tom McDevitt, chairman of the board of the *Washington Times*, stated, “The highlight of the conference today will be the introduction and the adoption of the Declaration on the Universal Value of Religious Freedom. We call on all people throughout the world to stand firm against all forms of religious intolerance, prejudice, slander and hate, to conclude the Declaration which will be signed by representatives in

Korea, in Japan and numerous countries all around the world. The Declaration builds on the foundation of the Peace Charter, which was affirmed during the Universal Peace Federation Summit 2022 and the Leadership Conference in August, which advocated for a world culture of peace, a world of interdependence, mutual prosperity and universal values.”

In his congratulatory remarks, Dominican Catholic Cardinal Kelvin Felix said “Pope Francis said: “Religious freedom is a fundamental right which shapes the way we interact socially and personally with our neighbors whose religious views differ from our own. When individuals and communities are guaranteed the effective exercise of their rights, they are not only free to realize their potential, they also, through their talents and their hard work, contribute to the welfare and enrichment of society as a whole.”

Former U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who delivered a keynote address on the topic of universal human rights, said “In the Trump Administration, we made religious liberty around the world a central thesis of keeping America more secure and making more prosperity and security for people all around the world. So, we tied what we knew to be true—the expansion of religious freedom around the world, the protection of persecuted minorities around the world [...] I would suggest to you that as you’re serving your nation, as you’re serving your community, as you’re serving your family and all those around you that your faith is a central part of who you are. You should live it each and every day and you should do so with the knowledge that there will be those who will think that’s not quite the right way to do it. Be strong!”

Newt Gingrich, former Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, said: “Why have the media and their so-called advisors suppressed the fact that a respected United Nations NGO on Religious Freedom has filed a formal complaint with the UN Human Rights Committee in Geneva [...] We believe that Japan will uphold its commitment to Freedom of Religion and Democracy. I believe that the anti-Communist movement, which Mother Moon has done so much work on to bring peace to the world, with freedom, will continue.”

The Rev. Paula White said: “Mother Moon, your faith and courage are very moving, especially having passed through so many trials, persecution, and misunderstanding. I’ve been honored to be a part of this great work, and to join Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, President Trump, Prime Minister Hun Sen, President Macky Sall, Prime Minister Brigi Rafini, and many heads of state from Africa, as well as Vice President Pence, Prime Minister Harper, Prime Minister Barroso, Secretary Pompeo, Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and the heads of state throughout the world, along with faith leaders who have expressed deep appreciation for the leadership of Mother Moon, for peace and for strengthening families.”

Sam Brownback, former U.S. Ambassador for International Religious Freedom at the US State Department, said, “Don’t fall back and don’t fall for traps of saying, ‘while we don’t agree with this group theologically or that group, everybody else is fine.’ The only way the system works is if everybody is guaranteed religious freedom.”

Jan Figel, former EU special envoy for religious freedom, who also delivered a keynote address on universal human rights and religious persecution, said, “Religious freedom is defined as freedom of thought, conscience and religion. Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is at the center of the long list of rights. Indeed, it is a very central right, important for believers and non-believers. When religious freedom is missing then other civil freedoms are missing as well,” he argued.

Massimo Introvigne, Founder of the Center for Studies on New Religions, gave a special speech in which he explained that communism, Nietzschean philosophy, often adhered to by Nazis and other extreme political factions, and secular humanism are all operating as enemies of religion. Though they have radically different philosophical bases, they are all seeking to eradicate religion. “However,” he continued, “they are confronted with the impossibility of eradicating immediately all religions [...] As I have demonstrated in several articles, the same dark forces are working against religious liberty in other countries [...] The future of religion liberty will be largely decided by what will happen in Japan with the Unification Church [...] We are here to make our voice heard, to make your voice heard. And certainly we are not here to lose. I fully believe that if we stay together, if we do not give up, if we continue to fight, we will one day celebrate our victory,” he stated.

One of the sponsors of the event, Think Tank 2022, is an alliance of intellectuals around the world that was launched in response to the needs of the times for great unity and solidarity for peace. Launched on May 9 of last year, top experts in each field, including politics, economy, media, academics, religion, culture, and the arts, have joined together to discuss policies and their impact on each field. Providing a platform for people to share and discuss ethical practices together, Think Tank 2022 consists of a total of 2,022 leading figures, including 1,011 from South Korea and 1,011 from other countries around the world. 

Welcoming Address

The World Must Stand Up for Religious Freedom

**Tom McDevitt,
Chairman of the Washington Times Foundation**

Thank you very much for that kind introduction. And special thanks to Dr Yun Young-ho for your brilliant presentation and for your outstanding leadership during this time of global concern and crisis. And also let me add a word of thanks to our fonder Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon for her extraordinary vision and passion to see a world of peace in our lifetime. I'd also like to welcome you, all of you who are participating in this conference online from more than 120 nations in so many time zones. So good morning, good afternoon and good evening to everyone, my friends throughout America, throughout the world, Europe, Africa, South America, Asia, all over.

We're gathered together today for a most important purpose. In light of the attacks on religious freedom in China, Japan and Middle East, elsewhere, the Washington Times Foundation and THINK TANK 2022 are proud to convene this Conference of Hope for universal rights and religious freedom. The Conference of Hope will highlight human rights issues around the world as part of the missions of the Washington Times Foundation and Think Tank 2022, which is a Korean Peninsula reunification initiative that's truly innovative. We want to promote peace and security globally, especially in Korea and the Pacific Rim. The highlight of the conference today will be the introduction and the adoption of the Declaration on the universal value of religious freedom. We call on all people throughout the world to stand firm against all forms of religious intolerance, prejudice, slander and hate, to conclude the Declaration which will be signed by representatives in Korea where you're sitting today, in Japan, with so many thousands of our friends and families watching this program – we love you dearly – and numerous countries all around the world. The Declaration builds on the foundation of the Peace Charter, which was affirmed during the Universal Peace Federation Summit 2022 and the Leadership Conference in August, which advocated for a world culture of peace, a world of interdependence, mutual prosperity and universal values. These ideals have incredible power, and we can implement them to change the world. At that time in August, His Excellency Prime Minister Hun Sen of Cambodia encouraged all of the leaders there to reach out to parliamentarians throughout the world in order to mobilize the international community on matters of such consequence as human rights and religious freedom.



Ladies and gentlemen, today's lineup of distinguished speakers will underscore the importance of universal human rights and religious freedom at a time when many followers of the world's major and minor religions face persecution, intolerance, discrimination and violence in many countries. It's unthinkable in the 21st century that this is going on. And in some cases, it's happening right in your neighborhood. The Conference of Hope for Universal

Human Rights and Religious Freedom transcends political, religious, racial and ideological boundaries, and we seek to build a unified and more peaceful world around those core ideals of interdependence, mutual prosperity and universal values. Among the issues to be discussed today, there are going to be the plights of the Muslim Uyghurs, Buddhists, Jews, Christians, Bahais, Jehovah's Witnesses, Yazidis, Falun Gong and Unificationists. We are going to hear today from Japanese representatives who are going to passionately ask their government and their people to honor the long-standing traditions of fairness and mutual respect and cease the unjustified persecution of the members of the Family Federation in Japan. That began after the shocking and tragic assassination of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. I've spent more than 30 days in Japan since August and what's going on there now is of critical consequence. The tragedy of losing Prime Minister Abe to his assassination was then distorted claims made in the media about the motivation of the assassin all blaming the Unification Church. It is so peculiar. You've probably read about it or heard about it. In my three decades working here at the Washington Times, I have never seen such a calibrated and focused witch hunt. It's shocking to see what's happening. The Japanese people are amazing people. They're aligned with America and freedom-loving countries. There's been so much hope from Japan over the years after World War II, how it resurrected as a strong nation that brought great products and great culture to the world. But what I saw in those five weeks shocked me. The world's got to stand up. The truth has got to come out. And thank goodness for this organization that Dr. Moon and Dr. Yun and others have led with the global network and its amazing speakers that its amazing speakers that we're going to have today a chance to listen to. I think it's a transitional moment right now folks without a doubt. It's critical moment in which we unite, face the truth and move forward courageously based on the principles expressed in the Declaration that you're going to hear.

Thank you all for being here. Let us listen and learn together through our unified efforts. Let's make a difference in Japan and throughout the world. Like John Kennedy said when he went to Berlin during the Cold War: "Ich bin ein Berliner" (German) ("I am a Berliner."). That's my heart and I know that's the heart of many of us around the world. I am an American, a proud American,

a proud Unificationist and the chairman of the Washington Times. But I Want to move to Japan. I want to be a member of the Japanese Unification Movement and be there with my brothers and sisters. Let's do it together today. Thank you so very much and may God bless you and your families and your countries.

Thank you. 🙏

Congratulations Address

Religious Freedom is a Fundamental Right of Individuals and Communities

**Kelvin Felix,
Catholic Church Cardinal-Priest (Castries)**



Distinguished leaders from around the world, I consider it a privilege to participate in this "Rally of Hope for Religious Freedom" organized by the Universal Peace Federation and Mother Moon. In my country, the Commonwealth of

Dominica, in the Caribbean region, I

have often met a group of Japanese Volunteers of the Women's Federation for World Peace, a sister organization to the Universal Peace Federation. For twenty-six years, they have been conducting Art classes at our Teachers' Training College and in many schools around the country. At the same time, they have often held programmes to strengthen family unions. They have also been educating our young people about the benefits of keeping sexual abstinence until marriage. I have attended several International Conferences of the Universal Peace Federation in Brazil, New York, and Japan.

The most memorable Conference I attended was in Nagoya in Japan in October 2019. After that conference, I had the privilege of participating in Kyoto, in an Interfaith Commemoration of the Martyrdom of fifty-two Catholic believers, who had been burnt to death exactly four hundred years ago. It is painful to experience how members of the Universal Peace Federation and the Women's Federation for World Peace are misunderstood by some sections of the media and the general public in Japan. Pope Francis said: "Religious freedom is a fundamental right which shapes the way we interact socially and personally with our neighbors whose religious views differ from our own." "When individuals and communities are guaranteed the effective exercise of their rights, they are not only free to realize their potential, they also, through their talents and their hard work, contribute to the welfare and enrichment of society as a whole." May God bless us all. 🙏

Congratulations Address

Peace is a Gift from God

**Louison Mbila,
African Union (AU) Chaplain**



Dear Mother Moon, Mother of Peace, Your Excellencies, Distinguished Religious Leaders, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Peace is not only a gift; it is also a task entrusted to us.

Jesus says, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called

sons of God". Bringing together peacemakers from all cultures and religious backgrounds, as UPF does, is by itself a great sign of hope for peacebuilding in our broken world. World leaders can learn from UPF and should give a listening ear to the contribution of religious and spiritual traditions to the common good. Indeed, "people and societies which dismiss the importance of spiritual values and moral guidelines are susceptible to lose their humanity and creativity."

Finally, the world will never experience lasting peace if some members of the human family are denied their God given right to worship freely and express their faith in a public manner. As a matter of fact, the human person is not just a mass of flesh, bones and blood vessels; he or she does not live by bread alone, but is open to something greater, to the transcendent. Every person has the right to religious freedom. We should not be afraid of those who believes or worship differently from us and stop them from bringing their contribution to the establishment of a just social order. As Jesus "For whoever is not against you is for you."

Have a blessed Rally of Hope. God bless you all. 🙏

Religious Freedom is a Key Argument for Promoting Prosperity and Security

Mike Pompeo,
70th United States Secretary of State

I want to thank Dr. Moon for the chance to speak on a topic that is very personal for me, and I pray that it is personal for all of us. In the Trump Administration, we made religious liberty around the world a central thesis of keeping America more secure and making more prosperity and security for people all around the world. We knew in our hearts that people that had the capacity to practice their faith the way that they wanted to, or chose not to for that matter—we knew that they were in a stronger place; that their institutions of family, and their institutions of church and faith would be stronger, and therefore that nation would be more secure and present a little bit less risk to us in the United States. So, we tied what we knew to be true—the expansion of religious freedom around the world, the protection of persecuted minorities around the world—to our understanding of how to keep Americans safe and keep people safe all across this globe.

I get asked all the time, “These are high-minded ideas, Mike. How do I live them out?”

The attacks [on religious freedom] will be serious. They will be personal. They will come after you. It does not matter where you are. I gave some remarks once at a group of Christian counselors. You should know that the first attacks that I suffered as a result of that speech were from my lawyers at the State Department, who didn’t think that people of faith—Christians, Muslims, Jews, Bahais—didn’t think people of faith should live their life even in service to their country. I would suggest to you that as you’re serving your nation, as you’re serving your community, as you’re serving your family and all those around you that your faith is a central part of who you are. You should live it. Each and every day and you should do so with the knowledge that there will be those who will think that’s not just the quite right way to do it. Be strong!

The other side—the pagans, as Speaker Gingrich describes them—they know it puts them at risk as well. It’s why they attacked so hard. We could see this in everything that we did. And Speaker Gingrich talked about the American tradition, our Judeo-Christian heritage—the fact that we were founded on the central idea of religious liberty and the fact that our nation wouldn’t establish a religion, but rather, we would permit people to practice their faiths at their churches and their synagogues at their



mosques. We know this idea holds true in many nations. I worked with a woman named Mary Ann Glendon. She’s a professor at Harvard Law School. And Mary Ann Glendon put together an understanding for America about regrounding our diplomacy in the fundamental understandings of America. We called it the Commission on Unalienable Rights, tied back to the very documents that Speaker Gingrich spoke of. But it wasn’t the commission that was important.

It was the work that we delivered, and we worked with nations and religious leaders all across the world to take their faith tradition as it was melded with their national tradition so that we could help secure these very freedoms. I would ask each and every one of you to do that—to look to your nation’s traditions. To ground your heritage in the central understandings of knowing that faith matters in every place. When you do that, you’ll get it right. You will make your nation more secure, you’ll make it more prosperous as well.

When I was Secretary of State, I kept a Bible open on my desk every day. I did it mostly for myself to remind myself to stay in the Word, to stay focused on the things that I knew mattered; to remind me that I was America’s 70th Secretary of State but I was not very powerful compared to Him, compared to our Maker, and that I could not possibly succeed on behalf of my nation and on behalf of all the folks I was trying to help all around the world without His help. I also could see the people would come into my office and they see that I had a Bible on my desk—by the way, often times, these were people of no faith or from different faiths. I can’t tell you how often they would remark to me or to someone on my team after they left me, that while I was a Christian, they appreciated the discipline that I had, the openness that I had in my faith, and I often remembered being with leaders of every faith and those who were serious, those who weren’t secular, those who cared about their faith were often people who were most committed to helping us all deliver on behalf of peace and prosperity all around the world.

Religious liberty is at the center of what this very organization [and Mother Moon] is doing today. Bless you all for holding this particular gathering on this particular topic. In the end, it will be faith in the Lord that will cause peace to be as universal as we all pray that it can be. Thank you and God bless you. 

UPF's Vision will Lead to Peace on the Korean Peninsula

Newt Gingrich,
50th Speaker of the United States House of Representatives

I have been honored to be part of Universal Peace Federation's Rally of Hope, and to stand side by side with President Trump, former UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon. U.S. Vice President Pence, Secretary of State Pompeo and Prime Minister Abe. These gatherings are significant for advancing peace as they express the hearts of freedom-loving people, and that's why they have drawn international support. I sincerely thank Dr. Moon for her leadership for Peace and the fine work of the Washington Times which she and her late husband co-founded.

Rev. Moon, who spent 2 years and 8 months in Communist Prison in North Korea, understood the danger of Communism's denial of God and freedom. Mother Moon escaped from North Korea with her mother and Grandmother. Through their movement which consisted of their Christian church and a large base of patriotic Japanese citizens, formed the International Federation for Victory Over Communism.

Through education on campuses and in the public forums, the movement played a critical role in pushing back the communist threat. On that foundation they met Prime Minister Kishi, Grandfather of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who supported a strong Japan in alliance with America with deep concerns about the threat of communism. A natural relationship formed between the victory over the communist movement. Mr. Kishi and many members of the Diet, especially the Liberal Democratic Party, or LDP.

This movement has been strongly supporting Japan's freedom, prosperity, and its role as a leader for Peace and Security. Various bad things have been said about the Victory over Communism movement; however, those are mainly from pro-communist organizations."

Through our research, we are seeing that many in the media are trying to dissolve the movement in Japan without any legal due process. We've have also found that many are politically sympathetic to the communist or socialist anti-religious, anti-America and Anti Abe view.

Some of the Lawyers who are advising the government action participated in illegal deprogramming or defended



unlawful deprogrammers in Japan. These so called "advisors" are now calling for a suspension of law and pushing actions that will violate Japan's commitment as a signatory to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) at the United Nations.

Why have the media and their so-called advisors suppressed the fact that a respected United Nations NGO on Religious Freedom has filed a formal complaint with the UN Human Rights Committee in Geneva. I am concerned that those pushing these discriminatory actions are really seeking to weaken the security and peace of Japan, making Japan weaker in the face of threats from China and the DPRK. We wonder why, at the same time, these "advisors" and the media are also trying to disparage the LDP members and even PM Abe for associating with this anti-communist, pro-democratic and pro-religious freedom movement.

Thanks to the visionary leadership of Mr. Abe, Japan has become a strong and free democracy that supports the rules-based order of international relations.

Abe's dedication to a "strong Japan policy" – and strong defense – was deeply opposed by a significant part of Japanese society, but Mr. Abe stood for Japan first.

The whole world joined in honoring and saying farewell to Prime Minister Abe, one of the world's great leaders.

Japan is a most honorable nation that is also the great ally of America and the free world. It was the profound character of the Japanese people who adopted the noble principles that led Japan to take its place as a world leader for security, peace, and economic prosperity. From the constitution to the principles of "Continuous Improvement" taught by W. Edwards Deming, Japan became an economic global leader and a leader for security and democracy.

We believe that Japan will uphold its commitment to Freedom of Religion and Democracy.

I believe that the anti-Communist movement, which Mother Moon has done so much to work on to bring peace to the world, with freedom, will continue. 

The Importance of Global Security and Religious Freedom

Paula White,

Former special advisor to the Faith and Opportunity Initiative of the White House

Distinguished leaders, ladies, and gentlemen!
As we discuss the importance of security and religious freedom today, it is my heartfelt and deep conviction that every human should have the most basic right of religious liberty.

One fundamental principle and truth is that our rights do not come from government. They come from God. It was with that spirit and belief as advisor to President Trump that I led the White House Faith and Opportunity Initiative, which established a faith-based office or liaison in every cabinet department and agency and worked hard to make sure that people of all faiths had a voice in their government. The president gave an executive order on advancing international religious freedom that solidifies America's own commitment to this critical issue by naming it as a foreign policy priority of the United States, and promising that we will respect and vigorously promote this freedom.

It is this deep conviction of standing for freedom of religion that has driven my life work of 38 years in ministry. With this in mind, I want to honor and encourage Mother Moon for her great work as a spiritual leader who loves the Lord and seeks to bring and comfort God's heart in all the conflict areas of the world. Mother Moon, your faith and courage is very moving, especially having passed through the many trials, persecution, and misunderstanding. You and your late husband, Rev. Moon, have led a life of unwavering faith, and never vacillated in your commitment to achieving peace through Jesus' fundamental teaching, to love your enemies, for this is one of the greatest secrets to achieving reconciliation and forgiveness.

The Summit 2022 last August was a tremendous success, and is growing stronger with each summit, as we see the leaders of the world understanding your great role for peace and strengthening families. Thank you, Dr. Young-ho Yun for helping fulfill Mother's dream. I've been honored to be a part of this great work, and to join Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, President Trump, Prime Minister Hun Sen, President Macky Sall, Prime Minister Brigi Rafini, and many heads of state from Africa, as well as Vice President Pence, Prime Minister Harper, Prime Minister Barroso, Secretary Pompeo, Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and the heads of state throughout the world, along with faith leaders who have expressed deep appreciation for the leadership of Mother Moon, for peace and for strengthening families.

That is why it is no surprise that Prime Minister Abe stood



with many heads of state in appreciating this work, because it is good for Japan, good for the Republic of Korea and for America, and good for peace in Northeast Asia and the world.

We are not surprised that so many current and former members of the liberal democratic party and other parties in Japan understood that her work with the Universal Peace Federation was so important and collaborated with it. President Trump was so keen on dialogue, and he met Kim Jong-un on two occasions directly.

Mother Moon went with her late husband to North Korea, after much prayer, and in 1991 they met Chairman Kim. Father and Mother Moon, who founded the Washington Times, were seen as a very strong anti-communist force, and the greatest enemy of North Korea. However, after they met, they were no longer seen as enemies, because they came to help North Korea realize peace and prosperity and to join as a member of the family of nations. When I was in South Korea last August for Father Moon's memorial, it was very meaningful that Chairman Kim Jong-un sent flowers and a letter recognizing Father Moon as a true peacemaker and has invited Mother Moon to North Korea.

In Japan, such a tragedy occurred when Prime Minister Abe was assassinated. He is so respected throughout the world and was deeply committed to a strong Japan in alliance with America. President Trump and all key leaders in America and throughout the world had the greatest respect for his leadership, and the critical role of Japan in relationship to peace in the whole Indo-Pacific. We know that Mother Moon and the work of her movement with UPF and the Family Federation, which many leaders of the world, including myself, respect, and support, has the greatest respect for Japan and its historic role at this time for peace.

We are confident that the current prime minister and all the leadership of Japan will uphold the high principles of defending religious freedom for all faiths. And we want you to know that the world was so deeply moved by the beautiful, deeply peaceful and honorable funeral of our beloved and cherished Prime Minister Abe. We pray that Mrs. Abe and her family were comforted by the great legacy and honor with which Prime Minister Abe was memorialized. We sincerely pray for peace in Northeast Asia, and that religious freedom will expand from Japan, the Republic of Korea, America and all democratic nations to all the nations of the world. God be with you, Mother Moon. 

Religious Freedom is a Fundamental Right for All

Sam Brownback,
Former U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom

Well, thank you for allowing me to join you today on this very important occasion and discussion. I want to say a particular thanks at the outset to the Washington Times Foundation, to UPF and Dr. Moon for their efforts for peace and religious freedom around the world. This Rally of Hope to stand for religious freedom is central to the future of democracies and it's central to the future of each of our countries and having a society that can interact with one another.

He [Reverend Moon] was at one time imprisoned in North Korea. And so, the persecution continues. But that means our fight continues. And that means we've got to continue to fight and to stand up and particularly, I want to highlight religious freedom. And that's what we're here today to talk about.

Religious freedom is a hallmark of an open society in a democracy. The United States, Japan, South Korea, key democracies that must stand for religious freedom for everybody everywhere all the time. And I want to say too at this point in time, this is not one of those rights where you want to confuse it with theology. We're not talking about theology.

This was in the 1948 UN Charter of Human Rights that the United States, Japan, South Korea, and virtually every country around the world signed on to religious freedom as a hallmark of these human rights. The right for you to do with your own soul as you see fit or to change what direction you may choose with your own soul. And now, it really is the cornerstone to democracy and a cornerstone to the other human rights. With religious freedom you can build the other human rights off of, build the freedom of speech, build the freedom of assembly. Most people around the world claim a faith of some type, about 80% of the world's population claim some sort of religious adherence. So, you've got a large population, a large majority of the people around the world that seek and want religious freedom to practice their own faith the way they see fit. And yet you have governments and authoritarian regimes pushing the other way, and in ways that are new, and I think frankly, diabolical.



Faith is the one institution that has the strength to bring down a government. Faith is the one institution that has enough loyalty from its adherents to stand up to a government. Faith is the one institution that we can build freedom around, human rights and freedom around, of all these other factors.

When the Pope went to Poland and he said to the Polish people, "Be not afraid." And when he said those words, the people weren't afraid. The Communists were. They knew what could happen if the people themselves decided that there was something beyond the state. And they did decide there was something beyond the state. And now Poland is free. And people are free to pursue with their own souls what they see fit. And this can and will happen in China.

I want to say, particularly to the democracies, that I'm speaking at people that live in democracies today: the United States, Japan, South Korea, and others. This has got to be something we stand firmly for. And if we walk away from any piece of religious freedom, the Chinese will pounce right back and say, "look at your hypocrisy. You may say you have religious freedom, but you don't have it for this particular group." They're going to push back aggressively on this if we don't stand full throated for it. And again, we all don't agree on theology. There are many different views of how one should seek or pursue God or what their theological bent should be. And that's not the issue. The issue is freedom, the freedom to pursue, and with this, this is one of the strongest weapons that democracy has.

So, stand firm, don't fall back and don't fall for traps of saying, "well we don't agree with this group theologically or that group and everybody else is fine." The system doesn't work that way. The only way the system works is if everybody is guaranteed religious freedom, it's religious freedom for everybody. Everywhere. All the time. Stand firm, stand strong. Keep fighting for it. It's critically, critically important. Thank you. 

The Imperative of Protecting Religious Liberty

Doug Bandow,
Senior fellow at the CATO Institute

Religious liberty long has been called the first freedom.

This essential liberty is under attack around the world.

Every faith suffers. Jews are the chief historic victim, the favored scapegoat of failed regimes everywhere, and the target of the most monstrous persecution ever, the Nazi Holocaust. Christians and Muslims suffer too, sometimes at the hands of their coreligionists. And smaller faiths seen as out of the mainstream, including Bahais, Jehovah's Witnesses, Unificationists, and Yazidis, also are often targeted.

Moreover, for officials charged with the conduct of nations and governments, religious liberty is like the famed "canary in the mine," the violation of which warns us of impending danger elsewhere. Governments which refuse to protect us as we seek God—or otherwise address the transcendent—are unlikely to protect us as we exercise our conscience in other ways.

Although we rightly think of persecution in terms of government action—closing churches, arresting believers, banning faiths—that is only the most visible enemy of religious liberty. Hateful, intolerant, and violent cultures often reinforce political oppression, with believers facing personal discrimination, legal attack, family breakup, and even mob assaults.

A wide variety of states trample upon this most important form of freedom of conscience. Open Doors lists 11 nations as perpetrating "extreme" persecution. For instance, this year the tally is led by Afghanistan. After the allied departure, the Taliban took full control. Among the chief victims have been Ahmadis and Christians. Next comes the long-time persecution leader, North Korea. What amounts to a communist monarchy has demanded that its citizens worship a succession of leaders, variously termed "great," "dear," or "supreme."

Somalia and Libya come next, two Muslim nations in which governments have effectively dissolved and terrorists are active. Number five is Yemen, a country suffering from years of war between intolerant insurgents and invaders, the latter from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Next is Eritrea, a totalitarian state oft-called the North Korea of Africa. Which is not meant as a compliment.



Nigeria, an African nation evenly divided by religion, follows, with extremist Muslim groups attacking Christians and moderate Muslims. At number eight is Pakistan, a Taliban refuge where infamous blasphemy laws have often been used against Christians. Iran follows, where anyone other than a Shiite Muslim is at risk. Bahais suffer particularly badly.

Next is India, soon to have the world's largest population. Its government is driven by Hindu nationalism, with Muslims and Christians suffering persecution around the country. Majority Sunni Saudi Arabia brings up the rear. Shia Muslims are barely tolerated. No temple, synagogue, or church for any other faith is allowed.

The list of serious oppressors extends well beyond these 11. Myanmar/Burma, Sudan, Iraq, Syria, Maldives, China, Qatar, Vietnam, and Egypt fill out the worst 20. And there are more, many more after them. Exact circumstances vary, but in all religious minorities at least, and in some cases all people of faith, suffer. Their shared crime is looking beyond politics and political leaders for meaning and purpose.

There have been incidents in the United States, despite its welcome role in standing against persecution worldwide. Attacks on religious liberty also have occurred in Australia, Canada, and across Europe, as well as recently in Japan. Even supposedly liberal societies sometimes demonstrate hostility and intolerance toward faith, and especially toward beliefs seen as different and out of the mainstream.

The latter are the religions that most need to be protected. A majority faith whose adherents dominate society and government faces little danger. Outliers and outcasts are far more vulnerable, victims of ignorance and bias as well as general antipathy toward religion.

Governments which proclaim their commitment to respect the lives and dignity of all must respect the religious faith and commitment of all. They have an obligation to model the behavior which they demand of others. Protecting everyone, including the most vulnerable, is essential for believers and unbelievers alike. Religious liberty is the bedrock upon which all our other liberties rest. 

The Importance of Religious Freedom

Jan Figel,
Former special Envoy for the promotion of freedom
of religion or belief outside the European Union

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Why does religious freedom matter?

Religion or belief is part of our conviction, lifestyle, and identity, it is the source of our values and culture.

Peace is the fruit of justice, justice for all. The Modern understanding of justice is based on the respect of fundamental human rights. Religious freedom is defined as freedom of thought, conscience and religion. Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is at the center of the long list of rights. Indeed, it is a very central right, important for believers and non-believers, for people from A to Z (from Atheists to Zoroastrians). Freedom of Religion or Belief is a litmus test of all other Human rights! Because when religious freedom is missing then other civil freedoms are missing as well.

The situation today around Freedom of Religion or Belief is quite negative. Four out of five people, most of the global population, live in countries with high or very high obstacles for their Freedom of Religion or Belief.

Beside genocidal persecution there are many other forms of religious oppression – anti-blasphemy laws, anti-conversion laws, sectarian violence, totalitarian regimes which try to eliminate religious manifestations and freedom of conscience and conviction for the sake of their ideology and uniformity. By the way, Marx and Lenin hated religion as “opium of mankind”. And they have created their own “religion” – new coercive and militant ideology. Major dictators – Hitler, Stalin, Mao Zedong, Pol Pot – fiercely suppressed Freedom of Religion or Belief.

So, what to do?

We must stop these trends and revert them into more humane conditions. Like in environmental protection, we need a “Religious freedom Climate Change”. Despite worrying tendencies, we see hopeful moves. After a



Century of Genocides, it is time to start Century of Hope.

We must share creative and constructive effort to build a Global religious freedom Movement. It is important to put together 3 “C”s: communication, coordination and cooperation among likeminded governments, parliamentarians, Civil Society Organizations and Faith Based Organizations. This Global Religious Freedom Movement is gradually emerging with the international Religious Freedom of Belief Alliance, Ministerial Conferences on Freedom of Religion or Belief, International Religious Freedom Summits, International Parliamentarians’ Platforms on Freedom of Religion or Belief, growing number of Freedom of Religion or Belief Special Envoys and Ambassadors and the International Contact Group of Freedom of Religion or Belief diplomats.

In a more comprehensive way, there is a nexus between Freedom of Religion or Belief and Human Dignity. Human Dignity is a “foundational” principle of all Human Rights and duties.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Friends,

Why is evil so influential in today’s world? Because it has many allies. Three siblings that spread efficiently evil are: indifference, ignorance, and fear (when we don’t care, when we do not know, or when we are scared to say or do something). In order to overcome these siblings, we must invest more into active engagement, lifelong education and civil courage. Then a Century of Hope may come, and a Culture of Human Dignity may prevail over extreme violence, aggressive wars, and a Century of Genocides.

A culture of human dignity is inconceivable without Freedom of Religion or Belief for all. Therefore, I wholeheartedly invite you all to promote a culture of Human Dignity as a common ground for a more humane and peaceful Century. Let’s build a Century of Hope!

Thank you all. 

The Persecution of Mormon Church

Cole Durham,
Professor of Law at Brigham Young University

For the past few years, colleagues and I have been engaged in a project reflecting on the path religious groups pass through moving from persecution to general, public acceptance. The history of my own church, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, often known as the Mormon church, is an interesting case study in this regard. Now, almost 200 years old, the church underwent some of the most acute persecution of any group in American history in its early days. Yet now, it is the fourth or fifth largest denomination in the United States, and its members are widely accepted and rarely persecuted. Much can be learned from this history.

Volumes have been written about persecution suffered by early church members. Incidents range from the mockery that the young Prophet Joseph Smith encountered when he told others of his first vision to brutal personal attacks. One thinks, for example, of instances in which he was tarred and feathered, of other times when he was in prison for extended periods. Beyond that which was suffered by Joseph Smith himself were the more extended persecutions of the Mormon community at large. After being forced to move from place to place in Missouri, they were ultimately driven out of the state altogether in response to an extermination order issued by Missouri's governor, and then built the city of Nauvoo on the banks of the Mississippi River in Illinois, only to be driven out of that state after the Prophet Joseph himself had been murdered by a mob. These and many similar stories are emblazoned in the consciousness of church members from childhood on.

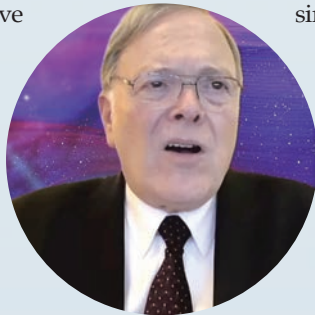
But what are the lessons drawn and how are the lessons drawn?

In 1843, Joseph Smith proclaimed on another front, "I am just as ready to die in defending the rights of a Presbyterian, a Baptist or a good man of any other denomination; for the same principle which would trample upon the rights of the Latter-Day Saints would trample upon the rights of the Roman Catholics or of any other denomination who may be unpopular."

The point of these accounts is that the lesson drawn from persecution was not the need for revenge, but an intensified appreciation of the practical importance of freedom of religion.

Part of what one learns from awareness of persecution in one's own tradition is empathy for the suffering of others.

Another lesson is that circling the wagons and hiding, or



simply retreating, is not helpful or healing. In the 19th century, the main body of Mormons trekked West to the Valley of the Great Salt Lake and settled in the isolated mountain valleys of the western Rockies. But ultimately what made the path from persecution to acceptance possible was not retreat but re-engaging with the world. Studying at other universities, interacting with people in business, providing non-threatening ways for others to learn about us and finding ways to serve others.

We could remember persecution without holding it against others. It could be part of our history and identity without being a source of animosity and distrust for others. This had the dual effect of encouraging church members to live their religion and help solidify a strengthened appreciation of freedom of religion as the guarantee of the social context in which healing relationships could unfold.

A final lesson about persecution comes from a deep understanding of the relevant verses from Christ's Sermon on the Mount. "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake; for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely for my sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad; for great is your reward in heaven; for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you."

Part of the lesson here is that the pain of persecution will be compensated by blessings in the hereafter. But it's really more than that. Standing up under persecution builds a kind of strength which is its own reward. Enduring the fire of persecution well, or learning of others that have done, reinforces the depths with which beliefs are held and their meaningfulness to the person who holds them. Perhaps there is a deeper lesson as well. It is also worth reflecting on the position of Jesus as the person pronouncing the Beatitudes in question. What is easy to overlook is that, in a certain sense, Jesus is the most persecuted of all as the being who ultimately bears the sins of all others, who pays for the ultimate costs of human freedom. He is the being that is in effect subject to the greatest persecution—yet he responds not by complaining about his own suffering but by pointing to the suffering of others, the prophets and the other victims of persecution. With that in mind, perhaps the deepest lesson of persecution is that we should do all we can to minimize its infliction on others. That is ultimately what freedom of religion is about and why that right is so fundamental.

Thank you.

Religious Oppression in Japan

Kondo Norishige,
FFWPU-Japan Head of Legal Affairs at the Organization for Victims of Abduction,
Confinement and Forced Conversion

Japan's Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (Family Federation) has recently been subjected to religious persecutions in various forms. The most egregious of these human rights violations are the coercive attempts to force believers to leave religious groups by means of kidnapping and incarceration. The phrase, "kidnapping and detention" refers to the abduction of believers followed by their forced confinement under the pretext of "protecting endangered children" and giving them the chance to "talk with" Protestant pastors who work to forcibly convert people who have different beliefs. Over several decades, those who oppose the Family Federation have mobilized lawyers, parents, and siblings to forcibly kidnap and confine Family Federation members. Starting from 1966, when the first such kidnapping occurred, up until 2015 we have had about 4,300 of our members kidnapped in this way. As these criminal acts were carried out behind closed doors, such criminal acts of abduction and forced conversion became rampant and uncontrolled, and the damage was severe. In addition to suffering assault, kidnapping, detention and forced conversion, some members also suffered suicide and severe mental health problems.

Toru Goto, who was kidnapped and detained due to his belief in the Family Federation, was forced to live in confinement for 12 years and five months and exposed to repeated attempts to break his faith. At the SLC General Assembly held in Seoul in August, Toru Goto, came forward and spoke about his experience.

Thankfully, in the case of Toru Goto, he was able to maintain his faith, but 70 to 80 percent of the members of the Family Federation who suffered kidnapping and detention ended up losing their faith. Members who lost their faith in this way and became former members, were then mobilized by those who had kidnapped them to criticize the Family Federation through the media or to attack the Family Federation by filing lawsuits. Many of them were coerced into doing this by being told that if they didn't engage in opposing the Family Federation, they would be locked up again.



Currently, religious persecution by the left-leaning media has reached a serious level in Japan. Since the assassination of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on July 8 this year, biased and distorted reports about the Family Federation have been repeated in the media day after day. After the shooting of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, the media rushed to portray the suspect as if he was a member of the "Family Federation," and the narrative of the original story was hidden to the world.

The media began their opposition on the grounds that former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was a close colleague of the Family Federation. In addition, the ruling Liberal Democratic Party of Japan announced a new party policy of investigating all members of the National Assembly regarding any contact they had with the Family Federation, forcing Assembly members to sever their Family Federation connections. Further, a number of lawmakers from Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party have recently been forced to resign from their cabinet positions. The media has garnered high ratings by featuring former believers and their families, whom they call "victims" of the Family Federation. But what they say is far removed from the facts.

When current Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's approval rating fell to its lowest level since the start of the Kishida government, he encouraged the media and press to pursue policies that markedly disregard freedom of religion, such as working to disband religious corporations and revising views on legislation regarding the regulation of religious donations. Communist Party Chairman Kazuo Shii also described his party's fight against Family Federation as a long-standing struggle. He further declared that this time, he will fight until a decision is reached. Right now in Japan, not only the freedom of religion but also the underpinnings of the democratic system are being endangered by the actions of Japan's leftist forces.

I ask you to understand the severity of the situation and help Japan to move in the right direction. Thank you very much. 

Religious Oppression in the Japanese Media from a Journalist's Perspective

Humphrey Hawksley,
Author and former BBC correspondent in Asia

Thank you for inviting me to this fascinating discussion, and it's a complex and difficult one too.

Thank you Mr Kondo for those devastating stories that you just told us and we've heard during this session. These sessions that from big figures of high stature about what has been unfolding democracy, human rights, religious persecution. There are 6 000 households in Japan who part of the movement, and I've spoken to several members in recent months, and as the media storm has intensified my thoughts are very much with those families. But I want to start with a question. What are we really talking about when we talk about the Unification Church in Japan? We have heard a hint at those answers on the big issues of the former speakers. But how did that needle of anger and blame move so abruptly from the killer of Shinzo Abe towards the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU) which get shorted in the media to the Unification Church and for its detractors to the Moonies and cultism?

I've worked with the Church and some of its NGO affiliates since the mid-1990s when they helped me lead a BBC crew into North Korea. We kept in touch. I've spoken at events like these and I should say that not once have I been told what to say and never have I been close to any ethical journalistic line that I would refuse to cross. I can also say that the work the Church did in the 1990s helped bring about a peace deal that took the prospect of war off the table on the Korean Peninsula and it's been doing similar work since. Now, as a journalist I have an eye for following the trajectory of a story and this one is very strange. A charismatic former Prime Minister charting a future course for Japan is murdered by a disgruntled man with a homemade gun. The debate though does not focus on say 'Mental health challenges in Japanese society' as it does on gun control in America after a mass shooting there. The story is now firmly embedded on the Unification Church and the decades old-festering grievance that the killer's mother made donations that she could not afford. Yes, it was a lot of money. How did the church take it? Brainwashing? coercion? What is it doing about it? Now all these are good questions. But are they enough to cause the political crisis currently rippling through the



Japanese government? And how unique among religious organizations are these alleged practices in the Unification Church? The Japan Times ran the result of a survey looking into second generation followers of religious organizations in Japan: 428 of *Soka Gakkai*, Japan's largest Buddhist group, also closely connected with the LDP, 168 from the American-based Jehovah's Witnesses, 47 from the Unification Church. More than 30% of the

respondents there said they were urged by their religious affiliations to attend election campaign rallies for certain candidates, while over 20% said that it was their parents that did the urging. Now, there's nothing new in that. Links between church, politics and government happens all over the church. Sri Lankan politicians and the Buddhist clergy, the Northern Ireland conflict, in Britain where I am, is all about rival strands of the Christian religion. I did a documentary, filmed a documentary for the BBC on a mega church in Ohio (USA) that was showing off the Senators from Washington DC traveling there to Sunday worship. In the Philippines, Protestant Christian groups when I was there as the correspondent from America were building churches in remote Catholic area [...] to what's similar in the Cold War in Latin America and there's been a lot of blood spilled in those places. So, what are the politics here? The Unification Church is unashamedly conservative and anti-communist if those are the right words in today's shifting ground as political speak. It owns for example the Washington Times with strong connections to America Republican party and values as we've seen with the former speakers here. No secret there. Nor in secret but those that think it's way of doing things might be a little odd, the mass weddings are there for all of us to see. Why is the Church then so intricately connected to a Prime Minister's plunging poll ratings? Who is driving the campaign to have the Church's wings clipped or shut down? We've had a few answers to that amongst the speakers already. There's been a shocking murder leaving a nation grasping for an explanation. The media has pounced as it does and it's unlikely to let go. And as the saying goes a rumor can get halfway around the world before the truth gets its boots on. The media in Japan has been relentless in covering this issue with some 830 television programs

in the past four months, most of them with the angles that I've outlined. Some 5,500 online articles using terminology that I've referred to earlier, such as cultism and brainwashing, have been constant there painting an image of an organization as being anti-social. And we've heard from the many speakers here [that] the more balanced story needs to be told and that is a bigger picture amid the allegations and counter-allegations coming out. This is a picture of a political global situation that we've heard a bit about. Shinzo Abe led a new agenda on Japan's role in this changing world. The country is a shining example of the American mentor democracy in an Asian society. It is the bedrock of the

United States Indo-Pacific policy. Authoritarian nations, China and Russia, who antagonistic neighbors whose interests lie in having Japan less reliant and less compliant with America and its values. Now, I don't know what and if there to that. That means a lot of journalistic digging to get into it. And that's what I would urge my colleagues to do. Because if a homemade gun killing, a personal grievance and a relatively small religious organization can shake Japan to such a degree it is tile to ask these big uncomfortable questions. So here now, as Japan charts its future, let us ask what are we really talking about when we talk about the Unification Church in Japan? Thank you very much. 

Special Address

The Three Enemies of Religious Liberty

**Massimo Introvigne,
Managing director of the Center for Studies on New Religions (CESNUR)**

Thank you for your invitation and special thanks to Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon. This is called the Conference of Hope, and in looking at her tireless efforts one has the feeling that there is indeed still hope for the endangered cause of religious freedom.

In 1965, French philosopher Paul Ricoeur wrote a book on the destructive influence of three "masters of suspicion" who created a widespread hostility against religion in the modern Western world: the founder of Communism, Karl Marx, the creator of psychoanalysis, Sigmund Freud, and the German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche.

For Marx, religion was the "opiate of the people," a drug keeping the poor quiet and preventing revolutions by promising them that they would be rewarded not in this life but in heaven, and even suggesting that the rich might end up in hell. By eliminating both poverty and the rich, the Communist Party will cause religion to disappear.

For Freud, religion was the delusional product of both neurological and psychological problems. Once modern psychology will cure these problems, there will be no need nor room for religion.

For Nietzsche, religion existed because the state failed to educate strong citizens. The weak majority created and embraced religions hailing the weak and the meek (particularly Christianity). When a new state will educate children to be strong and merciless, the religions will

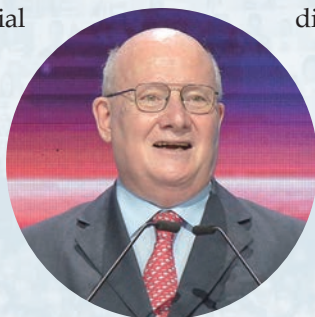
disappear together with the meek.

Marx's theory became the basis of Soviet Communism. Nietzsche was liberally used and quoted by the Nazis. Freud gave new impulse to the already existing secular humanism, which came to dominate, if not always the governments, the academia and the media in many Western democracies.

Communism, Nazism, and secular humanism are different ideologies, but all try to eradicate religions, allowing only some religious forms subservient to their power. All three are still alive and kicking, with Communism dominating the most populous country of the world, China, secular humanism controlling many newsrooms, universities, and publishing houses in the West, and the Nazi or Fascist model of a totalitarian state and the promotion of wars of aggression resurfacing in Putin's Russia.

The ultimate goal of all three ideologies is to destroy all religions. However, through the tragedies of the 20th century, they learned that this is by no means easy. Religions are extraordinarily resistant to persecution.

Confronted with the impossibility of eradicating immediately all religions, all three ideologies decided to proceed gradually. They tried to reassure the larger, more powerful religions by telling them that they had nothing to fear, at least for the time being. They claimed they will destroy only the "bad" religions, leaving the "good" ones alone.





In China, the bad religions are called “xie jiao,” an old label used in Imperial China to designate religious groups that did not support the Emperor and now used against those that do not support the new Emperor, the Communist Party. In Russia, the groups not prepared to be strictly controlled by the state are designated as “extremist” and “liquidated.” In democratic countries, rather than to all religions, Freud’s model is applied to some minority religions labeled as “cults,” and accused of converting their members and gathering donations through “brainwashing.”

Dozens of groups were targeted, but three became the very symbol of “bad” religion and persecuted with special hatred. The Unification Church was targeted for its very effective criticism of Communism and the successes of the International Federation for Victory Over Communism. Scientology was attacked for its criticism of Freud, psychoanalysis, and the abuses of psychiatry. And the Jehovah’s Witnesses, who do not serve in the army and do not vote, were persecuted because their lifestyle is the opposite of the Nietzschean ideal of producing a strong and ruthless generation through a total state control and a militaristic education.

I have so far mentioned the West, but today the most important battle is fought in Asia, in Japan. Japan is not part of the West, but is an Asian country that, having lost World War II, had to recognize that religious liberty was necessary for democracy, admit its past mistakes, and introduce statutes protecting freedom of religion. Japan thus became an Eastern country with a Western notion of religious liberty, a bridge to the West and a model for all Asia.

Yet, the destructive ideologies were at work also in Japan, including Communism. They took advantage of the sarin gas attack of 1995 in the Tokyo Subway to make all movements they labeled as “cults” responsible for the crimes of Aum Shinrikyo, a peculiar group that had no similarities with the usual targets of the anti-cultists. Now

they manipulate another moment of national grief, the Abe assassination.

The current campaign against the Unification Church/Family Federation is based on a number of demonstrably false arguments and on testimonies bearing false witness, as I have demonstrated in several articles. Ultimately, however, it reveals the action of the same dark forces that are at work against religious liberty in other countries. Japanese Communists cannot forgive Reverend and Mrs. Moon for their contribution to containing and defeating Communism in their country, and indeed they have explicitly announced that they are now engaged in their “final war” against the Unification movement. A Japanese extreme right jumped on the bandwagon not only because it is racist and hates any movement whose leaders are Korean but also because it resents the achievements of Ms. Moon and the UPF in defending democracy and denouncing all forms of totalitarianism. Certain Japanese media and lawyers have several motivations, including just making money, but some of them also try to spread in Japan the international secular humanist ideology accusing any religious movement that gains success and visibility of “brainwashing.”

Make no mistake, it is not about the man who killed Abe. It about the Unification Church, well maybe not entirely. It is about the soul of Japan and the global future of religious liberty, which some try to redefine as limited to a club of “good” religions—until the day when they will be attacked as well—and excluding those “bad” religions that an obscure lobby has decided to call “cults.”

The future of religion liberty will be largely decided by what will happen in Japan. Will it be a future of persecution or liberty? of glory or shame? We are here to prevent the ideologies from imposing their answer. We are here to make our voice heard, to make your voice heard. And certainly we are not here to lose. I fully believe that if we stay together, if we do not give up, if we continue to fight, we will one day celebrate our victory. ☸

50th Anniversary of the Founding of Sun Moon University

True Mother's Message at the 50th Anniversary of the Founding of Sunmoon University which was held on October 26, 2022, at Sunmoon University Wonhwa-gwan Building Art Hall.



Thank you. Distinguished guests, executives and staff of the elementary schools, middle schools, high schools, universities, and graduate schools under the Sunhak Educational Foundation, and the first, second, (third,) and fourth presidents of Sun Moon University: In front of Heaven I would like to thank you all sincerely for your effort and hard work since Sun Moon University began as the Unification (Tongil) Seminary.

At this point in time as we embark on the next 50 years, I have a question for you.

Observing the history of human civilization, they began along rivers. Others had their beginnings on peninsulas. However, people believed that human beings by themselves were not enough, and that only when they attend God could things develop. When we examine the development of civilization in human history, therefore, we see that people have wanted to live in a way that brought them close to God.

When we look at the Greek Civilization,

Alexander the Great, whom Aristotle tutored and influenced, spread Greek civilization throughout the world. He conquered the land of Eurasia between 336 and 323 BC, marching 30,000 kilometers, merging cultures together, and building Greek temples everywhere he went. How did he do this without modern means of transportation? He built the city of Alexandria, letting it be known that Greece was the center of the world. How could he have marched from southern Greece to Afghanistan and then on to India? They believed that people could be happy by worshipping the gods they believed in.

Since that time, history has seen many wars, and much division and conflict. Amid all this, however, people looked for the way to achieve a world of peace, leading to movements that were serving God. These are the four major religions that we see today.

Yet, today, we see that, worldwide, the human community is being divided through the conflict between democracy and commu-

nism and by the pandemic. The news we hear from around the world these days is grim.

As Sun Moon University celebrates its 50th anniversary, the founding ideals of Sun Moon University have received a great deal of support in recent times. I think about the results that have been produced through the actual activities, based on heart, that professors and students of Sun Moon University carried out, and whether they are strong and promising.

It took Alexander the Great 11 years from the age of 20 to conquer the world. Sun Moon University has a 50-year history.

You will be very familiar with the issue that this country faces today. It is a peninsula in a unique situation, divided between north and south and unable to reunite.

As I have been saying, the heavenly providence and the history of human civilization have reached their final destination. Once you reach the end of the line, you have to disembark. When you get off, you will have to find the way out to something new. That is the immediate task that this nation and the world today must take on.

I ask this of you. Unification cannot be achieved by human power, or by political power, or even by economic power. Unification can only be achieved on the basis of attending Heaven. The history of Christian civilization is an important part of God's providence. Yet Christianity could explain neither the fundamental nature of the Creator nor the fundamental nature of Jesus Christ.

However, the providence of Heaven is fulfilled through the Messiah, who promised to return. The desire of the returning Messiah is to become the True Parents. True Parents. The True Parents are the parents that Heaven wishes to see. They are the parents that human-

kind has been longing for. It is not possible for fallen people to approach Heavenly Parent without going through the True Parents. It is for this reason that humankind, living as orphans for 6,000 years, wanted to attend God. Yet in the end, because they did not know the fundamental nature of the Creator, even though they received the power of that age they could not know the flow of the providence.

Our Sun Moon University also began as the Unification Seminary.... Yet Christianity needs to know that the time has come when we have now reached the end point and must disembark, meet the True Parents, and through them, establish and firmly settle Cheon Il Guk where we can attend our Heavenly Parent.

Then, what is to be done? We must make the truth known. It is my sincere hope that the proud sons and daughters of Sun Moon University will show this country and the world that this nation must become a model central nation that prioritizes being in the service of God in order to solve the problems it is now facing. Only then can there be hope for the future.

Some 2,300 years ago, one man played a major role in conquering Eurasia. However, Sun Moon University is a fifty-year-old institution. Furthermore, the problems of the world order and the problems of this country can only be solved through True Parents' thought. This is the philosophy that will bring God's providence to completion.

Therefore, I am asking you, faculty, staff, and students at Sun Moon University, to all become central figures who seek for and find ways in which the ideals of love for God, love for people, and love for your country can influence this country and the world, so that you become bright lamps that illuminate this dark world. ㄸ



Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of Sun Moon University

A celebration marking the 50th anniversary of Sun Moon University was held on October 26 in the Wonghwa Hall at the Asan Campus. The ceremony was attended by True Parents, the university's founders, as well as a number of important figures, including major leaders of FFWPU, Hwang Seon-jo, president of Sun Moon University, Song Yong-cheon, president of Sunhak Academic Foundation, Kim Ji-cheol, Chungnam Superintendent of Education, National Assemblyman Lee Myung-soo, Won Seong-su, president of Gongju University, Kim Yong-ha, president of Konyang University, Kim Yong-chan, president of Chungnam Provincial University, Yang Seung-jo, former governor of Chungcheongnam-do.

Before the main event there was a choral performance by international students, 'Jinsoe Nori' by the Little Angels of Korea, and a video screening of congratulatory messages. The main event began with an opening declaration by the MC, the pledge of allegiance, introduction of guests, a report from the head of the chaplaincy department, a historical report by the head of the planning department, a commemorative speech by Sun Moon president Hwang Seon-jo, an encouraging speech by Sunhak Education Foundation President Song Yong-cheon, congratulatory messages from distinguished guests, and awards to exemplary teaching staff. President Hwang Seon-jo then shared the vision of the school. The closing portion of the event included an Offering ceremony and speech by the founder, cake cutting in the presense of local and foreign guests, a congratulatory performance, singing of the school song, and closing remarks.

Here is an excerpt from True Mother's founder's speech, "Distinguished guests, executives and staff of the elementary schools, middle schools, high schools, universities, and graduate schools under the Sunhak Educational Foundation, and the first, second, (third,) and fourth



presidents of Sun Moon University:

In front of Heaven, I would like to thank you all sincerely for your effort and hard work since Sun Moon University began as the Unification (Tongil) Seminary. " After congratulating them, she said, "This is my call to you all. Unification cannot be achieved through human power, or through political power, or even through economic power. Unification can only be achieved by attending Heaven. The providence of Heaven is fulfilled through the Messiah, who promised to return. The desire for the returning Messiah is to become the True Parents. They are the parents that humankind has been longing for. We have now reached the end point and must disembark, meet the True Parents, and through them, establish and firmly settle Cheon Il Guk where we can attend our Heavenly Parent. We must know that such a time has come."

True Mother also said, "The proud sons and daughters of Sun Moon must become exemplary citizens of central nations who serve Heaven first, to show before the world and before the nation that there is hope for the future and that together we can solve the problems facing this nation. May all faculty members and students at Sun Moon light up this gloomy world by finding the path where you can substantially influence and be central to this country and the world, by adhering to the founding ideology of Sun Moon University, 'Love God, Love Humankind and Love Your Country' as the basis for your thoughts and actions

Following were words of encouragement by president Song Yong-cheon, Soo Myung-soo Lee, President Won Sung-soo, Superintendent Kim Ji-Cheol Chungcheongnam-do Education Agency, and Chungnam-do Governor Yang Seung-jo. In addition, 50 faculty members received long-term service awards, and parents in eight families received merit awards for having sent three children to the school. President of the Hwang Seon-jo, then introduced Sun

(From the top) Message of encouragement from Chairman Song Yong-cheon, Sun Moon President Hwang Seon-jo declaring the university's vision, Education Superintendent Kim Ji-cheol delivering his congratulatory message, Congratulatory message from former Chungnam Governor Yang Seung-jo, Gongju University President Won Seong-su delivering his congratulatory message, Congratulatory message from National Assembly Member Lee Myeong-su



10-year, 20-year and 30-year awards to loyal staff members and proud parent awards, Performance by international Sun Moon University students

Moon's vision for the next 100 years.

In his statement about Sun Moon's future vision, Hwang Sun-jo emphasized the school's achievements, including solid education finances with state support of about KRW 230 billion since 2012, proven educational innovation and competence, leading internationalization competence, proven educational innovation and capabilities that have distinguished the school as the only one in the Daejeon – Chungnam – Sejong district with a top class A rating three times in a row.

Based on those achievements, President Hwang shared a vision to make Sun Moon University a "leading university in the glocal (global + local) community." The path to this goal includes five major focuses leading toward the school's 100th anniversary, including being a Global University based on the implementation of internationalization campuses while establishing a network overseas; a university with effective interdependent platforms connecting to the local region, realizing social values as a university in the local community; a university that practices social values, nurturing and catering to leaders who embody a mind of true service and contribute to the community with ESG management innovation; and a university specializing in new digital new technologies focusing on smart mobility and convergence technologies; and an innovative university driving students towards success based on digital-based future educational innovation and AI-based personalized educational innovation. "Sun Moon University is starting a new 50-year journey by making a 'leap to the world and into the future,'" said President Hwang. "Let's work together with a community

spirit based on our founding ideology!"

The history of Sun Moon University began in 1972 I in what is now Sutaek-dong in the city of Guri in Gyeonggi Province, with True Parents' fundamental educational ideology of "Love God, Love Humankind and Love Your Nation." When it first opened its doors, the school had 114 enrolled students. After operating for a time as Unification Theological Seminary, the name was changed to Seonghwa Theological Seminary in 1986, and the school was upgraded to Seonghwa University in 1992, relocating to Cheonan in South Chungcheong Province. The Asan Campus was added in 1993, and the school's name was changed Sun Moon University in 1994. Now it has grown into a prestigious private school in Chungcheong region with an on-campus enrollment of about 10,000 students.

Sun Moon University is the first university in Korea to introduce the '3+1 study abroad system' earning a high reputation as a leading international university where students can study at a domestic university for three years and a foreign university for one year. Currently, more than 1800 students from 76 countries all over the world and 8,000 Korean students study on the campus together making it a small global village. In addition, CEN-SAD, Sunhak Global Education Foundation, and Sun Moon University signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) in August of this year to expand opportunities for foreign exchange education. Graduates of the school have made it a truly global university with 47 alumni vice presidents, ministers, and lawmakers in 42 countries around the world, and exchange programs interacting with 154 overseas universities in 43 countries. 



Singing of the school song (Little Angels and Faculty Choir)



Overall view of the Sun Moon University 50th Anniversary Ceremony

HJ Cruise Christening and Launch

HJ CRUISE
호정크루즈

The christening and launch of the HJ River Cruise boat was held on October 26 at the HJ Marina in Hyojeong CheonWon, at Seorak-myeon, Gapyeong-gun, Gyeonggi-do. The launch was attended by more than 150 guests, including National Assembly member Choi Chun-sik, Gyeongyeong County Governor Seo Tae-won, Mokpo Maritime University President Han Won-hee, Korea Maritime Transport Agency Technology Business Office Director Kang Gil-bo, Kang Yeon-yeon, president of the Guided Ship Safety Association, Min Kyung-hyuk, CEO of Nami Island Co., Ltd., Kim Jong-kwan, chairman of the HJ Global Unification Foundation, and Lee Myung-kwan, CEO of HJ Leisure Development.

The development of the HJ Cruise line began at the encouragement of True Parents to create an eco-friendly cruise boat that takes nature into consideration, so that people can enjoy the natural environment on a river cruise without a negative impact on the environment. Accordingly, the boat was developed with new eco-friendly technology, and has been certified as Korea's first eco-friendly cruise boat, utilizing electric propulsion technology.

The HJ River Cruise boat that has been recognized by the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries as Korea's first eco-friendly cruise boat is a three-story, 440-ton river cruise vessel with a length of 40 meters, a width of 12 meters, and a capacity of 250 passengers. The design, supervision, and construction of the boat has been contracted through the Korea Maritime Transportation Safety Authority since October 2020.

The launch and christening event consisted of the Korean Pledge of Allegiance, a progress report and naming ceremony by HJ Leisure Development CEO Lee Myung-kwan, a commemorative speech by HJ Global Unification Foundation Chairman Kim Jong-kwan, a commendation and plaque of appreciation from the Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism, congratulatory remarks by National Assembly Member Choi Chun-sik, Gyeongyeong County Governor Seo Tae-won, and Mokpo Maritime University President Han Won-hee. After a celebration performance, the launching ceremony came to an end and participants had a chance to board the boat at the Hyojeong Marina.

In his progress report on the development of the boat,

Lee Myung-kwan, CEO of HJ Leisure Development, stated, "We are concentrating on preparations for smooth and safe operation, including cruise safety inspections and confirmation of docks and electric charging facilities, with the goal of starting official operations in March of next year. After more than three years of time and effort, we have an eco-friendly electric vessel. This is Korea's first 440-ton electric boat, designed to avoid water pollution by using electric propulsion, as well as being noise and vibration-free, which further reduces the impact on the environment, and makes it possible to hold various performances and events on the boat."

In his congratulatory remarks, National Assembly member Choi Chun-sik said, "In the midst of serious environmental problems around the world, it is quite meaningful to have an eco-friendly cruise boat afloat on the Bukhan River, and even better, one that vanquishes environmental problems."- In addition, Gyeongyeong County Governor Seo Tae-won said, "This launching ceremony is the first step in the project for the restoration of the Bukhan River Millennium Seaway, and we look forward to this cruise line making a significant contribution to the development of the tourism industry in Gyeongyeong County in the coming months and years. Congratulations."

HJ Cruises are scheduled to officially begin operation in March 2023, with a one-hour round trip leaving from the Hyojeong Marina pier for a cruise to nearby areas of Cheongpyeong Lake, and a three-hour round-trip tour to Nami and Jara Islands. It is hoped that the operation of this eco-friendly HJ cruise will become a new attraction contributing to a trend toward a new eco-friendly tourism culture in the Gyeongyeong and Gangwon regions, starting from the beautiful waterfront of the Bukhan River. 



The 34th Peace Forum on the Heavenly Unified Korea

The 34th Peace Forum on the Heavenly Unified Korea was held online and at the Cultural Hall of Hyejeong Cultural Center in Gapyeong, Gyeonggi-do, on November 4. hosted by FFWPU International Headquarters and organized by the THINK TANK 2022 Policy Research Institute. The event was moderated by Chief Executive Officer Eom Yoon-hyung of the Heavenly Unified Korea and discussed the theme of "Prospects and Alternatives to the North Korean nuclear issue and the Russia-Ukraine War."



In his welcoming remarks, Yun Young-ho, Director-General, International Headquarters, said, "I am grateful to the THINK TANK 2022 Policy Research Institute for preparing us to think about the Ukraine situation, the North Korean nuclear issue, and the idea of a peace system for the Korean peninsula. From the perspective of the Universal Peace Foundation (UPF), which is active worldwide and is focusing on the vision of a heavenly unified Korea and a heavenly unified world, the North-South issue and the Russian-Ukrainian war are serious issues that stand between us and the realization of a heavenly unified Korea and a heavenly unified world. The THINK TANK 2022 Forum is a place to test new ideas for peace and find alternatives while dealing with domestic and international challenges related to the realization of a heavenly unified Korea. We must gather our wisdom to preserve life and promote peace in the fields of politics, economics, media, religion, academia, and the arts. At the root of all the problems that pose a serious threat today is the contest for supremacy. Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon have worked to minimize the competition for global hegemony between great powers and



Overall view of the Academic Seminar at the 34th Peace Forum on the Heavenly Unified Korea

write a new history directed towards achieving a world of peace. The peace ideology and peace movements of Rev. and Mrs. Moon are projects for a world of Interdependence, Mutual Prosperity and Universal Values (Universally Shared Values). And they explained that it is important to move behind thinking focusing on one's own success and focus on being a person of heart, who is equally concerned about the welfare of others.

Yun Young-ho, Director-General, FFWPU International Headquarters, said, "Today, though there is growing movement toward the adoption of universal values, the competition for supremacy between North and South Korea and the competition for supremacy between the liberal democratic camp centered on the United States and the authoritarian camp centered on Russia and China threaten both peace in Northeast Asia and peace in the world. In reality, 'peace through strength' is important, but in the future, the will to realize 'peace through heart (true love)' and alternative arrangements must be increasingly taken into account."



Jin Seong-bae, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Hyojeong World Peace Foundation, gave a lecture on "Cultural Revolution" as the eighth lecture on Heavenly Unified Korea Theory under the theme of "Prospects & Alternatives to the North Korean Nuclear Crisis and the Ukraine Crisis."



Moon Byung-chul, a Think Tank 2022 policy researcher, who gave his first special lecture on a heavenly unified Korea, gave a talk on the topic of "A Peace System on the Korean Peninsula and the Fifth UN Secretariat," stating, "The biggest obstacle to the Korean Peninsula peace regime is the North Korean nuclear issue. We should focus on the multi-layered security dilemma, that is, how to build a peace regime in the midst of a new Cold War in Northeast Asia. An alternative is the timely call to the United Nations to locate a Fifth UN Secretariat in the Korean DMZ. Furthermore, if the North and the South were to conduct a joint diplomatic campaign to host the UN Secretariat, it would open new prospects for the prosperity and future of the Korean people. When trying to solve the problem of hegemony in relation to the North Korean nuclear crisis, the proposal of a new ideas and alternatives linking the United Nations to peace on the Korean Peninsula are future-oriented. Taking into account the stance of Russian President Putin, Xi Jinping's dictatorship, and North Korea's Kim Jong-un's declaration of a nuclear preemptive strike, the proposal to host the UN secretariat in the DMZ as preventive diplomacy and a stabilizing measure on the Korean peninsula is an excellent policy that can be amply justified and attract international cooperation." He explained.



Former Russian Ambassador Chung Tae-ik (adviser to the Korea Council on Foreign Relations), who gave a lecture on "Prospects for the Ukraine Situation and Our Countermeasures," said, "Despite the need for international cooperation for things such as climate change and COVID-19, we are facing a global crisis in which even the current nuclear order will surely collapse. South Korea, as a country that has grown into one of the world's major democratic powers over the past 70 years, it must play a role in the victory of the liberal camp. South Korea should take complex and international measures to deal with the North Korean nuclear threat, taking into account both the Ukraine crisis and the North Korean nuclear issue," he suggested.

In the peace discussion chaired by Cho Hyung-guk, Secretary General of the 2022 Policy Research Institute, Director Jeong-jin Park (THINK TANK 2022 Policy Researcher), appeared on the panel to analyze the North Korean nuclear crisis which is the biggest problem in realizing a heavenly unified Korea. Time was taken to explore countermeasures, along with an analysis of the situation in Ukraine, which is a serious problem when trying to realize a heavenly unified world. In relation to the North Korean denuclearization issue, during the Q&A the presenters, panelists, and participants from the floor discussed how to overcome the crisis regarding the policy proposal to attract a U.N. secretariat to the DMZ on the Korean Peninsula and what role South Korea, as a powerhouse of the free democratic camp, should play in the Ukraine crisis. In-depth discussion was also held on how to overcome the crisis. 

Special Workshop for Leaders of Heavenly Korea for Victory in VISION 2027 and the Dedication of the Cheon Won Gung Cheonil Sanctum

A special workshop for the leaders of Heavenly Korea to prepare for victory in VISION 2027 and the Victorious Dedication of the Cheonil Sanctum was held at YongPyong Resort on October 30.

More than 160 leaders attended the event with True Parents, including major leaders of FFWPU Korea, heads of providential organizations, vice-presidents of Korea's sub-regions, and pastors from across the country.

True Parents addressed them this day with a loving message "For a long time I have been saying that we must launch a revolution of the culture of heart. The original dream of the Creator, Heavenly Parent, was to meet the sons and daughters on earth through True Parents and live together with them." A day or two ago, I mentioned at Sun Moon University that culture can be changed through one righteous person. If this is true, why haven't we been able to change the culture even though we have been working on it for fifty or sixty years? We need to reflect on this. Until today we have been educating about pure love in our churches. Now, we already have a second, third, and even fourth generation. The young people of this world, the second and third generation, need to have feelings, realizations, and times of self-reflection as they freely enjoy the natural world that God, our

Creator, made. Seeing the trees in a thousand-year-old forest should be an education for them. In the midst of nature, they will naturally learn this culture of heart, a culture where they can respect Heaven and love their parents.

The original, beautiful and natural principles of creation—the unfallen world of creation—continues on, thriving according to the principles of creation. It is fallen humanity that creates all the problems. Therefore, we must demonstrate this. So I asked you to gather so I could say to you, 'Looking to the future together with you in this beautiful natural place, let's bring victory!... And in striving to bear the beautiful fruits of the future, let's move toward a tomorrow that is filled with hope.'" -

The first part of the event consisted of reports from the leaders of the five sub-regions of Heavenly Korea, and from the chairman of the Cheon Won Gung Promotion Subcommittee and the second part of the gathering consisted of a pilgrimage to the Millennium Yew Forest Road on Mount Balwang, followed by a special rally in part three.

The first part of the briefing session was hosted by Bang Seung-man, head of the IHQ World Mission Department, and included an opening declaration, a prayer by Joo Jin-tae, head of Heavenly Korea Sub-region





1 and a status report on the construction of Cheon Won Gung by the construction subcommittee chair.

In the second part of the meeting in the afternoon, the leaders of Heavenly Korea all joined True Parents for a pilgrimage to the Balwangsang Millennium Yew Forest. After the pilgrimage, the third part of the workshop included an opening declaration from Dr. Yun Young-ho, Director-General, FFWPU International Headquarters as MC, True Mother's entrance, an offering of flowers to True Mother, a message from True Mother, a toast of victory by Moon Yeon-ah president of UPF Korea, a special report by Director-General Yun, a Hyojeong cultural performance, and the closing ceremony.

In his special report, Director-General Yun told the leaders, "Last week, True Parents asked that we urgently hold a workshop for the victory of next year's dedication of the Cheon Won Gung Cheonil Sanctum with all you leaders of Heavenly Korea to motivate and bring you together as we move forward towards 2027. As everyone knows, for the past ten years since True Father's Ascension, True Mother has been offering all her energy for the dedication of the Cheon Won Gung Cheonil Sanctum. True Mother announced that Heavenly Parent's Day, True Parents' Day and the anniversary of True Parents' Holy Wedding should all be celebrated together

(From the top) UPF Chair Moon Yeonah, FFWPU International Headquarters Director-General Yun Yeong-ho, Heavenly Korea Co-chair Ju Jin-tae, Heavenly Korea Co-chair Park Yeong-bae, UPF Korea President Lee Hyeon-young, Cho Man-woong, Chairman Emeritus, Citizens Association for a Heavenly Unified Korea, HJ Global Unification Foundation Chairman Kim Jong-gwan, Cheon Won Gung Exhibition Subcommittee Chairman Kim Jae-cheol, Cheon Won Gung Art Subcommittee Chairman Kim Kyu-tae, International Headquarters Mission Head Bang Seung-man, Cheon Won Gung Steering Committee Secretary General Lee Yun-seon, YSP Korea

on the 16th day of the 3rd month by the heavenly calendar, which will come on May 5 next year.

Even though we are facing various internal and external challenges at the moment, we all have confidence and faith in the future, because we have seen the victories that True Mother has brought on the path she walked over the past decade. We hope that this time here together today will be a time when we can each resolve and determine that we will use the remaining 60 months leading to 2027 to bring a resounding victory in front of Heaven by uniting completely with True Parents at the center." In closing, he thanked True Parents for organizing the workshop.

The workshop concluded with testimonies by leaders of Heavenly Korea. It was a good time for all those gathered to strengthen and solidify their resolve. 



Commemorative photo of the Heavenly Korea Pastors Special Workshop for Victory in Vision 2027 and the Dedication of the Cheon Won Gung Cheonil Sanctum

2022 Heavenly Parent's Holy Community General Assembly of the Family Federation Korea Pastors

VISION 2027 and Victory for the Dedication of Cheon Won Gung and the Cheonil Sanctum

A General Assembly for Heavenly Parent's Holy Community Family Federation Korean Pastors was held at the HJ Heaven and Earth CheonBo Training Center, beginning with the opening ceremony on November 15, 2022 and continuing for three days (10.22-24 HC).

The event was attended by 639 church leaders, including Moon Yeon-ah, Chairman of the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) Korea, Julia Moon, International President of the Women's Federation for World Peace, WFWP, Yun Young-Ho, FFWPU International Headquarters Director-General, Cheon Eui Won Chair Lee Gi-seong, Jeong-Gung, Director Gi-Sung Lee of Cheonui, Lee Heon-Yeong, President of UPF, Cho Man-Woong Cho, Chairman Emeritus of the Citizen's Association for a Heavenly Unified Korea, and Yun Jeong-ro, Chairman of the Citizen's Association for a Heavenly Unified Korea, Choi Young-sun, President of WFWP, Kim Su-yeon, WFWP Joint President, and Gil Yeong-hwan, director of the Cheonbo Education Center, along with pastors and their wives from across the country and other district and local church staff.

The opening ceremony on the first day three-day pastors' general meeting, was led by Lim Jong-hyeok, head of the ministry department at International Headquarters, and included a Gyeongbae, a presentation of flowers by Greater District Leaders Kim In-chang and Lee Dong-ha, a report prayer by sub-region 4 co-chair Lee Sang-jae, an award presentation for exemplary districts and churches, congratulatory messages from leaders around the world (by video), FFWPU International Headquarters Director-General Yun Young-ho's opening message, hyojeong praise songs, a Heavenly Korea ministry activity report, a status report on the construction of Cheon Won Gung, hyojeong jeongseong offering, and other activities.

Following the report prayer by Lee Sang-jae, Heavenly Korea Joint Regional Chair, the 2nd 40-day Special Activities Award Ceremony for outstanding districts and churches was officiated by FFWPU International Headquarters Director-General Yun Young-Ho. Awards were given to districts excellent churches which had achieved the best results through the second special 40-day period of activities marking the 10th Anniversary of the Holy Ascension of Moon Sun-myung, True Parent of Heaven, Earth and Humankind.

Following the award ceremony, congratulatory messages were delivered by video from overseas world leaders who were not able to come to Korea for the event due to the prolonged corona pandemic.



Exemplary Districts: Incheon, South Gyeonggi, Daejeon, Jeonbuk, Greater Gyeongnam / Exemplary Churches: Seongbuk, Geumcheon, Incheon, Ilsan, Ansan, Cheolwon, Jincheon, Yuseong, Seosan, Jeongeup, Gwangsan, Goheung, Changwon, Masan, West Busan

< Former U.S. Congressman Dan Burton, Archbishop George Augustus Stallings, former U.S. Congressman John Doolittle, UNESCO International Dance Association President Dr. Ann Higgins (Bahamas), Peruvian Anglican Bishop Jesus Mejia, Patriarch Nicholas of the European Orthodox Church, Massimo Introvigne, Founder of the Center for Studies on New Religions (CESNUR), Augustin Senghor, Mayor of Gorée Island, Senegal, Luc-Adolphe Tiao, 11th Prime Minister of Burkina Faso, Louison Mbila, African Union President, Prophet Imboni Hadebe, Founder of the Revelation Spiritual Home >

In his opening remarks, Young-ho Yoon, FFWPU International Headquarters Director-General said that he had reported to True Mother in the morning, “We will gather together our jeongseong and wisdom through the General Assembly of Pastors.” He continued, “True Mother smiled very happily and said, ‘Feed them well.’ This could mean we should prepare good meals, but it can also mean ‘Convey True Parents love to them well.’ So, first of all I would like to thank True Mother for giving her blessing to this precious general meeting.”

Director-General Yun continued, “If we laid the foundation for the restoration of nations through VISION 2020, we are now making a quantum jump from nations to continents. In that sense, us holding this General Assembly of Pastors from Heavenly Korea has three meanings. First, we are setting up a meticulous strategy for the 60-month course until 2027 and laying the foundation for the victory of the dedication of the Cheonil Sanctum in Cheon Won Gung. This means that more than concentrating on content, we should focus on gathering together our jeongseong. And finally, during this Assembly of Heavenly Korea Pastors, we need to establish Cheonshim CheonBo practice as a crucial cornerstone which will enable us to make this leap forward to victory.”

“The three great projects that True Mother is advocating for heavenly unified world are the restoration of continents, the renewal of the United Nations, and the implementation of the Universal Peace Charter for a Heavenly Unified World. Until now, True Mother has worked alone to lay the foundation for a heavenly unified Korea. The foundation we need to create is the growth of the church and the creation of a new environment. The reason why True Mother gave us the fortune of the foundation for a heavenly unified Korea is because of the creation of Cheon Won Gung and the Cheonil Sanctum. After True Father’s Holy Ascension, True Mother laid the foundation for the restoration of seven nations, seven religious orders, and offered victory through 21 months of bone-breaking pains for the settlement of a heavenly unified Korea. This is why CheonJi SunHak Won was upgraded to become the central headquarters of Cheon Il Guk, Cheon Won Gung, and the Cheonil Sanctum. If the foundation for a heavenly unified Korea is not established in Korea, it cannot be expanded to the world. Now we are on the path toward a heavenly unified world, building on the foundation of a heavenly unified Korea provided by True Mother. While True Mother’s bloody and tearful journey and True Father’s final legacy are going in the same direction, we must move forward toward the goal, moving with meticulous strategies and tactics. Since True Mother’s support is as broad as the Pacific Ocean, we have hope if we are with True Mother.”

After lunch, the Activity Report of Heavenly Korea Subregion 5 was moderated by Eom Yun-hyeong, Director of the Heavenly Unified Korea division of International Headquarters. Joo Jin-tae, co-chair of subregion 1 of Heavenly Korea, Hwang Bogook Hwang, co-chair of Heavenly Korea subregion 2, Yu Gyung-deuk, co-chair of subregion 3, Lee Sang-jae, co-chair of subregion 4, and Park



Overall view of the 2022 Heavenly Parent's Holy Community Heavenly Korea FFWPU Pastors General Assembly



(From the top) Continental Heavenly Korea Co-chair Ju Jintae reporting on Heavenly Korea subregion 1, Hwang Bo-guk, Heavenly Korea Co-chair for subregion 2, Ryu Gyeong-deuk, Heavenly Korea Co-chair for subregion 3, Lee Sang-jae, Heavenly Korea Co-chair for subregion 4, Park Young-bae Heavenly Korea Co-chair for subregion 5, Directory General Yun Young-ho Yoon giving a special report, Construction Progress Report by Director Ahn Moo-Young, Exhibition Plan Report by Subcommittee Chair Kim Jae-cheol, Construction Progress Report by Director Lee Seung-il, Construction Progress Report by Director Cho Seong-tae

Young-bae Park, co-chair of subregion 5 presented the vision for the 60-month victory of the Heavenly Nations of Gyeongin, Gyeongwon, Chungcheong, Cheolla, and Gyeongsang, with their future plans and strategies for 2027 victory and reports on major activities during 2022 centered on the Family Federation, UPF, YSP, Women's Federation, and Elders' Association in each district.

Special reports on the providence of Cheon Won Gung and a the status of the ongoing construction work were presented on at the end of the first day of the assembly, moderated by Lee Yoon-seon, chairman Operation Committee for the Construction of Cheon Won Gung. Reports were presented by ① FFWPU International Headquarter Director-General Yun Young-Ho on the providential goals, value and significance of the providence of Cheon Won Gung and the Cheonil Sanctum ② Report on the status of the construction work by Ahn Moo-young, head of the Cheon Won Gung Construction Subcommittee ③ Report on concept and plan for True Parents' Lifetime Exhibition Hall the Kim Jae-cheol, chairman of the Cheon Won Gung Exhibition Subcommittee ④ Report on the regional tour by Lee Seung-il to help members make their resolution to support the dedication of Cheon Won Gung and the Cheonil Sanctum and ⑤ report by Cho Seong-tae, Director of General Affairs of the International on the progress of jeongseong offerings to support the dedication of Cheon Won Gung and the Cheonil Sanctum.

On November 16, the second day of the General Assembly of Ministers included an opening declaration, a speech by International Headquarters Director-General Yun Young-ho, a special lecture by President Moon Pyeong-rae on Cheonil practice and activities, special lecture by Ministry Department director Lim Jong-hyeok on worship practices, hyojeong praise songs, a special message from Paula White, US President Donald Trump's spiritual advisor, strategy meeting topic presentation I and discussion, hyojeong praise songs, strategy meeting topic II and discussion, strategy meeting topic presentation III and discussion, and special lectures.



Strategy session topic presentation

The Heavenly Korea Strategy Meeting I was moderated by Song In-young, Director of Church Growth at the International Headquarters, with the theme of “worship.” First of all, Pastor Paula White gave a special report on worship under the theme of “Courage to move forward with your calling” during which she said, “I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the special pastors’ general assembly being held in Korea. I have no doubt that God will call us, and a great revival will take place in the Christian churches around the world. And we will be with you in that great revival. At this moment, let’s not hide our sincerity and let us move forward without hesitation.”

The Heavenly Korea Strategy Conference I was divided into three parts, focusing on a theme presentation with the keywords for church growth. Part 1 was focused “Worship,” Part 2 on “Preaching,” and Part 3 on “Worship Environment.” Means for sustainable development were sought through in-depth discussions on effective approaches, organization and operation.

In the first part, Hwang Bo-guk, the co-continental chairman of Heavenly Korea subregion 2, gave opening remarks on the theme of “worship,” followed by seven presenters in turn.

Worship (Overall remarks: Hwang Bo-guk, co-chair of Heavenly Korea subregion 2)

NO	Speaker	Content
1	Jang Deok-bong, Greater Gyeongnam District	Sunday worship for new members and Cheonbo Family Church
2	Hong Il-bae, Pastor of Jungrang Church, North Seoul District	Passing on Blessed Family Traditions, Anshi II Pledge Service
3	Jeong Jong-ho, Head of Masan Family Church	Report on Vitalizing CheonBo Family Church for VISON 2027 and Strategies for CheonBo Family Church Worship
4	Jeong Jun-ah, Gangbuk Church Leader, North Seoul District	(Sunday Worship) Developmental Proposal for Sunday Worship Format
5	Kim Dong-yeon, Presidente de YSP Corea	(Seonghwa Student & Youth Worship) Introduction to “Hope Nuri”
6	Gwon Sang-eon, Witnessing Department Head, International Headquarters	“What is worship?”
7	Lee Shin-hye, Head of the Special Hyojeong Department, International Headquarters	(Sunday Student Worship) “The Meaning and Composition of Hyojeong Nuri”



Question and answer session

After the presentations a panel discussion was held with Hwang Bo-guk, Heavenly Korea subregion 2 Co-chair moderating a panel comprised of the seven presenters, discussing “worship,” which was followed by a Q&A session with participants of the Pastors’ General Assembly.

The second session, on the theme of “Sermons” was moderated by Lee Sang-jae, co-chair of Heavenly Korea subregion 4, who gave the opening remarks, followed by four additional presenters.

Sermons (Overall remarks: Lee Sang-jae, co-chair of Heavenly Korea subregion 4)

NO	Speaker	Content
1	Jeon Jae-hyeon, Leader of Hwado Church, North Gyeonggi District	Theory and Practice of Hyojeong Sermons (with examples from sermons of North Gyeonggi District Pastors)
2	Park Yang-myeong Leader of Namyangju Church, North Gyeonggi District	Cheonbo Family Church Sermon Planning
3	Jo Chang-eon, Greater Gwangju Cheonnam District	Sermons for Youth the Era of Cheon Il Guk
4	Jeong Woo-cheol Greater Jeju Marine District	Direction for sermons in line with the providence of the age (Focused on analysis of youth & seonghwa student worship sermons in subregion 4)

After the presentation, a discussion session was chaired by Chairman Lee Sang-jae, with the speakers who presented on the topic of “Sermons” on the panel, followed by a question and answer session with the participants.

In Part 3, on the theme of “Worship environment,” Park Sang-seon, District leader of the Cheon Won Gung Special District gave the opening presentation, followed by five additional presenters.

Worship Environment

(Overall remarks: Park Sang-seon, District Leader, Cheon Won Gung Special District)

NO	Speaker	Content
1	Han Seok-su, Leader of Gwesang Church, Chungbuk District	Activating Culture of Heart Worship
2	Park Cheong-ho, Assistant Director, Church Growth Development Institute	Prayer Suggestions for Establishing Cheon Il Guk Worship Culture
3	Kim Dong-ho, Chungju Church Leader, Chungbuk District	Strategy for the Innovation of Praise Culture for Vision 2027 Victory
4	Lee Yeon-ok, Choir Director, Cheon Seung Church Cheonshim Choir	Proposal for the training and education of choir directors
5	Park In-kyung, Head of Palace Exhibition Department, International Headquarters	A study on the possibilities for church growth through changes in the worship environment (worship bulletin)



Cheers of Eog-mansei led by five sub-region leaders

After the presentation, a panel discussion by the speakers was followed by a Q&A session with general assembly participants.

The final special lecture held on the last day of the Assembly was moderated by Cho Hyeong-guk, Secretary General of the Think Tank 2022 Institute for Policy Studies, and presentations were made by leaders representing domestic and foreign leaders as a time for "Seeking strategies for innovation in today's international situation." The first presentation, was give by an overseas speaker, Newt Gingrich, the 50th Speaker of the US House of Representatives, under the theme of "The role of the Korean Peninsula for a Heavenly Unified world and the international situation." He was followed by a Korean speaker, Moon Byeong-chul, senior research fellow at the Think Tank 2022 Policy Institute, who presented a special lecture on the theme of "North Korea's nuclear program, international situation, and proposals for a heavenly unified Korea," bringing the assembly to a successful conclusion.

The closing ceremony of this Pastors' General Assembly was filled with grace in attendance to True Parents.

At the closing ceremony, FFWPU International Headquarters Director General Yun Young-ho Yoon, , said, "While True Mother oversaw the entire schedule from start to finish for three days and two nights, I think it is now time to bring everything we saw, felt, or resolved through the General Assembly to fruition by acting on what we have heard. I am very grateful to True Mother for blessing the last day of the Pastors' General Assembly and giving us a fresh start. With a total of 639 pastors and wives of the Women's Federation gathered in one place, I think that what we can offer to True Parents is victory in our 60-month campaign, and determination for a foundation for victory for the dedication of the Cheonil Sanctum in Cheon Won Gung. All of us must become one heart and one mind and move forward while attending True Parents."

At the conclusion of the two-night, three-day schedule, Park Young-bae, co-chair of the heavenly Nation of Gyeongsang, and Hwang Bo-guk, co-chair of Heavenly Korea offered their resolution through Hyojeong Testimonies on behalf of everyone in attendance. Following a ceremony anointing 15 families for Cheonbo Family Church, a Heavenly Korea Special Continental Region Talent Contest was held, with six teams participating. The final event of the assembly was the cheers of Eog Mansai led by the leaders of the five subregions of Heavenly Korea. 

Autumn Hyojeongnuri with True Mother

An Autumn Hyojeong Nuri with Heavenly Parent and True Mother was held on November 2 in Hyojeong Cheonwon at Cheon Jeong Gung Palace and Cheon Seung Jeon.

Attending the event, which was hosted by Lee Shin-hye, director of the Hyojeong Special Projects department at International Headquarters, were 30 Hyojeong children who are part of the 1st Hyodong group. Han Yoo-kyung, a cadet assigned to the Hyojeong Special Projects Department, served as the moderator. The event began with a gyeongbae and an offering of flowers by the Hyodong children. After that the children sang together, and True Mother gave them a special message.

In her message, True Mother told the 1st Hyodong group of Hyojeong children who attended the event, "You are part of a family that has become one with Mother. Depending on your age, you should see those older than you as elder brothers or sisters and those who are younger as younger siblings. You are the Hyodong children whom I love very much! You should love each other and get along with each other!" After sharing her message of love with the children, True Mother took the time to take a commemorative photo together with them.

The boys and girls in the first group of Hyodong children all pledged to grow up in good health by resembling True Mother and performed a cute dance to repay the love they received from Mother. 



Seonghwa of Mrs. Choi Kum-soon, 36 Couple Blessed Member, National Messiah to Pakistan

When the time comes, we must all end our life in our mother's womb and begin our life on earth [...] Our life in water ends and our life on earth begins. _A span of ten months in the womb transitions into a span of one hundred years of life on earth. _ People lead diverse lives and go through changes as they prepare for the spirit world, the world we go to after we die. That is why I tell you not to worry about dying. You are simply moving to a better place. (Cheon Seong Gyeong, p.680)

Mrs. Choi Kum-soon joined the Chuncheon Church on November 29, 1956, and was blessed in the 36 Couples Blessing. She ascended at the age of 85 after living a successful public life in the United States. After receiving the news of her ascension, True Mother bestowed her with a memorial tribute reading "Congratulations, on the liberation of the Fatherland, for representing Victory and being Faithful to God."

Seunghwa Ceremony

On November 2, 2022, FFWPU Korea held a Seunghwa Ceremony for Choi Kum-soon, at Cheon Won Gung Cheonseung Church.

The Seonghwa Ceremony, conducted by director Hong Seong-bok began with an opening declaration, followed by the singing of Cheon Il Guk anthem, a prayer by Kim Seok-jin of the Northern district of Seoul, presentation of a floral wreath by family members, a biography report, a memorial video, the eulogy of Joo Jin-tae, Co-Chair of Heavenly Korea and a tribute by Park Joong-hyun. This was followed by flower arrangements by relatives and members paying their respect. The ceremony concluded with a closing prayer by Joo Jin-tae, Co-Chair of Heavenly Korea and a closing declaration.

"Choi Kum-soon is the wife of Park Jong-gu, famous worldwide under the name Tiger Park," Park Jung-hyun said in a message. She is a female tiger, a Tigress. She is also an elder sister to all of us who has walked a path of deep absolute faith and obedience at a time when our community was creating things out of nothing, just by following True Parents, creating the Chungju church and serving with devotion in every difficult place they were sent. True Parents also sent them out on special missions to carry the message of the providence, including a mission to the United States. After serving in Los Angeles and other cities, they were dispatched to Pakistan and worked tirelessly to connect people to True Parents, until the moment they collapsed."

President Park Jin-heon, a family representative, said: "First of all, I would like to express my deep gratitude to True Mother for providing this opportunity to send my mother in a grand way. In addition, the American FFWPU and the Korean FFWPU have laid the foundation for taking care of my mother with great support and jeongseong until today. I really want to express my gratitude to all of you who worked hard for the sacred ceremony with one heart, day and night for the past three days."



Church level Seonghwa Ceremony



View of the Paju Wonjeon Ceremony

The Path to Heaven, Paju Holy Ground Ceremony

Subsequently, the Paju Holy Ground Ceremony took place at 11:00 a.m. with members of sub-region 2. Oh In-cheol, Vice-President of sub-region 2, made the opening declaration, which was followed by hymns including Song of the Garden, a report prayer by Kim Jong-su, pastor of Northern Gyeonggi, and Hwang Bo-guk, a co-chair of Heavenly Korea. The ceremony was followed by a floral tributes and a dedication by Heavenly Korea Co-Chair Hwang Bo-guk, greetings and messages by family member, Choi Jeong-hwan, the pastor in Southern Gyeonggi Province, and ended with a closing declaration.

Biography

Mrs. Choi Kum-soon was born on January 13, 1938 in Chuncheon, Gangwon-do, as the eldest of three sons and daughters to her father, Chang-bok Choi and her mother, Gan-nan Kim. She entered Chuncheon Church in November 1956. From May 1957 to December 1958, she was elementary school teacher in Chuncheon Bong, to December 1958, elementary school teacher in Chuncheon Bong, from April 1959 to July 1960 entered Myongji University of Education and took a leave of absence and served as an evangelist for the Deoksan area in Yesan, Chungcheongnam-do. In May 1961 she got blessed with missionary Jong-gu Park (also known as Tiger Park) in the 36 couples' group blessing. from August 1962 to March 1963, traveling to Jeonbuk parish from March 1963 to April 1965, from the head of the Chungju region. From March 1964, she was a teacher at Chungju Seonghwa Academy, from June 1966 to June 1969 they were missionaries to Chungju region. From November 1971 to July, they were appointed to Cheongro area. From September 1972 to May 1974, they were Gyeongbok pastors, from May 1974 to December 1975, she worked as the head of witnessing department. In June 1975, she was supporting her husband during the Rally to Save the Nation (Yoido, 1975) in which 60 countries participated, and from March 1976 to July 1977, they toured the world. From April 1977 to April 1982, she was wife of a missionary to the United States and the head of CARP. True Parents then appointed her national messiah to Pakistan on September 9, 1996 until she passed away on the 22nd of October 2022 in New York at the age of 85.

Awards

True Parents' Award for First Seven-Year Course Grand Prize (1968), Social Education Meritorious Award (1969, Minister of Education), Local Culture Award (1970, Minister of Education).

Main Publications

Sun rising in the shade (1969)

Seonghwa of Mrs. Choi Ye-jeong, 36 Couples Blessed Member, Ecuadorian National Messiah

The Seonghwa Ceremony, is when one's life on earth can finally blossom, bear fruit, and enter the world of joy and victory, the spiritual world.

After joining the Unification Church in 1957, Mrs. Choi Ye-jeong, National Messiah to Ecuador was blessed in the 36 Couples Blessing with the late president Ahn Chang-seong. She lived a full life as a representative of True Parents in this era and finally ascended at 1:41 p.m. on October 17.

When True Parents received the news of Mrs. Choi Ye-jeong's Seonghwa, they sent a message congratulating her on her entry into heaven and her longevity by bestowing her with a memorial saying tribute saying "Congratulations on entering the Heavenly Kingdom to a Loyal Citizen of Heaven (祝 天城入城 天意奉重家庭)."

Attending Mrs. Choi's Seonghwa ceremony, at 7:00 a.m. on November 12, 2022 (10.19 HC), were Julia Moon, President of WFWPI, Heo Yang Cheon Il Guk Special envoy, Hong Seong-bok Head of Division 2 of the IHQ Blessed Family Department, Jo Jung-soon, senior pastor of sub-region 1, of the FFWPU and about 50 others, including FFWPU executives and staff from sub-region 1, as well as blessed central family members from sub-region 1 and other members of Cheonseung Church, to celebrate Choi Ye-jeong's life and departure into the spiritual world.

Seonghwa Ceremony

The Seonghwa Ceremony was presided over by Vice President Kim Shin-han of sub-region1. The ceremony opened with the CIG anthem, a prayer by Kim Seok-jin, head of the Seoul Northern District, a tribute involving laying of flowers by the representatives of family and other members attending, a speech by Cho Jung-joon Senior Pastor of sub-region1, a Seonghwa Speech and prayer by Joo Jin-tae, Co-chair of heavenly Korea and it concluded with greetings from a representative of Mrs. Choi's family, and a closing declaration.

In his Seonghwa speech, president Joo Jin-tae said, "We are born amidst Heavenly Parent's love, know and attend Heavenly Parent on earth, meet the True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind, receive blessings and serve them, and then go to the eternal heavenly world, the spirit world. Leaving our body or taking off our body means joining the realm of true love of the infinite Heavenly Parent. Mrs. Choi met the Messiahs and Saviors of humankind, True Parents, the Lord of the Second Advent, and received the blessing in the 36 Couples with President Ahn Chang-sung. She lived a very touching life, filled with jeongseong and her heart and work inspired many members. I pray and report that her life has been consistently dedicated to public service."

In addition, President Joo Jin-tae said, "May the heavenly army, of angels and absolute good spirits protect and guide Ms. Choi Ye-jeong, who has lived a life of loyalty and filial piety to the Heavenly Providence and True Parents as an upright believer with all her heart."



Greetings from surviving family members



Departing for the Wonjeon Ceremony

Ceremony at Paju Original Homeland

Afterwards, the Wonjeon Ceremony was held at 10:00 a.m. at the second Paju Wonjeon, presided over by Lim Young-ho, head of Cheonsung Church Sub-region 1. It began with a hymn, followed by a report prayer, Wonjeong speech, and prayer by Kim Seok-jin, head of the Seoul Northern district, an offering of flowers and greetings from family representatives. The ceremony concluded with Kim Hyung-do, secretary of Cheonsung Church leading three cheers of ok mansei and the closing announcement.

Choi Ye-jeong was born on November 11, 1935 in Pyeongtaek, Gyeonggi-do, graduated from Pyeongtaek Elementary School and entered Baehwa Girls' Middle School on March 10, 1953. She joined the church on March 25, 1957, was blessed to president Ahn Chang-sung from in the 36 Couples Blessing on May 15, 1961. She was sent out for pioneer witnessing in Yeosu and Pyeongtaek in Gyeonggi-do in January 1966, served as Head Divine Principle lecturer at the church and International IW. Starting from March 1981, she was assigned as a missionary to the US and 40-day training instructor. From June 1996 she was appointed by True Parents as national messiah to Ecuador's. From September, 2000, she was President of the Pyeongtaek FFWPU in Gyeonggi-do, and Hoon-dok Church head in Sadang-dong, Dongjak-gu, Seoul. On July 21, 2006, her husband Chairman Ahn Chang-sung ascended, and she followed him to the heavenly kingdom with her ascension at 1:41 p.m on November 12, 2022.

AWARDS

- True Parents Award (1968-14 Achievement Award),
- FFWPU President Award (1981_ Achievement Award),
- True Parents Award (1996_Mission Award for the 33 Years of Merit), Cheonilguk Owner Award (2003)



1st Pacific Clergy Leadership Conference Anniversary Convocation

The Providential Role of Christianity in Creating a Heavenly Community

The Pacific Christian Leadership Conference (PCLC) have successfully celebrated its First Anniversary Convocation held on October 26, 2022, on the theme “The Providential Role of Christianity in Creating a Heavenly Community.” The convocation was conducted both live at the Luxent Hotel in Quezon City, Manila, Philippines and online platforms. The event brought together Christian leaders across the Asia Pacific region to join hands in prayers for peace and to discuss ways to assist Christianity in fulfilling its destiny as a beacon of freedom, faith, and family throughout the world. The conference’s theme was drawn from Ephesians 4:2-3: “With all humility and gentleness, with patience bearing with one another in love, make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”

Attended by religious leaders and members of the clergy from fourteen nations across the Asia Pacific and the world, the event drew 161 onsite participants composed of 135 local and 26 international delegates while 201 joined through Zoom and more than 5,000 watched via livestreaming on YouTube and Facebook platforms.

The Opening Plenary, which was moderated by Rev. Gregory Stone, Secretary General of PCLC Executive Committee, started with a short PCLC video, and a song rendered by the Lanao Del Norte Interfaith Council

from Mindanao, Philippines. After which, the Water of Life Ceremony followed suit with nine representative leaders from different nations who also recited the Prayer of Peace together with the audience.

Peace is when “all Christian clergy come together in front of heaven, by the love of Jesus Christ, the heavenly love,” said Rev. Masaichi Hori, chair of the PCLC Executive Committee, in his opening remarks at the Luxent Hotel in Quezon City, Philippines.

“We are foremost sons and daughters of God...we are one human family under God,” UPF International Director General Dr. Yun Young-ho said in remarks delivered by Dr. Julius Malicdem, vice chair of the PCLC Executive Committee.

Bishop Grepur Butch Belgica, Presidential Adviser from the Office of the Presidential Adviser for Religious Affairs from the Philippines; Bishop Dr. Ki Hoon Kim, Chairman of the World Christian Leadership Conference (WCLC); and Dr. Luonne Abram Rouse, Co-Chair of the American Clergy Leadership Conference (ACLC) also gave their congratulatory messages expressing their cheers and felicitations to PCLC for all its accomplishments in its first year.

In between these messages, Hillsong, gave a mesmerizing musical performance with the song, “Here I Am to Worship”. It was followed by the audience watching a playback of the “Mother of Peace” video.





Then, Dr. Robert S. Kittel, Co-Chair of the PCLC Organizing Committee, gave a powerful introduction to True Mother who delivered the founder's address.

In True Mother's video remarks, she said that despite the suffering and chaos that has befallen humanity throughout history, God never gave up His dream of seeing His children live in the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth. "Throughout history, religions have guided human beings," she said. "Now, however, it is obvious they have reached their final destination. This means the hope of humanity is to actually fulfill the original ideal that God had at the beginning of creation. God, our Heavenly Parent, wanted our first human ancestors to become true parents — ancestors of goodness connected to God as a couple."

The PCLC sessions focused on how Christianity can instill high moral standards and a sense of altruism, empathy, and kindness in young people, and how churches can strengthen marriage and family as "building blocks" of a heavenly community.

Among the conference speakers were: Bishop Joharni Bendoy, Evangelical Bishops Conference of the Philippines; Rev. Jimmy Sormin, Executive Secretary, Communion of Churches in Indonesia; Min. Joshua

Holmes, National Co-Director, Young Christian Leadership Conference/Assistant Pastor, Manhattan (USA) Family Church; Ptr. Raniera Pene. Minister and Youth Leader, The Ratana Church of New Zealand; Rev. Ronnie D. Sodusta, Regional Vice President, Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU)-Asia Pacific Region 2; Msgr. Joseph Lalo, Priest, Eastern Catholic Church: Neo Monastic of St. Thomas, Philippines; Hon. J. Uduch Sengebau Sr., Vice President, Republic of Palau; Mrs. Wendy Francis, National Director for Politics, Australian Christian Lobby; Msgr. Pedro Gerardo Santos, Parish Priest of St. Andrew the Apostle Parish, Makati City, Philippines; Abp. Antonio J. Ledesma, Archbishop-Emeritus of Cagayan de Oro, Philippines; Rev. Gregory Stone, Secretary-General, PCLC Executive Committee; Rev. Yutaka Yamada, Sub-Regional Director, FFWPU-Oceania; and Rev. Demian Dunkley, President, FFWPU-Asia Pacific Region 1.

The PCLC nations include Australia, Fiji, Indonesia, Malaysia, Marshall Island, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Tonga, and Vanuatu. 



Canada – UPF's Ambassador for Peace Service Awards and Banquet

Kim Moon-shik, UPF Canada Chair

On a most beautiful autumn day, October 23, 2022, in Toronto, Canada, Universal Peace Federation members and friends gathered for the first time in person since January 2020 for the most wonderful, joyful evening in almost three years. On this day, however, there was a sense of celebration in the air at the Mississauga Grand Banquet Hall as almost 250 Ambassadors for Peace (AFP), UPF members, friends and guests came together to honour three outstanding Canadians (all women, and all immigrants) with the UPF's *Ambassador for Peace Service Awards*, as well as to appoint nearly 40 new AFPs.

The evening was truly a Canadian multi-cultural, multi-ethnic, interreligious display of the unity, goodwill and peace that is UPF's aspiration for our world, and its signature quality. Master of Ceremonies David Stewart, ably assisted by Angela Fontaine, introduced the program which opened with a moving *'Water Ceremony'*, bringing together a diversity of religious and ethnic community leaders. Dr. Moonshik Kim, UPF Canada Chair, continued this theme in his welcoming remarks, expressing how "thrilled" he was to see everybody and how "Canada is a country that embraces UPF's ideal to pursue interdependence, mutual prosperity and universally shared values." His thoughts were echoed in the warm congratulatory remarks conveyed by letter from Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and

various Toronto Members of Parliament, in video by Ontario Premier Doug Ford and in person by Member of Provincial Parliament Sheref Sabawy, who stayed until the end of the program, expressing his gratitude for the invitation to "such a special evening".

Magically serenaded by two teenage Filipinos singing the UPF anthem, *"Where Peace Begins"*, the audience was elevated to a wonderful, inspiring atmosphere in preparation for UPF International Chairman Dr. Thomas Walsh's keynote presentation – a thorough, yet brief, explanation of the extraordinary depth and breadth of UPF's global activities, culminating in a powerful series of slides of recent events.

A most substantial dinner followed, during which all could enjoy ethnic entertainment from local singers and dance groups from the Nepalese and Colombian communities, and as well, renew relationships and make new friends after the long COVID hiatus.

Following dinner, Dr. Franco Famularo, UPF Canada President, gave an uplifting and thorough explanation about the AFP program. He was then joined by Drs. Walsh, Kim and other UPF representatives to honour the three awardees for their contributions, respectively, in the realms of community activism, service and a lifetime of public leadership. Short, very moving videos were shown about each of their lives, to which each added words of gratitude and wisdom after receiving their handsome glass awards.





Commemorative photo of the Awardees with UPF Canada leaders and other Ambassadors for Peace

The program ended with Norma Carpio, 2019 Most Influential Filipina Woman in the World Awardee, UPF Award recipient in 2020 and President of the Ontario Ambassadors for Peace, thanking all for coming and exhorting all to continue, expand and improve the excellent work of UPF. Then the singing and dancing began!

The three awardees:

Agnes Miranda



"I want to be a person who plays an important role in contributing to the realization of peace."

Driving force and current President of the Philippines Independence Day Council, she has continuously built bridges and provided opportunities for Filipino-Canadians to promote and embrace Filipino Culture through her community programs, fundraising events and charity works, for which she has received multiple honours and recognitions.

Phymean Noun



"During the awards ceremony, I was immersed in an atmosphere that I had never experienced before, and I was at a loss for words because I was truly moved. Thank you very much."

A Khmer and winner of the World's Children's Prize in 2015, she survived Pol Pot's "Killing Fields" as a child, then she was a teenage orphan caring for a younger niece. While working for the UN in Phnom Penh in 2002 she met children scavenging the dumpsites, begging for chicken bones. Immediately she gave up her job, sold her home and began her first school on a garbage

dump for these, the poorest, most disadvantaged. Today there are 3 such schools serving over 1500 women and children, sustained by Phymean's continuing selfless investment.

The Hon. Dr. Jean Augustine,



"I was very impressed with the entire program. I am so glad and happy."

Born in Grenada, she came to Canada to study education, became a teacher, then a principal. Always socially involved, in 1973 she founded the Toronto branch of the Congress of Black Women of Canada, becoming the National President in 1987. In 1993 she made history as the first African Canadian woman to be elected to the House of Commons and subsequently, a cabinet minister. Her legacy includes the placement of the Famous Five statue on Parliament Hill in Ottawa and introducing the parliamentary motion that created Black History Month in Canada. 



Brazil's Cheonbo Home Churches Revival

Sasaki Koichi, National leader of FFWPU-Brazil

In Brazil, activities of CheonBo Home Churches, One-on-One, and witnessing on daily life brought CheonBo and Blessed families to a new perspective on witnessing. When the guests are incorporated into the CheonBo Home Churches, which has Weekly meetings, they receive personalized Divine Principle Education directly from the book, so they can experience the love of Heavenly Parents and True Parents deeply. CheonBo Home Churches, One-on-One and witnessing on daily life have played an important role on supporting Brazilian families to attain victory on the Heavenly Tribal Messiah mission, in becoming CheonBo families and on achieving the substantial restoration of 43 families among the 430 who have taken the holy wine.

Since 2020, when the Covid-19 pandemic broke out and face-to-face activities had to cease, families reinvented themselves by trying new ways of keeping on witnessing in such a challenging environment. One of the ways was to hold the CheonBo Home Church meetings and One-on-one Divine Principle Education online, through the platform Zoom. Guests continued to be spiritually nourished online and guided to Divine Principle workshops. The workshops also had to be held online. Throughout the pandemic, Brazil held 1-day, 2-day and 7-day Divine Principle workshops on the Zoom platform. Through this experience, we learned another good way to advance the witnessing even when it's not possible to meet in person with our guests.

Videos of the Divine Principle content were created with different time durations (5 minutes, 15 minutes, 30 minutes, 1 hour, 1 hour and a half) to meet all needs and time availability of the guests. Such videos were uploaded on Youtube, to facilitated large-scale access. From the beginning of the year 2020 until now (November 2022) our channel where the videos are has already a total of 145 thousand views. Along with the video productions, we started a campaign to send videos of the Divine Principle content via SNS (Whatsapp, facebook, etc.). During the years 2020 and 2022, Blessed Families and Cheonbo Families have sent videos to about 45,000 guests.

At the appropriate time, such guests are guided to deepen their Divine Principle education through the various workshops (1 WS day, 2 WS days, 7 WS days). In order to support the conversion of new guests through

Divine Principle, at the beginning of 2022, 14 consecutive 7-day Divine Principle Workshops were held in Brazil at the national level. After these workshops, the guests signed the FFWPU membership form. The single ones were sent to the full-time member course and the married ones to the CheonBo Home Churches in the local churches. So that new members can practice a life of faith and become solid members. Additionally, 21-Day workshops are held nationally every 2 months for those who have already attended the 7-day workshop education and signed the membership form, confirming their conversion.

The next step for Brazil's Cheonbo families is to restore 12+ families and convert them into Blessed families. And then they will begin CheonBo Home Church activities. Already with the foundation of 12+ Blessed families, CheonBo Families will be able to start the activities of the Heavenly Village Movement in their neighborhoods and establish the foundation of the Heavenly Parent Holy Community, through social activities, cultural festivals, partnerships and influencing local leaders.

On the spiritual foundation of the Cheon Shim Won prayer room in every church in Brazil, the spiritual environment is already prepared. Through the activities of CheonBo Home Churches, One-on-One and witnessing on daily life, giving love and Words to guests and spiritual children, the Cheonbo Families of Brazil will move forward to become true CheonBo Home Church leaders and build the internal foundation to support the National Restoration and the victory of Vision 2027. 



