



Reverend Sun Myung Moon

Sun Myung Moon was born on January 6, (lunar), 1920, into a family of farmers that had tilled the land for centuries. As a boy he studied at a Confucian school and was a keen observer of the natural world.

Around 1930, his parents became fervent Christians - Presbyterians. At that time, Japan ruled Korea and only permitted practice of the Shinto religion.

The religious intolerance of the militant Japanese was only a small part of the contempt they held for the Koreans, a race they believed to be inferior. The Korean people were subjected to forty years of humiliation and cruelty as part of Japan's Greater Asian Co-Prosperty Sphere

Jesus Christ Appears

At Easter time in 1935, Jesus appeared to the young Sun Myung Moon as he was praying in the Korean mountains. In that vision, Jesus asked him to continue the work which he had begun on earth nearly 2,000 years before.

After deep reflection, meditation and prayer, he pledged his life to that overwhelming mission.

Sun Myung Moon studied the Bible and many other religious teachings in order to unravel the mysteries of life, the actual root of sin and human history. During this time, he went into ever deeper communion with God and entered the vast battlefield of the spirit and flesh. Through denying his personal desires he overcame temptations of knowledge, wealth and physical pleasure. He came to understand God's own suffering and His longing to be reunited with His lost children.

By **1945** Sun Myung Moon began his public ministry. The Divine Principle, the fundamental teaching and revelation of Reverend Moon and the Unification Church, is outlined in the following pages.

The Wilderness Course

Because the Christian churches failed to embrace him, Reverend Moon realized that he would have to walk the lonely path of a pioneer. Subsequently, he was called by God to travel to the communist north. There, he began to teach publicly, despite the dangers of doing so in a country where religion was not welcome.

In November **1946**, the young minister was imprisoned and tortured. The police thought him dead and threw his body into the prison yard. Some of his followers found him and carried him away to tend to his broken body. Miraculously, Reverend Moon survived and regained his strength. Undaunted, he began preaching in public again.

In April **1948**, he was arrested again and sentenced to five years of hard labor in Hungnam prison. He was among the first of the Christian ministers sent to the Soviet-style North Korean gulag. Hungnam was an extermination camp where prisoners were deliberately worked to death. Few lasted more than six months. Yet in that miserable concentration camp, Reverend Moon survived for nearly three years. Although he didn't speak a word of the Divine Principle, many of his fellow prisoners came to him for spiritual strength and became his disciples.

On June 25, **1950**, the North Korean army invaded the South in a lightning attempt to



unify the entire peninsula by force. UN and American forces, under Gen. Douglas MacArthur, rescued the beleaguered South. One month after the capture of Seoul, UN forces reached the gates of Hungnam prison. In the meantime, the communist prison authorities had begun to execute the prisoners. The prison camp was liberated the morning of Reverend Moon's scheduled execution.

Despite his brutal prison camp experience, Reverend Moon did not immediately flee to the South. Instead, he returned to Pyongyang and spent forty days searching for the members of his scattered flock. He eventually found a few members and then traveled south on foot with two of them. In the port city of Pusan, Reverend Moon and one disciple built the first Unification Church from discarded army ration boxes. At that time, he told his small following that one day the message of the [Divine Principle](#) would be spread all over the world.

The Beginning of the Unification Church

On May 1, **1954**, in Seoul, Reverend Moon founded the Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity (popularly called the Unification Church). The church immediately attracted followers from a major Christian women's university, Ewha University, a school closely linked with the Korean government and with the mainline Protestant denominations. Because many students were joining the church, the school sent professors to investigate. When several professors also joined, instead of sincerely welcoming this new church, the school persecuted it. The university president ordered the professors and students either to leave the church or leave the school. Coincidentally, newspapers in Seoul suddenly began to print alarming stories about the Unification Church, about sex orgies and Reverend Moon being a North Korean agent. Reverend Moon was thrown in jail, to be released weeks later when no charges could be found.

Again the following year he was thrown in jail on charges of evading the military draft, even though during the time in question he had been in Hungnam prison. After several months confinement - and sensational media coverage - the charges were dropped. His release received scant notice in the press. Thus began the pattern of collusion between religious leaders, government and the media to suppress Reverend Moon and his church.

The Internal Mission: Complete Salvation

By 1957, churches were established in thirty Korean cities and towns. In **1958**, the first missionary went to neighboring Japan; in **1959**, the first missionaries arrived in America.



This family of disciples was the foundation upon which the holy wedding, the **marriage of the Lamb** foretold in the Book of Revelation, could take place. In **1960**, Reverend

Moon was blessed in Holy marriage to Hak Ja Han. This marked the beginning of the restoration of humankind back into God's lineage. By the power of God and sacrificial love, Sun Myung Moon and Hak Ja Han established the position of **True Parents**.

All people, whether previously married or single, can receive the blessing of God upon their marriages through Reverend and Mrs. Moon standing as the True Parents. The large weddings represent the unity of humankind by joining together men and women of different races and nationalities. Reverend Moon teaches that through the Blessing, fallen men and women can be engrafted into the True lineage of God. Consequently, for fallen humanity, which traces its roots to the false lineage created by Adam and Eve, the Blessing is the greatest hope. The couples blessed by Reverend and Mrs. Moon accept God's call to establish ideal, God-centered families. The establishment of ideal families is the starting point for the building of a peaceful world.



Ministry in America

In **1971**, God directed Reverend Moon to expand his ministry to the world level by coming to the United States. He saw all that was good in America and expressed gratitude for its role in liberating homeland. But he also knew that God expected much more from this land that had been so richly blessed. America, which embraces all peoples, races and religions, represents the world. What happens in America has global repercussions. It was clear to Reverend Moon that America had drifted from its original ideals. Therefore, he conducted a "**Day of Hope**" speaking tour throughout America in the early 1970s with the purpose of reviving traditional Judeo-Christian values.

In **1974**, Reverend Moon spoke to an over flow crowd in New York's [Madison Square Garden](#). He then preached in all fifty states, hosting banquets for thousands of society's leaders and maintaining an exhausting schedule. During this time, thousands of young people accepted his message and dedicated themselves to God's providence.

In **1975**, he continued his Day of Hope festivals in Japan and Korea, concluding with a rally at Yoido Island near Seoul which was attended by 1.2 million people. Also in 1975, Reverend Moon sent missionaries to 120 countries, making the Unification Church a worldwide faith.

During the United States' bicentennial in **1976**, Reverend Moon spoke to an enthusiastic crowd in [Yankee Stadium](#). Shortly thereafter, he organized the greatest religious rally ever assembled in Washington, D.C. Over 300,000 people of all creeds and colors came to the [Washington Monument](#) to hear him speak at the: "God Bless America Festival". At this historic rally, Reverend Moon called upon America to fulfill its blessing as one nation under God, and to create: "**One World Under God**".

Why The Persecution?



Reverend Moon's appeal for a true Christian renewal of America was initially welcomed. However, this receptivity proved shallow when, in 1974, he urged Americans through rallies and newspaper statements to forgive the beleaguered Richard Nixon at the time of the Watergate scandal.

Any public relations strategist would have advised him against such action, which called on Americans to "forgive, love and unite". Virtually no one at the time was willing to side with a president on the verge of impeachment, but Reverend Moon foresaw the terrible consequences of undercutting the American presidency. His appeal was met with scorn. He became an easy target for the now hostile media. The fair and objective articles of the past were replaced by ones which portrayed Reverend Moon and his church in the worst possible light. All sorts of allegations from Korea were dug up. In this atmosphere of hysteria, the enthusiasm and idealism of his young followers was reinterpreted as brainwashing. Reverend Moon was portrayed as a hypnotist and an agent of a foreign government. Religious and racial bigotry and persecution, a phenomenon in the United States as old as the country itself, showed its ugly face. Even though America was founded for the sake of

establishing religious freedom, not every American has been willing to extend that freedom to others.

Quakers were tried and hanged in New England and Baptists were run out of Massachusetts. The founder of the Mormon church, Joseph Smith, was murdered in Illinois and his followers were forced into the desert. Jews and Catholics were looked upon as tools of foreign powers engaged in international conspiracies. Regrettably, religious intolerance is still with us today. The Unification Church has borne the brunt of it in America over the last two decades.

Trial and Error

The United States government launched a plethora of official investigations of Reverend Moon involving nearly twenty federal agencies. Hearings were conducted on Capitol Hill to warn of the dangers of new religious movements. Rep. Donald Fraser led a Congressional investigation of alleged ties between the Unification Church and the Korean CIA. The multi-million dollar effort came up with **nothing** of substance.

Meanwhile, a five-year IRS investigation finally produced a politically-crafted indictment against Reverend Moon. His indictment, handed down in 1981, charged him with evading income taxes nearly a decade earlier, as well as conspiracy to avoid those taxes. The government's purpose, however, was to force Reverend Moon to leave America.

When the indictment was handed down, Reverend Moon was in Korea. He was, after all, a man of God, not a criminal fleeing the law. He immediately returned to the United States. Upon arriving in New York for the Federal District Court arraignment he spoke only one sentence: "Your Honor, I am not guilty".

The outcome of the trial was a foregone conclusion. He was convicted and sentenced to spend eighteen months in a federal prison. When, despite forty amicus briefs from mainline Christian leaders, legal associations, civil liberty groups and state governments, the Supreme Court refused to hear the case, he prepared to go to jail. His comment was, "It must be God's will that I go to prison. There must be a providential reason why I must go this way".

Prison Life

Without any bitterness, Reverend Moon served time in Danbury Federal Prison. Initially he was received coldly by the other inmates, most of whom had heard about him through newspaper articles or television reports. In only a few weeks' time, however, the other prisoners began to accept this Korean religious leader, not because he preached to them, which was forbidden by prison rules, but because he took the most unwanted jobs and worked with them cheerfully. His positive attitude toward life in prison began to command respect and even admiration from the other prisoners. Some of them began to come to him for counseling and advice. Some of the inmates openly defended him. One of them, Ed Farmer, wrote a letter about his experiences with Reverend Moon in Danbury.

"Reverend Moon has a very good sense of humor. It's hard for me to think of a person as being mean or brainwashing people with the sense of humor he has. He truly loves people. He never asked for special treatment. He mopped floors, cleaned tables, and he helped other people when he was finished with his job. When you'd be down in spirit, he'd come along, pat you on the back, and smile and laugh. He doesn't put on a face today, or put on generosity or kindness today and then not tomorrow".

In the meantime, protests were being made all around the nation over the injustice Reverend Moon was suffering. Many Christian leaders who never knew or cared about him began to realize that the government had made a serious assault on religious freedom. Altogether, Christians and non-religious groups representing over 160 million Americans came to his legal defense. A Senate subcommittee, chaired by Senator Orrin Hatch, conducted its own investigation into Reverend Moon's tax case and published its findings in a report which concluded:

"We accused a newcomer to our shores of criminal and intentional wrongdoing for conduct commonly engaged in by a large percentage of our own religious leaders, namely, the holding of church funds in bank accounts in their own names. Catholic priests do it. Baptist ministers do it, and so did Sun Myung Moon. No matter how we view it, it remains a fact that we charged a non-English-speaking alien with criminal tax evasion on the first tax returns he filed in this country. It appears that we didn't give him a fair chance to understand our laws. We didn't seek a civil penalty as an initial means of redress. We didn't give him the benefit of any doubt. Rather, we took a novel theory of tax liability of less than \$10,000 and turned it into a guilty verdict and eighteen months in a federal prison. I do feel strongly, after my subcommittee has carefully and objectively reviewed this [Reverend Moon's tax] case from both sides, that injustice rather than justice has been served. The Moon case sends a strong signal that if one's views are unpopular enough, this country will find a way not to tolerate, but to convict. I don't believe that you or I or anyone else, no matter how innocent, could realistically prevail against the combined forces of our Justice Department and judicial branch in a case such as Reverend Moon's".

On August 20, 1985, Reverend Moon was freed after completing thirteen months of incarceration. Upon his release, major Christian and civil rights leaders, including Reverend Jerry Falwell of the Moral Majority and Reverend Joseph Lowry of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, held a press conference to decry the persecution and imprisonment of Reverend Moon and to welcome him back.

Return to Homeland

Reverend Moon then began the next phase of his mission. In **1990**, Reverend Moon organized a major meeting of government and media in Moscow. (This fulfilled a pledge he had made in 1976 that one day he would organize a "Great rally for God in Moscow"). During this conference, Reverend and Mrs. Moon met with President [Mikhail Gorbachev](#).



This extraordinary event, which took place in the Kremlin on their 30th wedding anniversary, April 11, 1990, initiated an educational exchange, which has been developing ever since. Through several interviews, televised and in print, they gave a message of hope to the Soviet people, urging them to turn toward God.

A crucial step for the establishment of world peace is the reunification of North and South Korea. Risking his life, for the purpose of uniting the two Koreas, Reverend and Mrs. Moon traveled to North Korea in December **1991**, and met with President **Kim Il Sung**, under whose regime he had been tortured and sent to a labor camp. His purpose was to seek ways to bridge the gap between the two countries. The North Korean ruler, who had suppressed religion for forty years, completely welcomed Reverend and Mrs. Moon. On a tearful yet joyful day, Reverend Moon returned to his hometown, to the house of his birth. He put flowers on the graves of his parents, who had died during his absence. He was welcomed with tears of joy by his surviving relatives.



True Parents

On August 24, 1992, Reverend Moon completed his forty-year wilderness course. At a gathering of 1,000 world leaders at the World Culture and Sports Festival, Reverend Moon declared that he and his wife are the Messiah and True Parents of all humanity. This marks the beginning of the Completed Testament Age.

Mrs. Moon has given a fitting description of the meaning

of the Messiah and the True Parents.

"Ladies and Gentlemen, what is the Messiah? The Messiah is the True Parents of humankind. God's original plan was to establish perfected Adam and Eve as the true ancestors of humanity. Satan, however, invaded this ideal, and God, ever since, has been working toward the emergence of ideal True Parents through which all humankind can be restored. As true fathers and true mothers ourselves, we must vanquish Satan, liberate humanity and build the Kingdom of Heaven on earth. As God's sons and daughters we must inherit God's love, life and lineage. Moreover, we must also inherit True Parents' love, life and lineage. Then we will have achieved unity between heaven and earth, vertical and horizontal, and mind and body. This will be the starting point for the eternal world of peace".

The following year saw an even greater activism on the part of Mrs. Moon, as she delivered the address, "True Parent's and the Completed Testament Age" in 44 cities in America, 27 cities in Japan, on 40 university campuses in Korea, and 41 nations around the world. This monumental achievement included such notable venues as Capitol Hill in Washington D.C., the United Nations in New York City, the Kremlin, and congressional buildings in Japan, Korea, and Canada. With absolute faith, hope and love, Reverend Moon has dedicated himself to the call of God.

Through God's power and Principle, despite persecution, he has accomplished the

work which God called him to do.

First, after a long search, he discovered the teachings of the [Divine Principle](#): God's ideal for humanity, the root of evil, and the formula to restore the ideal.

Next, he tried to explain his insights to the established Christian churches, but when they rejected him, he began the lonely and difficult path of a prophet in the wilderness.

For over forty years, amidst persecution and ridicule, he established a church reaching out to people across the globe. Tens of thousands of Unificationist families, sanctified by God's blessing, are practicing a quality of love which transcends all racial and national barriers. Organizations founded by Reverend Moon in education, the arts, science, communications and international affairs show how every aspect of human life can be centered on God's true love.

Reverend Moon has emerged on the world stage to demonstrate God's true heart by ***loving and embracing his enemies***, the leaders of North Korea and the Soviet Union, who once had imprisoned him and sought to kill him. He has brought together the leaders of warring religions. True love has now triumphed over evil. All the satanic barriers have been broken down. The Completed Testament Age has dawned. God's true love, which was lost at the fall of man, has made its triumphant reappearance in the world. This love is the power of new life for all individuals, marriages and families the world over.

We pray that this brief testimony to the providence of God will inspire the reader to study further, and to make a personal commitment to building the Kingdom of Heaven on earth.