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ARTICLES

Suffering is a Privilege!

Yung Oon Kim

(Reprinted from the New Age Frontiers, October 10, 1963)

As I read one of the Biblical letters of Apostle Paul today, my eyes are full of tears, and I feel as if I am with him, going through the same experiences, even though I haven't suffered nearly as much as he did. Paul said that he was imprisoned several times, beaten frequently, and often near death. Five times he received at the hands of the Jews the 40 lashes less one, three times he was beaten with rods; once he was stoned. He suffered from hunger and thirst, in cold and exposure. He goes on saying, "Apart from other things, there is the daily pressure upon me of my anxiety for all the churches." When some were weak, he also felt weak. When some were made to fall, he was indignant. At Damascus, the governor guarded the city in order to seize him, Paul had himself let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped his hands. He suffered many other things besides these. (Read II Cor. 11:21-33)

We know now what imprisonment, beating, hunger, insult and worry for God are. And yet Paul overcame them victoriously. "We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed." (II Cor. 4:7-9) How true it is! Suffering only strengthens our will and hardens our determination, and persecution only solidifies our bond of love. And we learn the same lesson as Paul did, who said, "We rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts." (Rom. 5:3-5) Suffering for the right cause deepens our thought and love, enriches our experiences, and refines our personality. Hardships drew Paul only closer to the love of God. "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ... No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Rom 8:35-39.)

The absolute bond of love with God does not come from an easy, comfortable and unchallenged life. We can readily imagine how often depression attacked Paul and how much trouble he had with those under his leadership in addition to the suffering caused by his various opponents. However, Paul finally could say, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." (II Tim 4:7) Oh, Champion of faith! Hero in the good fight!

It is the general view that after Jesus was crucified, Paul was the one who laid the foundation of the Christian Church. The price Paul paid, the indemnity Paul made, was high enough to sustain Christian faith for the two thousand years of the New Testament Age! Countless are those who have been inspired by Paul, to whose devotion and sacrifice many Christians owe their spiritual growth. Through the experiences of hunger, mockery, insult, rejection, persecution, worry for fellow members, we are sharing the noble experiences of the great apostles, saints, and the righteous who have suffered the same way paying restitution to lessen the evil of this world.

When we are insulted and rejected by the Christians because of our message, we know exactly how Jesus felt when he was insulted and rejected by the Jewish people. When we are rejected, mocked and persecuted because of the Divine Principles we teach, we are privileged to experience a small percentage of the thorny path our Leader has gone through. Without going through the same experiences, how can we know his feeling of loneliness, expressed so well by Elijah: "I am left alone, they are seeking my life." Without physical suffering, how can we know his extreme fatigue in carrying the heavy burden day and night in spirit and body? Without being insulted and mocked by the masses, how can we know the narrow path of insults and mockery by the masses which he has received? Without being betrayed, reviled, and accused falsely for the sake of our Lord, how can we understand his gushing tears? Without being beaten, how can we feel his physical pain and aching? Without the experience of hunger, how can we know his hungry years of struggle? Without laboring for others' spiritual growth, how can we know his labor of raising us?

All aspects of his life have been manifestations of the suffering of the Heavenly Father. Only through suffering of one kind or another can we share his experiences, his feeling, and his life. Only after going through at least part of his suffering will we be able to feel and share his joy, victory, and glory!

Through suffering we come closer to Father and are able to think with Him, see things with Him, and feel with Him. In this way we become like Him in our desire, in our judgment, in our love and will. The Father is re-creating us after His divine image through the various ways of suffering.

The Father has come a long way of suffering and rejection through the Old and New Testament Ages to meet us today. The way He came along was the way of rejection and suffering by mankind. So the only way to meet Him is to go back the same way He came through. Therefore the course of restoration can be no other than suffering. The way of indemnity can be no other than rejection. This is why Jesus said, "The gate is narrow and the way is hard, that leads to life, and those who find it are few." (Mt. 7:14)

Paul went through this way to lay the foundation of the Christian Church. We, the Cosmic Family, also have to go through the way of depression, perplexity, rejection, insult to lay the foundation of the eternal ideal world. Since our goal is visible, our way is much easier for us to endure than that which Paul went through. Paul said, "I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities; for when I am weak, then I am strong." These are the priceless privileges that we on earth can have to make a leap in our spiritual growth and to hasten the work of the whole and shorten the time of universal restoration. Spirits do not have a physical body and cannot make the wonderful adventure we can. This is why they envy us. Let us take advantage of our privilege in having a physical body! Suffering is the absolute necessity for the universal restoration; then we must not avoid it by all means. Suffering is the best means to shorten our course; then we will gladly choose it. Suffering is the best discipline to re-create our personality after the Father; then we will buy it even with gold. Suffering is the quickest way to be one with the Father; then we will rejoice in it.

We now understand why Jesus said, "Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so men persecuted the prophets who were before you." (Mt. 5:11-12)

Undergoing rejection and suffering is a priceless privilege. Let us be grateful for our thorny path!

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Look for More Troubles

quoted from
Robert R. Updegraff

Be thankful for the troubles of your job. They provide about half your income. Because if it were not for the things that go wrong, the difficult people you have to deal with, and unpleasantness of your working day, someone could be found to handle your job for half of what you are being paid.

It takes intelligence, wisdom, resourcefulness, patience, tact, and courage to meet the troubles of any job. That is why you hold your present job and it may be the reason why you aren't holding down an even bigger one.

If all of us would start to look for more troubles, and learn to handle them cheerfully and with good judgment, as opportunities rather than irritations, we would find ourselves getting ahead at a surprising rate. For it is a fact that there are plenty of jobs waiting for men and women who aren't afraid of the troubles connected with them.

How about our spiritual jobs?

Gratitude through Suffering

Gordon Ross

Gratitude is an important element in the life of our Family. Everyone recognizes it as an essential ingredient in one's relationship with God. When I asked Father a week or two ago what I should talk on today, He said, "Gratitude." When I began thinking about this topic, I didn't know exactly what to say, but in prayer the following idea formed itself clearly in my mind: "Gratitude is Born of Suffering." Perhaps another way to say it is, "Gratitude is born of sacrifice." We must then ask ourselves, "What is sacrifice?" The answer readily comes: "A giving of oneself, the complete surrender of self to meeting the needs of another: not prostituting oneself, but, while maintaining one's integrity, giving of self."

It also means discipline of self--that is, giving of self means discipline of self. You can't love unless you discipline yourself, because love must be directed, focused, to produce fruit, to meet the needs of others. And the greatest or central spiritual need is to grow up, to become spiritually mature, to become perfect. This need must be met in self, in others, in the family, the tribe, the nation, the world, the cosmos. God has called us to meet the needs of all. He has no one else. We alone in the Unified Family can fulfill this need.

Now, meeting this need demands sacrifice, a sacrifice not so much in body as in spirit. We must train our will to be in harmony with God's will. This takes discipline. It is a sacrifice for us, at least initially. We can learn to do this only by experiencing difficulty, temptation, and by overcoming. The difficulty is not found in doing great acts of an heroic nature. We are not heroes. We are people, humans God has chosen to fulfill a small part of His work of restoration. We are not giants in stature, in IQ, in creativity, in ability--but He does not intend for us to be! All He wants is our spirit to live in, to love, to use for His mighty purpose. The difficulties we face are difficulties we can overcome. The temptations we face are temptations we can overcome. We must learn to face and overcome them not just because we know that doing so is right, that is, pleases God, gives Him joy, but because we ARE the Divine Principle, the truth of God, and in us is no base for give and take with anything other than His truth.

This takes time. The principle of growth is operating continuously in our lives. We can't escape it or step outside it and grow up all at once. We must let God lead us through experiences which will deepen our spiritual understanding of Him, His nature, His love, His longsuffering, His joy, His heart--experiences which will deepen our spiritual understanding of man, not "man" in the abstract, or even man throughout the world, although it is understood that such an understanding will come to pass too, but man who lives in our house, in our own room even. Who is he or she? Do we really know the heart and mind of our brother or sister? Do we know his talents? Interests? Strong features? Weak ones? Do we see him from the Father's point of view? From Mother's point of view? Do we try to do so?

Do we know our roommate, housemate, or jobmate's background? The cause of action lies in the spirit man, and you know that what is in the spirit man--what makes us up--has been formed by our action of give and take throughout our life.

Service is a very important word in our Family life. It is the focal point of our being and acting--of our life. Sometimes we get wrapped up in thoughts of ourselves and our own shortcomings and mistakes and come to feel sorry for ourselves, and this state of mind makes it very difficult for us to be and to act in harmony with others in the Family. But if we serve someone during this period, the feeling goes away and again we are one with Father.

We all have jobs to do--jobs that often prevent us from getting to know and serve one another directly or as much as we would like. This situation is often frustrating--or, rather, we think it is frustrating. But when we know that through all our tasks we are serving the greatest one of all, then we need not feel frustrated, but indeed joyful to realize that we have a small part in serving him, in bringing to pass his kingdom on earth, in restoring man to him--as Philip has said, in bringing the father's heart to His children and the children's heart to their father.

This is our calling. Can we be other than joyful to have answered the call of Him who has been calling, "Where are you?" since the fall of Adam and Eve? Miss Kim wrote an article in the New Age Frontiers several years ago that bore the title, "Suffering is a Privilege." In the article she quoted a Bible passage describing Paul's sufferings in order to bring the gospel to different nations. (See re-print in this issue.) I won't quote from it this morning, but I do emphasize that it is important to maintain this idea--to hold firm in our minds--that to suffer for God is a privilege. Perhaps a better way of putting it is to substitute the word "sacrifice" for suffer. To sacrifice for God is a privilege. For we need not be dejected or despondent or down-hearted when we sacrifice for God, as "suffering" implies. "To sacrifice for God is a privilege." In the future we may have to sacrifice more than we have done already. If we maintain the idea that sacrifice is a privilege, we shall be able to endure all trials. And we shall find ourselves living and acting with a grateful spirit.

Recently I've been reading a book by a famous viennese psychiatrist, Dr. Viktor Frankl. Dr. Frankl spent three years of his life in a German concentration camp, during which time he underwent severe torture. His story is so moving and bears so much on our topic that I'd like to share some of it with you. The first few selections deal with the physical conditions under which Dr. Frankl lived. The remaining few deal with his realization of the spiritual aspect of himself and life. The title of the book is

Like nearly all the camp inmates I was suffering from edema. My legs were so swollen and the skin on them so tightly stretched that I could scarcely bend my knees. I had to leave my shoes unlaced

in order to make them fit my swollen feet. There would not have been space for socks even if I had had any. So my partly bare feet were always wet and my shoes always full of snow. This, of course, caused frostbite and chilblains. Every single step became real torture. Clumps of ice formed on our shoes during our marches over snow-covered fields. Over and again men slipped and those following behind stumbled on top of them. Then the column would stop for a moment, but not for long. One of the guards soon took action and worked over the men with the butt of his rifle to make them get up quickly. The more to the front of the column you were, the less often you were disturbed by having to stop and then to make up for lost time by running on your painful feet. (pp. 41-42)

There were foremen who felt sorry for us and who did their best to ease our situation, at least at the building site. But even they kept on reminding us that an ordinary laborer did several times as much work as we did, and in a shorter time. But they did see reason if they were told that a normal workman did not live on 10-1/2 ounces of bread (theoretically-- actually we often had less) and 1-3/4 pints of thin soup per day; that a normal laborer did not live under the mental stress we had to submit to, not having news of our families, who had either been sent to another camp or gassed right away; that a normal workman was not threatened by death continuously, daily and hourly. (p. 43)

In spite of all the enforced physical and mental primitiveness of the life in a concentration camp, it was possible for spiritual life to deepen. Sensitive people who were used to a rich intellectual life may have suffered much pain (they were often of a delicate constitution), but the damage to their inner selves was less. They were able to retreat from their terrible surroundings to a life of inner riches and spiritual freedom. Only in this way can one explain the apparent paradox that some prisoners of a less hardy make-up often seemed to survive camp life better than did those of a robust nature. In order to make myself clear, I am forced to fall back on personal experience. Let me tell what happened on those early mornings when we had to march to our worksite. We stumbled on in the darkness, over big stones and through large puddles, along the one road leading from the camp. The accompanying guards kept shouting at us and driving us with the butts of their rifles. Anyone with very sore feet supported himself on his neighbor's arm. Hardly a word was spoken; the icy wind did not encourage talk. Hiding his mouth behind his upturned collar, the man marching next to me whispered suddenly: "If our wives could see us now! I do hope they are better off in their camps and don't know what is happening to us."

That brought thoughts of my own wife to mind. And as we stumbled on for miles, slipping on icy spots, supporting each other time and again, dragging one another up and onward, nothing was said, but we both knew: each of us was thinking of his wife. Occasionally I looked at the sky, where the stars were fading and the pink light of the morning was beginning to spread behind a dark bank of clouds. But my mind clung to my wife's image, imagining it with an uncanny acuteness. I heard her answering me, saw her smile, her frank and encouraging look. Real or not, her look was then more luminous than the sun which was beginning to rise.

A thought transfixed me: for the first time in my life I saw the truth as it is set into song by so many poets, proclaimed as the final wisdom by so many thinkers. The truth--that love is the ultimate and the highest goal to which man can aspire. Then I grasped the meaning of the greatest secret that human poetry and human thought and belief have to impart: The salvation of man is through love and in love. I understood how a man who has nothing left in this world still may know bliss, be it only for a brief moment, in the contemplation of his beloved. In a position of utter desolation, when man cannot express himself in positive action, when his only achievement may consist in enduring his sufferings in the right way--an honorable way--in such a position man can, through loving contemplation of the image he carries of his beloved, achieve fulfillment. For the first time in my life I was able to understand the meaning of the words, "The angels are lost in perpetual contemplation of an infinite glory." (pp. 56-59)

You will agree, I'm sure, that Dr. Frankl's testimony is amazing in that Dr. Frankl could live through such torture of body and mind. Yet he did so, supported by the spiritual quality of love and the desire to maintain his integrity throughout his suffering. Dr. Frankl did not believe in God. He did not have a close relationship, a strong give and take with God; and yet, he endured three years of great suffering. How much more suffering can we endure, we who have a relationship with God, we who are developing strong bonds of love with our True Parent?

The lives of Suso and of Paul testify to man's ability to endure for God, to sacrifice for God. The apostle Paul underwent so many tribulations and several times almost lost his life: yet he remained grateful throughout. God tried him in the fiery furnace of experience. He could have perished, but because Paul was a living example of the word of God, he could not perish

Many times in the struggles that I have had, to maintain a close relationship with God and to come closer to Him, Father has reminded me of a Bible verse which has sustained me: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." In other words, God never lets us experience more than we are capable of handling. And God is giving us experiences which can only serve to grow us up, to beautify us, to make us more productive, more creative, more vital and alive. A man who knows this deeply in his heart is grateful. How can we know this? By the Divine Principle. The Divine Principle, the Word of God, makes us most aware of how God operates in our lives, of how he leads us through experiences. By Divine Principle I mean not only, or even primarily, the Divine Principle on the printed page, but the Divine Principle as it is alive--in flesh--in those who have heard it and become it before us--our True Parents and their representative here in America.

Can we not help but be grateful when we think of the sacrifice the many workers of God have made to establish a foundation for us to stand on and who have pioneered a path for us to God's home? We walk where their tears have fallen. We tread where the saints have trod.

Knowing this, with grateful hearts let us walk--no, run--this path together, this path of restoration in America, for the sake of God, who has been waiting and urging and calling for 6,000 Biblical years, for the sake of the saints and those in the world of spirit who have given their sweat, blood, and tears to make the way easier for us, for the sake of the people of other nations who live in ignorance of this great day, for the sake of the people of America, whose restoration is our primary responsibility.

God has called us, brothers and sisters, to serve, to sacrifice with a grateful heart. Will we answer His call in full during this coming week and in every week to come? Let us strive to do so, so that we may, at the end of the path, shout out, in the words of Paul: "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." (From sermon at the Washington Center)

*

In the Beginning God

Excerpt from
James Dillet Freeman

In the beginning, God, having caused Man to be, saw after a while that Man was ready to go forth to work out his destiny.

So God called Man to Him and held out two cups.

And God said, "Before you go, my son, come and drink with me. Here are two cups. The one cup is called Bliss and the other cup is called Effort. Choose now which cup you will drink from and I will drink from the cup you do not choose."

Then Man looked at God, who had made him. Man looked at the world, which God also had made. And Man saw that God had laboured very hard.

Then Man thought, "God is very, very old and has worked for eternity. And I am young and strong and have eternity before me."

And Man felt moved for God, for God had made Man in His image, which is a Mind to Love.

So Man took the cup which God had called Effort and drank.

Then God drank from the cup which He called Bliss. But the last drops He spilt on His fingers and sprinkled over Man. And God blessed Man, and Man went forth to find his destiny.

After that God stood alone and smiled to Himself. For God knew that Man's effort is his bliss and Man's bliss is his effort.

--Contributed by Alexa Altomare

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SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

World Day

Philip Burley

The 8th of June is officially "The Day of All Things" or "World Day", the third major holiday of the New Age which through unceasing effort our Leader established. Since the 8th falls during the week, we will celebrate World Day here in Washington, D.C. on Sunday, June 11.

Our celebration will be relatively simple, externally. Each holiday Miss Kim has stressed the necessity of preparing ourselves in heart, so that we not only receive meaning from the day, but more important that we give meaning to the day. When we think of holidays which we have observed in the New Testament Dispensation, we realize that unless we anticipated, thought about, and prayed for them, those holidays could have been just like any other day on the calendar. Through preparation externally and internally, we will give meaning to the day.

The headquarters Center celebration will begin in the morning of the 11th. The celebration will begin with hymn singing, silent prayer followed by one or two more hymns. The person leading the songs will then pray aloud. The speaker of the day will read scripture, pray and give the World Day message, after which a third person will pray and we will then close with a hymn.

Miss Kim has strongly urged that more of our time be spent in preparation, spiritually and physically for our Leader's coming than on anything else.

LETTERS AND REPORTS

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

George Fernsler

I have given the conclusion to three students in the last three weeks. I have some hope for one of them. Back from Washington, I upset and distressed a Bible study class by informing them of the new revelation. One girl has responded positively in spite of efforts of the others to scare her. I have also talked to two other members of this class.

In looking briefly through old notes, I saw the following which apparently came from spirit but which I have not shared. It concerns what it is to "love thy neighbor as thyself."

"Love thy neighbor as thyself.

Sacrifice, surrender one's self-willful ways.

Give constantly without thought of return or likelihood of his response or understanding. Give. Take on his burdens, his troubles.

Think on, understand his soul as much as your own.

Serve him--his soul and body, without thought of your own benefit and suffering.

For we are one body, as your hand and your mouth are of one body.

He who shows himself to be a healthier part of this body--by following the Golden Rule as the good Samaritan--he is most specially thy neighbor (regardless of prejudice).

We have been the body of Christ, now we are called to be the body of God as Christs."

In the Name of our Beloved True Parents, George.

*

Kansas City, Kansas

Gleness Sneed

Beloved Family, We all here in Kansas City, Kansas send our love and prayers to each and every one of you. We wish that we could be with all of you. We are so thankful for finding his most loving family. Father has really blessed us in this way.

We recently attended a church meeting and two of our people held the meeting all evening. The priest is going to read the Principle. We are so hoping and praying that Heavenly Father will show him this is His whole truth and His divine way. This priest is a very well-known person in this area.

We are looking forward to going to Washington on our vacations. All of us anxiously await the return of our Leader. But we know that Father has a lot of work to do for his people. How many times I wish I could take the whole world and tell them that our True Parents are here with us. If they only realized the importance of finding the truth in our Heavenly Father's words. I long to see Father's creation as it was to be. How His heart must hurt to see His children in hell. Sometimes we want to strike Satan and knock him out of mankind, but we have to realize that these poor lost sheep don't know the truth and we must use wisdom in carrying out His work. When I see Satan at work, I also know Father is at work too and I know Heavenly Father will conquer all.

It's a very hard road, but at the end there is so much reward for each of us. We may fall in a hole once in awhile, but it's up to us to hold our heads high. We can walk the most glorious walk that anyone has ever done. We don't have to have a medal sitting on a table or pinned on our chest; the reward will be in our hearts forever. I close in our True Parents' Name. Gleness Sneed.

*

Barcelona, Spain

Ursula Schumann

Dear Family, Even though I didn't have any photographs for the special Parents' Day Edition, I'll still write a few lines on how we spent that day here in Barcelona.

In the afternoon Jordi Busquets and I drove up to the park of Montjuich and sat down on a beautiful spot high above the Mediterranean Sea. After singing a couple of Korean and English hymns and reading cards from other Centers in Europe, we studied some of the articles of the Master Speaks series which I had to translate into Spanish. As a special treat we shared some Korean candy which was sent to Germany at least 1-1/2 years ago. Later on we climbed up to the top of the ancient castle and looked down upon the city of Barcelona with its almost 2 million inhabitants.

Last week I finally received my two-years resident's visa after having spent endless hours going from one authority to another in order to get the necessary papers and documents. Spain has the worst bureaucracy I have ever come across!

And, last, but not least, I am moving to another flat next week. I hope to have less noise there to put up with. My love and prayers go to all of you.

In the name of our Father, Ursula.

*

Rome, Italy

Martin Porter

Dear Brothers and Sisters: When we read this article in the magazine Lo Specchio we had the desire to share it with you: "The Third Fatima Secret."

Fatima, one might say, has been like a beacon in the last fifty years. It was fifty years ago to the day (May 13) at Fatima that the Madonna appeared to the three Portuguese children, Lucia, Giacinta, and Francesco. The White Lady of Fatima, as they call her, appeared to speak of judgment; however, it wasn't until 1942 that Pope Pius XII instructed Cardinal Schuster to release the first two messages. These spoke above all about hell, war, famine and the persecution of the church. They also spoke against Russia, as its ideology would try to corrupt the people and encourage them to fight against each other. "However, if you listen to my words," she said, "Russia will be converted and there will be peace."

The third message was to be released in 1960. It was never revealed to the public. So, many speculated that the contents would be something that might cause alarm. However, this letter has now been released on the 50th anniversary and just before the Pope left for Fatima (for the 50th anniversary celebration.) While the children were having the visions at Fatima, Pope Benedetto XV consecrated archbishop Eugenio Pacelli, who later became Pope Pius XII. It was he who on the same day saw the miracle of the sun.

So these are the words of the third message from the Madonna: "Don't be frightened, little ones; I am the Mother of God and am speaking to you and asking you to give this message to the whole world. You will have great resistance doing this. Listen well, and be attentive to what I am saying. Men must be courageous. With humility they must ask for forgiveness for their sins. You want a sign so that all will accept the words that I am saying to you and all mankind. You saw the sun and all believers, non-believers, peasants, townsmen, wise men, journalists, laymen, and priests also saw it. Judgment will fall on all mankind not today, nor tomorrow, but in the second half of the twentieth century. I have already revealed to the two children Melania and Massimino at La Saletta and again I will repeat it to you. Everyone has sinned and has trodden on the Gift they were given. In no part of the world is there order. Satan reigns everywhere, controlling every event. He is perverting the minds of scientists that make armaments so that they will make arms to destroy the world. He will control politics and in this way men will forget my Son. If the important men of the world and of the church don't stop this, I myself will ask God, my Father, to bring the judgment and then you will know that He judges even more severely than at the time of the flood. There will come a time when man will be converted and if all remains as it is, or becomes worse, the leaders will perish with their followers. Also the church will fall, and the world will be filled with terror. There will be a time when every king, emperor, cardinal and bishop will await Him who will come to punish mankind according to God's Will."

In the second half of the twentieth century there will be a great war. Smoke will cover the sky, oceans will be vaporized and millions on millions will die hour by hour, and those who remain will envy the dead. Everywhere people will be miserable, anxious and all nations will be ruined. This time is advancing. The good will die with the bad, the great with the little, princes of the Church with their followers. Everywhere people will die because of the wrong teachings of Satan and only after this time will the Kingdom of God come, when the world is less perverted. "Go, my little ones, and speak; I am always with you."

The Madonna's words are extremely clear. The Church, however, did not want to accept this and the Curia Romana wanted to speak to Lucia as she is the only sister now alive; but she is enclosed in a convent at Coimbra. However, in 1958 Padre Fuentes spoke to her, and she continued with force: "The Madonna is very distressed that the messages have not been revealed. Neither the good nor the bad have heeded them. How many souls will go to hell because of this, as they have not had time to repent!" She expressed again her concern about the present situation, as the time is so imminent, and that if nations don't change their ways they will be literally taken off the map. The judgment is a material judgment and the people must not remain indifferent, unbelieving, sexual, and materialistic.

There will be a final fight between God and Satan and one or the other will win: there will be no more middle road. The only way out is through the holy Rosary, prayer, and sacrifice.

*

Washington, D. C.

Sylvia Rogndahl

One recent evening, the day after her announcement that our Leader might be coming in June, Miss Kim came down to dinner looking quite serious. After dinner she began to speak.

She said that the Leader will judge us by the preparation we have for him on this trip. If our preparation is not adequate, it will take many years to clear from his mind the bad impression of our laxity. Our preparation must be thorough. Some of us remember his last visit when some were not completely prepared. We remember his anger at that time. If he comes and sees lack of preparation this time, his anger will be much greater and much longer-lasting.

In this way, we in Washington hear much about the coming of our Leader and the way he will be when he comes. We have all heard that he will come this time as a judge. On January 22, while Miss Kim was convalescing from her foot surgery, she shared some thoughts with us which we'd like to pass on. The following is from notes of several people at the gathering. Although it is not verbatim, it is nearly so.

He is different from all other men. Although we follow our Leader's example, his course is not our course. He suffered, and we should suffer. However, his glorification is not our glorification. He is unique. He is not thrifty. In theory he is supposed to spend more than anyone else in the world each day. Because he represents God, he is to spend at least enough to satisfy and relieve the grudge of God. God has never used His creation as He desired. This doesn't mean we should not be thrifty. We must be three times as thrifty. Our Leader is quite temperamental and is easily angered. However, he doesn't mean for others to be temperamental. Temper, jealousy, stubbornness, and pride are for us the four gates to hell. Yet, I think he is the number one stubborn man. To show his absolute authority he must yield to no one. He must stubbornly teach others, opposing their beliefs. You may stumble at this quality. Also, he is the number one arrogant man. He's intolerant. He is number one in jealousy. As Jesus said: "He who loves those more than me is not worthy of me." Our Leader is the same. So you have to really understand the Principle. Your life must be based upon the Principle. You must be firmly rooted in prayer life to withstand the judgment. He scolds those whom he loves. His scolding is preparation for the responsibility he wishes to give them.

He never says thank you, but returns what you have done in a divine way. Don't expect him to appreciate anything. Do and do for him, and be prepared to be scolded. Your faith in him must be absolute. Never, never expect anything like I did toward you from our Leader.

From her words, we begin to see the preparation we must make in our hearts for our Leader. Let us expand our love for him.

This month in Washington there has been equal emphasis on the physical and spiritual aspects of the work and preparation. We set concrete goals for witnessing and for business gains. The motto here has been:

Let us take the heart of the Father to His children, and the hearts of the children to their Father.

Neil Salonen is our new brother, and Cindy Efaw our new sister. Both have moved in. We are expecting a visit of Fred and Jacque Stock and Leonard and Wilma Edwards from the St. Louis Family. They will be here over Memorial Day weekend. We send our love and greeting to all of you again this month. May our preparation be with our whole heart in one heart.

*

Norman, Oklahoma

Burton Robinson

Dear Family, Those of us in Norman send our love to all of you throughout the world with a warm embrace for our beloved foundation members. Eileen, Doris,

Pauline, Patty, Galen and George--thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all you have done. We pray that you are experiencing the same surge of love, power and dedication that is suddenly causing the City of Norman to burst at the seams. And a special "hello" to the new Hammond/Highland Centers--welcome to the Family!

We would like to share with you some of the experiences that are leading to the formation of our Center here. Physically speaking it is something similar to Washington, D.C. We have a basement and three floors for a total of 14 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, and a spacious living area for gatherings. Living in the Center this summer will be Beulah Bowling and myself, new members Dan Zellmer and Kathy Black, and Patty McGuire who has received the conclusion and is responding beautifully. Also we will have several "first cousins"--a young man from India, Paul Lazarus, of Hindu-Christian background, and a young man from East Pakistan, a Moslem, who is president of the International Club at O.U. These men represent not only non-Christian religions, but also whole nations, and because of this the indemnity will be great, but with Father and Mother by our side, all things are possible. There will be others in the Center for the summer, but with five strong Family members, we expect to win all of them or let the natural process of separation take place so that by September 1 when we lease this house from Beulah it will be made up entirely of Unified Family members. This is a 100-day period in which we must work without ceasing in order to truly unify ourselves.

Family members leaving Norman are Mike Morrow who reports for duty in the Marines at Quantico, Va., on June 8. Our newest brother, Kalen Buckman, a junior in architecture, goes home to New Jersey for summer vacation, and 19-year-old Nancy Reutlinger, music major, goes home to Louisiana until September.

The young people of America are so ready for the Principle--the light that shines from their faces as they gain understanding is Heaven itself. And they are strong--quite willing to pay indemnity, quite willing to die for the Principle. But, I think far more important--they are willing to LIVE for it. They are, in fact, the very people who will lead the way for America and the world as our movement grows into the Perfection Stage. Most of them are children of men who fought and sometimes died in World War II. Their ancestors have paid great indemnity and many of them are International Citizens--we have several Air Force, Army and/or Navy brats in our group who have grown up all over the world and been exposed to many different cultures. Their relationship with their physical parents, though sometimes very strong, is completely unlike that of past generations, because now that the True Parents are on earth, they have subconsciously or spiritually been seeking them--then they express the desire to turn their hearts back to their physical parents and start them on the road to restoration. What can possibly be more exciting than the formation of the Heavenly Family?

Norman, being a university town, is usually quiet in the summer. It won't be this year! The day we have worked for is here, and we personally feel that the time for large numbers of people is just around the corner. Next September, for example, all in-coming freshmen meet for convocation and are urged to attend the student center of their faith. The Unified Family will be on the list, and those students without strong denominational affiliation will come here. Out of approximately 4,000 freshmen, I think we may expect our share. But that is only the beginning--we have been making condition with faculty, deans, dormitory counselors, as well as students and townspeople. The bigger the fish, the better we like 'em! And Beulah and Kathy have been making great condition in the Mormon Church--so much in fact it would take a full report to bring you up to date on that. Norman is wide open and Father's will is being done through our Action. The Kingdom of Heaven is growing, the Kingdom of Hell diminishing--and to all the world we shout MONSAY, MONSAY, MONSAY!

Words simply are not adequate to express what has happened to us since Lowell, Maggie, John and Barbara were here. How wisely Father chooses His representatives!

And to our True Parents we say that the only way we know how to express our love for you and to prepare for your coming is to keep working (but it isn't really working--it's living at last) harder and faster until that wonderful day comes when we can see you face to face on this choice spot of Heaven on earth.

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Dallas, Texas

Growing Pains

Vivian Sneed

The family unit in America is beginning to be restored. Yet, at times, it is the family who has more difficulty growing. The physical bond is extremely close coupled with familiarity with the past. It is all too easy to keep looking for faults rather than looking to find the amount of growth accomplished. Because we find ourselves in this situation, we must be very cautious to make wise decisions rather than quick ones.

Oftentimes we feel someone older in Principle than we is wrong, but we should thoroughly analyze to see whether we ourselves are being tested on our own level of growth. In our haste for spiritual children to grow, we many times become impatient with them. For we want them to be ever so much better than we ourselves are. We may share common problems and we can overcome them sometimes as our spiritual children overcome. However, it is always within our hearts that our children will have fewer problems overcoming than we have had. What kind of parents would we be if this were not always our aim and desire? We certainly could not be called loving!!

As you grow you will find extremely difficult situations to face and overcome. If it were easy, what true reward and accomplishment would we have? Oneness with Father is our goal and it has a price tag on it. It is often easier to overcome if we keep that goal in mind rather than whether we think we are being severely disciplined or "tromped on". Think of how much Jesus and our Leader have been through. We will never have to suffer as they have suffered. What have we to fuss about? Who are we to complain? Would Father or Jesus or our Leader be pleased if we simply griped? I don't think so. They are happiest when we accept our problems and burdens gladly and overcome them. Only when we are growing and helping others to grow can Father be truly happy.

I cannot urge you enough to look to your elder brothers and sisters for guidance. All have rebelled in the past and have seen that others were not yet fully mature. But all of us can grow ever so much more quickly when we have wiped out petty differences. As we become less self-centered and have more of a giving and sacrificial love for our fellow man we show growth through Principle. Let us have some growth to show our Leader when he comes. We must love him and our spiritual families so much that we are willing to lay our lives down for them. We must love them much more than we love our physical children, and through this new-found love, our love for physical children will grow even more. Seek that love and oneness for Father and you cannot go far from the true path. Think always of them rather than yourself. Do only for them rather than for yourself.

I pray that you will grow quickly and in turn find others to raise. For through raising spiritual children we truly begin to feel Father's heart. When your spiritual children rebel, it will tear your heart out. You truly feel sorrow if they reject Father's will. There are many tears, sweat, and blood shed over them, but oh what joy to see them grow in Father's Truth! This is true happiness!!!

Note: The foregoing is an excerpt from a letter Vivian recently wrote to a member of our Family.

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The sun peeks brightly o'er the nether hill
 And casts its rays upon the town below.
 It wakes the morning swallow and the wren,
 Which cry aloud, "Fulfill! Fulfill! Fulfill!"
 Come snatch the morning! Bear away the day.
 Come fill your coffers with the joys of life.
 O Nature that inspires my soul to dream,
 O flowered copse that bids me bend to thee,
 Perfumed meadow, clutch me to thy breast
 And let me breathe thy earthy sweetness in.

--Sandra Singleton

TESTIMONIES

Dallas, Texas

Delores Wickline

To our New Family, I am the wife of a wonderful man who is also a member of our Family and I am the mother of three children, a boy 13, a girl 11, and a boy 7.

In the summer of 1960 we were not very close to God. Something kept nagging at us and we were very restless. Now we know it was the Father's messengers. By Fall we were working very hard in the First Baptist Church. This was wonderful for a while. We felt the Father at work through us. Suddenly there were questions with no answers, an urge to do more, but we could not find what it was. We received revelations but we were not learned enough spiritually to understand.

Things began to get worse. I had a nervous breakdown. Satan was really at work! Satan made a mistake, and God used Satan's mistake nevertheless. Because of this misfortune we had moved to Dallas, and God led us to Roland and Vivian Sneed. We began to learn the blessed Truth. Through this period of learning I had many doubts and asked for verifications, and I received many. Our Leader came to me and told me of my mission. I did not know it was he at the time. I thought it was Jesus, but when I was shown a picture of our Leader I realized then it was he. The day the story of his life was told to us I received a revelation of the number 596, which was the number he had while in prison.

Our prayer now is that God will bless His movement and soon all men will be in God's kingdom. God's Blessings on all of you, Delores.

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Brewster, New York

Gio Mathis

(Gio is a new sister who studied at the New York Center. This is not her testimony, but an excerpt from a recent letter to the Washington Family after her visit.)
 ...I would very much like to tell you what my visit to you in Washington has meant to me but find that it is hard to do this in a clear, simple way. Perhaps it needs no more than to state that, after quite a struggle, a clear spirit of love cut through the old web of doubts, fears, disillusionments, and personal inadequacies, and touched my heart. Winter's stronghold on my soul was broken that weekend. Love and obedience to our Leader (not self-seeking or satisfaction) became the keynote to my life. Now my heart longs to go out to all those who seek so that they too may no longer remain strangers to Him whose burning love alone can bring new Life. What wonderful, wonderful, indescribably wonderful days we live in! My only wish now is that our Leader may find me strong in love, obedient and truly dedicated to the task that has been shown to me. Send you my greetings in the name of Him whose love binds us together as true brothers and sisters. In love,
 your Gio.