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ANNOUNCEMENT OF BLESSING

Washington Headquarters rejoices to announce that on Friday, February 28, 1969, the first blessing of couples outside Korea took place in the Headquarters building. Six married and seven unmarried couples were blessed in marriage by our True Parents on the twentieth day of their stay in Washington. This was probably the largest wedding ever celebrated in America.

At 5:00 p. m. the wedding ceremony began with Lohengrin. Remarks were made by Mr. Eu, President of HSA-UWC in Korea, explaining the significance of the wedding to members and guests. As the Parents entered the room, Mary Penn of the New York Family sang a solo, after which a group of members from East and West Coast American Family sang "On a Clear Day You Can See Forever." Miss Kim offered a prayer, and the couples, dressed in long white wedding garments and white gloves, proceeded one by one down a corridor formed by members. After each couple had been blessed individually by our Parents, the brides by the Master and the grooms by our Mother, they took their places in the room and made their pledges to God. They then exchanged rings. Congratulatory remarks were offered by Mr. Osami Kuboki on behalf of the Japanese Family and by Neil Winterbottom of the English Family. Our Leader closed the ceremony with his prayer and followed it by calling for three shouts of Monsay! for the brides and bridegrooms.

Following wedding pictures, the new couples, Family members and guests gathered for a reception dinner in the Family dining room and afterwards an evening of Family-style song and laughter, featuring the new couples and our Parents.

The couples blessed remained for three days in the Washington Center and then returned to their mission fields. The couples were Vernon Pearson and Maxine Adamson, George Norton and Sylvia Rogndahl, George Fernsler and Diane Giffin, Edwin Ang and Marie Leckrone, Philip Burley and Vivien Barron, Carl Rapkins and Linna Miller, Ken Pope and Orah Schoon, John Schmidle and Marie Laux, Galen and Patty Pumphrey, Jon and Sandy Schuhart, Wesley and Gladys Samuel, Bob and Vivian Oswald, and Fred and Jacque Stock.

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Notes on the Blessings

Sandy Singleton

Someone has said that the only thing in life that is constant is change. Perhaps no one was more aware of that in the past few weeks than those of us who either lived in or visited the Washington Center during the time of the Blessings of the six married and seven unmarried couples.

When Master announced in his first formal meeting with the Family that he would like to get to know us better and then perhaps bless some of the American Family,

many people were surprised, and even shocked. Who was prepared? What were the qualifications? What were the responsibilities? Most of us were certain that few in America could qualify, and we had not expected the Master to lay so strong a foundation with America so soon.

But for Father the time was ripe. Letters were sent out to those in the field stating that any member who felt he could meet the qualifications should come to Washington for a training session. The house and annex were very soon filled, and more people were still coming to participate in, or at least to witness, this all-important event for our country.

There was plenty of suspense. Post-midnight meetings went on in almost every room among those who wanted to know more about the Blessing — how were mates chosen? Was it considered wrong to refuse to be blessed for any reason? What about inviting one's physical parents? Near-hysteria often reigned at dinner as candidates tried to live and act normally under the strain of uncertainty.

And there was no word from the second floor, where Master and his party puzzled over the problem of finding twenty-six men and women who could fill the needs of Father in the American mission. Many thought there could never be found mates. There seemed few choices among the unmarried, and no one could see how it could be accomplished.

But we had forgotten Father's 95 percent, as we often are so prone to do. When the first couples, Sylvia Rogndahl and George Norton and Orah Schoon and Ken Pope were announced, we realized that these marriages were truly being made and blessed by heaven. Our joy at the choices grew and grew until the last couple, Linna Miller and Carl Rapkins, was announced. Then, less than twenty-four hours before the ceremony was to start, feverish preparations began.

It sounded strange to hear strains of "Lohengrin" drifting up from OUR piano! Odder still it was to pick up the phone and hear an excited voice saying, "Yes, Mom, I know this will be a surprise to you, but I'm getting married — tomorrow! Can you come?" Hammering came from the North Room, as the house carpenters made a platform for the service. Neil Salonen and Travis Jones and Gio Mathis put the finishing touches on the floor-to-ceiling sunrise mural which was to form the background for the ceremony. Others decorated the adjoining North and South Rooms (where the ceremony was to take place) with streamers of bright-colored chrysanthemums and baskets of flowers. The women were up until four a. m. making the twenty-six wedding garments. Of course, Cindy Efaw manned the kitchen and produced one of her brilliant meals for the wedding feast.

Nora Martin shocked a clerk in a downtown department store when she asked for eighty yards of taffeta for wedding garments. She later bought up every bit of white

taffeta in the city. Since all the couples went to the same store to buy their rings, an awful lot of curiosity was aroused there. Betsy O'Neill starred in her own melodrama when it came to selecting a decoration for the cake. After she rejected the usual bride and groom, the clerk suggested that two doves might be nice.

"Oh, no," Betsy said. "That's Formation Stage. But do you have a heifer?" She settled for a spray of real flowers.

Vivien Barron's mother made the comment of the year. "My daughter Faith gave me one week's notice when she got married," she said, "and Vivien gave me one day. I've got one daughter left, and she'll probably give me no more than an hour."

The six and seven couples who finally stood before Master and cried, "Monsay! Monsay! Monsay!" represented a truly Unified Family. Edwin Ang and Marie Leckrone bridged the Eastern and Western Hemispheres; Wesley and Gladys Samuel joined Negro and White; Philip Burley and Vivien Barron united North and South America; Carl Rapkins and Linna Miller connected the East and West Coasts of America.

One neighbor was so confused by all the flowers arriving, the singing and what she possibly saw and heard that she called the police. An officer came, but he left when he found out that we were just having a wedding.

Perhaps the first misgiving that couples got was when Miss Kim suggested that they sing for the Family after dinner. Some of the vocal combinations were interesting, but the heart was certainly there.

*

Dear God: Bless these dear, good people who were joined together in holy matrimony and are now doubly blessed by the dear Master, who was sent by God to be His emissary on earth and to do His will. May we always live together in peace and harmony to help each other and to bring God's truth into the world for all to live by. May we always remember to heed our Master's words and counsel and show our love for our blessed God by attaining perfection in His eyes. May our heavenly Father preserve and improve the health of our Master who is trying to do the task assigned to him with so many obstacles in his path. Amen.

— Prayer of Betty Wiener, Desert Hot Springs, California

LETTERS AND REPORTS

London, England

Dennis Orme

This last month we broke new ground by singing as a Family at the Royal Commonwealth Society, where a centenary celebration for Mahatma Ghandi was held. The Father must have wanted us to counteract the nonviolent approach of many of Ghandi's followers so Doris led us in singing such songs as "Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho." Afterwards we were able to witness to people attending.

Ronald and Elsie Bryan, who live near the Surrey Centre, invited six people to attend lectures held at their home. Christopher Davies spent a week in Ireland helping Marion and making condition there. The Family witnessed at Brighton and Hove on the South Coast. On another occasion we played ball and prayed on Reigate Hill. Our Family method of transport is a van which we use for general purpose and then load chairs, taking about thirteen of us, closely packed together.

Patricia left with Carlo and Martin for Italy to strengthen the Italian Family. Dawn returned later in the beginning of February to Italy, while Carlo, who had been here for several weeks, left a lovely painting of our Leader which hangs in the dining room. It gives a physical presence to the spiritual.

With the acquisition of a second tape recorder we have begun to record the lectures of Principle on tape for those who prefer to listen rather than read. Our work goes on and we pray that we all may be of more use to the Father. Monsay!

*

Washington, D. C.

Hillie Smith

"WARMEST WELCOME TO OUR LEADER, HIS WIFE, AND THEIR PARTY, IN LOVE AND JOY, THE AMERICAN UNIFIED FAMILY"*

The first week in February was a week of intense inner and outer preparation for the coming of our Master. I could never describe how we felt, but I think each one of us experienced the full spectrum of emotions as we waited and worked. Miss Kim went to the West Coast on February 1 to prepare the Centers there and to meet his plane, which arrived at 6:00 a. m. PST on February 4 in San Francisco. She called us on Friday, February 7, to let us know that our Leader, Mother, Mr. Eu (President of HSA-UWC in Seoul), Mrs. Choi, Mr. Kuboki (President of HSA-UWC in Tokyo), and she would arrive at Dulles Airport at 4:40 p. m. on Sunday,

*These words, on a large banner in the center of an archway of roses and ivy, greeted our Leader as he entered the house.

February 9. Welcome signs, songs and food were prepared, and Saturday night everyone participated in an all-night prayer vigil — deep and meaningful hours.

February 9: Sunday evening we waited in a receiving line in the front hall, sometimes praying, sometimes singing or talking softly. Here to meet him from local Centers were: Maria Pascher, Diane Giffin, Carroll Ann Dobrotka, Betsy O'Neill, and Therese Klein from New York Center; and from Philadelphia, Joan Dorfman, Barbara Mikesell, George Fernsler, Jim Cowin, and Hal McKenzie. Also many Washington area members living outside the Center were present. We sang the chorus of "You Are My Sunshine" as the Master and his party entered, and it seemed as though the sun actually broke through the snow clouds as we saw them for the first time. After greeting everyone, Master and his party rested. Later, we presented a talent show, produced and directed by Travis Jones, Barbara Snell, and, I'm sure, Father.

February 10-13: The next three evenings we met in the lecture rooms and listened to the Master's words as he explained, particularly, the Blessings and the course of restoration centering around them.

February 14: Some of us gathered in our Leader's living room in the Center for the first of several informal evenings which have brought us closer and closer to him in heart.

February 16: Mr. Kuboki spoke at the Sunday service and after lunch about our Japanese Family and their work. We eagerly listened to his story of our Japanese Family's early beginnings, Mr. Kuboki's own moving testimony, and the methods through which Japan is presently being led strongly to Father. Sunday night our Leader spoke to several of us about CARP (Collegiate Association for the Research of the Principle), our student movement in Korea and Japan, and FEC, an organization whose goal is to disprove the validity of Communism as a world ideology and present the Principle.

February 17-20: John Schmidle, Vernon Pearson, Maxine Adamson (Pearson), and Marie Laux (Schmidle), arrived from various parts of the U. S. Northwest. Many of us had never met these members of our Family and we rejoiced to welcome them. Also from the Northwest came Garold Johnson, complete with guitar and magnetic voice, and Galen Brooks. With these members arrived Mr. David S. C. Kim, their teacher and one of the early missionaries from Korea. We were delighted to meet him as well as Mr. Sang Ik Choi from San Francisco, the first Korean missionary to Japan. From Kansas City Pauline Phillips arrived with Mary Merta Parkinson, who had heard of our Leader through Anthony Brooke. A young couple who had heard the Principle on their way to Florida made a U-turn and flew to Washington on two occasions to be with us here. Linna Miller (Rapkins) arrived from Toronto, Canada, soon

to be followed by Vince Walsh, Kathy Bell, and Larry Boyle. Gloria Sheerin, our member in the Boston area, represented New England. Matthew Smith, a writer who met our group originally in Toronto and then spent some weeks at our Los Angeles Center, spent February with us.

February 21: To synchronize our day and time with that of Korea, we celebrated our Parents' birthday on February 21 at 12:00 p. m. After a brief and beautiful ceremony, we feasted, presented gifts and telegrams from all over the United States and sang individually for them. Sara Witt from Chicago played the piano for everyone's enjoyment.

February 22: Wesley and Gladys Samuel from New York joined us as well as Galen Pumphrey and Judy Barnes from Denver; from Florida came Sue Barnett, and Fred and Jacque Stock arrived from St. Louis. From the West Coast, Jon and Sandy Schuhart brought Ray Barlow, Lisa Martinez, Judy Culbertson and Zed Robinson (all with the Los Angeles Center), and Edwin Ang came from Berkeley. By this time the Center was overflowing with 80-plus brothers and sisters. Every hour was rush hour; as each one came, the pitch of excitement, anxiety, anticipation, and joy rose. Few had time to sit and talk, but eyes met as we hurried on about our various assignments, and voices joined in song and prayer. There was only one Heart to feel, so nothing about our sharing was superficial.

February 23: Our Leader spoke at Sunday service. Sunday evening Mr. Choi gave his testimony, telling of rainy nights when there was no food and no place to sleep as he searched alone for someone who would respond to Father in Japan.

February 24: Mary Penn came from New York with her autoharp, and Martha Vertreace arrived from Chicago with Betsy Norton, a new sister. Orah Schoon (Pope) and Julie Antal came from Hammond, Indiana, and the first day of a week-long training session began.

February 25: Mr. Eu lectured morning and evening on the Ideal of Creation. In the interim period, four couples were betrothed! Peace, beauty and harmony began to slowly find its way into the turmoil of our days as each additional couple was announced. But until the last couple was betrothed, all hearts were in suspense.

February 26: Next to arrive were: Dee Beckner from Kansas City, Patty Pumphrey from Denver, Bob and Vivian Oswald and Martha Pattengale from St. Louis.

February 27: Lectures and betrothals continued on the eve of the wedding. At dinner we received instructions from Miss Kim regarding the wedding ceremony. Music, flowers, decorations and the wedding garments had to be prepared by early afternoon of the following day. The house must be cleaned and food

prepared for the wedding reception. All "committees" began to scurry.

February 28: The six couples and seven couples were blessed and America gained her wellspring. The faces of the new couples glowed with a quiet, deep light.

As February closes, we find our numbers diminished and our Center regaining some degree of equilibrium. We have entered a new dimension of working and living, and we all feel that "new occasions teach new duties." Though our Leader is still with us, he may have left for South America and Europe by the time you receive the NAF.

Could I ever convey to you what it has really been like to live in the Washington Center in February, 1969? I don't think so, although I wish I could. Each day as I came home from work, I stopped and looked at the Center with awe, gratitude, and concern, realizing that the hope of America and of the world was physically and spiritually present there. I wish I had the time and ability to write about our Leader's power, depth, and love. I would like to tell you about the day he threw snowballs with Jon Schuhart or the night we sat with him on his living room floor until 2:30 a. m. I can only say that our Parents really are True Parents in every way, whose love fills our hearts with the Father's desire for the children of the world.

P. S. New members in the Washington Center in February:

Godofredo Salas
 Allan Sands, American University student
 Mr. and Mrs. Marin Zuesse
 Eric Williams, Howard University student
 John Harries
 Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Quinta

*

The Parents' Stay in Washington

Vivien Burley

I am sure you are eager to know more in detail about our Leader's stay here in Washington. Many of you have spent a few days of his stay with us, and felt the intensity of activities here. But for those who were not able to come and for all who were not here for the whole period, I would like to write a short summary of the events and activities of these weeks.

February 9 was the great day of his arrival in Washington. For many days everyone had been working very hard on the last-minute preparations, painting, cleaning, buying supplies, making decorations and planning the welcome program. We also wanted to be truly prepared inwardly for his coming, so the night before his arrival we held an all-night prayer vigil in our Master's bedroom. We divided up into groups of three or four people and each group prayed for an hour through the night. With this inward gathering and focusing on Father, we could approach the day with reverence and a greater sense of responsibility and depth.

Next morning we had a worship service. Then everyone got busy on the many last-minute jobs that had to be done. Mrs. Lee was busy in the kitchen making kimchi and other savory Korean dishes. Some of the girls were covering the cushions on the benches in the dining room with new material. Others were winding a wreath of roses and ivy to go around the welcome sign upstairs. Still others were preparing food to serve the many people we were expecting for dinner. After lunch we all gathered for a final rehearsal of the performance we were going to give for his welcome that night. The theme of the show was "Let's Move America!" Travis Jones and Barbara Snell had put together a wonderful program of group and individual songs, dances, marches and acts, drawing out all the talents and skills of each Family member. Through this program we wanted to express our zeal and love for our work in the Principle.

Toward the end of the afternoon everything was ready. The entrance hall upstairs was decorated beautifully. The welcome sign hung at one end. Below it there were two large bouquets of gladioli, carnations and iris. The Leader's flag and one of his scrolls ("All nations desire world unification") were also hung on the walls. By 5:15 everyone was assembled downstairs, waiting. Miss Kim and George Norton, who had gone to the airport, were the first to arrive. It was so good to see Miss Kim after a week on the West Coast. The Leader and party had decided to go to Holy Ground before coming to the Center, so we settled down to wait a few more minutes, while our anticipation mounted.

Finally the black Chrysler pulled up to the door. Our Leader jumped out and bounded up the steps and started shaking hands. We all waved and said "Hello!" He was followed by Mother, Mr. Eu, Mrs. Choi, and Mr. Kuboki. While they greeted everyone, we softly sang, "You Are My Sunshine."

When everyone had shaken hands, Miss Kim took the party up the second floor to show them their suite. Then it was dinner time. We were about eighty people in all. Many of those living outside the Center helped by cooking part of the meal at their homes, and in this way we had enough food for everyone. Mrs. Lee had cooked a wonderful Korean meal for the party, which they enjoyed.

After dinner we went back upstairs for the entertainment. We were full of enthusiasm to do our best and express our love and gratitude to our Leader in this way. So the program started out with "Let's Move America!" and this spirit was sustained through the whole performance. I know everyone enjoyed it, including the performers!

When the show was over, we all sat down on the floor in front of our Leader, and Miss Kim said it was time to introduce ourselves. So we each gave our name, place of birth, occupation, religious background, and length of time in Principle. Now it was time for our Leader to sing. He sang three songs for us. By this time Mr. Eu was getting enthusiastic, and he sang two German songs. Mr. Kuboki and Mrs. Choi also sang. It was wonderful to hear their voices.

It was time for a break, so we all went down to the dining room for jello and cake. We again sang together and individually. Then Mr. Eu asked us if we wouldn't like to hear the Sun and Moon sing together. Of course we would! So our Leader and Mother sang "Danny Boy" for us in Korean. We closed the evening with our Leader's offering a prayer.

On the next three evenings our Master spoke in great depth to us on the subjects of restoration, the conditions of indemnity to be fulfilled, and the significance and deep meaning of the marriage Blessing. These talks were very serious and prepared us for the days that lay ahead and the important decisions that would be made by our Leader and Miss Kim. It made us realize that we have hardly begun to understand the responsibilities that are ours — and that our effort and dedication must increase a hundredfold.

The next few days were rather quiet. The Leader's party spent time sight-seeing and talking to visitors. The Master did not give any more talks because we were waiting for the week of the twenty-third of February when all local members would be present. We, however, felt a great desire to spend as much time as possible with our Parents so after they ate dinner many of us would go up to their living room and sit together. These were precious times of intimate sharing. We talked about our Free University program, of the way students think and feel in America, of the problems young people have here. Sometimes we sang together. These meetings became especially intimate and brought us very close after the Blessings, as we could speak freely about this whole subject now, and share our feelings about it. In this way our Leader taught and comforted and encouraged us in many ways.

This weekend (March 8-9) the Master's party is in New York sight-seeing, going to some shows and spending time at the Center there. They will return via Philadelphia, where they will visit Independence Hall and some other historic places, and of course, the Center as well. Then they will return here for a few days before their final departure from America. They will go to Brazil, then Portugal, England, and Europe, before flying to Japan and then finally home to Korea.

I realize this is only a very short summary. One could write a whole book and still not include everything that happened. Looking back on these few weeks, they seem like a dream — but they are more real than anything that ever happened before. We have come to the end of an era and a new time has begun — a new life that will demand of us more than we feel we are capable of: more love, greater sacrifice, deeper humility and service, and an unshakable and single-hearted faith to Father. With this new foundation that has been laid, the whole world has been opened to us, so let us take up this challenge with courage and determination to persevere on this path to the end. My heart overflows with gratitude and joy to be allowed to live in this age and to participate in Father's great work.

We send you our love and prayers in Their Name.

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ARTICLES

On Hinduism

Narayan Bihari

Somebody once told me that there are two kinds of religions: natural religions and religions based upon revelations. The natural religions developed to their present form out of beliefs of their followers in some kind of God. In this type the concept of God and way of worshiping Him varies from time to time depending upon the cultural growth of the followers. The second kind of religion is based on revelation given to a particular man. Hinduism belongs to the first type. It is not based on a revelation given to any one of its leaders. Nevertheless, Hindus believe that the Vedas contain revelation. It is also not organized and has no authority like a Pope. Priests are free to teach and conduct the services as they believe to be correct. The only thing that limits their authority is tradition.

It is very difficult to define Hinduism or indeed say definitely whether it is a religion or not, in the usual sense of the word. It embraces many beliefs and practices. Its essential spirit is to live and let live. Mahatma Gandhi defines it to be a "search for truth through non-violent means. Hinduism is a relentless pursuit of truth. It is a religion of truth. Denial of God we have known. Denial of truth we have not known."

Hindus call their religion Arya Dharma or Sanatan Dharma. Dharma means the innermost constitution of a thing, or the laws of its inner being. It is an ethical concept which includes the moral code of righteousness and the whole range of man's duties and responsibilities. Dharma is a part of Rita, the fundamental laws governing the functions of the universe. Man is supposed to fit in this order, and he should function in such a way as to remain in harmony with it.

There are three fundamental truths or laws which are the basis of Hinduism. They are: (1) Law of Identification, (2) Law of Karma, and (3) Reincarnation. The Law of Identification says that God and I are one. Soul is a part of God and becomes one with Him, when the cycles of reincarnation are completed. Every religious practice of a true Hindu is directed toward the realization of this oneness of his soul (Atma) with God (Paratma). The second law, the Law of Karma, is known to most of us. It is the law of deeds — law of causality in the spiritual world. Karma does not mean fate. Karma fixes the consequences of one's act. It cannot be altered or destroyed. We are given many chances to shape our destinies through our karma in a chain of reincarnations.

Reincarnation is the third great truth for the Hindu. It says that the soul keeps transmigrating. Human life is the highest form of life. If our karma is good we can become one with God after this life. If it's not good we will have to complete a cycle of thirty-five reincarnations as lower beings (for example, animals). When the Hindu is asked why we have no memory of our past incarnations, he answers that likewise

we have no memory of our infancy; and as we presume our infancy to explain our maturity, so he presumes past existences to explain our place and fate in our present life. (See Study Guide, page 68, for details.)

To Hindus there are three chief processes in life and the universe: Creation, preservation, and destruction. Hence Divinity takes for him three forms: Brahma, the Creator; Vishnu, the Preserver; and Shiva, the Destroyer. Vishnu is a god of love who repeatedly became man in order to help mankind. His greatest incarnation was Krishna, who accomplished many marvels of heroism and romance. According to Chagawat Gita, he will come again when mankind is in big trouble again. But all three are the different aspects of attributes of one God. God is often painted with three hands or three heads, showing these three functions. Just as a Christian may pray to the Madonna or any one of the one thousand saints and yet be a monotheist, so the Hindus, without presuming for a moment that they are praying to a superior God, pray to any one of the three.

There is no creation in the sense of Genesis. The world is perpetually evolving and dissolving, growing and decaying, like a plant in it. Brahma as the creator is the spiritual force that upholds this endless process. "We don't know how the universe began." Brahma was in the beginning like a man and woman closely embraced. He was not happy in this situation, because he was alone and he desired a second. He caused that self to fall into two pieces. From that a man and woman were born.

Salvation, according to Hinduism, does not come by faith, not by good works. It comes by such uninterrupted self-denial, by such intuition of the part-engulfing whole, that at last the self is dead. And there is nothing left to be reborn. That means our soul has become one with God. The hell of individuality passes into the heaven of unity, of complete and impersonal absorption into Brahma.

According to Hindu philosophy, spirit is plural in the sense that it exists in each organism, but in all alike and does not share individuality. Spirit keeps transmigrating in different bodies until it is absorbed in Brahma.

I would like to conclude with the words of Nehru. He said once: "We inherit the whole past of India with its glories and its failures. We cannot and must not deny it. But we can live in the present and mold the future." His choice of the word "mold" is significant. No country in the world needs remolding more than India.

The remolding is acutely necessary because of two problems: existence of poverty and the threat of Communism. Day-to-day life in India is very much influenced by the religions. Most of the problems of India have their root in Hinduism. A better understanding of Hinduism will bring better understanding of the problems of India and lead to their permanent solution.

I am glad to say that this remolding has started.

Strengthen Your Foundations

Linda Marchant

For older members of the Family watching the new ones, there is a period of time before substantial, lasting effects are observable. Winston Churchill sympathized with you. He observed that watching a baby for the first year is like watching an egg boil — you have absolutely no idea what is going on inside.

Speaking as an "egg, " this is what is going on inside:

I heard the Principle in September and was overwhelmed by the personalness of God. Re-introduced to Someone I hadn't been interested in before — by hearing so much more of His life and feelings and dream — I realized that if this were true He was everything I was longing for. And it was true. And He is. And we both cried for joy.

Observing my own short pattern, I want to say to other new members: Now is the time to strengthen your foundations.

First, this is the time to explore fully our love with Father. Our foundations are the Principle and our love of God. Pray and study all you can. Be greedy with your spare moments. Sometimes when I read the Principle I feel like I'm harvesting armload after armload of ripe wheat. Eat more than what satisfies you — stuff yourself. Your mind may be full, but your spirit is still skinny. Father has ached to give you this for so long. How can you deny Him?

We should cherish these days when unhampered by administrative responsibility we are given time to add many precious memories of our early relationship with Father. Be like the wise virgins — all ten filled their lamps full and went out to await the bridegroom. But five brought even extra oil — much more than they thought they would need. They cared so much. After being empty for so long, open wide your lamp and then open up some more and feel the oil of the Father's love fill you and make you prepared.

We give Him great joy by studying the Principle and receiving what He has longed to show us about Himself and His plan and His love.

Second, strengthen your foundations to be ready for the loneliness. We know from the Principle that the next step up from receiving love is mutual love. As much as Father has been longing to give Himself to us, He has been so lonely waiting for us to grow up and return love to Him on a responsible level. To have many grown sons and daughters that He can be surprised by, to whom He can reveal his burden, who will understand and help Him is so close He can taste it. He is so anxious for us to grow quickly. Yet children are not adults overnight — time after time we are left alone, to see if we grow.

Often we are painfully isolated — from each other, from God Himself. It may be to work out a problem within our personalities. It may be a result of others' working

out their problems with us. It may be that Family members you are most close to may leave here — this give and take may be supporting you more than you realize.

During these times Father can really see how much you have benefited from His nurturing efforts.

Stand on your foundation at these times — on the Principle and what you know of God. God wants to see proof of your increasing wisdom of love. Don't chicken out. You can do anything. Father will never let you be tried more than you can overcome. He will not leave you. Put absolute faith in your foundations — the Principle and what you know of God.

We can't see which trees are tall and straight and which branch out a great deal and won't get much taller until the bitter winter when all the leaves are blown off. God lets the biting wind blow on us because He's an anxious Father who is just dying to point at us and say with pride, "See — aren't my children straight and beautiful? The ones that have faithfully let me nurture and prune them are most beautiful of all." We could fail Him with lack of faith. So we must strengthen our foundations to be ready for the loneliness.

Strengthen your foundations for world peace. We have the only real hope of world peace.

On August 9, 1945, the Chicago Sun said:

War cannot be renounced like an outmoded garment by a simple act of will. It can only be banished by indomitable determination to have peace, coupled with an unreserved willingness to work, sacrifice, experiment, and work some more, toward the ultimate world government which alone can keep the peace.

The war has already begun, but we are in basic training. To be thoroughly steeped in understanding the Principle is like feeling the weight, length, and flexibility of your sword. The more I understand of it, the more I am absolutely convinced of its power. It must become part of us — then we will be living weapons, carrying the ideal within us.

We need to sink a solid foundation in order to endure the death throes of evil — in the world and in ourselves.

Victor Hugo said: "No army in the world can withstand an idea whose time has come." This time has come.

So strengthen your foundations: For love, for growth, for world peace.

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TESTIMONIES

Amsterdam, Holland

Corrie van Kralingen

My life story is not a very impressive one, but one can see that God has led me in small ways.

When I was a child I didn't like to play in the streets. I just stayed at home and was there alone by myself. I liked dogs and cats very much, but not children so much because they didn't respond to my love. As soon as I could read I spent all the time reading books about animals, history and people. I hardly played with toys. I didn't have many friends. I never expressed myself fully because nobody seemed interesting. A few times I went to Sunday school, but I didn't understand very much. The years at high school were filled with study.

I started thinking about a job which would be meaningful. As a girl of ten years I had wanted to help Albert Schweitzer. I felt I had to help the Negroes for what the Dutch had done to them. I remembered this and decided to become a nurse. In that time I became interested in religion. I wanted to find real love, happiness, and honesty. I went to different churches and groups. One time I went to a Rosicrucian meeting. One thing I liked was the silence before the service started. On the other hand, I thought that if people really believe that they must be happy and enthusiastic. I like Negro gospel services and the way they sang during their service. But the people here were so different. They went out of the church with the same face as they went in. But still I knew I had to seek God. When I went to Amsterdam for a training course to become a nurse I especially chose one with a Protestant background. I went more to church and two years later I did confession. But still I didn't feel it. I was not completely satisfied. My life didn't change so very much, and I wanted to be more active.

I went to a religious group of students. Some circumstances made me stop going, but still I felt I had to go. There I met Teddy. He introduced me to the Principle. I heard the conclusion about forty days later, but it was not easy to decide because I knew I would have to change very much.

I went on holidays and took an excerpt of the Principle with me. I loved nature there, but I also saw the people there and didn't feel happy inside. Nobody seemed interesting in real life. After my holidays Teddy told me more about the Leader and I studied more through the Principle. I stayed a weekend in the Center and recognized the difference. Life was not centered on themselves, and I felt it should be good to live with such brothers and sisters. I made a decision and on the 7th of September I moved in. Principle shows a real life with great purpose. Not an easy purpose to reach, but one worth trying for. I thank Father for leading me on this road to freedom.

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