

The Cults exposed

Unification Church and Eastern Transplants:

Introduction: ***America & the Proliferation of False Messiahs***

“The people that joined were really good people. They were innocent. They were looking for something larger than themselves to be involved in. Nobody joined thinking their lives would be taken.”

Deborah Layton, Jonestown survivor (*SE Missourian*, 11-15-98)

I. The Unification Church

Unification Church's Founder:

Sun Myung Moon (1920-Present)

- 1920 - born in N. Korea, given name Yong Myung Moon means “Shining Dragon Moon.” Parents become Presbyterian when he is ten.
- 1936 - vision of Jesus on Easter morning who asked him repeatedly to either “restore God's perfect kingdom” or “complete man's salvation by being the second coming of Christ” [the wording varies in differing accounts.
- 1944 - associate with extreme Pentecostal group, marries
- 1945 - Vision of victory over spirit world. Satan surrenders to him. Moon becomes God's true son. Changes name to “Shining Sun and Moon.”
- 1946 - studies under Paik Moon Kim, a Korean messiah figure, and during six months in a monastery he develops his beliefs.
- 1950 - after 4 year imprisonment for his anti-communist affiliation, begins teaching.
- 1954 - Founder the Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity, his church is named the Unification Church.
- 1955 - arrested on a charge of “causing social disorder.” Wife divorces him. Note: Likely the practice of blood purification [pikarume] was the issue: “Moon purportedly performed intercourse with each female initiate to purify her of the pollution she had inherited from Eve.” The UC denies this yet it fits with their theology.
- 1957 - publishes the *Divine Principle*, dictated by God.
- 1960 - marries Hak Ja Han, who was less than half his age. He bills this as the “Marriage of the Lamb “ [Rev. 19] and the new couple as “the Father and Mother of the Universe,” the “True Parents” who reverse the sin of Adam and Eve.
“*Since Adam fell by being dominated by Eve, he (Moon) had to reverse the precedent by achieving complete domination over his wife... after three years, he says, she would sacrifice her life if he so ordered.*” (Cited in Tucker, AG, p. 250.)
- 1965 - Moon has a seance with medium Arthur Ford. Ford's spirit guide identifies Moon as the Christ, the coming world teacher of the New Age.
- 1967 - Moon weds 777 couples in a ceremony near Seoul.
- 1972 - Begins American crusades and moves to US. Shifts tactics from a theological focused message to an individual focus with exaggerated friendliness and weekend retreats designed to “brainwash” their participants. De-programming becomes an issue of national focus.

- 1973 - Headquarters established in Tarrytown, NY an additional estate was purchased for \$620,000 for Moon's residence. Nixon poses for pictures with Moon prior to Watergate resignation. Moon takes out full page ads supporting the President.
- 1975 - Moon weds 5,837 couples in a ceremony near Seoul. Moon begins a "world peace blitz."
- 1981 - the Year of the Kingdom of Heaven with Moon as "Lord of the Second Advent." [The date originally had been 1960-67, then 1968-74, then 1975-81; now it has been shifted to 2001.]
- 1982 - Two more mass weddings in Madison Square Gardens. Couples are arranged with little or no prior relationship.
- 1982 - Moon and associate convicted of tax evasion for failure to pay tax on \$1,700,000 of interest income. The Supreme Court rejects the case in 1984 and Moon serves 13 months in jail and a \$25,000 fine. Lawrence Tribe was Moon's attorney, Bob Dole initiated the investigation.
- 1988 - Moon weds 6,516 couples from 83 countries in ceremony near Seoul. Moon's son, killed in auto accident in 1984, is claimed to have come back to life in the body of one of Moon's disciples from Zimbabwe. This is explained as channeling not reincarnation.
- 1995 - Nansook Moon, wife of Moon's son Hyo Jin, leaves with her five children and reports her husband's abuse, drug use and financial extravagance with church funds. Court battles expose the seamy side of the "perfect family." Several key leaders left the movement in the light of the revelations. [Hyo Jin in 1992 had learned the truth about the early purification rituals of his father from a family member.]
- 1996 - holds "Inaugural World Convention" to restore family values and achieve world peace. Large honoraria attract celebrities like Bill Cosby & Gerald Ford.
 Note: Many of these events are organized by Moon front organizations. Organizations which the UC states are "financially independent yet fully or partially funded, inspired or staffed by UC members." Platform guests have included Robert Schuller, Maureen Reagan, Jack Kemp, Coretta Scott King, Marilyn Quayle, Ralph Reed, Barabara Walters and Pat Boone.

Moon Organizations& Publications:

Washington Times, New Yorker Hotel, American Freedom Coalition, American Constitution Committee, Insight Magazine, Professors World Peace Academy of the University of Bridgeport (CT), Unification News, New World Communications.

Moon's net worth is over \$15,000,000.

Unification Church's Theology: "The Moon is not the Son"

- Bible - is a textbook teaching the truth, it is not truth. It sheds light on the truth until a brighter light appears, *Divine Principle*.
- God- Moon teaches that God has both masculine and feminine qualities (this polarity was previously taught by Mother Ann Lee of the Shakers and Mary Baker Eddy).
- Jesus - Jesus is the image of God, but not God himself. Jesus, according to UC theology, was the son of Mary and Zacharias, the aged priest (Lk. 1:39). Jesus was sent to establish a perfect kingdom by marrying a perfect woman and having perfect children. Due to a mistake, the betrayal of John the Baptist, he was crucified enabling him to only provide partial salvation. The Lord of the Second Advent will remove the effects of original sin and restore the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth.
- H.S. - God's redemptive activity, not a separate entity.

Fall - Two falls: [1] spiritual (vertical) fall due to Eve's sexual adultery with Lucifer; and [2] physical (horizontal) in her deception of Adam. Eve bore Cain by Lucifer and Abel by Adam. Thus the origin of the opposing camps of communism and democracy.

Future - After the "Marriage of the Lamb" the "True Parents" began establishing a perfect family through mass marriages. Thus a perfect society will be formed throughout the entire world. Note: The Korean people are said to be the "third Israel."

Note: Moon's "misinterpretations of the scriptures persuades outsiders that his Eastern religion is complementary with and, indeed, is the fulfillment of biblical Christianity." [Martin, *KC*, p. 338]

Other Eastern (Hindu) religious groups have been "westernized" to enhance reception in the United States:

III Other Eastern Transplants

Hare Krishna or ISKCON (International Society for Krishna Consciousness)

A sect of Vishnu Hinduism planted in New York City by Swami Prabhupada of Calcutta, India. Krishna is revered as the supreme personality of the Godhead. Public solicitations, pastel robes, shaved heads and spiritual chanting make them higher profile than their numbers. The *Bhagavad-Gita* is their scripture. Their magazine, *Back to the Godhead*, is distributed by followers. Jesus, according to ISKCON, is considered a son of Krishna but not in a unique sense. Salvation for devotees comes through the removal of karmic debt through personal sacrifice and chanting. The Beatles' George Harrison put Krishna theology to music in his hit song, "My Sweet Lord."

Transcendental Meditation

Initially the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi sought to introduce spiritual yoga to the west. Through yoga disciplines one is absorbed into the oneness of God (aka "Creative Intelligence"). TM's pantheism has little need for Jesus or a God distinct from His creation. Receptivity to TM greatly increased after 1970 when the practice was re-marketed as a non-religious means of exercise and relaxation yielding inner peace and centeredness.

Osho (Rajneeshism)

The preeminent eastern guru of the 1980s, Bhagwan Shree (Sir God) Rajneesh was born in India and established an ashram in Poona, near Bombay. He gained the attention of *Time* magazine in 1978. Over 50,000 Americans travelled to India to be discipled at his Ashram. His style of tantra yoga was noted for nudity, free love and primal screaming. In 1981 the Bhagwan was issued a visa and moved to the US. His goal is to set up sacred cities in various countries. That year a commune, Rajneeshpuram, was established on the "Big Muddy Ranch" near Antelope, Oregon. Controversy including charges of arson, attempted murder, drug smuggling and vote fraud preceded his deportation in 1985. Returning to Poona his ashram grew to 15,000 while his fleet Rolls Royces grew to 70. He adopted the Buddhist name Osho prior to his death (perhaps of Aids) in 1990. Followers have established Osho Centers, nicknamed by the L.A. Times as "Club Meditation," around the world. The conference center in Oregon is currently owned by Young Life, an evangelical organization.

The Baha'i Faith

A syncretistic religion originating in Iran in the nineteenth century. Mizra Ali Muhammed proclaimed himself the "Bab" (i.e. Gate) leading into a new era for mankind. He emphasized the common origins of the world's great religions. He was martyred in 1850 at age 31. His prophecy described a "Promised One" who would come to unite all religions. The prophesy they believe was fulfilled by Mizra Husayn' Ali, better known as Baha'u'llah. Despite claims of immortality, Baha'u'llah died at age 75. His son, Abdu'l-Baha, came to the US in 1912. At his death in 1921 he was succeeded by his grandson, Shoghi Effendi. Today there are over 5,000 communities in 200 countries. The headquarters of the Baha'i World Faith Center is located in Haifa, Israel near Mount Carmel. Noteworthy adherents include: Leo Tolstoy, Woodrow Wilson's daughter, and musicians Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young. The number nine is sacred to Baha'i since it represents the world's nine great religions brought together by Baha'u'llah. They employ no ministers, only teachers who hold discussions in Baha'i Centers.

The Theosophical Society

Russian born mystic, Helena Petrovna Blavatsky, was a student of comparative religion and a world traveler. She brought her synthesis of Hindu, Egyptian, and the ancient pagan mystery religions with her to America in 1875. Her two books, *The Secret Doctrine* and *Isis Unveiled* became the foundation of the beliefs of the Theosophical Society established by her in 1875. Her successor, an English devotee named Annie Besant, in 1925 claimed that her adopted son, Krishnamurti, was the coming "World Teacher" that Blavatsky predicted would come to usher in the New Age. Unfortunately for the Society, Krishnamurti, after six years of lectures, renounced his messiahship. Blavatsky's beliefs, heavily laced with occult overtones, were later popularized by Alice Bailey. Bailey's numerous books, acknowledged by her as dictated through an ascended master, are widely circulated today among New Age adherents. Blavatsky's Theosophical Society never was large, yet her beliefs are seminal for the New Age Movement.

Conclusion: ***The Motivation of False Teachers (II Peter 2)***

Power

Deny the sovereign Lord [1]
Despise authority [10]
Bold and arrogant [10]
Slander angels [10]
Blaspheme where ignorant [12]

Greed

Their greed exploits with made-up stories [3]
Experts in greed [14]
Follow Balaam ... wages of wickedness [15]

Lust

Their shameful ways [3]
Follow corrupt desire of sinful nature [10]
Carouse in daylight and during feasts [13]

Eyes full of adultery and seduce unstable [14]
Appeal to lustful desire of human nature [18]
Slaves of depravity [19]