

Greetings!

If you haven't seen today's moving, historic and heavenly Cheon Il Guk Blessing ceremony, I invite you to do so!



Cheon Il Guk Book of Life Registration Blessing Ceremony,  
Unification Sanctuary, Feb. 28, 2018

### **Open Letter from Pastor Hyung Jin Moon**

Contrary to what you have probably read, the Sanctuary Church in Newfoundland is not "blessing guns." On February 28, several hundred couples will gather to (re)dedicate their marriages to each other and most importantly to God.

We do not worship the "rod of iron." We worship God who created us in His image and desires to have a personal relationship with each one of us. We seek His blessing on our marriages because we believe that He dwells most deeply in the love between husband and wife and between parents and children. Such blessed marriages are the building blocks of strong communities and the Kingdom of Heaven on earth.

The Bible speaks repeatedly of Christ's followers as co-heirs of His Kingdom, as Kings and Queens, who must not lose their crowns (Rev. 3:11). God gave us the gift of freedom, responsibility and a sound mind. We are not slaves. Only God gets to define what His kingdom is and how it will be ruled. It will not be a "welfare state." Each of us will be asked to exercise the same freedom and responsibility that God gave to the first human ancestors.

In the Book of Revelation, Christ speaks repeatedly of "ruling with a rod of iron" (Rev. 2:27), but the true meaning of the Greek word, "poimano" means to "shepherd" or "protect." The scripture tells us that God will shepherd His children with the rod of iron, guarding the flock not as a dictator, but as a loving father. In the same way, each of us is called to use the power of the "rod of iron" not to harm or oppress as has been done in the satanic kingdoms of this world, but to protect God's children.

We saw in the horrific shooting that took place in Parkland, Florida, the repeated failure of government institutions to protect the lives of 17 students, teachers and staff members. The local authorities were contacted 39 times about the out-of-control and violent behavior of the shooter, but did nothing. Two citizens contacted the FBI with specific information about his threats to do a "school shooting," but the FBI also did nothing.

[98% of mass shootings in the last 60 years have taken place in "Gun Free Zones."](#) The idea that passing such laws will protect our sons and daughters is a dangerous and delusional fantasy.

You and I are responsible to protect our families, communities and, ultimately, our nation. The "rod of iron" allows not only strong men, but also women and the elderly to have the ability to protect themselves and others from such predators. If the football coach who rushed into the building to defend students from the shooter with his own body had been allowed to carry a firearm, many lives, including his own, could have been saved.

True faith in God is not a fairy tale world of delusion. It involves men and women, you and I taking responsibility to love our families by protecting them at the risk of our own lives. That is what my father, Rev. Sun Myung Moon, taught me before he passed on, and what I teach and practice with my own children and Sanctuary church community.

My father, who was born in what is now North Korea, understood what happens when people are defenseless. When the Communists took over, he was imprisoned and sent to the Hungnam prison where people were worked to death. He only survived because of the military force led by General Douglas MacArthur that liberated him and the other prisoners. Many members of his own family and countless others died.

Christians and people of other faiths are being persecuted and even killed because of their beliefs in many countries around the world. God does not want us to be helpless victims. The right to self-defense with a firearm is not only an American right; it is a human right.

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## **Nothing Illegal, Nothing Immoral**

by Jim Stephens

Many media outlets are suddenly calling attention to our Pastor Hyung Jin Moon and our church, Sanctuary Church of Newfoundland, PA, because of our upcoming Blessing Ceremony on Feb. 28th.

Their sensationalist coverage blows the reality way out of proportion.

We are not doing anything illegal. We are doing anything immoral either. All the local law enforcement are invited and many will be on the scene. All safety checks and precautions are being taken.

We are not in any way blessing guns in case you read that. The "Blessing Ceremony" is a blessing upon the marriages of couples both new and old (renewing vows).

We are merely exercising our Rights of Free Speech, Freedom of Religion, Freedom of Association, and the Right to Bear Arms. We believe these rights are given by God. We celebrate them.

In fact, I think Pastor Moon is one of the world's foremost champions of human rights. In particular, he is a champion of the Right of Self-Defense. Very few religious leaders are standing up as strongly and forthrightly as he is to protect the average person's God-given right to life itself.

In the vast majority of countries in the world, their citizens do not have the right to own a gun, even for self-protection. Governments themselves are some of



Jim & Hiromi Stephens

the biggest mass murderers of ordinary people.

Pastor Moon is taking a bold stand and proclaiming that every person in the world should have the right to gun-ownership and self-protection. It is a basic human right.

**[Rest of Jim Stephens' essay,](#)  
**["Nothing Illegal, Nothing Immoral"](#)****

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**The Staff and the Rod of Iron in Divine Principle**

**By Regis Hanna, D. Min.**



Whenever a new facet of the Providence presents itself, it is helpful to see it through the lens of Holy Scripture and the Principle. Recent confusion and questions over Hyung Jin Nim's suggestion that members acquire a "rod of iron," a semi-automatic rifle for their self-protection, protection of their family and neighbors has been hard for many of us to integrate into our conceptual framework of what life in the Kingdom of Heaven should be like. In this context we offer the following thoughts and considerations, drawing largely from both the New Testament and Divine Principle.

**(Rest of Regis Hanna's**  
**["The Staff and the Rod of Iron in the Divine Principle"](#))**

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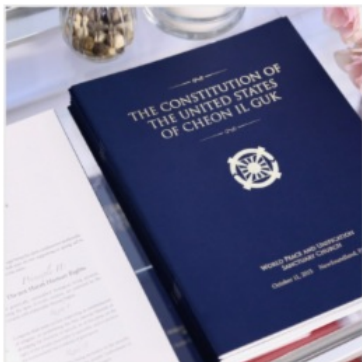
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Cheon Il Guk  
Constitution



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Jan 5, 2017 17:56

[Next Divine Principle Seminar!](#)  
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*May God bless you and your families!*

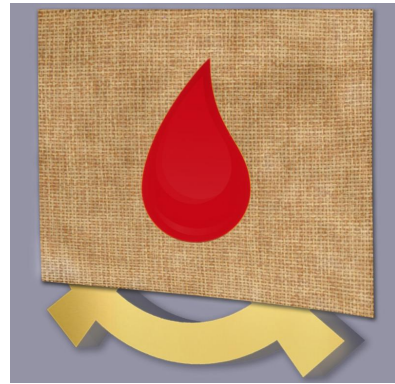
Sincerely,

*Richard*

Richard A. Panzer, Ph.D., President

World Peace and Unification Sanctuary - USA

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**[Highlights from the King's Reports](#)**

[ChristKingdomGospel.org](http://ChristKingdomGospel.org)

[KingdomReports.TV](#), [Sanctuary on Vimeo](#)

[Unification Sanctuary website](#), [Sanctuary on Youtube](#),

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[Korean Sermons on Youtube](#), [Sanctuary Church - Japan](#)

"Sanctuary Church" is short-hand for "World Peace and Unification Sanctuary" which is from calligraphy on a scroll presented to Hyung Jin Moon by his father, Rev. Sun Myung Moon. The purpose of the "World Peace and Unification Sanctuary, Inc." is to "preserve and propagate the teachings of Reverend Sun Myung Moon."

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