Korean Reverend Sun-myung Moon passes away at age 92 and leaves behind a gigantic religious and business empire

By Donald Kirk in the Christian Science Monitor

*The Rev. Moon Sun-myung, famed globally for his cult following of “Moonies” dedicated to worshiping him as a savior of mankind, came to be known for presiding with his wife over mass weddings of couples whom he had united on the basis of photographs and brief life stories.*

Donald, people who value their own lives so little that they will allow a religious con artist to choose their spouses for them, are people who have never grown up to accept responsibility. They truly represent the religious mind: childlike and ignorant.

*He also built up a global commercial empire, founding the Washington Times 30 years ago along with newspapers in Seoul and Tokyo and numerous other enterprises in fields ranging from publishing to tourism to fishing.*

Well Donald, like all religious Pied Pipers, he has to do something with all that money that the morons give him.

*A political rightist and a religious zealot who claimed to have been ordained by God to minister to the world, Moon defied simplistic analysis and type-casting.*

Donald, I don't think he was beyond simplistic analysis and typecasting. Here, try this one: just another in a long line of frauds who trick people out of their hard-earned money with promises and lies.

See? That wasn't so hard.

*Despite his conservatism, he passionately espoused relations with North Korea. Obsessed with his self-image, he attracted followers with calls for tolerance embracing all people.*

*Moon leaves behind a struggling and divided religious and business empire with tentacles spreading from Korea to Japan, the United States, South American, and Europe. The question now is whether the empire can overcome divisions among sons and daughters and regain the strength of its glory days in the 1960s and 1970s as a religious and commercial force.*

*Moon’s wife, Hak Ja-han, whom he married ten years after fleeing captivity in North Korea in the Korean War and walking 300 miles to the South Korean port of Pusan, was at his side along with many of their sons, daughters, and grandchildren when he passed away at the age of 92.*

*Moon liked to say that he and his wife, who often led cheering congregations in song, were the “true parents” of the world’s people. The Moons had seven sons and seven daughters.*

Donald, religious fanatics are like nests of roaches, they don't know when to stop reproducing.

*Moon also had another son by his first wife, whom he divorced shortly before marrying Hak Ja-han, and other children in extra-marital relationships.*

Well Donald, I guess he wasn't so different from all the other religious leaders after all.

As a Christian, Moon divorced, thereby thumbing his nose at God's family values. Then, to mock God even more, he created thousands of artificial families proving that to him, family values meant nothing; to Moon a family was something you could paste together in a few minutes from an old picture and scribbled note.

*Justin Moon and youngest brother Sean Moon, both in the US, have vowed as leaders of their father’s spiritual and commercial interests in Korea to perpetuate his controversial legacy.*

Donald, what a surprise. The scion want to keep the money rolling in ... imagine that.

*Justin runs the Tongil Foundation, the group’s central business organization in Seoul, while Sean is international leader of the church, which claims several million members. Justin’s foundation, however, has long been at odds with US-based business interests run by brother Preston Moon.*

*Their older sister, Tatiana, commands her own organization in the US as president of the Unification Church USA.*

*Born to a Christian farming family in North Korea, and educated for two years in World War II at Waseda, a prestigious university in Tokyo, Moon returned to North Korea after the war to spread his religious message. Imprisoned by the North’s communist regime in 1948 for his teachings, he escaped two years later after the outbreak of the Korean War when US planes bombed the prison, killing many, but breaking down the walls.*

*Robin Marsh, secretary-general in London of the Universal Peace Federation, one of the groupings through which Moon spread his teachings, said “Moon is telling us to challenge us to reach levels that we had not imagined possible in order to find God in our personal life and accomplish great dreams for God and humanity. He invested so many hours and resources in raising, educating and training us, for which I am very grateful.”*

*After founding the Unification Church in Seoul soon after the Korean War ended in 1953, Moon opened congregations in South Korea, spread his teachings to Japan and finally, in 1972, left for the US. There he lectured widely – and even got to see President Richard M. Nixon after calling for Americans to “forgive, love and unite” during the Watergate scandal.*

*Moon built a global following even though, as he often boasted, he was imprisoned half a dozen times – first in North Korea, then South Korea, and finally in the US. Indicted in 1981 for tax evasion, he spent 13 months in the federal penitentiary in Danbury, Connecticut.*

Donald, tax evasion? This guy could be a poster child for every huckster with a Bible who has ever lived.

*Among the greatest contradictions of Moon’s career was his passion for reconciliation with North Korea even while he appeared anti-communist in the cold war and a loyal fan of Park Chung-hee, the general who seized power in South Korea in 1961 and ruled until his assassination by his intelligence chief in 1979.*

Donald, when people hold contradictory positions, they are 1) usually clergy, and 2) always crooks.

*He professed “a special relationship” with North Korea while his organization founded a motor vehicle plant for assembling vehicles from Fiat parts and designs in the port city of Nampo. The company, named Pyeongwha, for Peace, Motors, makes sedans for privileged North Koreans.*

*Moon’s vision extended from commerce to the media. He founded the Washington Times with the aid of a retired South Korean army officer and diplomat, Pak Bo-hi, as well as daily newspapers in Seoul and Tokyo and magazines in the US, Japan, Korea, and elsewhere. One of his organizations in 2000 bought the remnants of United Press International, a once great news agency that had fallen on hard times.*

*Among other interests, Moon companies have manufactured small components of military weapons in South Korea.*

More contradictions, eh Donald? Funny how men of God are always first in line to hand out the bombs and guns. Yet no matter how many of these clowns come through the system, the system never changes. Their schemes are tried and true, and rarely fail.

*Moon and his wife probably garnered their most publicity, however, through mass weddings over which they presided as “True Parents of Mankind.” The two saw themselves as empowered by God to join couples in holy matrimony through which their followers would be released from original sin.*

Donald, that original sin idea was one of, if not thee, greatest schemes of all time: convince partially evolved apes that they were born wicked and then offer them a cure.

If you ever needed an argument against evolution ... I just gave you a great one.

*Moon officiated as “the King of all Kings” while his wife blessed the women in white gowns, the men in dark suits and mostly red neckties.*

Donald, "King of all Kings?" The Dalai Lama this guy's not.

*For many, Moon leaves behind a sense of puzzlement mingled with humor about the controversies he inspired and his uncanny way of weathering storms of criticism.*

Donald, I thought your best story was the way Moon weathered the IRS storm ... in prison.

*Tom Coyner, a business consultant in Seoul, said “I would say he got away with it over and over and over and yet over again. The world will simply be a bit less colorful place with the passing of the Korean Messiah.”*

Donald, you could say the same thing about Saddam Hussein.