

Rev. Moon's Cosmic

By William Moore

He says he is, among other things, a modern John the Baptist—directed by God to tell the world that the Messiah is on His way.

To some of his followers, he is known as "Master," "Lord of the Second Advent," "The Second Coming of Christ," even the "New Adam" here to restore the Garden of Eden and give spiritual birth to a holy family man.

He is the Rev. Sun Myung Moon, a 54-year-old Korean evangelist whose benign, smiling countenance seems ubiquitous these days in the Bay Area: emblazoned in full-page newspaper ads, in posters, in leaflets being handed out by scores of dedicated followers.

He is the founder of the 20-year-old Unification Church, a burgeoning fundamentalist Christian movement which, according to its organizers, numbers 2 million members worldwide, 10,000 of them in the United States.

The Rev. Mr. Moon arrived here this week on the last leg of a four-month, 21-city "Day of Hope" lecture tour of America.

He is staying at a plush Pacific Heights mansion, one of the church's facilities centers in the city.

There was an air of solemnity about the place his first night there. Earnest young people scurried about speaking in hushed voices—the men wearing neatly pressed suits and short-cropped hair, the women immaculately coiffed and conservatively attired. Many of them sported buttons that announced, "New Hope Is Coming."

Standing near the front door, like some sort of Praetorian Guard, were a group of young men who were among the 15 aides who have been traveling around



An ad for one of the Rev. Mr. Moon's lectures

the country with the Rev. Mr. Moon.

"We don't call them body guards," explained one of the dedicated. "We just say they're people concerned about his safety, and they're with him at ALL times."

Neil Salonen, the stocky, 28-year-old dynamo who is president of the church "for the U.S.," was positively gregarious as he sat in the living room.

He was sorry, he announced politely, but the Rev. Mr. Moon was not going to grant any interviews with the press during his visit.

"He did make himself available to Time and Newsweek at the beginning of the tour," explained Salonen, a business administra-

tion graduate from Cornell.

"While the Rev. Moon is in town now," Salonen continued, "he wants to maintain his composure without bringing himself down to the level of answering mundane questions, no matter how important."

"He is speaking cosmic truths. He is keeping his relationship with God uppermost in his mind."

Besides, Salonen said, the Rev. Mr. Moon would be delivering his message in his lectures on "Christianity in Crisis." The first one was given last night at the Scottish Rite Auditorium. Two more are scheduled there for 8 o'clock tonight and tomorrow night.

"His tour is in direct obedience to God's directive to

him to work here in America to prepare Christians for the time of the Second Coming," Salonen said matter of factly.

Did Salonen think the Rev. Mr. Moon was a Messiah?

"If he can fill the role of John the Baptist," he answered, "then it might be possible to fulfill higher levels. The Rev. Moon always responds to questions about the Messiah by saying, 'God will show you who is fulfilling that role.'"

Salonen, however, made it clear what the Rev. Mr. Moon considers to be "the anti-Christ"—Communism.

In fact, he said, the reverend has felt that way since he was 16 years old, when he was first "called" to "fulfill God's providence."

And since the Rev. Mr. Moon "knows that God's hope for the world relies on America," Salonen said, the reverend has been urging this nation "to come together in an atmosphere of forgiveness over Watergate, with new respect for the President."

As one of the most vociferous defenders of Mr. Nixon, the reverend even took out full-page ads in newspapers across the country on November 30 to proclaim:

"The office of the President of the U.S. is . . . sacred . . . God has chosen Richard Nixon to be President . . . therefore, God has the power and authority to dismiss him."

"Our duty, and this alone, is that we deeply seek God's guidance in this matter and support the office itself. If God decides to dismiss this choice of His, let us have faith that He will speak."

About 1500 of the reverend's followers staged a "We Love Nixon" rally at the official lighting of the national Christmas tree in Washington on December 14.

Truths

PHOTO BY AP/WIDEWORLD



HAK JA, THE EVANGELIST'S WIFE
Her husband says he is a modern John the Baptist

The rally drew a strong rebuke from the National Park Service, which criticized turning a non-partisan event into a political function.

And on January 9 the reverend sponsored a National Day of Prayer in support of Mr. Nixon. Salonen insisted that the Rev. Mr. Moon and his adherents have "absolutely no relationship" with anyone in the White House.

No, Salonen said, the White House was not orchestrating or financing any of these support activities.

Salonen conceded that the Unification Church has been a big business success, with

salubrious investments—reportedly earning millions of dollars—in which enterprises as titanium production. "A lot of our members donate a good part of their income to the church," Salonen said.

The members, in fact, dedicate much of their existence to the church, he said. They live in about 120 communal-type centers around the country. Two of the centers are in San Francisco, two in Oakland, one in Berkeley. Each houses about a dozen persons.

The members often work during the day in regular jobs outside the church, then follow a rigorous schedule of

studying the teachings of the Rev. Mr. Moon in his 300-page book called "Divine Principle."

The Rev. Mr. Moon himself has to approve any marriages of members. He also says the vows for all of them.

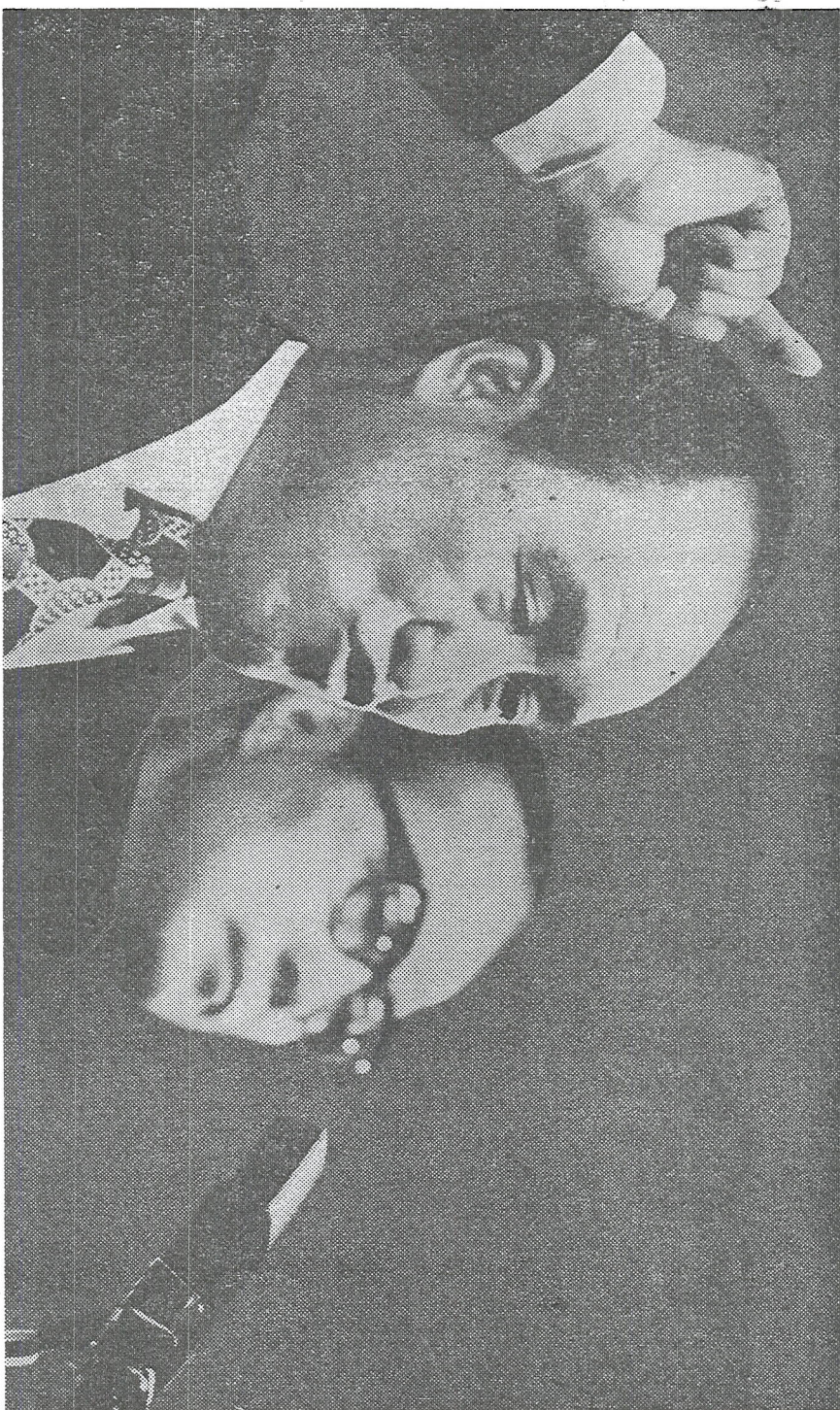
Only married members will enter the Kingdom of God, according to the Rev. Mr. Moon's rules. "And there must be celibacy in the first 40 days of marriage," Salonen said.

Salonen excused himself. He had to repair upstairs to escort the reverend to a banquet at the Fairmont Hotel. Outside a line of glistening automobiles, their motors running, waited to make that trip.

A half hour later, the Rev. Mr. Moon made his first public appearance of the tour here, in the Fairmont's cavernous Grand Ballroom.

About 400 persons—many of them Bay Area religious and civic figures invited by the church—stood up and politely applauded the reverend as he strode stiffly, almost shyly, to the head table.

**'I love each
one of you
dearly . . .
God loves
you and
I love God'**



The Rev. Mr. Moon lectured at Scottish Rite Auditorium last night; his translator, Bo Hi Pak, passed the words on

By Jerry Telfer