

6. True Happiness

Happiness Lies in a Life in Contentment

“Happy are those who know they are spiritually poor; the kingdom of heaven belongs to them (Matthew 5: 3)!”

All people want to live happily. However, in reality there are few who can give a confident answer when they are asked about what true love is and how they can be happy. Many people live an unhappy life despite their hard work and sweat because of the absurd situation; they want to be happy but they do not know the way to be happy. Through the experience of living with the poor as true neighbors, Kkottongnae has become aware of what true happiness is and how we might attain it. We also have taught, and helped people learn and experience what we have been aware of. Fr. Oh Woong-Jin, the founder of Kkottongnae, gives us a definition of ‘happiness’ and suggests a way how to be happy in the areas of individual happiness, family happiness, national happiness, and human happiness as follows.

Happy Individual

Happiness lies in contentment.

Contentment is a state of one’s desires being fulfilled.

A human being is born with many desires, which can be classified into three kinds. They are desires to possess, dominate, and love. Regardless of age and sex, people are born with these three kinds of desires. However, since the desires to possess and dominate are so huge that they will not be fulfilled until people own and dominate all heaven and earth. The desire to love is a desire even to suffer the agony on behalf of one’s beloved. Parents have a far stronger desire to love. When they see their children confronting death, they eagerly want their children to be alive at the risk of their death even a dozen times.

It is a reasonable and logical thought that we can give enough love when we have enough to own and dominate. That is why people have labored, sweated, fought, and died to possess and dominate from the beginning of the world. But there are few people who have satisfied their desires through these works of laboring, sweating, fighting, and dying. Someone might wonder how we can love without possessing and dominating. Unfortunately, no one wants to be possessed or dominated while they want to own and con-



From the 15th to the 19th of August, the 5th Convention of PANASCO was held in the Training Institute of Love, Kkotongnae. PANASCO is comprised of members of Vincencio from 29 countries and an International Convention is organized and held once every four years.

trol. So people who used to possess and dominate become to be possessed and controlled as they get older and sick and therefore they fall in an inevitably miserable condition in that they can not give any more favors to others.

People possess and dominate as much as they give. If they give all, they own and dominate all. The Kkottongnae family members, who once only used to ask to get owing to the deficiency of love, come to give love to each other since they have been given Christian love which is a love to risk pain or even death for the sake of a neighbor. This is how the Kkottongnae became a beautiful neighborhood where no one lives without working for others even though they are not forced to work. We become a happy person when we love by giving all the things we own until we feel shortage, because all our desires are fulfilled by doing this. Both the giver and the given become happy in contentment.

A Happy Home

We all want a sweet home.

A family is usually composed of three generations of parents, husband and wife, and children. Before we get married, we live only for ourselves. Once we get married, we have to play three roles of being a child to our devoted parents, a spouse to love husband or wife, and a parent to take care of children. How can we make a happy home where we can play our roles perfectly?

Jesus said "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me will live, even though

they die; and those who live and believe in me will never die (John 11: 25)." But we know that it is not easy to give filial piety to parents and love to a spouse and children in reality.

Love is naturally given to youngsters. God gave us a gift of maternal and paternal love for love toward youngsters. Parental love, spouse's love, and love toward children are all valuable. But by practicing one of these three, we can end up with practicing all kinds of love successfully: that is achieved in children-centered families but not parent-centered, or husband and wife-centered families. It is said from the biological perspective that only 30% of the genes from parents are passed to children, but 85% from grandparents is passed to grandchildren. In this aspect, it is natural that grandchildren get along well with grandparents.

By living lives devoted to their children and receiving the prosperity of descendants, the parents will get the blessings of being respected by their descendants and completing the love with their spouses. And it also brings glory to the spirits of their ancestors.

Therefore, a children-centered family is the way to practice a filial piety to parents and love for spouses. In this way we can attain three things through practicing just one thing, and make a holy family by sincerely loving each other.

Happy Nation

A nation is composed of people, territory, and sovereignty.

How can we preserve our territory in a beautiful way in order to make people healthy



The Holy Family Mass is held in Kkottongnae at 2 o' clock afternoon third Sunday every month.



in mind and body, and exert sovereign power? **There is a secret way to achieve the three of them all by doing only one thing. Will that be people, territory, or sovereignty?**

When chief executives of regional government bodies were gathering and having a seminar about 'a happy nation' and they were asked which one of these three are most important. But only few of them got the correct answer to this question.

This is what happened when Israel and Arab were fighting a 6-day-battle. When the news on this war was broadcasted to the whole world, almost all the Israeli students studying abroad packed up and returned to their home country to join the war. At the beginning of the war the Israeli Secretary of Defense asserted that they would win the war since they owned weapons kept secretly. During the air fight an Israeli fighter was hit by an enemy missile and crashed. The pilot of the flight, who survived by using a parachute, was found to be a woman who was in the eight month of her pregnancy. The 6-day-battle ended in a victory for Israel. Reporters questioned the Secretary of Defense about the secrets of the victory, and he answered, "Our secret weapon is the patriotism. The victory was won because our Israeli people exerted their sovereign power properly." On the other hand, in Korea when there was a growing sense of crisis about a possible war in the country, the airport was crowded with run-away people and all the stores were out of inventory owing to stacking up on daily necessities.

We went through slave-like lives of 36 years under the Japanese domination until we achieved liberation on the 15th of August, 1945. However, the joy of liberation did not last long. We had to suffer from the fratricidal Korean War, which occurred in 1950. Still the wounds from the war are not healed, and we still are expecting the unification of North and South.

How can we achieve unification of our country?

The only way is to exert our sovereign power properly as an owner of this country. If a person does not participate in elections, but goes about criticizing politicians, educational systems, administrative policies, and companies, he/she is not exerting his/her sovereign power properly. This is the very time to love my country and people not to slander or blame each other: I have to unify my country and people, I have to enlighten them, and I have to accept the personal responsibility for this. **We will be able to achieve unification, enlarge our territory, and make a proud and happy country for the benefit of mankind and of the whole world if we exert our sovereign power properly, which is one of the three constituents of a nation: people, territory, and sovereignty.**

Happy Mankind

For mankind to be happy, everybody should be a happy person.

There are about 6 billion people on the globe, and we can classify their lives into 3 types. The first type of person is the **egoistic type** who lies, deceives, hits, and kills others only for their own benefit by any means. The

second type is the individualistic type who does not harm others but lives only for their own benefits. The third type is the altruistic type who lives for others at the cost of his or her labor, sacrifice, and even death. The people who live egoistically are bringing the things such as wars, famines, drugs, and AIDS into this world and destroying the environment, increasing disease, and harming mankind. How can we recover the devastated globe to its original appearance God made and preserve it beautifully? How can we save mankind from growing unhappiness and live together in harmony, peace, and happiness?

It was during the war that Fr. Oh, the founder of Kkottongnae, decided to devote himself to people who have no one, or no place to depend on and even no strength to beg for food. During the tragic Korean war he saw dying refugees thrown away on the roads and happened to see a little girl giving her dying father a shrimp caught in a brook but the father giving it back to the girl. Later Fr. Oh established Kkottongnae with the dream of a youngster. Now there are about 3 hundred religious, hundreds of volunteers, and numerous visitors, such as business men, soldiers, students, public workers, and etc. who are living altruistic lives to build a nation of love and unification in Kkottongnae.

The constituents of mankind are the globe, 6 billion people, and the love of humanity. Among them, the most important constituent is the love of humanity, the practice of altruistic life. Love is what everybody can do. But it is not what anybody can do. As God loves

humans as He allows both good and bad people; rain and sunlight equally. We need people who can wrap and heal the wounds from the tragedy of fratricidal war, who can enlighten the fellowmen, who work not only for themselves but also for others alike, and who are willing to suffer and die on behalf of their neighbors. It is not until the people belonging to an altruistic type flower the love of mankind that we can become happy mankind.

“Happiness lies in contentment.”





An aerial view of the 25th anniversary of the foundation of Kkottongnae