

Moonies director answers accusations

By Joan Herman
Of the Emerald

This is the first in a four-part series examining the Unification Church.

The Rev. Sun Myung Moon's Unification Church is back in Eugene 24 years after a woman disciple founded the controversial church's first American branch here.

And the church, says its Oregon Director Matthew Morrison, has come of age. "We're no longer the new kid on the block. We're here to stay, and people are beginning to see that," Morrison says.

After leaving Eugene in 1977 amid financial difficulties, the church's return signals a nationwide, three-year effort to spread its leader's spiritual message, he says.

"We embark on this three-year campaign because half the world is controlled by an atheistic Marxist state. Rev. Moon feels there is a major confrontation coming between Marxist communism and the Christian civilization, and this conflict can't be solved by guns," Morrison says.

The essential purpose of the church's move to Eugene is "not recruitment, but to awaken the young people of America to their responsibility in the world. We're not looking to amass large numbers of converts," he says, but to educate them about Christian theology.

"Rev. Moon feels this is an absolutely urgent time for America." The nation must change its downward trend toward "selfish individualism" that is contributing to the

"decline in Christian values and the breakdown of morality and the family," says the soft-spoken Morrison.

The Unification Church has opened its office at 348 W. 8th St. and will have a videomobile parked in the campus area to educate people about Moon's Christian teachings, he says. The church also has set up booths on the downtown mall and at East 13th Street near the University Bookstore.

The videomobiles, staffed by Unification followers, contain short films about the church's projects around the world, which include Christian missionary work and medical and nutritional aid to Third World nations, Morrison says.

Despite these relief programs, several people have questioned the church's self-proclaimed Christian status in addition to its techniques for recruiting followers, commonly dubbed "Moonies" after the church's founder.

The church's history is perhaps as interesting as the countless stories it has inspired.

On Easter morning in 1936, Moon claimed he received a revelation from Jesus Christ, who told him that he had been chosen to complete Christ's mission, which was cut short by his early death.

In 1954, Moon established the Unification Church in South Korea and three years later published the Divine Principles, a text that

Continued on Page 9



Photo by Brian Erb

Matthew Morrison, Oregon director of the Unification Church, says criticisms of Rev. Myung Sun Moon, the church's leader, are an example of religious persecution.

Touring Moonies explain their involvement

By Barbara Hicks
Of the Emerald

Michael Wildman and Nancy Makowski belong to one of 50 traveling teams that are touring the United States to spread the word about the Unification Church.

Wildman, who has been a Moonie for eight years, grew up in Oakland, Calif., where he attended the Congregational church until age 12. He graduated from the University of Massachusetts with an engineering degree in 1972.

Makowski is from Ecuador, where she was raised a Roman Catholic. She joined the Unification Church after she went to New York to study psychology and romance languages. She has been a Moonie for seven years, but still attends the Catholic church.

Emerald: Michael, why did you join the Unification Church?

Wildman: After I graduated from college, I rode a bicycle from Massachusetts to California in two and a half months. It was a part of my internal search for who I was. After that I volunteered for the Peace Corps. I ended up in Iran teaching students in electronics and translating instructional books.

In Iran, I didn't have much money. I realized the value of relations there, and began to put money in perspective. After the Peace Corps, I wanted to study physical therapy — to work with and help people in their lives.

I met the Unification Church in Berkeley, (Calif.) and they invited me to hear a lecture. I was inspired by the people freely relating to each other in a spiritual and elevating way. They held the key to what I was trying to understand.

Emerald: Did the Moonies make you give up any possessions to them?

Wildman: I didn't give up anything I didn't want to. I had to choose what was valuable. I had to choose between the dull life and the opportunity to relate to people. I became involved in different projects, like Project Volunteer (a Unification outreach program), which began as a food distributing service. We would contact local bakeries and other food places that had extra food and distribute it to people who needed it.

Emerald: Does the church limit you in the types of activities you can become involved in?

Wildman: The only limitation I feel is my own creativity. I spent the last six and a half years in New York as production manager for the New York Tribune, a newspaper owned by the Unification Church. I had no journalism background, but with my training in engineering and computers I helped start the newspaper.

Emerald: Do you find that people put the Moonies in the same category with other out-of-the-ordinary religions, such as the Rajneesh?

Wildman: At first they do, but when people get to know us they change. In New York, I went around neighborhoods and people came to know that our purpose was to manifest Christ's spirit. (Doing this is) not only good for the people you're serving, but good for you. It really develops a love for mankind.

Emerald: Nancy, you grew up Roman Catholic. Why did you join the Unification Church?

Makowski: I always knew God existed. I started ques-

tioning a lot when I was in college in New York. The teachings in the school were atheistic, especially psychology. I questioned my priest why, if God existed, there was so much suffering. My belief in God was very strong, but there were questions that nobody could answer.

I met the Unification Church after four years in America, in 1976. I heard Rev. Moon at Yankee Stadium and at the Unification Church where he spoke every Sunday. Rev. Moon explained scientifically and physically that God exists.

I had many communist friends who tried to convert me to communism. What made me commit myself (to the Unification Church) was when I heard Rev. Moon's ideology that proves communism wrong. It denies human rights and the existence of God. I tried to convey (to communist friends) that the world is based on harmony. (To the communists) harmony is based on violence, not on God.

Most Christian churches are not doing anything about communism. They become 'saved' and that's the way it is. We can overcome communism with truth.

Emerald: What is your mission as a team member?

Makowski: My mission is to teach — to share our ideals with the world. Rev. Moon feels an urgency to get the message (about communism) to America. Communism is at our door because of immorality and violence. Most young people hate America. To me that is shocking. Even though I'm not American, I love America. The Moonies want to resurrect the goodness that was the original intent of America — to build a country of love.



CONTACT LENSES

Jeffrey A. Morey, O.D.
David A. Wolf, O.D.

- SOFTCOLORS - tinted, soft lenses. (green, blue, brown, aqua)
- EXTENDED-WEAR (30-day) soft lenses
- Soft lenses for ASTIGMATISM
- Bifocal SOFT LENSES
- GAS PERMEABLE rigid contacts (air-breathing)
- Daily-wear soft lenses all types, including BAUSCH & LOMB, HYDROCURVE, DURASOFT, CSI, HYDRON. Often same-day fit.
- Hard and gas-permeable lenses polished while you wait.

ASK or CALL about our trial fit soft lens program

HOURS:
Monday thru Saturday
9:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.

A Dazzling Array of
Fashion Frames & Lenses
Richard Greene, Optician

766 E. 13th ST.
One block from U of O
Free parking in rear.

343-3333

Liberal Arts Majors...

You're Needed All Over the World.

Ask Peace Corps volunteers why their ingenuity and flexibility are as vital as their degrees. They'll tell you they are helping the world's poorest peoples attain self sufficiency in the areas of food production, energy conservation, education, economic development and health services. And they'll tell you about the rewards of hands on experience overseas. They'll tell you it's the toughest job you'll ever love.

The Peace Corps recruiters are coming. Advanced sign-ups begining Oct. 5. Call 686-3235 for information.

PEACE CORPS

INTERNATIONAL CAREER?



A representative will be on the campus MONDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1983

to discuss qualifications for advanced study at AMERICAN GRADUATE SCHOOL and job opportunities in the field of

INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT

Interviews may be scheduled at PLACEMENT SERVICE 246 Susan Campbell Hall

AMERICAN GRADUATE SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT Thunderbird Campus Glendale, Arizona 85306