

# BLESSED FAMILY ASSOCIATION

30 Seminary Drive, Barrytown, NY 12507

[www.blessedfamilies.org](http://www.blessedfamilies.org)

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## BFA Senior Advisors Committee

Dr. Chang Shik Yang  
Rev. Michael Jenkins  
Rev. Ki Hoon Kim  
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## BFA Advisors Committee

Edwin and Marie Ang  
Randy and Beverly Berndt  
Joshua and Young Ae Cotter  
Mitch and Diane Dixon  
Tyler and Hye Young Hendricks  
Tetsuaki and Toshiko Izukawa  
Farley and Betsy Jones  
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Tom McDevitt  
Richard and Miho Panzer  
Jim and Poppy Richie  
David and Sheri Rueter  
Neil and Rebecca Salonen  
Wesley and Gladys Samuel  
Phillip and Hyeshek Schanker  
Alan and Kristina Seher  
Hugh and Nora Spurgin  
Kevin and Masako Thompson  
Thomas and Alexa Ward

## BFA Organizing Committee

Betsy Bonini  
Bruce Bonini  
Greg Breland  
Ann Hoover  
Chad Hoover  
Geoffrey Hinckle  
Betsy Jones  
Matthew Jones  
Noah Ross  
Rob Sayre  
Sally Sayre  
Jim Stephens  
Lourdes Swarts

March 16, 2004

Dear Blessed Families,

We want to thank each of you for taking the time to respond to the BFA questionnaire and want to provide some feedback on the results and an update on the steps we are taking to develop the association.

About 250 of you responded to the questionnaire. Among those, most were supportive of this effort and more than 90 people have volunteered in various ways. Considering how busy we all are, this is very encouraging. At the center of the volunteerism must be the belief that the BFA can address needs that many of us share.

For example, from the questionnaire we now know that **“Blessing and Matching your children – guidance for parents,” “Church traditions”** and **“Maintaining a Calendar of Events”** were the three highest ranked priorities. The complete ranking of desired services is enclosed, so you can get a better sense of how all of the priorities shaped up relative to each other. Now we want to translate this list of needs into concrete actions.

Last month, we sponsored an afternoon meeting at Belvedere and invited the Organizing Committee and Sponsors to attend a preview of the preliminary findings from the questionnaire. As a follow up step we will have an all-day strategic planning session on April 17<sup>th</sup> at Belvedere. Those of you who volunteered to help the BFA will be receiving phone calls or invitations to that session. The meeting will have a general orientation followed by break-out sessions which will focus on the different service areas. We will then conclude the day as a large group with reports of proposed action steps in each area.

Although many services should develop after the strategic planning session, we have already begun to provide marriage enrichment training as well as phone and walk-in counseling services through our office in Barrytown.

You may also want to visit or revisit our website, which contains additional detail from the survey results: [www.blessedfamilies.org](http://www.blessedfamilies.org). We expect to see significant improvements to the site after the April meeting, since 4 of the top 10 service priorities involve information services which probably will be web-based.

With respect to the question of the name of the Association, nearly 85% of the respondents favored "Blessed Family Association" and there was no convergence among suggested alternatives. We will move forward using the original name.

We thank those of you again who have volunteered your time and/or financial support. Pledges from respondents when fulfilled should provide an operating budget of \$20,000 - \$30,000 per year. Although our account is separate from HSA headquarters, we are operating under HSA-UWC's 501C3 not-for-profit status. In this way your donations to the BFA are tax deductible. Checks may be made payable to the "Blessed Family Association" and sent to the BFA, 30 Seminary Drive, Barrytown, NY 12507.

Finally, we hope that one of the outcomes from the planning session will be either a single, national summer retreat or a series of smaller, more local ones in which Blessed Families will have the opportunity to learn new skills both to strengthen their families and to provide more effective outreach. We'll also want to use that time to help organize the BFA structure and to have some fun together. We look forward to working together to make the BFA meet your needs and to give glory to God and True Parents, as we fulfill our roles as Blessed Central Families.

Sincerely,  
In True Parents Love,

*Betsy D. Jones*      *Noah Ross*      *Chad Hoover*

*for the* Organizing Committee of the Blessed Family Association

P.S. If you have not yet volunteered, and would like to attend the Strategic Planning Session on April 17<sup>th</sup>, please contact us at [info@blessedfamilies.org](mailto:info@blessedfamilies.org) or leave a message at the BFA office (845) 758-9698 and we'll provide you with more details as they become available.

Enclosures (2):    List of Service Priorities Organized by Service Area  
                          List of Service Priorities by Overall Ranking

# LIST of SERVICE PRIORITIES for the BLESSED FAMILY ASSOCIATION

## Organized by Service Area

Based on November 2003 questionnaire responses

H = High, M = Medium, L = Low, ? = Don't Know, NR = No Response

<b>Section 1 - Family formation &amp; growth</b>						
	<b>Score *</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>?</b>	<b>NR</b>
<b>Blessing or Matching your children - guidance for parents</b>	<b>486</b>	150	36	22	4	19
<b>Improving relationships between parents and children</b>	<b>390</b>	108	66	27	2	28
<b>Improving relationships between spouses</b>	<b>362</b>	97	71	32	1	30
Financial Planning	<b>290</b>	71	77	52	4	27
Marriage, sexual relations and gender issues	<b>279</b>	62	93	43	10	23
Retirement planning	<b>254</b>	57	83	48	15	28
Understanding death, grieving and survival	<b>251</b>	56	83	56	9	27
Choosing a college/planning for college	<b>248</b>	57	77	67	4	26
Depression and menopause	<b>237</b>	51	84	60	11	25
Health, Nutrition and Fitness education for the family	<b>191</b>	39	74	83	4	31
Fertility and Adoption Issues	<b>103</b>	28	19	119	22	43
<b>Section 2 - Religious education services</b>						
	<b>Score *</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>?</b>	<b>NR</b>
Church traditions	<b>423</b>	120	63	19	6	23
Sunday School curricula	<b>326</b>	87	65	33	19	27
Il Shim preparation	<b>325</b>	82	79	27	15	28
Moral Education	<b>271</b>	80	31	9	2	109
<b>Section 3 - Counseling services</b>						
	<b>Score *</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>?</b>	<b>NR</b>
Family counseling	<b>276</b>	70	66	48	10	37
Counselor training	<b>261</b>	65	66	52	11	37
Marriage counseling	<b>257</b>	63	68	55	7	38
Personal counseling	<b>205</b>	43	76	64	8	40
<b>Section 4 - Information services</b>						
	<b>Score *</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>?</b>	<b>NR</b>
Maintain a calendar of events	<b>417</b>	114	75	20	2	20
Maintaining a membership directory	<b>403</b>	108	79	20	3	21
Maintaining a directory of services	<b>397</b>	106	79	18	4	23
Provide data about colleges where Unificationists are attending	<b>344</b>	90	74	35	7	25
Grass Roots Newsletters	<b>325</b>	74	103	23	5	26
International home stay information	<b>272</b>	65	77	43	17	29
<b>Section 5 - Strengthening interfamily communication</b>						
	<b>Score *</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>?</b>	<b>NR</b>
Develop action plans based on consensus	<b>286</b>	69	79	32	14	37
Publish information collected **	<b>73</b>	17	22	8	5	179
Hotlines and referral assistance **	<b>65</b>	16	17	8	8	182
Collect input on shared interests **	<b>64</b>	14	22	9	6	180
Convene discussions and develop consensus **	<b>56</b>	11	23	10	5	182

\* Scores were derived by summing "high priority" responses, multiplied by three, and then adding the sum of "medium priority" responses.

\*\* These service categories didn't record correctly on the online questionnaire. Questionnaires filled out by hand give an indication of how these probably would have fared, relative to the others within this service area.

## LIST of SERVICE PRIORITIES for the BLESSED FAMILY ASSOCIATION

Based on November 2003 questionnaire responses

Rank	Service Description	Score*	Service Area
1	Blessing or Matching your children - guidance for parents	486	Section 1 - Family formation & growth
2	Church traditions	423	Section 2 - Religious education services
3	Maintain a calendar of events	417	Section 4 - Information services
4	Maintaining a membership directory	403	Section 4 - Information services
5	Maintaining a directory of services	397	Section 4 - Information services
6	Improving relationships between parents and children	390	Section 1 - Family formation & growth
7	Improving relationships between spouses	362	Section 1 - Family formation & growth
8	Provide data about colleges where Unificationists are attending	344	Section 4 - Information services
9	Sunday School curricula	326	Section 2 - Religious education services
10	Il Shim preparation	325	Section 2 - Religious education services
11	Grass Roots Newsletters	325	Section 4 - Information services
12	Financial Planning	290	Section 1 - Family formation & growth
13	Develop action plans based on consensus	286	Section 5 - Strengthening interfamily communication
14	Publish information collected**	286	Section 5 - Strengthening interfamily communication
15	Collect input on shared interests**	280	Section 5 - Strengthening interfamily communication
16	Marriage, sexual relations and gender issues	279	Section 1 - Family formation & growth
17	Family counseling	276	Section 3 - Counseling services
18	Hotlines and referral assistance**	274	Section 5 - Strengthening interfamily communication
19	Convene discussions and develop consensus**	274	Section 5 - Strengthening interfamily communication
20	International home stay information	272	Section 4 - Information services
21	Moral Education	271	Section 2 - Religious education services
22	Marriage counseling	257	Section 3 - Counseling services
23	Retirement planning	254	Section 1 - Family formation & growth
24	Understanding death, grieving and survival	251	Section 1 - Family formation & growth
25	Choosing a college/planning for college	248	Section 1 - Family formation & growth
26	Depression and menopause	237	Section 1 - Family formation & growth
27	Counselor training (and mentor training)	216	Section 3 - Counseling services
28	Personal counseling	205	Section 3 - Counseling services
29	Health, Nutrition and Fitness education for the family	191	Section 1 - Family formation & growth
30	Fertility and Adoption Issues	103	Section 1 - Family formation & growth

\* Scores were derived by summing "high priority" responses, multiplied by three, and then adding the sum of "medium priority" responses

\*\* These service categories didn't record correctly online; the scores presented are extrapolations from questionnaires filled out by hand