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Hyung Jin Moon

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

*For Moon's similarly-named older brother, see *Hyun Jin Moon*.*

*This is a **Korean name**; the family name is Moon.*

Hyung Jin Sean Moon (born 1979) is a South Korean-American pastor and co-founder, alongside his wife, Yeon Ah Lee Moon, of the Pennsylvania-based World Peace and Unification Sanctuary, an unofficial offshoot of the **Unification movement**.^{[1][2][3][4]}

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Early life and education [edit]

Moon was born September 26, 1979,^[5] in **Tarrytown, New York**. He is the youngest son of the Reverend **Sun Myung Moon**, the founder of the **Unification movement**. He attended the **Hackley School** until college. He earned bachelor of liberal arts and master of theology degrees from **Harvard University**.^[6] At the Harvard Center for the Study of World Religions, he met the leader of the Jogye Order of Korean Buddhism, Bub Jang, and pursued an interest in Buddhism.^[7] He also practiced **Tibetan Buddhism**, and for a time lived in a Catholic monastery.^[8]

Religious career [edit]

In April 2008, Sun Myung Moon (then 88 years old) appointed Hyung Jin Moon to be the International President of the **Family Federation for World Peace and Unification** (FFWPU). Hyung Jin Moon and members of his church, believe that a coronation ceremony with his father in 2009 made him heir and successor.^{[9][10]} Under his leadership the Family Federation for World Peace was changed to the Unification Church.^[11] He also introduced new practices, like spiritual energy hand movements^[12] Most of these changes were dismissed after he was removed in 2015. The **Family Federation for World Peace**, on the other hand, considers Hyung Jin Moon's church a "breakaway organization."^{[13][14]}

In 2011 Hyung Jin Moon visited **North Korea** to express condolences on the death of **Kim Jong-il**.^[15] In 2011 in **Pyongyang**, to mark the 20th anniversary of Sun Myung Moon's visit to North Korea, *de jure* President **Kim Yong-nam** hosted Hyung Jin Moon in the **official residence**.^{[16][17]} The latter donated 600 tons of **flour** to **North Korean** children of **North Pyongan Province**, the birthplace of Sun Myung Moon.^{[18][19]} Also, after the **2011 Tōhoku earthquake and tsunami**, he donated \$1.7 million to the **Japanese Red Cross**.^{[20][21]}

Hyung Jin Moon and his mother began expressing open differences after Sun Myung Moon died in 2012. He was removed by his mother from various positions from 2013 and eventually^{[22][23]} taken down as International President of the Family Federation for World Peace and replaced by **Sung Jin Moon**.^{[24][25]}

Hyung Jin Moon and members of his church have publicly criticized his mother, **Hak Ja Han**, for changing the theological foundations of his father's teachings and elevating her own status.^{[26][27][28]}

Gun controversy [edit]

Hyung Jin Moon's church, World Peace and Unification Sanctuary Church in **Newfoundland, Pennsylvania**, gained national attention^{[29][30][31]} in early 2018 for holding a marriage vows renewal ceremony that asked participants to bring their **AR-15 rifles**.^[32] Hyung Jin Moon has likened the AR-15's to the biblical "**rod of iron**".^[33] Neighbors of the church came out to protest the insensitivity of having the AR-15 rifles at the event so soon after the **Parkland, Florida, shooting** that killed 17.^[34] To address concerns voiced by parents of an elementary school nearby, the **Wallenpaupack Area School District** relocated students for the day.^[35] The **Southern Poverty Law Center** called Moon an "[a]nti-LGBT cult leader" in an article it published in January 2018 that explored the church's doctrine and leadership and upcoming ceremony with guns.^[36]

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External links [edit]

- Hyung Jin Moon's World Peace and Unification Sanctuary website
- Rod of Iron Ministries website
- A Bald Head and a Strawberry
- Interview by BBC

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