

From the editor

This time, we'd like to share with you Pastor Peter's "Wedding Benediction," spoken for one couple who got married at the *Church of the Wind* right after the dreadful tragedy after the the Great East-Japan Earthquake on March 11. With his message spoken at the wedding, not only the couple but also we were all touched. As Pastor Peter himself commented, it was God's special and sincere prayer.

God called each one of us to the *Church of the Wind* as the representative of this world. We are called as the *heavenly priests* to pray and to redeem this wounded time.

Wedding Benediction

Peter

My sincere congratulations on your marriage!

I am very pleased that in the presence of God you two are taking your wedding vows at the *Church of the Wind*, for this is a very special time. Our nation and our land are devastated from the recent disaster, which hit the eastern seashore of Japan. The disaster in the apocalyptic proportion has engulfed our land, and we are screaming for help. The nuclear crisis is not only endangering Japan, but also reaching to many countries. The whole world is holding its breath and watching the nuclear power plant accident in Fukushima.

In the midst of the crisis, you are being married. What a courageous act you two are taking!

Though you know little of God's intention to unite two of

you at this time and in this place, you are chosen to represent the young generation of this world. You are destined to go through this critical time so that you may live for the One who loves every creation and expects its full realization. When you fulfill God's expectation and actualize love for each other, I sincerely believe that many, and many youths shall realize true love.

I will never forget a newspaper picture of a young woman. On the mount of debris and wreckage, she is weeping with the hands over her face hidden in the deep hood. You can see, however, an engagement ring on her finger. The newspaper article states, "Her beloved fiance, fireman, has gone to rescue many when the tsunami hit the village. He has not seen since. Now her ring alone glitters."

You are being married for the sake of many youths. The Lord God has called you to be here at the *Church of the Wind*. There are numerous couples who cannot realize their love because of unexpected hindrances. I assure you, however, that true happiness transcends physical union. What is precious in the eyes of God is the fulfillment and realization of true love. You two are called to live true love at a time like this, in the midst of crisis.

We know very little about tomorrow. None is ever assured of our security in this world. Our Church is located at the seashore. She will have little chance to survive, should a tsunami strike. Only security is in the hands of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Commit your life to the One who dared to lay down His life to redeem you. Be your marriage built upon His mercy and redemption. When you live the life of God's desire and expectation, many and many young people in the world shall find the true meaning of life and love. It will reach not only

thousands here on the earth but millions on the other sides of the earth. That fireman is not lost. He will find true love with his weeping fiancée. Cry not, woman, for the Redeemer fills you with His redeeming love. We believe and we pray that Christ's love may transcend physical separation and unite both of you.

I am not a romantic dreamer. I know what I am talking about. You are chosen as the representatives of the young generation. I tell you that you have to fulfill God's love. Your marriage is no longer for yourselves. It represents your young generation. Rejoice in the Lord, and again I say, Rejoice in the Redeemer.

The Lord says that people are "eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage," till the end comes. His negative remark is against our licentious manner of living. Truly, the hour is come when we all should realize His imminent coming. Heaven and earth will pass away, but the eternal word, faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, things committed in His name will by no means pass away.

A grain of wheat fell onto the ground. The young woman tried to find her fiancée in vain hope. But his death is not in vain, because your love shall revive them. Your marriage is that important.

Love through death will produce much grain. Nullify not a death.

The hour is come here. You two live just for this day to realize God's love. Tomorrow is not yet come.

Nothing should be granted. Love is not cheap. See how precious it is. It is God's precious gift. Cherish love in your heart. Embrace each other in His love and light. Fear not for tomorrow, but live today sincerely. And the Lord God extends His eternal love upon you two.

Do you wonder if you can have a joyful life while others are suffering? Do not be a fool. You must rejoice in your marriage, for your joy shall spread to your generation. Your marriage is no longer for your own, but for many and many of young people, here on the earth and there in the heaven.

*The winter is past. The rain is over and gone.
The flowers appear on the earth.
The time of singing has come.
The fig tree puts forth her green figs.
And the vines with the tender grapes give a good smell.
Rise up, my love, my fair one. And come away!*

PS: This was addressed at the *Church of the Wind* on April 16, 2011. I have never spoken a long benediction on a wedding ceremony, but it was special. I felt an unspeakable urge, probably because of the huge earthquake and tsunami hitting Japan at this time. When I spoke, it burst out like a gushing of the spring. The message is not only for the couple, but also for many. And it is my sincere prayer for this generation.

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