[News & Stories](http://www.familyfed.org/members/index.php?option=com_content&view=section&layout=blog&id=22&Itemid=54) http://www.familyfed.org/members/templates/yoo_scoop/images/arrow.png [General](http://www.familyfed.org/members/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=99&Itemid=376) http://www.familyfed.org/members/templates/yoo_scoop/images/arrow.png Understanding the Heavenly Calendar

[Understanding the Heavenly Calendar](http://www.familyfed.org/members/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4809:understanding-the-heavenly-calendar&catid=99:national&Itemid=376)

| JANUARY 29 2014



*Here is a brief explanation of the lunar calendar as it concerns the new heavenly calendar. To have a more in-depth understanding of the lunar calendar, read last year’s UC magazine installment of Blind Men & the Elephant:*[**Faith Perspectives: How to Ring in 2013**](https://familyfed.org/ww2/usa/files/Faith_Perspectives_How_to_Ring_in_2013.pdf).

While the rest of the Western world celebrated New Years Day with fireworks and celebrations almost a month ago, those following the lunar calendar, such as China, and many countries in the East, will ring in the New Year on Friday.

Since 1968, Unificationists have celebrated their Holy Day, True God’s Day—or True Heavenly Parent’s Day—on the first day of the New Year based on the solar calendar, however, in 2011, for the first time, Unificationists around the world celebrated this Holy Day based on the lunar calendar, or the Korean *Cheon-gi*, that is, the “heavenly calendar.” This year, True Heavenly Parent's Day will be held on January 31, 2014 by the solar Calendar.

For Unificationists, the celebration is a deeply meaningful and spiritual celebration. On the stroke of midnight, heads will bow in prayer as Unificationists all around the world offer the first words and their first moments of the New Year up to our Heavenly Parent. The offering tables will be bountiful with fruit and candy, and members will make determinations for the year ahead, surrounded by friends and family. These traditions, no matter the date, remain the same. Honoring our traditions is a moment to pause, in the midst of our hurried lives, to connect to our roots and to the invisible world of our Heavenly Parent.

So what is the significance of this new “heavenly calendar”? How do we relate to it on a day-to-day basis, especially if most of the world follows a different one?

Though it may feel finite to us in this moment, the way in which we as humans mark the passage of time has actually evolved and changed over centuries. Different cultures and religions have developed and followed their own calendars. The Mayan, Chinese, Muslims, and Hindus are examples of cultures and faiths that observe the lunar calendar. Judaism, too, has a lunar-based calendar, the first day of which is believed to be the day Adam and Eve were created. Even Christians, who in Western cultures use the solar calendar, celebrate Easter each year based on the lunar cycle.

The lunar calendar brings a deeper meaning symbolically. Marking the passage of time by milestones of the moon’s “life” in the sky, preserves the various meanings that the moon holds spiritually. The different phases of the moon—from new to full, and back to new again—signify a cleansing and rebirth. We can further appreciate the more feminine aspect of this heavenly body, in contrast to the masculine sun. Because the woman’s womb aligns with the moon’s cycle, a lunar view seems to truly represent rebirth and the feminine aspect of our Heavenly Parent.

For us as Unificationists, the conversion to the “heavenly calendar” is one that has less to do with how we measure dates, and more with the spiritual significance of entering a new age. The fact that we are now living in the second year of Cheon il Guk (God’s Heavenly Kingdom) according to the new heavenly calendar, means that the world has entered a new age spiritually. We reside in a time of great blessing, when new things are possible. The “heavenly calendar” is not just a different way to measure dates, but it is a way to signify the movement of our Heavenly Parent's providence.

As we enter this new year, may the blessings of our Heavenly Parent be with you.

**Comments (16)**

* |Feb 01, 2014 03:59Olivier Buangi  - Heavenly Calendar and CIG Years Concerns

Hi Family,  
  
Happy Celebration of the Heavenly Parent's Day.  
I have a big concern on our publishing.  
\* Father proclaimed the CIG in 2001 and started saying the 1st, 2nd, 3rd Year of CIG, etc.  
\* In 2010, Father proclaimed and guided all of us start using the Heavenly Calendar as said above;  
\* Last Year 2013, with the Foundation Day, Mother instructed that the Year 2013 is being the 1st Year of CIG from now onwards and the Calendar though kept as is, is being named the CIG calendar rather than the Heavenly Calendar (Cfr. Memo on Vision 2020: Change in the providence).  
Now, i am getting confused as I do not know how to introduce my prayer anymore. Are we saying CIG Calendar or Heavenly Calendar? 14th Year of CIG or 2nd Year of CIG (2013 - 2014)?  
  
I will be glad to have a proper guidance on this.  
  
Stay all Blessed!  
  
Oliver Family

* |Jan 31, 2014 05:41Elio Roman  - Happy True Heavenly Parent Day

Our consciousness as citizens of God's Nation, Cheon Il Guk is emerging. Happy True Heavenly Parent Day to all blessed families and citizens of Cheon Il Guk. Celebrate well!

* |Jan 30, 2014 06:08roberto turconi

" The Heavenly Calendar is not just a different way to measure dates, but it is a way to signify the movement of our Heavenly Parent's Providence "  
  
That is such a deep and beautiful statement !!  
  
We don't follow the solar or the lunar calendar, we follow The Heavenly Calendar given to us by God and True Parents and I am sure more dates will change !!  
  
Why are so many church members still living in the New Testament and still talking about Christianity so much ?  
  
Christianity failed their mission to unite and follow the Lord of The Second Advent ! We need to pray everyday that we will not fail our mission and stop arguing about little things !  
  
Let us be grateful to God and True Parents everyday for our new life !!!

* |Jan 30, 2014 10:29Frank Bell  - calendar standard

The solar calendar is an algorithm with an accuracy such that on occasion leap seconds are added to keep the precision. The ISO (www.iso.int) recommended date format is YYYY-MM-DD (and HH:MM:SS if included). When the Islamic, oriental and perhaps other lunar calendars are reconciled to be the same with an algorithm that can be incorporated in software, then this can be proposed to ISO as an alternative, which may be represented as YYYY/MM/DD or similar, preferably using the same YYYY for simplicity. A BCE preceding may be used for such historical dates. Then when this standard is adopted, the software developers can make the scheduling calendars, spreadsheets, payroll software etc. usable with the4 alternate calendar. Until such time however it will not practicable as people don't carry around paper calendars so much any more, and that is declining.

* |Jan 30, 2014 11:03roberto turconi

What the heck are you talking about ?  
You need to take a breath brother ! there are many more important things in life !

* |Jan 30, 2014 09:28Margaret Baron

Hi Frank, I remember a CARP member testifying to how he could believe there was a Heavenly Parent after studying the mathematical patterns found in the creation. He was convinced that (fortunately ! ) God was a mathematician.   
  
Best wishes for the new year!   
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-WF6V9RQFz8

* |Jan 30, 2014 10:23Carol Rengnez

The pagan emperors who worshiped the sun, used a calendar based on the sun, then after converting to Christianity, they decided to keep the same solar calendar, probably to not rock the boat with their people too much, already to be converted is one thing, but to change their way of lifestyle is more difficult; The pope, I forgot which one created the gregorian calendar, wanting to be different then the other religions calendars.   
Sincerely, Carol rengnez

* |Jan 30, 2014 10:19Carol Rengnez

Just wanted to add that if you read history of the churches, you will see that as pagan emperor's converted to Christianity, they kept the same solar calendar because they initially worshiped the sun, son god. It was easier for his people to accept the new religion as well. The gregorian calendar came from a pope who wanted to do different then others. So, you will see, most people followed the lunar calendar initially, then cnanged, so the western world is the odd ball. Same for the metric system of counting.  
Happy True Parent Day 2014!!

* |Jan 30, 2014 09:25David Kasbow  - David Kasbow

Of course it was easier to celebrate "God's Day" on Jan. 1st. Everone was off work and out school. However, we are in the process of creating heaven on earth and it is a long process of change. I agree with Maraget Baron above. Even the names of the days need to be changed from the pagan names we have now. Over the next hundreds of years the whole world will gradually shift to the Heavenly Calander and everyone will celebrate Heavenly Parent Day. For me I want to look forward to a culture that is 100% heavenly instead of missing what I guess we could call the "Formation stage" God's Day we celebrated in the past.

* |Jan 30, 2014 08:58Migliore Gennaro

God's Day was established on January 1st 1968 ( solar ) as result of the foundation of faith, obedience and love to HP by Cham Omonim ( 1960 to 1967 ) .  
Thanks to HP that the change, has been done by TP together ...... I don't want to think what would have been happened if the change would have been done by Cham Omonim only

* |Jan 29, 2014 23:04Margaret Baron  - The structure of the heavenly calendar

Thank you for this article.  
  
The structure of the new heavenly calendar is something that requires further attention.  
  
Until now the weekends have provided the time space needed to celebrate the sabbath as a community. Ahn Shin Il days are every 8th day, which suggest a new structure.   
  
The days of the week were named after pagan gods, so they need new names which fit the new age we have entered.  
  
The months received their names from Roman Emperors, Roman gods, Roman festivals and the position of the months prior to Julius Caesar´s decision to have the year start in January instead of March.   
  
All these associations with the fallen history of mankind have no place in the heavenly calendar.

* |Jan 29, 2014 20:54Elio Roman  - Nice article!

God now has True Parents and a True Family. They are the progenitors of a sinless race and a sinless nation which will fill the earth. God now has a True Nation called Cheon Il Guk. It was founded on Foundation Day.  
  
Abraham was the progenitor of two nations. “And the Lord said unto her, Two nations are in your womb, and two manner of people shall be born of you.”(Gen. 25:23) The two nations are the nation of Israel and the Muslim nation.  
  
The Tibetans are a nation without a state. The Palestinians are also a nation without a state. The nation of Israel became an independent state in 1948. There are American Indian nations within the United States. The Muslin nation is living within many states (countries).   
  
True Parents and blessed families comprise the nation of Cheon Il Guk which was founded on Foundation Day. “Foundation Day is a designated date on which celebrations mark the founding of a nation or state.” (see Wikipedia under …”foundation day”)  
  
Cheon Il Guk is God’s first True Nation, but we do not yet have a state. The day will come when the nation of Cheon Il Guk will become an independent state. Then we will have the same rights with other countries (nation/states) in the world. We will then be an independent nation/state with it’s own borders, as well as a nation which lives in other countries (states).  
  
This year, God’s Nation, Cheon Il Guk, celebrates True Heavenly Parent Day on January 31, 2014 of the solar calendar, which is the first day of the New Year of the lunar calendar. The lunar calendar is the calendar of God’s True Nation, Cheon Il Guk. We are now in a time of transition from the traditions of the fallen world and the history of restoration, to the traditions of a new heaven and new earth.

* |Jan 31, 2014 12:16Anthony Parham

Elio, I think that statement about two nations was in reference to Jacob and Esau. They were twins, Issac and Ismael had different mothers. Ismael is considered the father of Arabs. Also, to speak of a Muslim nation is not the same as the nation of Israel. Most Muslims are not Arabs.

* |Feb 01, 2014 16:42Elio Roman

Anthony, one of the points you mention is good. It was an oversight on my part. The main point of my comment is that True Parents are the progenitors of a new race and nation. God for the first time in history has a nation. It was founded on Foundation Day, and blessed families are currently citizens of God’s True Nation, Cheon Il Guk. In the future Cheon Il Guk will also become a nation/state with its own border. In the future, then more countries will become Cheon Il Guk nation/states. Even in the Arabian Peninsula many of those countries which are now Muslim nation/states will become Cheon Il Guk nation states.  
  
It is clear that the reference of two nations is about Jacob and Esau. Jacob was the progenitor of the chosen people, the Israelites and the nation of Israel. Esau was the progenitor of the Edomites and of the nation Edom. The Israelites represented Abel (God’s side, and for the purpose of restoration). The Edomites and Edom represented the Cain side. God said “Over Edom will I cast out my shoe.” (Psalms 60:8 & 108:9)  
  
However, the concept of Abel and Cain is much broader and applies to many different situations, ranging from the individual level, the family, tribe, people, nation, world and cosmos levels. So, There were not only the Edomites and the Israelites in a Cain/Abel relationship, but also Israel itself become divided north and south (Israel and Judah). Eventually, Israel became one united nation again. The Edomites claimed descendancy from Abraham and settled in Israel when it became a nation and the Edomites and the Israelites become one people living in the nation of Israel.  
  
God, in that bible quote says that two nations will come from Sarah’s womb. God also says that a nation people and a nation will rise from Hagar’s womb and will develop from Ishmael’s offspring. So now we are talking about three nations being promised by God to the descendants of Abraham. “And as for Ishmael, I have heard thee; behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly; twelve princes shall he beget, and I will make him a great nation. (Gen. 17:20)  
  
Ishmael’s 12 sons expanded into 12 tribes and settled in the Arabian Peninsula. Arabs that have become Muslims accept Mohammed’s descent from Ishmael. All 7 countries that make up the Arabian Peninsula are predominantly Muslim. Thus, they are Muslim nation/states. Muslims have expanded throughout the world and there are many Muslim nation/states. Cheon I Guk will also expand throughout the world and there will rise many Choen Il Guk nation states.  
  
When Cheon Il Guk becomes a nation/state, there will be people there who are not part of the Nation of Cheon Il Guk while living in that country alongside the citizens of CIG. At the same time, as is the current situation, many citizens of the nation of Cheon Il Guk will living in other countries.   
  
Isaac inherited the blessings that Abraham embodied by attending Abraham with absolute faith, love and obedience and then they were multiplied through their biological lineage. Joseph also inherited to advance Jacob’s blessings because of his attendance to his father. Christians, by their faith, love and obedience to Jesus also inherit salvation and eternal life from Jesus. But, they are not part of Jesus’ biological lineage. Similarly, Muslims inherit the promise made by God to Ishmael’s descendents by their attendance to Muhammad. Jesus and Muhammad did have biological offspring who inherited God’s promise. It is only by attending them that their followers receive the blessings of the promise that Jesus and Muhammad carry.   
  
However, just as Abraham was the progenitor of a new lineage which expanded throughout the world, then True Father is the progenitor of true sinless lineage, true people, and true nation which will expand and fill the earth. The primary requirements to be part of the nation of Cheon Il Guk is that they receive the Blessing and have a change of blood lineage, or are born of a blessed family and in order to inherit fully attend God and True Parents with absolute faith, absolute love, and absolute obedience. It is by his attendance to True Parents that Hyung Jin Nim has inherited certain rights and authority from True Parents.

* |Jan 30, 2014 00:13helen h brown

I do experience some difficulties with not welcoming the new year here in America with God's Day since here in America people uses solar calendar. But then I guess UC brothers and sisters from other countries that welcome every year by lunar calendar can now be more comfortable when is time to celebrate God's Day comes...In this world some are happy, some not, not always at the same time! So live and look outside of one's own reality and know that it is not the only reality makes life more happy less angst, less disease etc.  
If True Parents said to use Lunar calendar, we use Lunar calendar. Why? Because True Parents know best! I agree it is helpful to sigh your name for your article. Thanks!

* |Jan 30, 2014 00:09David Hill  - Thank you...

It is a very special honor for me to celebrate this special day. I am filled with gratitude for my Heavenly Parent's Love...

* |Jan 29, 2014 17:48Kitty Wojcik

Removing God's Day from January 1st in the USA has basically removed the holiday from my life. I don't follow the lunar calendar any other day of the year and have no cultural or experiental nostalgia drawing me into an anticipated lunar holiday season.   
  
I miss God on God's Day (January 1st). It's been a loss.

* |Jan 30, 2014 06:15roberto turconi

I didn't know we can only feel God on January first, I guess I missed the office memo !

* |Jan 29, 2014 21:24James Osborn  - Unchangeable truth

When I joined in 1976, I could accept that the other three holidays were tied to a lunar calendar. But Father had a reason for tying God's Day to the solar calendar. The Christian world knew that January 1 should be a holy day. So they tied it to the day Jesus was dedicated in the Temple. That's nice if you think this is significant in the providence of the coming of the Messiah. But more importantly, the Christian calendar kept January 1 holy waiting for God to explain precisely why: to give God, our heavenly Parent, a day for us to celebrate. It made so much sense! For 42 years we celebrated God's Day on January 1. Then, suddenly, we change God's Day to the lunar calendar. How do we explain this to anyone, when truth is supposed to be unchangeable?

* |Jan 31, 2014 12:08Anthony Parham

James I have the same problem, but not only that. The lunar calendar is very inaccurate. Every twelve years you have to add a whole month to correct it. Otherwise you would end up with winter in July! I don't get it either and this explanation didn't help.

* |Jan 31, 2014 08:28roberto turconi  - To James

For 2000 years Christianity believed that Jesus come to die but now the Unification Church says that's not truth, how to we explain this to anyone, when the truth is supposed to be unchangeable ?

* |Jan 29, 2014 20:21Frank Kaufmann  - Sign

People should sign what they write, just as my name accompanies my comment.

* |Jan 29, 2014 20:05Dale Arthur Garratt  - thanks

Thanks for the explanation of the lunar and the heavenly calendars! Very informative.