

Sun Myung Moon Christian Crusade

Neil Salonen
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Mr. Neil Salonen answers questions

A 21st century concept of entertainment will premiere in Oakland, California on May 15-17. It is a "Celebration of Life," the opening tour of the Sun Myung Moon Christian Crusade. Mr. Bo Hi Pak and a talented young cast will bring the "Celebration of Life" to ten American cities, from May 15 to July 21.

The Crusade is designed to be "an experience of joy in the highest spirit" through "total entertainment plus total inspiration," according to Mr. Bo Hi Pak, General Director of the Sun Myung Moon Christian Crusade and Reverend Moon's translator and special assistant during the Day of Hope campaign.

"Through Reverend Moon, a modern day prophet and extraordinary man of God, I received the lasting inspiration of God to speak out for God to the American people. During this period I was given the power to speak."

"We are trying to create a new form of outreach," he added, "a 21st century form of crusade which is far more advanced than any other mass crusades of our day."

The program will include dancing by the 22-member Korean Folk Ballet, a wide variety of inspirational music by the 41-member New Hope Singers International (directed by Randy Rimmel), and a message by Crusade Evangelist Bo Hi Pak.

These programs will span three nights in each city, generally Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Immediately following will be a weekend workshop planned for at least 100 people, conducted by a staff led by Unification Church President Neil Salonen.

Mr. Pak has placed great emphasis on developing a truly professional presentation and involving the audience so deeply in the program that they will feel "not only part of the show, but part of the Family." He fully expects that people who come for the first night will inevitably return for the second and third nights also, bringing their friends and relatives.

"However fine a sermon is," Mr. Pak continued, "people are universally drawn to one thing- superb entertainment. No other crusade has incorporated dances into their program. People are so inspired by human voices and human movement." Mr. Pak views the crusade as the launching of a rapidly multiplying campaign covering all fifty states and touring internationally. He expects to train the future evangelists of the Unification Church through this opening campaign.

After this ten-city American tour, the Sun Myung Moon Christian Crusade will travel to Europe and Asia. And eventually, each of the ten newly-formed regions of the American Unification Church will organize its own Sun Myung Moon Christian Crusade.

The program will include an hour and fifteen minutes of entertainment: songs by the choir, solos, skits, dances, and testimony. Dr. Pak will speak for about 45 minutes each night on key points of the Unification Principle: the mission of Jesus, the second coming, and the fall of man.

Gilbert Fox, One World Crusade commander for Illinois, will be the master of ceremonies. Other presentations include dramatic skits by Barbara Snell, Unification Church State representative in South Dakota; testimony by Marion Dougherty, an itinerant worker of the Unification Church; and solos by Ivan Janer. Mr. Pak will be introduced by his daughter, Na Kyung.

The New Hope Singers will present original arrangements by Randy Rimmel of a variety of international songs. These young men and women from twelve nations have been traveling with the Day of Hope tour since October, 1973.

The repertoire of the Korean Folk Ballet includes many of the dances made famous by the Little Angels: the Fan Dance, Penitent Monk, Mask Dance, Hourglass Drum Dance, Festival of the Weavers, Moon Festival, Dance of the Angels, and Grand Farm Dance. Their staff includes Mr. Moo Kyung Lee, director;

Mr. Byung Woo Son, assistant director; Miss Soon Shim Shin, choreographer; and Miss Sung Sook Cho, dance master.



Korean Folk Ballet performs joyous Fan Dance

Initially, the dancers are to be Korean, performing internationally acclaimed Korean folk dances. However, in the future, the Sun Myung Moon Christian Crusade hopes to employ good dancers from all over the world—Spain, Mexico, India, the Philippines, Japan, etc.

The typical schedule of the tour will include traveling on Sunday or Monday. Tuesday will be devoted to publicity, with visits to the governor, mayor, and prominent officials.

The Wednesday schedule will include dress rehearsal and the premiere performance. Performances will continue on Thursday and Friday, with the focus on drawing people to the weekend workshops. On Saturday morning, the entire cast will be on hand to welcome guests to the workshops, which will be devoted to fellowship, lectures, films, meals and recreation. On Sunday or Monday, the tour will move on to the next city.

Tour Director Michael Leone is enthusiastic about the halls rented for the performances. The Paramount Theatre of the Arts in Oakland, California is especially appropriate for a world

premiere, according to Mr. Leone. A million dollars was recently invested in refurbishing the hall, and the new carpet, for instance, was especially woven to match samples from the worn-out original.

The next two cities, Seattle, Washington and St. Paul, Minnesota were notably successful cities on the 21-city Day of Hope tour, and Dr. Leone feels confident of attracting enthusiastic audiences there. In Austin, Texas, the only hall available holds less than a thousand people. In such a university town, many more will want to come than can be accommodated.

The New Orleans (Louisiana) Theatre for the Performing Arts and the Miami (Florida) Gusman Philharmonic Hall are both exceptionally beautiful halls. The New Orleans Theatre is quite new, and has one of the most advanced stages, in terms of equipment, in the world. In Miami, the Spanish-decor hall was recently refurbished at the reputed cost of \$3 million. Mr. Leone considers it the most beautiful hall of the tour.

In Columbus, Ohio and Louisville, Kentucky, miracles were needed to book the desired halls, the nicest and most famous in both cities. "The Holy Spirit was working with us," Mr. Leone exclaimed, "and flat rejections were turned into confirmations."

The hall in Boston, Massachusetts has the largest capacity of the tour, 5,800. The final crusade of this first tour will take place in Rochester, New York, in an elegant marble theater.

For the first ten-city tour, Unification Church Publications designed four-color brochures, posters, and tickets, and Western Publishing Company is printing a million brochures and tickets and 14,000 posters for the crusade in its Poughkeepsie, New York plant. See inside back cover for part of the poster design.

"The general goal of the preparation is to fill each hall to capacity," Mr. Leone concluded. "The members in each state feel quite privileged and blessed to host the Sun Myung Moon Christian Crusade."