

## Mount Rushmore

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Although I served as the state leader of Wyoming, I never had the chance to make it up to Mt Rushmore in neighboring South Dakota. I remember one time when Father asked us, as we sat in the Grand Ballroom of the New Yorker Hotel on God's Day, 1982, where Abraham Lincoln would be sitting if he was with us. We all thought that President Lincoln should be sitting in the VIP section up in the front, but Father said no, he would be all the way in the back. Father's point was that, as the Principle teaches about "the merit of the age," President Lincoln had no chance of accomplishing what we were accomplishing, because he lived in 1861. In like manner, maybe today on a modern day Mt Rushmore, four of our best ACLC minister's faces would be carved out on the mountain, instead of the former presidents.

For over 30 years we have been working with (predominantly African-American) ministers in Chicago. When Father sent out the 70,000 DP Video-tapes, it was predominantly African-American ministers who responded. In Chicago, Rev. M. E. Sardon, Shepherd A.I. Dunlap, Rev. Olivia Jones and Major General Ted W. Sorensen became Father's front line champions.

Rev. Sardon was a veteran of the infantry during World War II in Italy. As an engineer he built bridges for the infantry to cross over. But when he returned to Chicago he could not get a job because he was Black. He noticed that the same was true for so many others. So he formed the "Crusaders of Justice." to right this injustice. In 1962 he was arrested in Albany, Georgia along with Dr. King protesting for the right to vote. Eventually David Caprara met him as they were both collecting food to feed the hungry. Rev Sardon lived to be 97 years old. Up until that time he continued to fight for justice and to feed the hungry. In this capacity he stood tall with True Parents protesting the government's mistreatment of our True Father during Danbury.

He traveled all across America with Rev. Jenkins; to Causa Conferences, American Leadership Conferences and Religious Freedom Conferences. He also traveled to Japan and Korea studying the Divine Principle and standing up for what was right in God's eyes. He was a tremendous bible scholar and a great preacher.

In 1987, the 200th anniversary of the United States Constitution, he was arrested for protesting the violation of Rev Moon's civil rights.

Rev. A.I. Dunlap was also a veteran. He served in the army in Germany after World War II. When he returned to America he became Dr King's point man in Virginia, standing up for civil rights and equality for all people, regardless of color, creed or national origin. He and Mrs. Dunlap raised four children who

have gone on to become Businessmen, Doctors and lawyers. His son became the first African-American to earn an M.B.A. from the University of Iowa; his second son became a Professor of Dentistry at the University of Illinois and his youngest daughter was the President of her law school class at the University of Pittsburgh.

Rev. Dunlap (he preferred to be called the Shepherd of his flock) was arrested over 40 times for standing up for civil rights. Like Rev. Sardon, he traveled all over the world for True Parents, held a blessing and a major American Freedom Coalition Conference in his own church and was also arrested for standing up for the civil rights of Rev Moon. An award that he publicly presented to Father is currently hanging on the wall of Father's home in Seoul. One night well after midnight he was asked to sing for True Parents at Jefferson House near D.C.

Rev. Dunlap loved the fact that Father and Mother always stood up for the sanctity of the family. Like Rev. Sardon, again he was a great scholar (his mother always told him to read everything that he could get his eyes on) and a great preacher and.....he always started his church service on time!

Rev. Olivia Jones and Rev. Helen Cooper came to the Unification movement through their involvement with Pastor Johnnie Coleman and Pastor T.L. Barrett, Jr. Rev. Jones is tiny, but she stood with us on Christmas in 1987 when we fought the atheists for the right to put a nativity scene in the village square (Daley Plaza in downtown Chicago) right next to the Picasso. Rev. Jones was always so proud because she was in Japan the one time when True Father spoke to the ministers when she was on the ICC trip.

Rev. Jones was very spiritual and she would always have a harvest service every autumn. After the service everyone would come up to the altar table which was covered with vegetables that she had prayed over. She would then select which vegetables to give each congregant. When we got home my wife made a soup out of the vegetables. The soup, she said was the best soup that she had ever tasted.

Our first three children were boys. While my wife was pregnant with our fourth child we came up to the altar and Rev. Jones prayed over my wife's womb. Then she said, "Most everybody thinks that you will have a fourth son, but they may be surprised." Our fourth child was born on my birthday, the day before Day of All Things, 1990. When the baby came out, my wife said, "It's a boy isn't it?" I said, "you know, this one looks different." Afterward we asked Rev. Jones to be Hana's God-Mother and she joyfully accepted.

For the many years, when many ministers were still negative, Rev. Jones stood with True Parents. Later, when many famous ministers stood with us, Rev. Jones continued to be front and center.

Rev. Helen Cooper originally met Rev. Jenkins in the early 1980's and Mrs. Jenkins always took care of her like her own spiritual daughter. When the Jenkins family moved to D.C. my wife and I inherited this mantle. Rev. Cooper had a church on the west side of the city. She also had a senior center and sat on many important boards of groups from all around the city. She had a unique ability to attract VIPs to her side.

She lived near our church center and I remember one night when we invited her to join us for midnight prayer. Without hesitation she came over and joined us, sitting on the floor and praying in unison. She would always invite our Japanese sisters to join her Seniors' Christmas Party. They would come and teach the seniors how to make origami.

Several years ago when we came together and watched the international blessing in Korea, Rev. Cooper joined us and took the holy wine and holy water. Ever since that day she has become like a full time front line member. She does everything with us and participates in every event—most recently, even leaving her national convention to participate in our Holy Ground Ceremony.

Earlier this year she became the very first woman to preach for our male dominated American Clergy Leadership Conference. It just happened to be the prayer breakfast when all of our national church leadership was in attendance. She was so moved by being chosen to preach and she used the opportunity to put those religious male chauvinists in their proper place. Rev. Cooper is now an integral part of our "core ministers group" in Chicago, and at 82 years old, she is still going strong. Oh yes, incidentally, Rev. Cooper was born down the road from Danbury, Connecticut.

Finally, I must mention our very first American Freedom Coalition President, Major General Ted W. Sorensen. General Sorensen was a veteran of World War II, the Berlin Airlift and the Korean War, where he survived 3 hours in the Sea of Japan in January, 1951 by singing Christian hymns. He then went on to become one of the very first 727 pilots for American Airlines.

He was responsible for going in front of the Senate Armed Forces Committee and convincing them to establish the Air Force Reserves. Later he became national President of the Reserve Officers Association whose building stands proudly right next door to the United States Supreme Court in Washington, D.C.

One day in early 1980, General Sorensen received an invitation to attend a CAUSA Military Alliance Conference. He had never heard of CAUSA, so he called his friends in the CIA and they assured him that CAUSA was most likely the pre-eminent anti-Communism organization in America.

Through this encounter we were able to include him as the American Freedom Coalition took shape. He would serve as our Illinois President for the remainder of his life. He stood with us and General Colin Powell as Chicago welcomed home the troops from Kuwait and one time he even ran across the street to the hardware store when we needed some staples to hold down our flag at another rally. He became a great friend, an uncle to Rev. Jenkins and myself and a true patriot to America.

Now, as we march forward toward 2020, it is these five faces that I envision on the new Mt Rushmore—these 5 God-loving, freedom serving, injustice hating, courageous men and women. It has been my honor and privilege to have known them and I am grateful to our True Parents for giving me this blessing.